



Shubhanshu Shukla Honoured in Lucknow

Why in News?

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, the **first Indian to travel to the [International Space Station \(ISS\)](#)**, received an overwhelming welcome upon his return to Lucknow, his hometown.

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** organized a special felicitation ceremony at **Lok Bhawan**, where **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** honored Shubhanshu Shukla and his family.

Key Points

- **Scholarship:** The CM announced the **establishment of a scholarship in Shubhanshu's name** for students pursuing **space technology**, highlighting that it had been four decades since an Indian had the opportunity to travel to space.
 - The **state's active participation** in space technology was also underscored, with **more than a dozen institutions** in Uttar Pradesh now offering related courses.
- **Postal Stamp:** India Post also launched a postal cover and stamp in honor of Shubhanshu's space mission.
- **Mobile Innovation Programme:** City Montessori School (CMS), Lucknow, in collaboration with Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU), launched the "**Shubhanshu Shukla Innovations Express**", a mobile innovation programme to celebrate his feat.
- **Role in Disaster Management:** The CM also emphasized the crucial role of space technology in improving the management of [natural disasters](#).

Shubhanshu Shukla

- Indian Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla is the first Indian astronaut to travel to the [International Space Station \(ISS\)](#) on a private mission in 2025.
 - It was led by NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson, and Shubhanshu Shukla served as the mission pilot.
- He is also the astronaut-designate for India's human spaceflight program, [Gaganyaan](#).
- He boarded the [SpaceX](#) Dragon spacecraft from Kennedy Space Center in Florida as part of the [Axiom Mission 4 \(Ax-4\)](#), a joint venture between [NASA](#) and [ISRO](#).
- The Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) involves astronauts from India, Poland, and Hungary and is the first such collaboration in over 40 years.
- The astronauts spent 14 days aboard the ISS conducting scientific experiments, educational outreach, and commercial activities with NASA and ISRO.
- Rakesh Sharma was the first Indian to travel to space in 1984 aboard the [Soviet](#) Soyuz T-11 mission under the Interkosmos program.

