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IIT Madras Launches California Centre for Indian Deep-Tech Startups

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The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) launched its first international centre in Menlo Park, California, United States, to support Indian deep-tech startups. The initiative aims to help Indian startups access global markets, technology ecosystems, venture capital, and international collaborations.?

About the New Centre:

The centre has been established near Silicon Valley, one of the world's leading technology and innovation hubs. It has been launched by the IIT Madras Global Research Foundation and is intended to serve as a launchpad for Indian deep-tech startups seeking international expansion and commercialisation opportunities.

The initiative was announced during the SelectUSA Investment Summit in the United States. The centre will focus on sectors such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), semiconductors, robotics, aerospace, quantum technologies, climate technology, and clean energy solutions.

Objectives of the Initiative:

The main objective of the centre is to strengthen India's deep-tech ecosystem by connecting startups with global investors, industries, research institutions, and mentorship networks. It will promote research commercialisation, startup incubation, industry-academia collaboration, and access to international funding opportunities.

What is Deep-Tech?

Deep-tech refers to technology-based innovations built on advanced scientific research and engineering. These startups generally work in areas such as AI, biotechnology, semiconductors, space technology, advanced manufacturing, and clean energy, and often require high research investment and long development cycles.

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Significance for India:

The initiative is important for strengthening India's startup and innovation ecosystem. It supports India's vision of becoming a global technology and innovation hub by promoting research-driven entrepreneurship and international collaboration. The centre will also strengthen India-US cooperation in emerging technologies and innovation sectors.

About IIT Madras:

IIT Madras is one of India's premier engineering and research institutions established in 1959. It is recognised as an Institution of Eminence and is known for its strong startup ecosystem, research park, incubation support, and innovation-driven academic environment.

Challenges:

Indian deep-tech startups continue to face challenges such as limited access to long-term funding, high research and development costs, shortage of advanced infrastructure, and dependence on imported technologies.