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Unmanned Aerial Vehicle To Keep Eye on Kashmir Capital

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UAV, Netra, to be used for aerial surveillance ahead of I-Day

Majid Jahangir

SRINAGAR: Ahead of Independence Day, the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) Netra will be made operational in Srinagar for aerial surveillance.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has acquired the UAV, which will keep a bird's eye view of activities taking place in the city.

"The UAV will help provide a bird's eye view to security agencies in Srinagar," CRPF public relations officer Kishore Kumar said.

"The UAV will be operated jointly by the police and the CRPF for aerial surveillance from Tuesday," he added.

The UAV is being used as part of security measures in the capital ahead of Independence Day. The issue of security, particularly on Independence Day and Republic Day, remains a top priority for security forces as militants try to create trouble.

Last year, Netra was used for surveillance for a day on Independence Day. This is the first time Netra will be used in the run-up to Independence Day.

Jointly developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation and a group of former Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) students, Netra has a range of two kilometres and is equipped with thermal imaging cameras for night surveillance.

UAVs are the most sought after equipment during counter-insurgency operations and are being used by the Army to check infiltration on the Line of Control.

Sources said there was a general input about the presence in Srinagar and its outskirts of militants who might plan attacks in the days ahead. Security agencies had been put on alert to avert any such attempt.

The sources said the CRPF and the police were stopping vehicles for frisking in many localities of the city and checkpoints had been set up in various parts of the city.

"These steps have been taken as a precautionary measure," Kishore Kumar said, adding that security agencies were vigilant on foiling militant plans.

(TNS)

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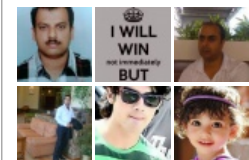
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