

Army Day: Device which helps detect depression among soldiers to be shown to PM

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ANEYE-TRACKING device to detect depression in the early stages in soldiers, developed by the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGn), will be shown to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of Army Day on January 15.

The easy to use device — MindEye — is one of the three IITGn projects that was displayed at the Army Technology (ARTECH) seminar 2018 held on January 8 in New Delhi as part of the Make in India initiative, a release stated.

Professor Uttama Lahiri, who presented the project at the seminar, said, "Soldiers getting killed due to fratricide and suicide triggered due to depression is very unfortunate. The device we have developed consists of a camera and a computer software that collects the eye gaze pattern of soldiers by looking at their eye movements. The data thus collected can be an effective

screening tool for detecting depression among soldiers serving at remote locations."

Professor Lahiri and some students of IITGn developed the device at the institute's laboratory. "This device can help replace the current buddy system in the forces which is depended on noticing changes in behavior of soldiers," she said, adding that MindEye integrated with computerised cognitive tests, could help the superiors decide a soldier's employment at sensitive and critical duty locations. "It will also help in assessment of cognitive load on soldiers in active duty and early warning of cognitive impairment at high altitude areas," Professor Lahiri said.

The other two projects by IITGn displayed at the seminar, organised by the Indian Army in collaboration with Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers and Confederation of Indian Industry, include an aerosol-based fire-detection and suppression system and technology to tackle limb movement disorders in high altitude areas.