

CAMPUS BUZZ

MILESTONE FOR IIT-MIC

The last financial year has been a landmark one for the startup ecosystem at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras. In its 13th year, the IIT-M Incubation Cell crossed the 500-startup mark, reaching a total portfolio of 567 startups. The portfolio is collectively valued at over ₹74,100 crore based on latest funding rounds, and includes two unicorns. A unicorn startup is privately owned and worth \$1 billion. This year also marked the first IPO offering from IIT-MIC's portfolio; Ather Energy, founded by IIT-M alumni and incubated by IIT-MIC in 2013, has now become a publicly-listed company.

The cell incubated 112 startups this year, the second year it supported more than a 100 new companies. The newly incubated startups span a wide range of sectors, including manu-



facturing, robotics, automotive, batteries, defence, aerospace, AI, machine learning, quantum technologies, analytics, fintech, healthtech, agritech, biotech, climate technologies, IoT and cyber-physical systems. Over 60 per cent of the startups do not have IIT-M alumni as founders, demonstrating IIT-MIC's pan-India reach.

Meanwhile, IIT Madras continued its strong innovation momentum, filing 431 patents during the year, translating research into real-world impact. Of the patents filed, 79 were

international ones. The patents were in areas such as AI/ML, quantum technologies, semiconductors, 5G/6G, robotics, advanced manufacturing, sustainable energy systems, photonics, blockchain, AR/VR and biomedical imaging.

Prof. V. Kamakoti, director of IIT-Madras who had set the goal of 100 startups a year in 2024 and one patent a day in 2023, shared the inspiring news with students, faculty, researchers and startup founders during the World IP Day celebrations (in pic) held on campus on April 24.