

EYE IN THE SKY

City police were upbeat about Netra's performance during a demo flight at Tuesday's MNS rally. However, they have yet to take a decision on buying the gadget

> 'Netra' has been developed by ideaForge, a company formed by IIT-B alumni, in collaboration with the DRDO

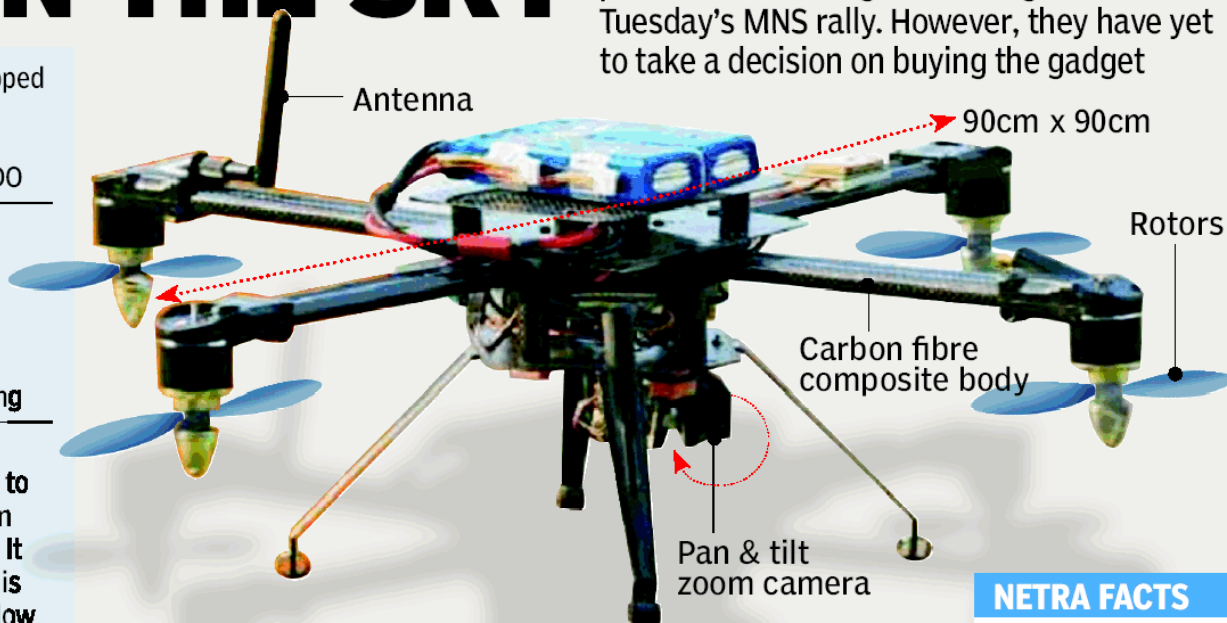
> The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) is ideal for short-range surveillance missions, can be deployed quickly and is capable of vertical take-off and landing

> Its point-and-click interface allows operators to concentrate on the mission rather than flying the UAV. It can return to base if there is loss of communication or low battery. The battery can be recharged in an hour

> Netra has a hi-res camera with a pan/tilt and zoom. Its picture quality is similar to TV visuals. It can also carry a thermal camera for night operations. But it can't operate in the rain as of now. Research is on to make it operable in all weather

> The camera is connected to a computer. During the August 21 rally, it was connected to a laptop on which cops watched the rally

> ideaForge had approached a senior cop to market Netra, who referred them to the administration department. The company was then asked to demonstrate the gadget's working at Tuesday's rally



“It was a demo and not a trial run. The UAV's operation was very handy and its recording quality was clear. The equipment will be of great help in future, to identify and locate miscreants. But we have not bought it. The department will give its feedback on the demo to senior officials and they will then take a decision on its purchase

Hemant Nagrale | JOINT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE (ADMINISTRATION)

“Tuesday's flight was a demonstration to show Mumbai police how the UAV operates

Amardeep Singh | VP, IDEAForge

“If the UAV could have been used during situations like the August 11 riots, it would have been very easy to nab the real culprits. No one could then accuse us of picking up the wrong persons

A SENIOR POLICE OFFICER FROM THE EASTERN SUBURBS



NETRA FACTS

Weight | 1.5 kg

Power source | External swappable lithium polymer batteries

Battery life | 30 minutes per charge

Range | 1.5 km (line of sight)

Operational altitude | 200 metres