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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Anna university develops AED with Tamil, Hindi commands

TNN | Jun 21, 2019, 10.23 AM IST



CHENNAI: Researchers at Anna University have developed an automated external defibrillator (AED), a portable device used to restore heart rhythm, which can be operated using Tamil and Hindi, besides English.

This will allow even a layperson without medical training to aid a heart attack victim as the AED operates on voice commands. The use of Tamil and Hindi is one of the major value additions by the Anna University team, which plans to include more languages.

“The low cost machine developed by us can be deployed at railway stations, bus stops to prevent deaths due to a heart attack. Being GPS-enabled, the machine can automatically select the language based on the location,” said professor T Thyagarajan from Madras Institute of Technology and principal investigator of the project.

As soon as it’s switched on, the machine will ask you to select the language. Then it will ask you to fix the adhesive pads on the chest of the collapsed person to study the heart rhythm. If the rhythm is abnormal, it will ask you to step away and administer shock as needed.

“This device will restore a normal heartbeat by sending an electric shock to the heart. They are used to prevent or correct arrhythmia — uneven heartbeat. It can also restore heartbeat if it suddenly stops,” said Sabitha Ramakrishnan, co-principal investigator at the department of instrumentation, Madras Institute of Technology, Chrompet.

The cost of an imported AED is around Rs 1.5 lakh while the prototype developed by Anna University researchers costs just Rs 50,000. Scientists said commercial production of the machine will commence within a year.

Airports and some shopping malls have the imported AEDs for use in emergencies.

Dr K Kannan, a senior consultant cardiologist in the city, said AEDs were useful in cases of cardiac arrest outside hospitals. But, the accuracy of the machine has to be 100% and it should be properly validated, he added.