

Risks rise above earth too: How the Ukraine crisis effects space programmes, and means delays plus harsh lessons for India

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Even as Russia's armed forces commenced operations in Ukraine in the early hours of February 24, the multinational crew of the International Space Station (ISS), consisting of four Americans, one German, and two Russians continued to work together to keep their fragile outer space habitat functioning.

ISS has been emblematic of the promise of space cooperation for more than two decades. However, the war in Ukraine could make such cooperation untenable. Both Russia and the United States are major spacefarers. America's allies in Europe and Asia are also key sources of technologies that support the use of space. Even Ukraine has a significant aerospace industry.