

Russia's invasion of Ukraine biggest threat to world peace, says Scholz

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Panaji: Nations should not resort to aggression to redraw their borders, said German Chancellor **Olaf Scholz** on Saturday in Goa. Referring to the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, he said that the invasion poses the biggest



three-day visit to India, was in Goa to interact with the students of Birla Institute of

threat to international peace today as "it is about changing borders".

Scholz, who is on a

Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani, Goa campus, at Zuarinagar. During his visit to Goa, he also visited the German naval ship FGS Baden-Wuerttemberg, which arrived at Mormugao port to coincide with his visit.

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'For smooth trade, nations must adhere to int'l rule of law'

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Coming back to the crisis and conflicts that we are seeing, the biggest threat that is today happening to international security and peace is the war for aggression that Russia started against Ukraine. This is... one single aspect of this attack," he said. "The agreement that we had in the United Nations and in many other regional agreements on peace and security, for instance also for Europe, is that never borders should be changed by war and force, again."

"This is the basis for peace, if you are a small country," Scholz said. The German head of state also stressed the need for safe seas and freedom of navigation in international waters. He said that to ensure smooth trade, countries must adhere to international rule of law.

"I was mayor of the city of

Hamburg, which is a port city where the international court of law of seafaring is placed. It should not be the rule of the most powerful; it should be the rule that we develop together, which is the case with the United Nations' court of the law of seas," Scholz said.

He said that he discussed these questions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, where both nations agreed that it is an important aspect of global peace. "This is now the time when we develop relations in a way that they are on an equal footing, that everyone is working together, there is no one telling others what to do," he said.

India and Germany are growing together with "innovation, mobility and sustainability", the chancellor said. He also noted that many Indians live in Germany, including approximately 50,000 students, which was a 50% increase over the numbers in 2022.