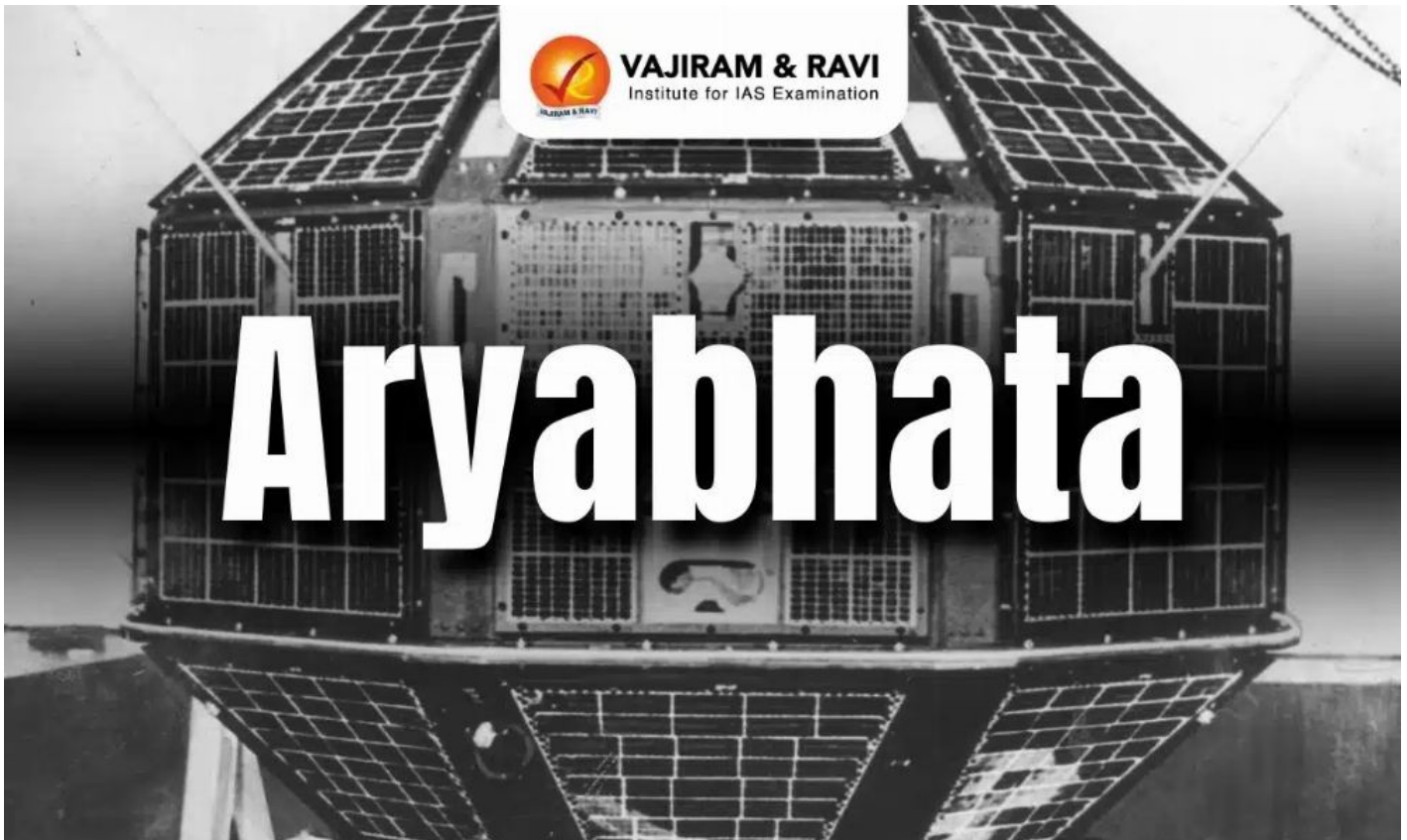


Aryabhata

April 20, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



Aryabhata Latest News

50 Years Since the Launch of Aryabhata – India's First Satellite

About Aryabhata

- **Aryabhata** was **India's first indigenously-built satellite**, named after the **ancient Indian mathematician and astronomer Aryabhata**, who lived in the **5th century CE**.
- It was launched on **April 19, 1975**, from **Kapustin Yar**, a Soviet launch site, with the help of the **Soviet Union**.
- By launching Aryabhata, **India joined an elite club of 11 countries** capable of sending satellites into orbit, including the **USA, USSR, UK, France, China, West Germany, Australia, Canada, Japan, and Italy**.
- Aryabhata was designed to conduct experiments in **solar physics** and **X-ray astronomy**.
- Although the experiments faced a **power failure** after **five days**, Aryabhata successfully made **initial X-ray observations** and continued **transmitting data for a few more days**.

- Aryabhata eventually **re-entered Earth's atmosphere** on **February 10, 1992**, giving it an **orbital lifespan of nearly 17 years**.
- The satellite was unnamed until shortly before the launch. **Prime Minister Indira Gandhi** selected **'Aryabhata'** from a shortlist that included **'Mitra'** and **'Jawahar'**, reflecting cultural and diplomatic values.
- India's Posts and Telegraphs Department issued a special commemorative postal stamp within hours of the launch.
- The **Soviet Union** issued its own **Aryabhata commemorative stamp** in 1976, recognising the spirit of **scientific cooperation**.

Source: TH

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