

National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)

Agency Overview:

- Formed: 2004; 21 years ago
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Motto: āno bhadra krtavo yantu vishwatah (Let noble thoughts come to me from all directions)
- Annual Budget: Classified
- Minister Responsible: Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India
- Agency Executive: Rajesh Arya, Chairman
- Website: ntro.gov.in

The National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) is a technical intelligence agency of India set up in 2004. It reports to the National Security Advisor and the Prime Minister's Office. NTRO also includes the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre and the National Institute of Cryptology Research and Development.

History:

- Originally known as the National Technical Facilities Organisation (NTFO).
- Acts as a super-feeder agency providing technical intelligence to other agencies.
- Recommended by the Group of Ministers (GOM) headed by Deputy Prime Minister L. K. Advani.
- Hi-tech surveillance including satellite, terrestrial, and internet monitoring.
- Fully operational post-Kargil war 1999 based on Subrahmanyam committee recommendations.
- Constitution roadmap prepared by Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam in 2001.
- Approved by Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) in October 2004, modeled on the US NSA.

Organisation:

- Specialises in remote sensing, SIGINT, data gathering/processing, cyber security, geospatial information gathering, cryptology, strategic hardware/software development, strategic monitoring.

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- National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre monitors threats to crucial infrastructure using satellites, drones, VSAT, fiber-optic taps.
- Includes National Institute of Cryptology Research and Development (NICRD), first in Asia.
- Operates satellites: Technology Experiment Satellite (TES), Cartosat-2A, EMISAT, Cartosat-2B, RISAT-1 & RISAT-2.
- VLRTTR arrays with IAF for missile monitoring: Udaipur, Bhopal, Balasore.

Activities:

- Member of NSA-led SIGINT Seniors Pacific (SSPAC) for 10+ years.
- NTRO land allotted in Borda, Bhopal in 2013.
- Assisted Indian Coast Guard interception of Pakistani vessel in 2014.
- Provided satellite intelligence in 2016 LoC strike.
- Assisted 2019 Balakot airstrike by confirming targets.
- Operates INS Dhruv with Indian Navy.

Relationship with Other Agencies:

- 2007: turf war with Aviation Research Centre (ARC) affected operations.
- 2010: first Indian intelligence agency audited by CAG.
- 2013: alleged hacking of NIC network; NTRO denied.

See Also:

- NATGRID, NETRA, Mass surveillance in India, Central Monitoring System, Telecom Enforcement Resource and Monitoring, Multi Agency Centre (India), List of Indian intelligence agencies