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R&DE's UAV Netra watching over Rath Yatra

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PUNE: The two Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) - 'Netra', which kept a vigil on the Rath Yatra procession in Ahmedabad on Wednesday, has been developed by the Research and Development Establishment (Engineers) (R&D(E)), a laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

After establishing the technology efficacy during user trials, the technology was then transferred to Mumbai-based company Idea Forge.

Around 20 such pieces were manufactured by the company and subsequently inducted into the Army, police and paramilitary forces. Two of these Netras were purchased by the Gujarat police.

“The deployment of Netras during the Rath Yatra augurs well for the future of this technology. A total of 20 pieces were ordered and inducted. The usage of these UAVs on the field, as done by the Gujarat police, will encourage more potential users to come forward and place orders,” Joint Director of R&DE (E) and head of the robotics division Alok Mukherjee told Sakal Times.

PTI adds: In addition to the UAVs, 20 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras have been installed at various places.

Fourteen paramilitary companies-BSF (6), RAF (4), Central Reserve Police Force (2) and Central Industrial Security Force (2)-were deployed in Ahmedabad to prevent any untoward incidents, officials said.

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