

Borders should not be changed by force: German Chancellor

Staff Reporter

Vasco

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Saturday said borders should not be changed by "war or force", and Russia's invasion of Ukraine poses the biggest threat to international peace today as "it is about changing borders".

Inviolability of national borders is the basis for peace, he said during an interaction with the students of Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani at Vasco.

The Chancellor, on a three-day visit to India, referred to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war while replying to a question. "Coming



The chancellor is on a three-day visit to India.

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," he said, adding, "It is about changing borders." "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," he said.

He said India and Germany are growing together with "innovation, mobility and sustainability". He noted that "a lot of Indians" are living in Germany, in-

cluding some 50,000 students, which was a 50 per cent increase over the numbers in 2022.

"I am impressed to know that India now represents the largest group of foreign students at German universities," he said, adding that, Germany has a good relationship with India.

Speaking about the need for safe seas for smooth trade, he said the countries must stick to international rules.

He said Germany can play a role in supporting India in its energy transition in days to come.

The world's population will rise to ten billion by 2050 and many newly powerful countries would be com-

ing up then, the chancellor said. "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.

He checked out projects prepared by the students and also interacted with them. At the onset, the Chancellor was welcomed by Prof V Ramgopal Rao, Vice Chancellor of BITS Pilani, Prof Suman Kundu, Director of BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa campus and Prof Meenal Kowshik, Dean Administration of BITS Pilani, Goa. He also visited the German Naval ship FGS Baden-Wurtemberg docked at Mormugao port.