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## **‘Combat Drugs’ Synthesized by DRDO, to reduce casualties**

*The Indian defense lab has created a range of new medicines that can help soldiers sustain injuries for longer periods, till they can be transported to better facilities*

The ongoing tussle between armies owing to India-Pak tensions has shed a light on a serious issue amongst security forces. It was determined that over 90% of the personnel who suffer fatal injuries, succumb to those injuries within a matter of hours. Hostile conditions deter them from getting the necessary treatment, and when they are transported to better medical facilities in gravely injured conditions, it often becomes too late. Realizing this, a team at the medical laboratory of the Indian Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO), has synthesized a range of enhanced drugs, which can help soldiers brave tough, lethal conditions while they are moved to a better facility.

Dubbed ‘Combat Casualty Drugs’, these new medicines involve a range of wound sealants, hyper absorptive dressing materials, and glycerated saline. These medical innovations can keep military personnel from succumbing to injuries sustained during warfare, keeping in mind the varying environmental factors in battlegrounds in jungles, and at higher altitudes.

Developed by a research team at the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), a department of the DRDO, the drugs were created as the need for quick and effective first aid treatments were realized. The specially created dressing materials, created using cellulose fiber, are 200 times more effective in absorbing blood than the ones currently in use. In fact, the study revealed that conventional dressing methods are not just ineffective, but draw blood out even quicker. The glycerated saline, does not freeze even at temperatures of -18 degrees, it reduces inflammation, and can be lifesaving as trauma caused by severe pain is one of the leading reasons for casualties.

The team has devised several other drugs which will help in drastically reducing the number of lives lost during warfare. They claim that the death toll of 40 CRPF personnel, could have been much lower had the drugs been in use.

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