

Real-Time Driver Drowsiness Detection System using AI-Enhanced Vision

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Abstract— One of the main causes of traffic accidents that cause serious injuries and fatalities is sleepiness on the part of drivers. In order to improve traffic safety, this project introduces an AI-powered Driver Drowsiness Detection System that combines computer vision, deep learning, IoT, and embedded technologies. A CNN-based model and OpenCV are used by the system to track the driver's facial features and identify fatigue indicators in real time. When the system detects drowsiness, an ESP32 microcontroller sends data to the Blynk cloud, which interprets it and initiates safety precautions. These consist of using a relay to control motor speed, turning on a water spray system to rehydrate the driver, emitting an audible alert by means of a buzzer, and presenting warning signs on an LCD screen. This system offers an effective and scalable way to reduce accidents brought on by driver weariness by fusing AI- based detection, IoT connectivity, and integrated hardware, guaranteeing safer roads for both private citizens and public transit systems.

Keywords— Driver Drowsiness Detection, AI-Enhanced Vision, Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), IoT, ESP32 Microcontroller, Real-Time Monitoring, Blynk Cloud, Embedded Systems, Fatigue Detection, Autonomous Safety Measures.

I. INTRODUCTION

One of the main causes of traffic accidents worldwide, which result in thousands of fatalities and injuries each year, is driver fatigue. Fatigue makes it difficult for drivers to stay vigilant, which hinders their ability to respond quickly and make decisions, which greatly raises the risk of collisions. People who drive at night, work shifts, and long-distance drivers are especially affected by this problem. Advanced safety systems that can monitor driver behavior in real time and send out instant notifications to avert accidents are desperately needed to address this developing threat.

With the help of deep learning, computer vision, the Internet of Things, and embedded systems, this project presents a comprehensive AI-based Driver Drowsiness Detection System that provides a clever, real-time monitoring and intervention solution. The system analyzes important signs of exhaustion, including prolonged eye closure, blinking patterns, and head posture, using a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)-trained model and OpenCV for facial feature detection. The system can precisely identify tiredness and produce useful information in real time by utilizing these strategies.

An ESP32 microcontroller is used to send the observed sleepiness data to the Blynk cloud, allowing for smooth interaction with Internet of Things devices. The ESP32 initiates a number of risk-reduction safety measures after

receiving the data. These include using a relay to slow down the vehicle's motor speed, turning on a water spray system to rehydrate the driver, and setting off a buzzer alarm to deliver instantaneous audio alerts. Additionally, the system has an LCD display that provides real-time messages, like "Drowsiness Detected" or "Stay Alert," so the driver is aware of the warnings and condition of the system.

This system represents a significant advancement in road safety technology by integrating AI-driven monitoring with IoT-enabled interventions. Its robust architecture and real-time response mechanisms make it suitable for deployment in smart vehicles, fleet management, and public transportation systems. By proactively addressing driver fatigue, this project aims to reduce accidents, enhance driving safety, and ultimately save lives.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

A lot of study has been done on driver sleepiness detection because of how important it is to lowering traffic accidents. According to studies, sleep deprivation has a major impact on cognitive abilities like memory, attention, and reaction time—all of which are critical for safe driving. Studies on the negative effects of sleep loss on teenage behavior and learning have compared the effects on driving performance to those on learning. Accidents are more likely to occur when people are less aware as a result of getting too little sleep, which highlights the necessity of real-time drowsiness monitoring systems. ^[1]

Deep learning-based methods that examine eye movements and facial expressions have become more popular in recent years for identifying driver fatigue. Using emotion analysis, a CNN-based model has been created to categorize sleepiness levels with excellent accuracy in realtime applications. The study showed that convolutional networks could successfully recognize subtle facial indicators of exhaustion, like yawning and drooping eyelids. Such systems enhance conventional rule-based methods, which frequently have poorer accuracy and greater false detection rates, by utilizing deep learning. ^[2]

Extensive studies on drowsiness detection methods have divided current approaches into three categories: behavioral, physiological, and hybrid. Physiological techniques use sensors to detect skin conductance, brain

activity, and heart rate; they are highly accurate but necessitate invasive gear. Behavioral approaches, on the other hand, track yawning frequency, head motions, and eye closure using camera-based monitoring.

Hybrid methods combine the two strategies to improve dependability. The study concluded that AI-driven behavioral analysis offers a scalable solution with low intrusiveness after outlining the advantages and disadvantages of each approach.

[3]

Observable indicators of weariness have been the focus of several research that investigated behavior-based detection techniques. These techniques offer a non-invasive means of identifying tiredness by tracking the length of eye closure, gaze direction, and facial microexpressions. According to a study that used behavioral analysis to detect drowsiness, irregular head movements and prolonged eye closure are highly correlated with impairment brought on by weariness. In real-world settings, this approach worked well, especially when paired with adaptive thresholding strategies to reduce false positives. ^[4]

Techniques for feature extraction are essential to image-based sleepiness detection. In real-time driver monitoring systems, facial features have been extracted using the Haar Cascade Classifier, a popular object detection method. By effectively identifying faces and eyes, the classifier enables later deep learning models to examine patterns associated with fatigue. Deep learning and Haarbased feature extraction work together to improve detection systems' accuracy and computational efficiency, which makes them appropriate for embedded hardware implementations. ^[5]

Improved sleepiness detection performance is a result of recent developments in transfer learning. Transfer learning eliminates the requirement for large amounts of labeled data by enabling pre-trained models to be improved on domain-specific datasets. Effectiveness in feature extraction and classification, especially for small datasets, was shown in a study on transfer learning in AI applications. In comparison to building deep networks from scratch, this method allows for quicker training timeframes and improved accuracy when incorporated into driver monitoring systems. ^[6]

By learning hierarchical feature representations, deep convolutional neural networks (DCNNs) have demonstrated impressive gains in sleepiness detection. To detect driver weariness, a new DCNN model has been suggested that outperforms conventional machine learning classifiers. To ensure robustness, the model was trained on extensive datasets with a wide range of face emotions in various lighting scenarios. Deeper network topologies enhance feature discrimination, resulting in more accurate tiredness categorization, according to the study. [7]

Systems for detecting tiredness have become even more successful because to hybrid approaches that combine deep learning with IoT-based real-time monitoring. Realtime data from cameras and sensors is processed by AI-driven models, which then send alerts to cloud-based platforms for immediate action. A study on IoT-enabled driver monitoring systems showed how fatigue levels can be used to create real-time alerts that activate vehicle control interventions and buzzer sirens. This integration offers a complete safety solution by guaranteeing precise and actionable sleepiness detection. [8]

Real-time driver tiredness monitoring technologies have been developed in large part thanks to machine learning. Successful implementations have been made of IoT-based systems that use machine learning algorithms to assess behavioral and physiological data. In order to forecast tiredness stages using multimodal sensor inputs, a study investigated a number of classification models, such as Random Forests and Support Vector Machines (SVMs). The findings supported the necessity for hybrid techniques by showing that the maximum detection accuracy is obtained when face analysis and physiological signals are combined. [9]

Applications for driver monitoring and other picture identification jobs have been transformed by deep learning. CNN-based models employed in sleepiness detection have their theoretical underpinnings in research on the foundations of deep learning. Deep learning algorithms surpass conventional feature engineering methods by using several convolutional layers to uncover intricate face patterns suggestive of weariness. Research has indicated that when it comes to driver monitoring tasks, architectures like VGGNet and ResNet outperform manually designed feature extraction

techniques in terms of accuracy. [10].

Frameworks for object recognition like "You Only Look Once" (YOLO) have helped with real-time driver monitoring applications. YOLO is ideal for real-time drowsiness detection since it can identify eye regions and facial landmarks in a single forward pass. YOLO-based driver monitoring systems are perfect for deployment in car safety applications because they achieve low latency and high detection accuracy, according to a study on real-time object detection. Drowsiness detection algorithms can function smoothly on edge devices with no processing expense by leveraging YOLO's efficiency. [11]

To improve road safety, automated drowsiness detection systems that combine face feature analysis with Internet of Things connectivity have been created. An AI-enhanced vision system that recognizes facial expressions associated with exhaustion and sends notifications to cloud-based platforms for prompt action was proposed in a study. During real-world testing, the system showed excellent dependability in a variety of climatic and illumination circumstances. This study emphasizes how crucial it is to combine AI and IoT in order to create reliable and expandable driver monitoring systems. [12]

The performance of image-based sleepiness detection systems has greatly improved with the development of deep learning architectures, especially very deep convolutional networks. Deep CNN research has proven to be successful in large-scale image identification tasks, offering a solid basis for applications including facial analysis.

Higher classification accuracy can be achieved by using deeper network topologies to teach sleepiness detection models more abstract and discriminative features. The significance of deep feature extraction in driver monitoring has been validated by studies that demonstrate that networks like VGG16 and ResNet-50 perform better than shallow designs in identifying facial indicators associated to fatigue. [13]

By utilizing developments in deep learning, transfer learning, IoT integration, and object identification frameworks, these research collectively aid in the creation of real-time driver sleepiness detection systems.

Modern sleepiness detection systems that integrate these technologies provide increased accuracy, quicker reaction times, and increased dependability, which eventually improves road safety and lowers the chance of accidents.

III. EXISTING SYSTEM

The majority of the current driver sleepiness detection systems are based on conventional techniques, which fall into three categories: physiological, behavioral, and vehicle-based methods. Although these techniques have helped to increase road safety, they have drawbacks that compromise their effectiveness and dependability in practical settings.

Drivers' biological signals, including skin conductance, heart rate, electroencephalograms, and electrooculograms, are monitored using physiological approaches. Since these methods evaluate brain activity and exhaustion levels directly, they offer great accuracy. However, they are not feasible for everyday driving situations since they require intrusive sensors, including electrodes applied to the skin or scalp. Furthermore, their broad adoption is constrained by their expensive costs and intricate signal processing.

Behavioral-based approaches use cameras and computer vision algorithms to track yawning, head posture, eye movements, and facial expressions. To identify weariness, systems employing Haar Cascade classifiers and conventional machine learning monitor variations in eyelid closure duration (PERCLOS), gaze direction, and frequency of yawning. These techniques are simpler to use and non-intrusive, but they suffer from different lighting, occlusions, and false positives because people's facial expressions differ.

In order to determine tiredness, car-based detection uses lane deviation, steering behavior, and vehicle speed analysis. In order to forecast fatigue levels, sensors monitor abrupt jerks, unpredictable lane changes, and delayed reaction times. Although useful in certain situations, these techniques lack accuracy in a variety of driving situations and do not take into consideration transient distractions or outside variables that may affect the car.

PROPOSED SYSTEM

In order to provide a real-time, non-intrusive, and extremely accurate solution for minimizing fatigue-related traffic accidents, the suggested AI-enhanced

vision-based driver drowsiness detection system combines computer vision, deep learning, IoT, and embedded technologies. In contrast to conventional techniques that depend on invasive physiological sensors, this system uses Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and OpenCV to continually track the driver's eye movements and facial expressions, guaranteeing reliable drowsiness detection. Large datasets of driver photos are used to train the CNN model, which can identify signs of fatigue such head tilting, yawning, and prolonged eye closure (PERCLOS measure). This allows for accurate real-time evaluation in a variety of scenarios.

The system uses an ESP32 microcontroller for realtime edge processing to increase efficiency, which lowers latency and guarantees prompt decision-making. The system detects drowsiness and initiates many preventive measures, such as an LCD warning display within the car, an auditory buzzer alarm, relay-based vehicle speed control, and the activation of a water spray system. The system is also linked to Blynk Cloud, which enables remote monitoring via a mobile app. Real-time data transfer, alarm messages, and connection with fleet management systems for business applications are made possible by this IoT-based connectivity.

This system's non-intrusive design, excellent accuracy using AI-driven detection models, IoT-based warning mechanisms, and affordability through the usage of reasonably priced hardware components are its main advantages. By utilizing deep learning and cloud connectivity, our system guarantees a quicker response time and increased reliability in contrast to traditional drowsiness detection techniques. All things considered, this suggested solution offers a scalable, intelligent, and real-time method of reducing driver weariness, improving road safety for applications involving both private and commercial vehicles.

ADVANTAGES

The suggested AI-enhanced driver sleepiness detection system has a number of benefits that greatly boost driving conditions and road safety. One of the main advantages is realtime drowsiness detection, which ensures prompt diagnosis of exhaustion by continually monitoring the driver's eye movements and facial expressions using a CNN-based deep learning model. This device uses OpenCV and AI algorithms to assess facial features without giving discomfort to the driver, in

contrast to typical physiological sensors that need physical touch. Furthermore, real-time notifications are made possible by the integration of IoT with Blynk Cloud and an ESP32 microcontroller. This allows fleet managers or family members to monitor the system remotely and ensures prompt action in the event of an emergency.

A water spray system to refresh the driver, relay-based vehicle speed control, an alarm buzzer, and real-time alerts on an LCD display are some of the multi-layered alert mechanisms used by the system to further improve safety. These prompt actions aid in preventing accidents brought on by impairments brought on by weariness. Because it uses an ESP32 microcontroller to handle data quickly, the system is also built for low latency and fast response, guaranteeing that detection and warning activation occur as soon as possible. Additionally, it is scalable and reasonably priced due to the utilization of cost-effective hardware components, which makes it appropriate for a range of applications, including as private automobiles, business fleets, and public transportation systems.

Because the deep learning model is trained on a variety of datasets, it is resilient to changes in occlusions, facial structures, and illumination, guaranteeing great accuracy and dependability. The system is perfect for continuous usage in embedded applications since it is portable, energy-efficient, and low power. Furthermore, historical data can be gathered through cloud-based data logging, facilitating long-term safety enhancements and predictive analytics to avert mishaps. This AI-powered solution helps to improve road safety by drastically lowering fatigue-related collisions, safeguarding not only drivers but also passengers and pedestrians, thus making roads safer for all.

IV. METHODOLOGY

A. System Architecture

The AI-enhanced real-time driver sleepiness detection system's system architecture is made up of several interconnected modules that combine embedded systems, computer vision, deep learning, and the Internet of Things to offer a reliable and effective solution. The system starts with an input module that continuously records live footage of the driver's face using a camera, usually an infrared or night vision camera. Essential face

traits including eye openness, blinking frequency, and yawning patterns are extracted from the collected frames by pre-processing using OpenCV. A convolutional neural network (CNN) trained on sizable datasets for tiredness detection is used to assess the derived facial features.

The CNN model determines if the driver is alert or sleepy based on real-time processing of the picture data. For quicker processing, the model can be offloaded to a Raspberry Pi or edge AI hardware, or it can run on an ESP32 microcontroller. In order to enable remote monitoring, the system detects drowsiness and activates an Internet of Things module (ESP32) that sends real-time data to the Blynk Cloud. The IoT integration makes it possible for fleet management and individual use by guaranteeing that warnings may be accessible via a web dashboard or a mobile application. The technology alerts and awakens the driver by triggering several safety features when it detects tiredness. These include an LCD display that shows warning messages to alert the driver of fatigue, a relay-based motor speed control that automatically lowers the vehicle speed, a water spray system that spritzes water on the driver's face to refresh them, and a buzzer alarm that emits a loud noise to instantly alert the driver. In order to facilitate historical analysis and predictive insights, the system additionally records instances of drowsiness in the cloud database. To lower the risk of accidents, fleet managers should optimize driving schedules and examine patterns in driver weariness.

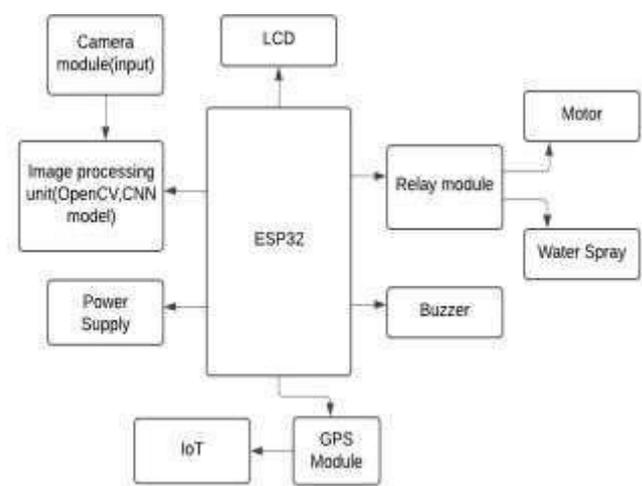


Fig. 1. Block Diagram

The system's low power consumption and effective operation ensure constant monitoring without depleting

the car's battery. Because it maximizes resource use, the ESP32 module is appropriate for real-time applications. The suggested system offers a clever, scalable, and real-time way to stop accidents brought on by driver fatigue by combining AI-based vision, deep learning, IoT connectivity, and integrated control mechanisms. This ensures safer road transportation.

The ESP32 microcontroller-based AI-powered driver sleepiness detection system's parts and data flow are depicted in the system architecture diagram.

The camera module (input), which continuously records live video of the driver, is the first component of the system. The image processing unit, which uses OpenCV and a CNN-based deep learning model to analyze face traits like eye closure and yawning, receives the acquired video frames. In order to receive the findings of the sleepiness detection and make decisions based on them, this processing unit interfaces with the ESP32 microcontroller, which serves as the central controller.

An external power source powers the ESP32, guaranteeing its ongoing operation. The ESP32 initiates a number of alert mechanisms when it detects indications of tiredness. The motorist is alerted by a loud sound produced by a buzzer. The relay module, which may manage external equipment like the motor and water spray system, receives a signal from the ESP32 at the same time. The water spray system can assist in waking the driver, and the motor speed can be decreased to avoid collisions.

The ESP32 is also linked to an LCD display, which gives the driver feedback or alerts in real time. The ESP32's IoT integration enables it to send data to cloud-based apps for analysis in order to facilitate remote monitoring. Additionally, the system has a GPS module that, in the event of a serious sleepiness issue, can transmit position data to emergency responders or fleet managers.

In order to reduce accidents caused by driver drowsiness, this design guarantees proactive safety measures, effective decision-making, and real-time monitoring.

B. System Flow

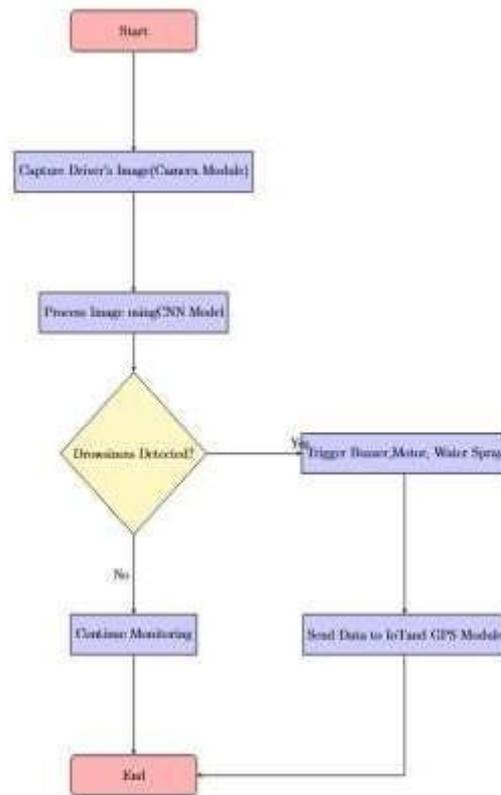


Fig. 2. Work Flow

To guarantee real-time monitoring and alarm production, the AI-powered driver sleepiness detection system operates according to a structured sequence of steps. The camera module starts the procedure by filming the driver in real time. The image processing unit receives these video frames and uses OpenCV and a CNN-based deep learning model to identify indicators of tiredness by analyzing yawning patterns, eye closure, and facial expressions. The ESP32 microcontroller, which acts as the main decision-making unit, receives the processed sleepiness detection results. The ESP32 triggers several alert systems if it detects tiredness. To alert the driver, it first sets off a buzzer, which makes a loud sound. Concurrently, the relay module is turned on to manage external parts like a water spray system and motor. While the water spray system helps the driver stay alert by spraying a little amount of water over their face, the motor control can lower the speed of the vehicle.

The ESP32 also modifies an LCD screen to show warnings or status updates in real time. The ESP32 sends data to an Internet of Things platform to improve remote monitoring, giving emergency contacts or fleet managers access to drowsiness alerts. The GPS module logs the driver's location and transmits it to cloud-based apps for tracking and emergency support if needed.

This cycle is repeatedly repeated by the system to guarantee continual monitoring and reaction to driver weariness. IoT integration, real-time alarms, and picture processing all work together to improve safety and lower the chance of sleep-related accidents.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In a real-time setting, the suggested driver sleepiness detection system was successfully put into practice and tested. An ESP32 microcontroller, a camera module to record the driver's face, an image processing unit driven by OpenCV and a CNN model, an LCD display, a relay module to control a motor and water spray, a buzzer to provide audible alerts, a

GPS module, and Internet of Things integration for remote monitoring are all part of the complete project setup.

The technology successfully distinguished between an alert and a sleepy state during testing. A person with both eyes open and closed was depicted in the two test photos. In the first instance, no alerts were issued and the system continued to function normally while the user's eyes were open.

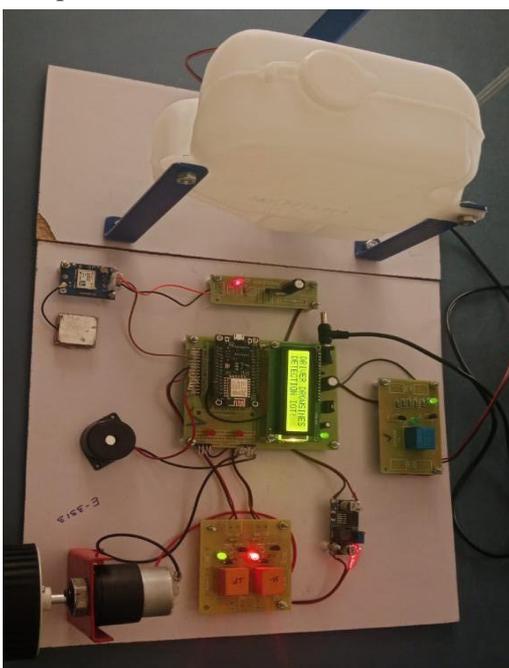


Fig.3.Model setup

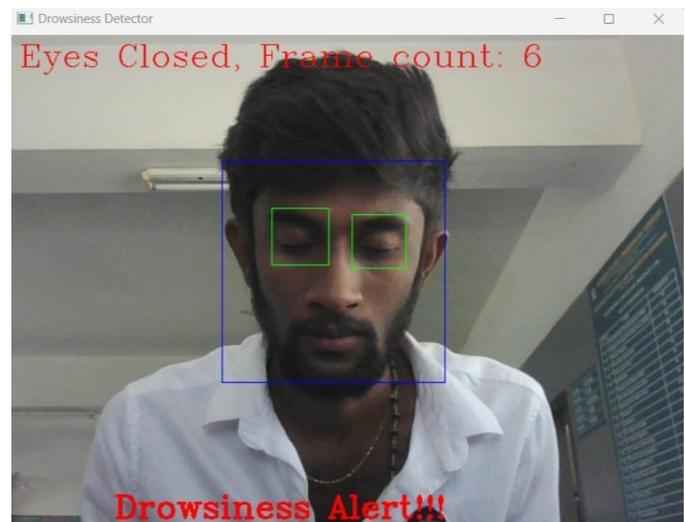
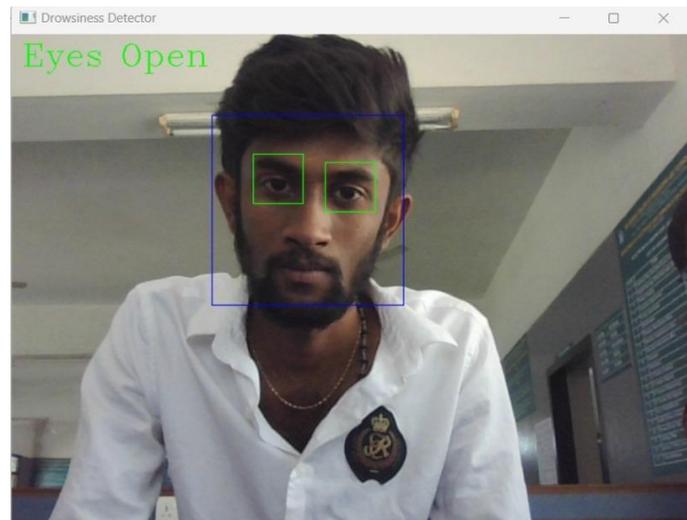


Fig.4.Drowsiness Detection

The image processing unit, however, recognized drowsiness when the subject's eyes were closed and triggered the warning systems. In order to wake the driver, the relay module managed the motor and water spray system, the buzzer sounded instantly, and the LCD showed a warning message. Furthermore, alarms were sent to a cloud platform for remote monitoring thanks to the GPS module and IoT connectivity. With few false positives, the method showed excellent accuracy in identifying ocular closure. However, issues like dim lighting and quick head motions could marginally impair detection capabilities. Future developments could include better AI models to further improve accuracy and infrared-based night vision. Overall, by offering real-time alerts and actions, the implemented system effectively prevents accidents caused by drowsiness, greatly improving driver safety.

CONCLUSION

A camera module, an ESP32 microcontroller, an image processing unit with OpenCV, and a CNN model were used to successfully design and implement the driver sleepiness detection system. By examining the driver's eye condition, the device can identify tiredness and, if extended eye closure is observed, it can sound a warning. The alarm system guarantees prompt action to wake the driver and includes a buzzer, water spray, and display notifications. Additionally, real-time monitoring and remote alerting capabilities are improved by integrating a GPS module with IoT connectivity. Through testing, the system demonstrated reliable performance in distinguishing between alert and drowsy states, with minimal false detections. However, accuracy may be impacted by outside variables like head motions and lighting. Future developments can further increase system performance, such as improved AI algorithms and infrared-based detection for nighttime operation. In summary, the suggested technique offers an economical and effective way to reduce traffic accidents caused by sleepiness. It greatly improves driver safety and helps prevent accidents by providing real-time monitoring and intervention, which makes it an invaluable component of intelligent transportation systems.

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