

Chitradurga Aeronautical Test Range

Aeronautical Test Range (ATR), Chitradurga is an out-door testing and evaluation facility set up by DRDO exclusively for unmanned and manned aircraft. The ATR is under the command of the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE).^{[1][2]}

ATR, Chitradurga is located at Varavoo Kaval in Challakere Taluk of Chitradurga district on a 4,290 acre plot.^{[3][4]} The land was bought by Ministry of Defence from the state government for Rs.12 crore (Rs.120 million) in a deal negotiated in 2008.^[5] The project was set up with an investment of Rs 1300 Crores.

ATR, Chitradurga has a Range Control Centre (RCC) with air traffic display system. It is equipped with a mission video distribution and display system. It has a Radar Centre which houses primary and secondary surveillance radars. It has two hangars which houses unmanned aerial vehicles Rustom-1 and Rustom-2. The runway is currently 2.2 km long with the capacity to host take off and landing from any end.^[6]

The project envisages a runway beside other tracking and control equipments and a rail link to the facility have also been planned. In 2021, ADE planned to expand the runway from 2.2 km to 3 km and setup a high-power computing facility.^[1]

Challakere ATR is intended to conduct the trials of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), air-to-ground weapons, parachutes and aerostats.^[7] It has been planned not to utilize Challakere ATR for test flight of ballistic missiles.

The Challakere ATR was partially activated on 15 December 2010.^[8] The facility was formally inaugurated by Union Defence and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on 28 May 2017.^{[9][10][11]}

See also

- Pashan Test Range
- Ramgarh Test Range
- Tandur Test Range

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This page was last edited on 24 March 2021, at 04:15 (UTC).

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