

ANCIENT INDIAN ASTRONOMY for Kids



Did you know?

India was one of the first places in the world to study the stars and planets?

Long before telescopes were invented, Indian astronomers used their *eyes*, *clever tools*, and *deep thinking* to understand the sky.

They watched the *stars*, the *Moon*, the *Sun*, and the *planets* and made amazing discoveries!

Ancient Indian Astronomy Timeline



Lagadha
(1500 BCE)



Aryabhata
499 CE



Varahamihira
(6th century)



Bhaskara II
(7th century)



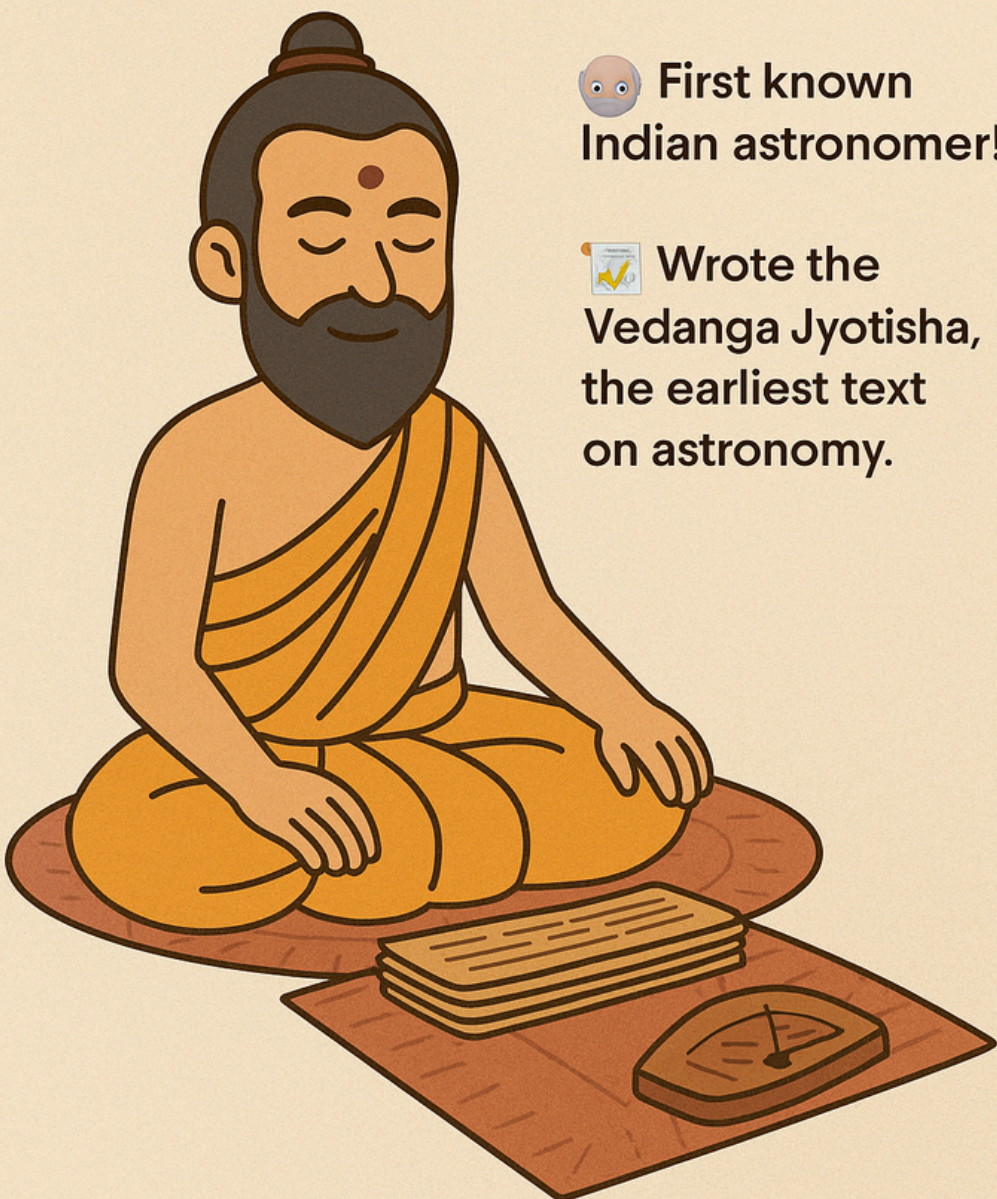
Vararhihira

Bhaskara I
(7th century)

Bhaskara II
(12th century)

Lagadha

(1500 BCE)



🧐 First known
Indian astronomer!

📖 Wrote the
Vedanga Jyotisha,
the earliest text
on astronomy.

ARYABHATTA

(499 CE)



**Genius who said
Earth spins!**



**Wrote the *Aryabhatiya*
at age 23!**

Varahamihira

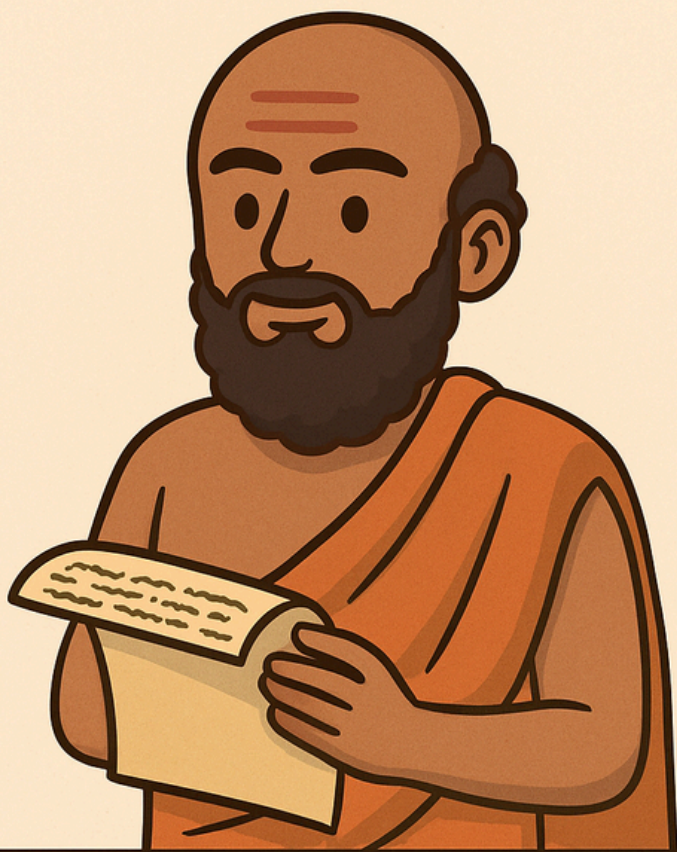
(6th Century)



Combined astronomy with astrology.



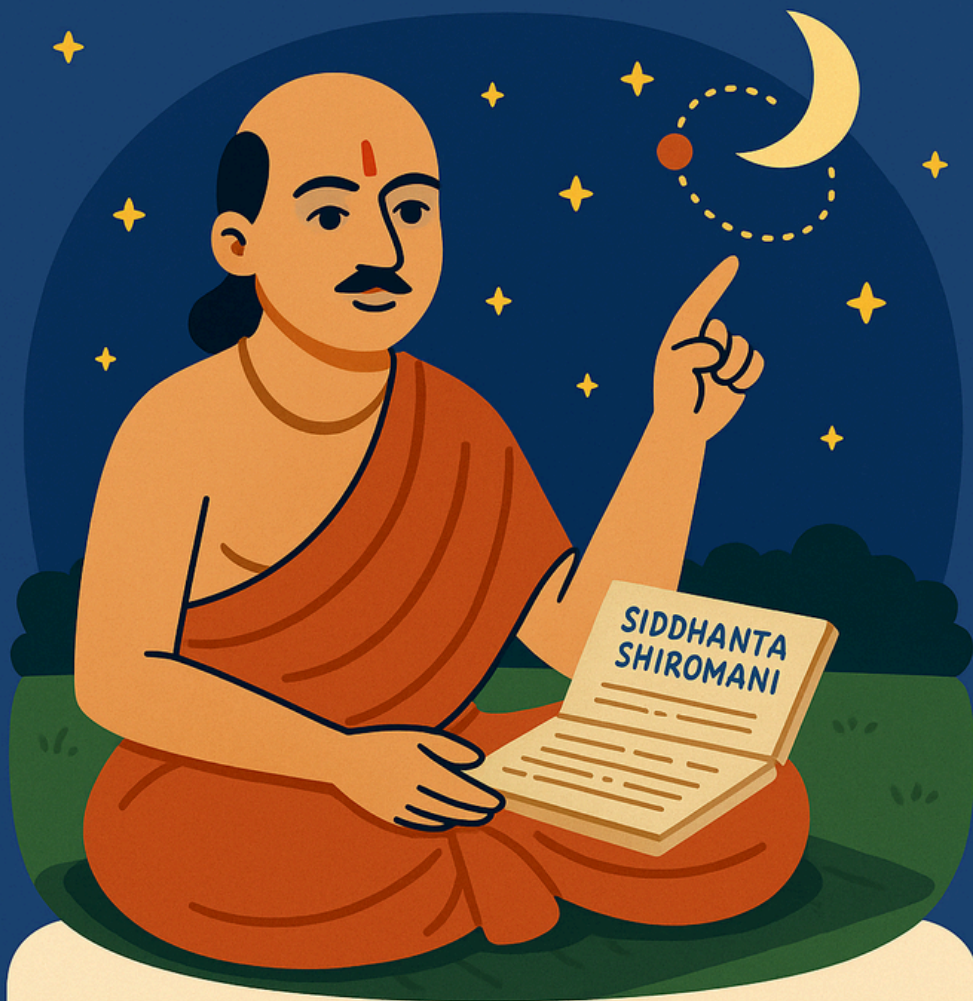
Author of *Brihat Samhita* and
Pancha-Siddhantika.



Bhaskara I (7th Century)

💡 Explained Aryabhatta's math and astronomy!

📖 Known for early trigonometric formulas.



Bhaskara II (12th Century)



Studied eclipses, orbits, and gravity ideas!



Wrote Siddhanta Shiromani

What is Astronomy?

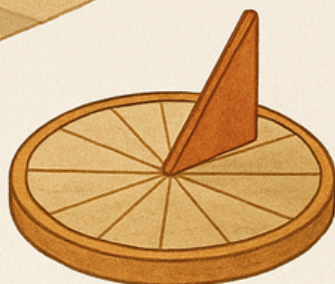
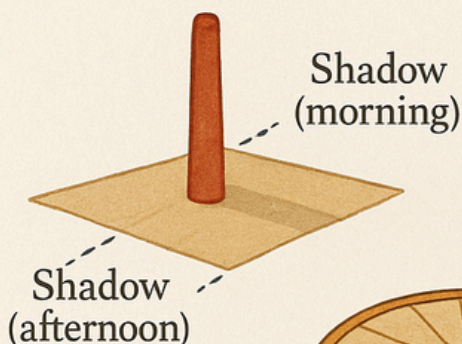
Astronomy is the science of studying the sky. It includes stars, planets, the Sun, Moon, and galaxies. Ancient Indian astronomers called it “Jyotisha,” which means “light of the sky.”



How Did They Observe the Sky?

Ancient Indian scientists didn't have telescopes, but they used tools like:

- Gnomon (Shanku): A stick that casts a shadow to measure time
- Sundials: To track time using the Sun.
- Water Clocks (Ghati Yantra): To measure hours



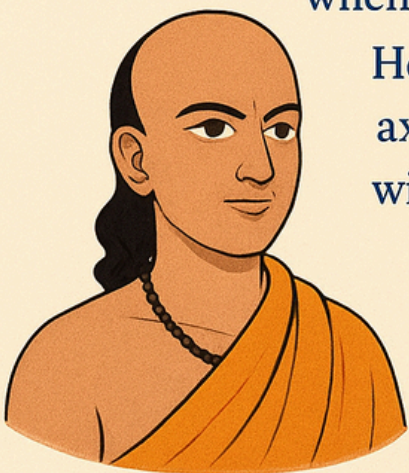
Sundial



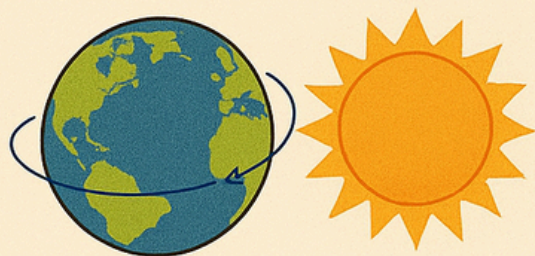
**Water Clocks
(Ghati Yantra)**
To measure hours

Aryabhata – The Star Genius!

Aryabhata was a famous Indian astronomer and mathematician who wrote the *Aryabhatya* when he was just 23!



He said the Earth rotates on its axis and explained eclipses without using magic myths

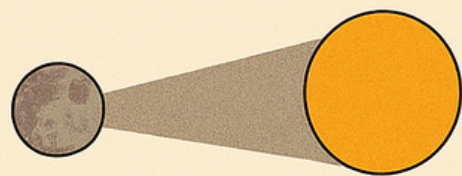


Earth

Sun

Did You Know?

Aryabhata figured out that the Moon and planets shine because they reflect sunlight!



Moon

Sun

Eclipse

CONSTELLATIONS IN INDIAN ASTRONOMY



Ancient Indians called constellations “Nakshatras.” There are 27 Nakshatras that the Moon passes through in a month. Each has a name like Ashwini, Rohini, and Revati.

THE PANCHANGA – ANCIENT INDIAN CALENDAR



Ancient Indians made calendars using the movement of the Sun and Moon.

They calculated:

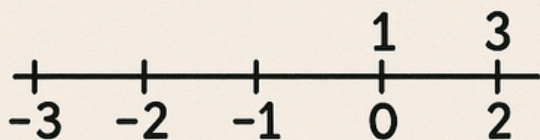
- Tithi (Lunar Day)
- Nakshatra (Star)
- Yoga
- Vara

This calendar is called a Panchanga, and it's still used today for festivals and rituals!

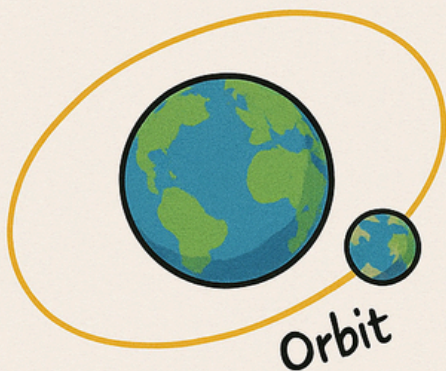
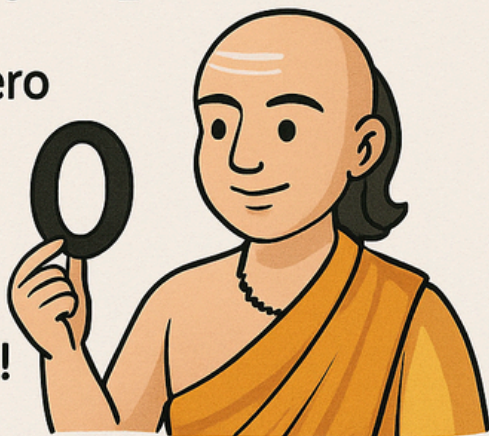
BLACK HOLES, ORBITS & ZERO!

Ancient Indians thought deeply about space and numbers:

- They imagined the concept of infinity.



- They invented zero and place value
- They calculated the Earth's orbit and size of Moon!

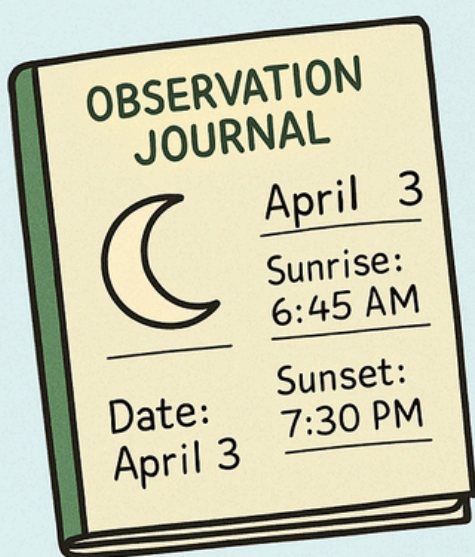


They calculated
the Earth's orbit
and size of Moon

Learn Like a Young Astronomer!

You can become a young astronomer too:

- Observe the Moon every night and draw its shape.
- Track sunrise and sunset times.
- Make your own sundial using a stick and paper.
- Try naming the Nakshatra of your birthday!





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Namaste, young scientists! The universe is full of mysteries waiting for

you to discover. Use your eyes, your mind, and your curiosity. Who knows? You may become the next space explorer or astronomer!

WELCOME TO 2025 SPACE SCIENCE SUMMER CAMP AND SKYWATCH

at IIT Hyderabad: May 10 – 16

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