



First Indian to Pilot Axiom Mission

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Indian Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla is set to become the **first Indian** astronaut to travel to the **International Space Station (ISS)** on a **private mission** in 2025.

- It is led by NASA astronaut **Peggy Whitson**, and **Shubhanshu Shukla** will serve as the **mission pilot**.
 - He is also the **astronaut-designate** for India's human spaceflight program, **Gaganyaan**.
- He will board 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)** will involve astronauts from **India, Poland, and Hungary** and is the **first such collaboration in over 40 years**.
- The astronauts will spend **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**.

Read More: [Gaganyaan Astronauts Selected for Axiom-4 Mission](#)

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