

India, Germany join hands for wind energy

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Chennai: India and Germany signed an MoU to further their cooperation in the wind energy sector. Germany, which is a pioneer in wind energy, both off shore and on shore, expressed its willingness to share technology to promote green energy to combat greenhouse gases.

GOING GREEN

Robert Habeck, a Green Party minister of energy, agriculture, environment and rural areas from the state of Schleswig Holstein announced that the country is ready to share expertise in renewable energy to assuage the ill effects of fossil fuel which Germany as well as other European countries promoted since 1970s. The MoU was signed between the Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association and Messe Husum in Chennai on

Monday.

"We have a responsibility to promote green energy in big markets like India. Through this agreement, it would be possible for companies to invest in offshore and onshore wind energy. India's achievement in renewable energy is incredible and the MoU will lead to sharing of knowledge," Habeck told TOI.

Schleswig Holstein is situated between Baltic Sea and North sea. Due to its location, the state has abundant wind but space to set up wind mills was a problem onshore. "Scarce land made us look at sea and that is how offshore wind farms were set up," said Habeck. "We went 30 to 70km inside the sea and set up wind farms. There are many questions about the effect of sea on paint on wind mills, depth and storage issues. We can find solutions to all these and with more offshore wind mills and better plant load factor, the cost will come down," he said.