

# Night landing of Crew dragon spacecraft

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**In news:** Crew Dragon spacecraft recently brought back to the Earth four astronauts from the International Space Station (ISS), landing on water in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Florida.

## *About the landing-*

- A SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule carrying four astronauts back to Earth splashed down off Florida in **NASA's first nighttime ocean landing in more than 50 years.**
- The last nighttime splashdown for NASA was when the crew of **Apollo 8 arrived in the Pacific Ocean on December 27, 1968.**
- **Commander Michael Hopkins** was the first to emerge after the hatch was opened followed shortly after by fellow NASA astronaut **Victor Glover.**
- NASA astronaut **Shannon Walker** and **Japan's Soichi Noguchi** were the other two aboard.
- The four astronauts went to space last November as the crew on the first fully operational mission to the ISS aboard a vehicle made by Elon Musk's SpaceX.
- They traveled 71.2 million miles (114.6 million kilometres) during their 168 days in orbit (including 167 days aboard the space station).
- As of now seven astronauts have remained on the ISS including a new crew of four who arrived on a different SpaceX craft recently.

## *SpaceX Crew-2:*

- It is the second crewed operational flight of a Crew Dragon spacecraft, and its third overall crewed orbital flight.
  - The mission was launched on 23 April 2021.
  - It used the **same capsule as Demo-2 (Endeavour)** and used the same booster as Crew-1 (B1061.1).
  - Crew 2 team consists of **two NASA astronauts** – mission commander **Shane Kimbrough** and pilot **Megan McArthur** along with **Japanese astronaut Akihiko Hoshide** and fellow mission specialist **Thomas Pesquet**, a French engineer of the **European Space Agency**.
- It is the second “operational” space station team launched by NASA aboard a Dragon Crew capsule since the US resumed flying astronauts into space from US soil in 2020, following a nine-year hiatus at the end of the US space shuttle program in 2011

**More information-**

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