

Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla Backs UP's Space Tech Push at Invest UP Meeting

UP Charts Path to Space Economy with Inputs from Lucknow-Born IAF Astronaut

Lucknow, September 9, 2025: Lucknow's very own **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla**, Indian Air Force pilot and astronaut who recently completed his maiden space voyage on the **Axiom-4 mission** supported by ISRO and NASA, visited the **Invest UP office** today for a special interaction on developing Uttar Pradesh's space technology ecosystem.

The meeting was chaired by **Shri Pandhari Yadav**, Principal Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, and attended by **Invest UP CEO Vijay Kiran Anand**, **ACEO Shashank Chaudhry**, and senior officials from the Science & Technology Department.

Deliberations focused on drafting a **dedicated Space Technology Policy** for Uttar Pradesh to foster research, innovation, industrial collaborations, and investments in this frontier sector. The vision is to position the state as a hub for space-related industries, creating new opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship, and revenue generation.

Highlighting Uttar Pradesh's strengths, Group Captain Shukla emphasized the potential of leveraging the **UP Defence Industrial Corridor** to attract space technology companies engaged in defence and allied manufacturing. He welcomed the state's proactive approach and pledged his support in shaping the proposed policy, stressing the importance of aligning it with **global best practices** to attract startups, research institutions, and international partnerships.

During the session, the Department of Science & Technology also showcased plans for the upcoming **Akash Bhawan – Space & Astronomy Park** in Lucknow. Conceived as a center for learning and inspiration, the park will serve students, researchers, and science enthusiasts. Reviewing the concept, Shukla suggested that the facility aspire to international benchmarks, evolving into a unique landmark for the state.

With the insights shared by Astronaut Shukla and the state government's commitment, Uttar Pradesh is poised to make a confident entry into **India's expanding space economy**, reinforcing its ambition to be at the forefront of innovation and advanced technology.
