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■ **5 techies from AP killed in car crash in US**

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Telugu Association of North America (TANA) president Prasad Thotakura told Express that the accident happened around 1 a.m. on Friday.

Five IT professionals from the state, who were working in USA, were killed when their car hit a big rig and burst into flames in the city of Oklahoma Friday. The deceased were identified as Jaswanth Reddy Subbayagari, Phanindra Gade, Anurag Anthati, Srinivas Ravi and Venkat.

Phanindra Gade was a native of Damarcharla village in Khammam district, Jaswant was from Kadapa district and the rest were from Hyderabad.

Telugu Association of North America (TANA) president Prasad Thotakura told Express that the accident happened around 1 a.m. on Friday.

“The accident took place when the car, a Chevrolet Camaro, in which the victims were travelling, hit the rig. The car was thrown down an embankment and burst into flames. All five techies in the car were charred to death on the spot. The mishap occurred when the car was going towards east on the Interstate- 40 and was exiting to the I-35,” Thotakura said.

It was reported that none of the victims was wearing seat belts. Thotakura and other TANA

members said they are extending all help to shift the bodies to the city shortly. They also approached the consulate in Houston to make the necessary arrangements for the transfer. It is learnt that all the five had done their high education in US universities and worked as IT professionals in various firms in the US.