

■ Students design innovative tech system

# Gadget to help avert fatal road accidents



Students of Velammal Institute of Technology explain about their gadget to Sathyabama University founder-chancellor Jeppiaar during TECHfluence conference on Friday.

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# 100 students to get ₹10,000 as seed grant

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, MARCH 7**

With the aim to develop innovation and research in over 500 private engineering colleges in the state, the Consortium of Self Financing Professional, Arts and Science Colleges in Tamil Nadu and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have decided to select 100 best student projects and provide them a seed grant to develop the product.

In his presidential address at Techfluence 2014, jointly organised by Sathyabama University and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on Friday, Sathyabama university chancellor and consortium chairman Jeppiaar emphasised the need to nurture students' talent and motivate them towards a research career. "We will form a ten-member committee with representatives from our consortium with over 500 private engineering colleges and indus-

trialists in CII. This committee will evaluate student projects to provide ₹10,000 as seed money for them to take their research to the next level," he said.

Pointing out that student ideas should come out of the laboratory as products, Jeppiaar said that private engineering colleges play a major role in the country's research and development.

Managing director of Grundfos Pumps India and chairman of TECHfluence 2014 N.K.Ranganath explained the need to enhance the research and development base in India and elaborated about TECHfluence. "This is the second edition of TECHfluence; we had one in Anna University last year. In this congregation of students, we formulate a mutual linkage among key players in a sector—industry, academia and individuals, besides accelerate technological growth in local and global communities," he added.

it triggers signals to switch the vehicle to the autopilot mode. The external sensor placed on either side of the automobile will guide it to a safe parking spot," K.Arun Prasad, another young innovator said while dis-

playing their innovation at Techfluence 2014 on Friday. Terming their project as an effective solution for the transport industry, Rishabh Parekh said that their kit could be deployed in any vehicle for less than ₹1.25 lakh.

**N. ARUN KUMAR | DC**  
**CHENNAI, MARCH 7**

To protect drivers from fatal accidents due to sleep disorder, five third year mechanical engineering students from Velammal Institute of Technology in the city have developed an effective monitoring and autopilot system for automotive applications. This senses the driver's heartbeat and automatically steers the vehicle to safety. Citing a National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report that every year, more than 1.35 lakh traffic collision-related deaths occur in the country, U.Aaditya, one of the team members, said that it was found that sleep-deprived driving turned out to be one of the main reasons for these accidents, which could be avoided by innovations in technology.

This made the team come up with a monitoring and autopilot system for drivers, says K.Arun, another team member who explains that sleep onset could be predicted with the installation of electric potential sensors in the driver's seat belt and signals fed into a microprocessor connected to the vehicle's driving unit. "Before the autopilot is actuated, a microprocessor calculates the average heartbeat rate of the driver to compare it with the signal it would get when the driver is asleep. When the microprocessor finds any abnormality in heartbeat,