Claim / Data Point Supported	Citation	Link
Cold War rivalry, nuclear arms race, and the space race between the US and USSR after WWII	Britannica: Cold War	https://www.britannica.com/event/Cold-War
Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) developed by US and USSR for nuclear delivery	Britannica: Intercontinental ballistic missile	https://www.britannica.com/technology/intercontinental-ballistic-missile
Sputnik 1: first artificial satellite, launched by USSR in October 1957	NASA: Sputnik and the Dawn of the Space Age	https://history.nasa.gov/sputnik/
Sputnik 2: first living creature (dog Laika) in space, launched November 1957	NASA: Laika the Dog	https://www.nasa.gov/feature/laika-the-dog-launched-into-space-60-years-ago
Explorer 1: first US satellite, launched January 1958	NASA: Explorer 1	https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/explorer/explorer-overview.html
ISRO founded in 1969, Dr. Vikram Sarabhai as founder and first chairman	Britannica: ISRO	https://www.britannica.com/topic/Indian-Space-Research-Organisation
INCOSPAR established in 1962 under Department of Atomic Energy, with Dr. Vikram Sarabhai	Wikipedia: ISRO	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISRO
Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was a key early member of INCOSPAR	Wikipedia: ISRO	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISRO
Aryabhata: India's first satellite, launched by Soviet Union in 1975	Britannica: ISRO	https://www.britannica.com/topic/Indian-Space-Research-Organisation
Early ISRO used modest facilities (church, bicycle, bullock cart for rocket parts)	BBC News: ISRO humble beginnings	https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-45283480
Aryabhata's scientific objectives: ionosphere, solar physics, X-ray astronomy	NASA: NSSDC Aryabhata	https://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/nmc/spacecraft/display.action?id=1975-033A
Dr. Vikram Sarabhai passed away in 1971; Dr. Satish Dhawan succeeded him as chairman	Britannica: Vikram Sarabhai	https://www.britannica.com/biography/Vikram-Sarabhai
Bhaskara satellite: launched in 1979 for resource mapping, ocean/wind studies	ISRO official history	https://www.isro.gov.in/History.html
Rohini-1: first satellite launched by Indian-made SLV-3 (1980)	Britannica: ISRO	https://www.britannica.com/topic/Indian-Space-Research-Organisation
INSAT: Indian National Satellite System, launched for communication, TV, weather (first in 1988)	Britannica: ISRO	https://www.britannica.com/topic/Indian-Space-Research-Organisation
PSLV, GSLV, ASLV: India's launch vehicle development	Britannica: ISRO	https://www.britannica.com/topic/Indian-Space-Research-Organisation
Rakesh Sharma: first Indian in space (1984), flew on Soviet Soyuz T-11	Wikipedia: Rakesh Sharma	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rakesh_Sharma
Chandrayaan-1 (2008): India's first lunar mission, confirmed water on Moon	Wikipedia: Chandrayaan programme	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chandrayaan_programme
Mangalyaan (Mars Orbiter Mission, 2013): India became first Asian nation to reach Mars orbit, and first in world to do so on maiden attempt	NASA: NSSDCA Mangalyaan	https://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/nmc/spacecraft/display.action?id=2013-060A
Mangalyaan cost: $70–74 million	NASA: NSSDCA Mangalyaan	https://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/nmc/spacecraft/display.action?id=2013-060A
NASA established in 1958, ISRO in 1969	This vs. That: ISRO vs NASA	https://thisvsthat.io/isro-vs-nasa
NASA's Apollo 11: first human Moon landing, July 1969 (Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins)	NASA: Apollo 11 Mission Overview	https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/apollo/missions/apollo11.html
Only the US has sent humans to the Moon	NASA: Humans on the Moon	https://www.nasa.gov/specials/apollo50th/
Kepler Space Telescope discovered thousands of exoplanets	NASA: Kepler Mission Overview	https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/kepler/overview/index.html
Curiosity rover landed on Mars in 2012, found evidence of water	NASA: Curiosity Rover	https://mars.nasa.gov/msl/mission/overview/
James Webb Space Telescope launched December 25, 2021	NASA: Webb Launch	https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/webb/about/launch.html
NASA's annual budget ~$22.6–24 billion; ISRO's budget ~$1.5–1.7 billion	This vs. That: ISRO vs NASA	https://thisvsthat.io/isro-vs-nasa
ISRO's Aditya-L1 solar mission launched in 2023 for ~$55 million	ISRO: Aditya-L1	https://www.isro.gov.in/Aditya_L1.html
NASA's comparable solar mission cost $550 million	Mint (via YouTube transcript, but link is to Mint)	https://www.livemint.com/science/news/space-on-a-budget-isro-s-thrifty-mission-compared-to-nasa-s-billion-dollar-venture-11677892247027.html
NASA's upcoming Venus missions: VERITAS (2028), DAVINCI+ (2029), total cost ~$1 billion	NASA: Venus Missions	https://www.nasa.gov/feature/nasa-selects-two-missions-to-study-lost-habitable-world-of-venus
ISRO's planned Venus mission: Shukrayaan-1, budget $62–125 million, launch planned for 2025	ISRO: Shukrayaan-1	https://www.isro.gov.in/Shukrayaan1.html
Chandrayaan-3 (2023): first successful landing at lunar south pole, India fourth country to soft-land on Moon	Wikipedia: Chandrayaan programme	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chandrayaan_programme
Gaganyaan: India's first human spaceflight, planned for 2025–2026, aims to send 3 astronauts to 400 km orbit for 3–7 days	Byju's: Gaganyaan Mission	https://byjus.com/free-ias-prep/gaganyaan-mission/
Gaganyaan cost: under ₹10,000 crore (about $1.2 billion)	Byju's: Gaganyaan Mission	https://byjus.com/free-ias-prep/gaganyaan-mission/
Gaganyaan astronauts' training supported by Russia's Roscosmos	Byju's: Gaganyaan Mission	https://byjus.com/free-ias-prep/gaganyaan-mission/
ISRO's long-term plan: Indian space station by 2030	Wikipedia: ISRO	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISRO
Apollo–Soyuz Test Project (1975): first US–Soviet joint space mission, symbolized end of "space race"	NASA: Apollo–Soyuz	https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/apollo-soyuz/