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AXIOM-4 MISSION MEMBERS HEADED INTO QUARANTINE AHEAD OF LAUNCH

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NEW DELHI: Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and three other crewmates part of the Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station are headed into quarantine, the US-based private space firm announced on Sunday. The Axiom-4 mission -- a collaborative effort of Axiom Space, NASA, European Space Agency (ESA) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) -- is scheduled for lift-off from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida onboard a Dragon spacecraft not earlier than June 8 at 6.41 pm IST. The mission will be the first time an Indian astronaut will visit the International Space Station (ISS).

Shukla, one of the four astronaut-designates for Gaganyaan, will be the pilot on Ax-4 with former NASA astronaut and director of human spaceflight at Axiom Space Peggy Whitson as commander of the commercial mission.

"I am sure this mission will be a success," said Shukla at the send-off event.