



Indian Space Debris

According to the latest **assessment of space debris** by [National Aeronautics and Space Administration \(NASA\)](#), out of the 101 pieces of **debris** (big enough to be tracked) **created by India's Anti-Satellite System(A-SAT) test**. 49 continued to remain in orbit.

- It is possible that more pieces, smaller ones, created from the test, are floating around but were not being tracked.
- It has been estimated that nearly **400 pieces were created from India's test**.
- After the test, India had said that, since the test was carried out in the lower atmosphere, it did not expect to add any significant amount of space debris.
 - Whatever debris is generated will decay and fall back on to the earth within weeks.
- The report is the **first credible estimation in public domain of the amount of debris created by India's anti-satellite test** (conducted on 27th March, 2019) and what remains of it four months down the line.
- **India had 97 functional, and non-functional but intact satellites in space as on 30th June 2019**, and 157 pieces of trackable space debris, including fragments of rockets that become junk after delivering their payloads in their specified orbits.
 - This is a very small proportion of the total of 19,404 large objects in space sent by all countries, of which 14,432 are debris and junk parts of used rockets.

India's Anti-Satellite Test

- India had shot down its 740-kg Microsat-R satellite on 27th March, 2019 in a demonstration of its capability to destroy a space-based infrastructure of an enemy country.
- That anti-satellite test made India, **only the fourth country in the world**, to have demonstrated such capability.

Source: IE

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