

GU delegation visit Germany to strengthen collaboration in marine, coastal research

Panaji, August 26, 2025

A high-level delegation from Goa University, led by Hon. Vice-Chancellor Prof. (HAG) Harilal B. Menon, visited the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research (IOW), Warnemünde, Germany, from August 18-20, 2025 to strengthen international collaboration in marine and coastal research. The visit was part of a return exchange following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in February 2025, when an IOW delegation had visited Goa University.

The delegation also included Prof. Jivan S. Parab from the School of Physical and Applied Sciences, Dr. Siddhi K. Jalmi from the School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, and Dr. Sheryl O. Fernandes from the School of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences.

During the three-day visit, the Goa University delegation held extensive discussions with IOW scientists on advancing joint research in areas such as climate change, extreme weather events, and estuarine and coastal ecosystem services. A major focus was placed on the development of innovative monitoring technologies and smart sensor systems integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT), with applications in in-situ optics, remote sensing, and autonomous measurement robotics. The role of modern data science and advanced modelling was also highlighted as a critical tool in tackling complex marine and climate challenges.

The delegation was welcomed by Director, IOW, Prof. Dr. Oliver Zielinski on the first day of the official meeting, wherein Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania's Minister for Science, Culture, Federal and European Affairs, Mrs. Bettina Martin and University of Rostock Rector Prof. Dr. Elizabeth Prommer were also present. Visits were made to important facilities, including the IOW research vessel Elisabeth Mann Borgese and the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency.

The MoU between Goa University and IOW has laid a strong foundation for joint research projects, collaborative technology development, and academic exchange. It also creates a framework for guest stays for researchers, faculty, and students, as well as the sharing of materials and research results. This growing partnership is expected to make significant contributions to global marine and climate research, with a special focus on estuarine and coastal waters, while fostering long-term academic cooperation and innovation.

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