

UAVs keep an eye on the procession

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Ahmedabad : The Jagannath Rath Yatra passed off peacefully in Ahmedabad under the surveillance of “Netra”, the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) introduced by the state police on Wednesday. Two new UAVs were launched in the rath yatra in Ahmedabad, ensuring the smooth passage of the yatra which was flagged off by Chief Minister Narendra Modi. A team of ATS officials, specially trained to operate the UAV, were manning it from various strategic points.

The UAV kept an eye on the procession that started from the Jagannath temple in Jamalpur and moved on to pass from sensitive areas in the walled city. The yatra, on its return route, passed from Prem Darwaza, Dariapur, Shahpur Darwaza, Delhi Chakal and R C High School that witnessed clashes and riots during the yatra in the past.

The UAVs helped the police to ease out the crowd in few areas where the rush of visitors had increased. The UAV grabs also helped police to control the crowd near akhadas where fire stunts and road stunts were performed. However, with the spell of rain in the afternoon, the police had to withdraw the UAV for a couple of hours.

The police had also fixed 20 CCTV cameras in sensitive areas along the yatra route and also in important areas of the walled city for surveillance. The CCTVs also faced disturbances during the rains. The Global Positioning Service (GPS) devices were attached to the three main chariots of deities that was also monitored in the city control room. The chariots were accompanied by 38 akhadas, 15 bhajan mandalis, 98 trucks and 18 elephants raths that were surrounded with more than

10, 00 policemen providing security to the event. The city police said no major skirmishes were witnessed during the event.