

# Business Standard

## Mission space: Isro to gain immensely from Axiom-4 with Gaganaut experience

*Isro trained Group Captain Shukla for the ISS mission and this is important since it has never run a manned mission (India's first man in space, back in 1984, was trained in the Soviet cosmonaut prog)*

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Axiom Mission 4 crew from left to right: Tibor Kapu of Hungary, ISRO astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla, Mission Commander Peggy Whitson, and ESA astronaut Sławosz Uznański-Wiśniewski of Poland. | Photo: SpaceX

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's piloting of the Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) will enable India's first Gaganaut to gain hands-on experience of handling a spacecraft and spending a long sojourn in space. Group Captain Shukla will pilot the Falcon spacecraft, which has been designed and built by SpaceX. Axiom-4, which runs under the aegis of the foundation Axiom Space, features a four-person team from India, Poland, Hungary, and the United States (US). It will carry out over 60 scientific experiments, devised by scientists from 31 countries, including the US, India, Poland, Hungary, Saudi Arabia, and several European nations. Group Captain Shukla's experience will provide important data for

the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), which has its own plans to set up a space station. Indeed, given that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) faces uncertainty about its budgeting during the Donald Trump presidency

First Published: Jun 10 2025 | 10:37 PM IST

Page URL :[https://www.business-standard.com/opinion/editorial/mission-space-isro-to-gain-immensely-from-axiom-4-with-gaganaut-experience-125061001334\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/opinion/editorial/mission-space-isro-to-gain-immensely-from-axiom-4-with-gaganaut-experience-125061001334_1.html)