

Raksha Mantri meets Gp Capt Shubhanshu Shukla, the first Indian astronaut onboard the International Space Station

Gp Capt Shukla's inspiring journey will motivate young minds to pursue careers in science, technology & space exploration: Shri Rajnath Singh

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Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh met Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, the first Indian astronaut onboard the International Space Station (ISS), in New Delhi on August 21, 2025. Raksha Mantri congratulated Gp Capt Shukla on his achievement, terming it as a major milestone in India's journey towards human spaceflight.

Shri Rajnath Singh acknowledged the astronaut's contribution through the vital scientific experiment conducted in the orbit and appreciated his role in advancing India's space research and exploration capabilities. He expressed confidence that his inspiring journey will motivate young minds to pursue careers in science, technology, and space exploration.

In a post on X after the interaction, Raksha Mantri stated that he discussed with Gp Capt Shukla the inspiring space journey, the vital experiments he undertook in orbit, advances in science and technology, and the road ahead with India's pioneering Gaganyaan mission.

Delighted to meet Gp Capt Shubanshu Shukla, the first Indian Astronaut, on-board International Space Station. We discussed his inspiring space journey, the vital experiments he undertook in orbit, advances in science and technology, and the road ahead with India's pioneering...

pic.twitter.com/Vs9gegauwc

— Rajnath Singh (@rajnathsingh) [August 21, 2025](#)

Shri Rajnath Singh underlined the pivotal role of the Indian Air Force (IAF) in India's space programme, including astronaut selection, training, and mission support in collaboration with ISRO. He emphasised that the professionalism and expertise of IAF personnel are vital enablers of the country's progress towards manned space missions.

With globally recognised achievements in lunar and Mars exploration, India is now moving towards the manned space missions and furthering it into establishment of its own space station. The successful journey of Gp Capt Shukla aboard the ISS is a significant step in that direction, demonstrating the synergy between ISRO, IAF and other national stakeholders in advancing the nation's stature as a spacefaring nation.

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