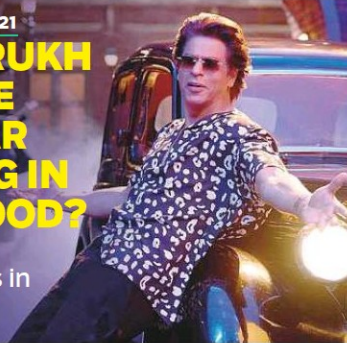




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WELCOME BACK SULTAN OF SPACE



UAE ASTRONAUT PENS THANK YOU NOTE IN FIRST POST AFTER RETURN TO EARTH

GRATITUDE

DUBAI
BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Senior Reporter

UAE astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi has shared his first post after returning to Earth from space, reassuring everyone of his health.

"I am in good health," stated the 42-year-old who spent six months aboard the International Space Station for the longest Arab space mission.

A day after splashing down to Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Jacksonville in Florida, US, Al Neyadi shared images of special moments of his return to Earth and stated, "From Earth to Space & back!"

The astronaut, who spent 186 days in space, wrote "with gravity under my feet," highlighting the stark contrast between the microgravity environment of space and the gravitational force in our home planet.

He penned the message with "warmth in my heart from all the love and support you all have shared."

He expressed heartfelt gratitude for the outpouring of love and support received from friends, family, and a global community, thanking everyone for being part of the journey with him.

Al Neyadi also conveyed his desire to meet his dear ones. "Friends, I'm in good health and looking forward to meeting you all very soon," he added.

Fans welcome him back

The post on microblogging platform X, formerly Twitter, soon went viral among his followers. Several of them responded with welcome-back messages and thanked the 42-year-old for making them part of his journey through the awesome photos and videos that he shared over the past six months.

"Welcome back to our blue planet, and we can't wait to welcome you back to our homeland, the UAE. Remain well, healthy, and amazing. May Allah bless you, always and forever," posted X user Fatima BuShhab

Faisal Ahmad Khan posted: "Welcome back Sir! Thank you for sharing and making us a part of your journey!

Back to gravity: Al Neyadi says he is 'in good health'



Sultan Al Neyadi (centre) shares a light moment with his father Saif (right) and UAE astronaut Hazza Al Mansouri in a US residence, where Al Neyadi is undergoing post-space travel recovery.



Courtesy: @Astro_Alneyadi/X

'From Earth to Space & back!' Al Neyadi said as he shared images of special moments of his return to Earth.

186

Days Sultan Al Neyadi spent in space

He will visit the UAE for a week after a two-week recovery in the US, says MBRSC.

Wishing you a lot more success, Insha Allah! Mabrook once again." Another user, Sammy, stated: "So proud of you! You have truly inspired the nation to move to greater heights and advancements in Space Technology."

Mujib Haddad added: "Thank you for sharing your experiences while on the ISS. All your photos really inspire me as a fellow Muslim. See the evidence of God's greatness. Best regards from Indonesia."

Hero's welcome

A hero's welcome awaits Al Neyadi on his return to his motherland. A grand reception is planned for the Sultan of Space who returned to

Earth after successfully completing the longest Arab space mission.

Two-week recovery

He is expected to undergo a two-week recovery programme following which he will visit the UAE for a week, a senior official of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC), the agency behind the UAE Astronaut Programme, said on Monday.

After the celebrations to mark his historic achievements which include the first-ever spacewalk by an Arab and over 200 scientific experiments in space, Al Neyadi will return to the US.

Speaking during a Nasa SpaceX media teleconfer-

ence after the Nasa SpaceX Crew-6 members' successful return to Earth, Adnan Al Rais, mission manager of the UAE Astronaut Programme at MBRSC, said: "He [Al Neyadi] will spend like 14 days here in Houston. And after that, he will be back in the UAE for almost a week."

"Then again, he will be back here in Houston to continue to do science experiments," Al Rais added.

The Dragon Endeavour that brought the foursome Crew-6 back to Earth also carried samples of science experiments carried out by the Expedition 69 crew members. Further research on the samples and the astronauts themselves will continue.

Researchers in Abu Dhabi help unravel ‘bizarre’ pulsar puzzle

Observational campaign involved 12 telescopes on the ground and in space

ABU DHABI
Gulf News Report

NYU Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) researchers are part of a team of astronomers that have uncovered the strange behaviour of a millisecond pulsar, a super-fast-spinning dead star. The discovery followed an observational campaign that involved 12 telescopes both on the ground and in space.

This mysterious pulsar is known to switch between two brightness modes almost constantly, something that until

now has been an enigma. But astronomers have now found that sudden ejections of matter from the pulsar over very short periods are responsible for the peculiar switches.

‘Extraordinary cosmic events’

“We have witnessed extraordinary cosmic events where enormous amounts of matter, similar to cosmic cannonballs, are launched into space within a very brief time span of tens of seconds from a small, dense celestial object rotating at incredibly high speeds,” said Maria Cristina Baglio, researcher at NYUAD, affiliated with the Italian National Institute for Astrophysics (INAF), and the lead author of the paper published in *Astronomy and Astrophysics*.



WHAT IS A PULSAR

A pulsar is a rapidly – rotating, magnetic, dead star that emits a beam of electromagnetic radiation into space. As it rotates, this beam sweeps across the cosmos – much like a lighthouse beam scanning its surroundings – and is detected by astronomers as it intersects the line of sight to Earth. This makes the star appear to pulse in brightness as seen from our planet.

PSR J1023+0038, or J1023 for short, is a special type of pulsar with bizarre behaviour. Located about 4,500 light-years away in the Sextans constellation, it closely orbits another

star. Over the past decade, the pulsar has been actively pulling matter off this companion, which accumulates in a disc around the pulsar and slowly falls towards it.

Since this process of accumulating matter began, the sweeping beam vanished, and the pulsar started incessantly switching between two modes. In the ‘high’ mode, the pulsar gives off bright X-rays, ultraviolet and visible light, while in the ‘low’ mode this light is dimmer, it emits radio waves.

The pulsar can stay in each mode for several seconds or minutes, and then switch to the other mode in just a few seconds. This switching has thus far puzzled astronomers.

Massive undertaking

The campaign included four X-ray satellites and the Hubble Space Telescope in space, and five telescopes on the Earth collecting radio waves, microwaves, infrared and optical light. Over two nights in June

2021, they observed the system make over 280 switches between its high and low modes.

Wider impact

These results could be used to predict the behaviour of transitional pulsars based on their observed properties.

“They are of the utmost importance for the study of the physics of accretion, the most energetic process in the universe”, said Kevin Alabarta, Post-doctoral associate at NYUAD.

Moreover, “they could lead to the development of new observational techniques and methods for studying outflow mechanisms and the role of accretion in the evolution of compact objects”, concludes Payaswini Saikia, Post-doctoral associate at NYUAD.