

Counter Terrorism With Tech

Ahmedabad based Gridbots has developed a spycam that helps nab terrorists

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ON a crowded Ahmedabad railway station, a man places a bag under a bench and is about to make a run, when out of the blue a bevy of cops surrounds him, nabs him and takes custody of the bag. Soon after, a bomb squad reaches the spot and brings the situation under control.

For a nation held under seize by terror, this looks like wishful thinking. But this could be reality soon.

Here's the hell for intruders as someone smart is watching them from close quarters. Soon, the malicious or unidentifiable bags and bomb-wielding tiffin boxes may be detected in public places like rail platforms, bus-stops and shopping malls with the help of hi-speed cameras.

Ahmedabad-based Gridbots--a small technology firm that designs robots for consumer usage--has designed a multi-purpose high-speed revolving camera that will keep an eye on every lonesome object and inform police or authorities within minutes. The firm is designing the technology for the government authorities.

"The camera can identify malicious objects through our indigenous special surveillance software and will inform the authorities immediately as it will be attached with telecom," says Pulkit Gaur, founder and chief technical officer with Gridbots. The cameras can distinguish human as well as non-human things and alert the authorities through phone-calls and SMS. The cameras would be connected through software to the main computer. The cameras with frame grabbers can also identify guns or heavy metals. Each camera will take snap shot of complete object sequentially and configure it with embedded software. However, Gridbots will source normal speed cameras from the global OEMs and then develop it into highly modular cameras, depending on the focal length requirement, to capture each image.

The system can connect as many as 20 cameras, installed at various corners, with one common output PC or main server. With the help of the software, the job of police authorities would become easier. Faces of fugitives could be downloaded on the main server. As soon as the system locates any of the stored faces (through the CCTVs) it would alert the authority. the wanted faces in the database could be added by time to time. The software will identify those 'wanted' faces by rechecking from the database. "Our system can match 5000 faces per second from the database and will immediately give the result," says Gaur. The firm has client list from Ministry of Home Affairs to small IT companies.

Gidbots is also working on high-way projects where the camera can register each passing vehicle's number. Had this system been in place the cars in which bombs were placed in different parts of Gujarat could have been detected at state border only.

