

DRDO carries out test flight of autonomous UAV

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Context - Marking a milestone in proving critical technologies for the development of future unmanned aircraft, the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully carried out the maiden flight of the Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator.

Key Highlights

- This flight is seen as a significant step towards self-reliance in such strategic defence technologies.
- The DRDO in a statement said, “Maiden flight of the Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator was carried out successfully by Defence Research and Development Organization from the Aeronautical Test Range, Chitradurga, Karnataka.”
- The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle is designed & developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru. It is powered by a small turbofan engine. The airframe, undercarriage and entire flight control and avionics systems used for the aircraft were developed indigenously.

About DRDO

- DRDO was established in 1958 after combining Technical Development Establishment (TDEs) of the Indian Army and the Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP) with the Defence Science Organization (DSO).
- DRDO works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
- It is working to establish a world class science and technology base for India and provides our Defence Services decisive edge by equipping them with internationally competitive systems and solutions.
- Presently, the Organization is backed by over 5000 scientists and about 25,000 other scientific, technical and supporting personnel.
- Several major projects for the development of missiles, armaments, light combat aircrafts, radars, electronic warfare systems etc are on hand and significant achievements have already been made in several such technologies.