

Press Clipping

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 **The Resource Centre**

Now, hybrid tuk tuks

OFFBEAT *The future is green, believes a group of students from India and Holland. They've come up with new fuel-efficient, environment-friendly autos*

Dutch national Elmar Stroomer rattles off merits of the autorickshaw. This knowledge is not a result of travelling regularly by autos.

An employee of Enviu (a Dutch company engaged in finding environment-friendly and sustainable solutions in many spheres and introducing them to the market), Elmar is working on his company's 'Hybrid Tuk Tuk' project aimed at making autorickshaws more fuel-efficient and less polluting.

With a small number of imported autos plying in Holland, the experiment is being carried out in that country as well as India. Thanks to Hybrid Autorickshaw Contest 2009, organised by Enviu and Context India, students from both countries are partners in the experiment.

The contest has entered the last lap. Prototypes of fuel-efficient autos made by seven college teams (four from Holland and three from India) have been put to the test at SRM University, Kaatankulathur by Mathijs Huis and Elmar, who've been handling the contest. The winning team, to be announced to-



INVENTIVE TEAM Mathijs Huis (extreme left) and Elmar Stroomer (extreme right) with students

day at SRM, will walk away with Rs. 6 lakh.

Besides making upgraded autos (with an alternative fuel), they have to present feasible business plans for introducing the machines in India. The students de-

cidated not to explore the option of making hybrid electric autos (autos that can run on conventional fuel as well as battery-generated electricity) — after factoring in the costs of battery packs.

"The future belongs to HEVs

(hybrid electric vehicles)," says Elmar. "Battery packs being expensive, HEVs can't be introduced at present in most parts of the world," he adds.

The teams have explored other ways of economising on fuel. By

an innovative design of the exhaust pipe, Tu Delft seeks to arrest wasteful expenditure of fuel. One of the problems with two-strokes is that the fuel port and the exhaust port open at the same time, with the result that a portion of the fuel is wasted before it could be used. Through a back-pressure mechanism, the escape of the fuel is prevented, says Elmar.

The SRM team is experimenting with magnetising fuel, and one of the two colleges from Bangalore, with a compressed air engine. The Groningen team has drilled a hole in the cylinder head, next to the spark plug, to inject CNG.

The injector is accompanied by an intelligent device that ascertains the amount of fuel required at different rpms. Tu Eindhoven has made a micro-hybrid vehicle that incorporates a stop-start system. When idle, the internal combustion engine shuts down.

Anyone visiting SRM today can watch the battle of these technologies.

PRINCE FREDERICK

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Show
Enviu and SRM University are
organising Hybrid Auto
Rickshaw Show 2009'

On July 25, 5 pm
At SRM University,
SRM Nagar,
Kaatankulathur Campus
Contact - 2820 2548

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CHENNAI TODAY

SRM University: Hybrid
Autorickshaw Exhibition,
Kattankulathur, 4 p.m.

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SRM UNIVERSITY: HYBRID AUTO SHOW 2009

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பல்கலைக் கழகத்தில்
ஹைப்ரிட் ஆட்டோ
ரிக்ஷா ஷோ 2009
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நடக்கிறது.