

Unmanned air vehicle to aid in defence

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DC | BENGALURU

Aug. 22: A city-based academician and scientist has developed an unmanned micro air vehicle which could be of assistance in the defence sector and also help monitor calamities, state of the environment and climate change.

The prototype is complete with the inventor now planning to use it to record air quality parameters in the city. Designed by Dr Krishna Venkatesh, director of the Centre for Emerging Technologies at Jain University, the auto pilot system can fly at an altitude of 300 ft. "The design is handy and can be carried by a soldier in his backpack so that it can be deployed at a specific site for



FEATURES

- ▶ **Wing span: 12 inches: Micro drone**
- ▶ **Total weight: 300 g**
- ▶ **Range: 2-5 km**
- ▶ **Altitude: 300 ft/100 metres**
- ▶ **Payload: CCD camera**
- ▶ **Power Source: LiPo battery**
- ▶ **Endurance: 40 mins**
- ▶ **Propulsion: Electric motor**

gathering information. It can also be used to gather crucial data during natural calamities such as floods and earthquakes. Another long term function would be to monitor air quality in the city apart from working on aspects concerning climate change and the environment. We can use the UAV for several applications and can also modify it to suit the require-

ment," said Dr Venkatesh, an alumnus of Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

The company Drone Aerospace System Pvt Ltd, which developed the UAV, was launched on August 15, 2007 by five individuals apart from Dr Venkatesh, who gave up their corporate jobs to work on the project. Team members include Krishna Kishore, Shirish Krishnamurthy, Hemant Kumar, Nithin Prakash, Chandrasa Reddy and Naveen T.N. "They were my former students during my tenure at Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU)," said Dr Venkatesh, COO of Drone.

The prototype is currently undergoing trials with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).