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COMMUNITY

India Abroad
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GEORGE JOSEPH

Just as the Telugu Association of North America began an awareness campaign about preventing accidents, came the death of Sri Vempati, 21, the third this month.

Praneetha Devi Kasani, 21, died May 6, and Naresh Naidu, 24, May 12.

Sri Vempati, a third year (BS in computer science) student on a full scholarship at Texas Christian University at Fort Worth,

Stay safe, TANA urges community

hit a tree with his car May 15 at around 6 am and died of severe head injuries next day. He had bought the car a week before.

He is survived by his parents and a sister. His mother Vasantha Lakshmi arrived from Hyderabad before the death. The family donated his organs to the hospital.

"The police are still investigating the case," said Prasad Thotakura, executive vice president, TANA. Thotakura saluted the parents for donating Vempati's organs. He said TANA has made all arrangements to send the remains back to Hyderabad.

Naidu, 24, a native of Bangalore, was injured in a car accident at 8 am on May 11 near Corpus Christi, Texas, and died the next day. He had earned his MBA from Indiana University of Pennsylvania three days before. Naidu and his friend Naveen had come to Texas to visit their friend



Praneetha Devi Kasani



Naresh Naidu

Pradyumna, who lost control of the car and hit an electric pole. Pradyumna and Naveen, who were sitting in the front, escaped with minor injuries. Naidu, who was in the back seat, suffered severe head injuries. He is survived by his parents and a brother.

Kasani came to the US last December

after completing her BTech from Hyderabad. She enrolled for a master's degree in electrical engineering at Wright State University, Ohio. She had gone to West Virginia with her friends. While coming back their car had an accident at around 6:45 am, May 6. She died instantly.

Six of Kasani's friends escaped with injuries: Sashi Venkata Kondury, 22, Harika Vanjeti, 22, Pavan Kumar Ragavajhala 23, Praneetha Devi Kasani, 21, (all from Wright State Ohio University) and Puneeth Reddy Amarella, 22, and Santosh Maddali

(University of Northern Virginia) left West Virginia around 2 am for Ohio. Puneeth Reddy was driving.

Kasani is survived by her parents and a sister in Hyderabad.

"Bright young people die in accidents every month and it has become a major problem in the Telugu community," Thotakura said.

TANA's Emergency Assistance and Management Team (TEAM Square) has come up with some guidelines, drawn up by Mohan Nannapaneni, TANA secretary, and Dr Chowdary Jampala, trustee, to help avoid such mishaps.

TEAM Square volunteers have helped in about 50 incidents and spent more than \$120,000 to help victims and families.

In addition to publishing the guidelines, a TANA team plans to conduct safety seminars in cities and universities in the US and Canada.

Releasing the guidelines, TANA President Jayaram Komati said, "We plan to distribute thousands of these brochures, both in print and electronic mediums and make them widely available in the US and India."

TANA will make these brochures available at consulates, travel agencies, Telugu associations and Indian student associations at all universities.

TANA's guidelines for the Indian in America

MOHAN NANNAPANENI AND CHOWDARY JAMPALA

Many students of Telugu origin come to the US every year but most of them do not have any financial aid, and campus jobs are hard to come by. This drives students to take more risks.

1. Students coming for education should come prepared with enough money to cover education and living expenses for entire period of study, not just for one or two semesters.

2. While it is tempting to take part-time jobs outside campus, many of these jobs are dangerous. The risk of violence is very high in jobs involving cash-management like convenience stores, gas stations, and delivery services, particularly so in late shifts and in high-crime areas.

3. Health insurance may cost you some money, but it is essential. In the long run, lack of insurance can turn out to be a lot costlier than insurance premiums. Check with your university regarding low-cost group health insurance.

4. Maintain a valid visa status and be responsive to the International Student Department at all times.

5. Do not work at unauthorized or illegal part time jobs while you are on a student visa. It may lead towards incarceration, deportation and debarment from future visits to the USA.

Avoiding Confrontation

Confrontations or avoidable misunderstandings are a common precursor to violence. Situations can escalate quickly and may have serious consequences, particularly if the other person is armed.

1. Do not try to argue with strangers. Most of the arguments end up in a fight.

2. Do not make rude gestures or swear at people. Control your anger for a moment or two until the crisis is past, even if you have been wronged.

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