



Chapter 1 Introduction



Background

1.1 National Remote Sensing Centre¹ (NRSC), a unit of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is the nodal agency for remote sensing² activities, which involved acquisition and archival of satellite/aerial remote sensing data and its dissemination. The Remote Sensing Data Policy of India, 2001 vested NRSC with the sole authority to acquire and disseminate all remote sensing data in the country subject to specific guidelines stipulated to protect national security interests³.

During the years 2003-04 to 2008-09, NRSC received grants from the Department of Space (DOS) and incurred an expenditure of ₹ 657.78 crore which was exclusive of the cost of satellites and their launching. During the same period, NRSC generated internal revenue of ₹ 528.25 crore from the sale

¹ Erstwhile National Remote Sensing Agency was an autonomous organisation under the Department of Space (DOS) upto August 2008. It was converted into a Government entity with effect from 1 September 2008 due to constraints faced by NRSC in dealing with programmes of national importance on account of its status of being a society.

² Remote Sensing is the science of acquiring information about the earth's surface without actually being in contact with it. This is carried out by sensing and recording reflected or emitted energy and processing, analysing and applying that information.

³ Remote Sensing Data Policy of 2001 prescribes dissemination of data with resolution better than 5.8 meter, after being screened by a high resolution image clearance committee to protect national security interests. Data of 5.8 meter to 1 meter resolution could be distributed after screening and ensuring that sensitive areas are excluded. Data of 1 meter resolution could be distributed to the users without any restriction except for sensitive areas.



Activities

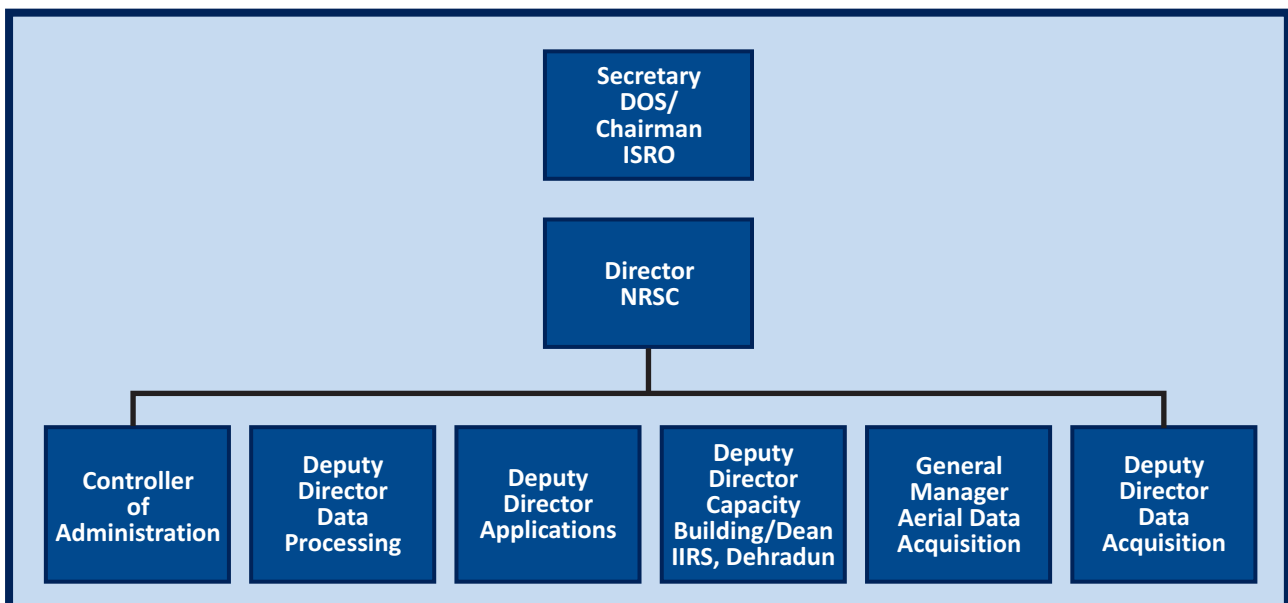
of data products and remote sensing application projects. From 1st September 2008, NRSC became a centre of DOS and, therefore, received money as budget allocation from DOS instead of grants-in-aid.

1.2 Major activities through which NRSC sought to achieve its objectives include:

- Acquisition and processing of remote sensing data from various Indian and foreign remote sensing satellites and their supply to users in India and abroad;
- Airborne remote sensing for aerial photography, aero-magnetic survey and aerial laser terrain mapper etc; and
- Remote sensing application projects.

Organisational structure

1.3 ISRO is headed by a Chairman who is also the Secretary of the DOS. NRSC is an implementing unit of ISRO and is headed by a Director who, in discharge of his duties, is assisted by a Controller in-charge of administration, four Deputy Directors responsible for satellite data acquisition, data processing, applications, capacity building⁴ and General Manager, aerial data acquisition. The Deputy Directors are assisted by Group Heads. The organisational structure is explained in the chart below.



⁴Deputy Director responsible for capacity building is also Dean, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun.