

Spain based CAF takes part in the bid to supply AC coaches for Bengaluru suburban project

Spain based *Construcciones Auxiliar de Ferrocarriles* participated in the bid to supply air-conditioned coaches for Bengaluru suburban rail project under the public-private partnership (PPP) mode along with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML). BEML quoted the lowest bid of INR 9.9 crore per coach. CAF quoted an amount of INR 14.96 per coach.

Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka), a joint venture of the Karnataka Government and the Union Ministry of Railways, which is in charge of executing the 148 km Bengaluru suburban rail project opened the first stage of tender on 16th May, 2023. The bidders shortlisted in the first stage will be allowed to participate in the Request for Proposal (RFP) stage. The selected firm will provide 264 coaches in the next three-five years and take care of maintenance of the trains.

India-EU Connectivity Conference organized in Meghalaya with promises to boost connectivity investments

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), EU delegation to India and the Asian Conference organized the India-EU Connectivity Conference in Meghalaya from 1st-2nd June. The conference aimed at tapping the best connectivity investment opportunities in India's North Eastern states and its neighbouring countries viz, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan.

The Conference was an outcome of the India-EU connectivity partnership that emerged out of the India-EU Leaders' Meeting in May 2021. The event witnessed participation of senior officials from the Indian Government, the EU Commission, representatives from the North Eastern states in India, collaborating countries as well as stakeholders from the private sector. The three pillars of focus of the event included Digital sector, Energy sector, and Transportation sector. By focussing on these pillars, the conference served as a forum for discussion and identification of projects that can ease connectivity within and outside the region for promoting regional integration and economic growth.

The Ministerial-level meeting of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council concludes with ambitious targets

The first ever ministerial-level meeting of the India-EU trade and technology council (ITC) concluded in Brussels on 16th May, 2023. The two sides will cooperate on quantum and high-performance computing research and development projects to address challenges related to climate change and natural disasters. Cooperation will be established on trustworthy Artificial Intelligence and initiatives in the semiconductor sector through a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Towards bridging the digital skills gap, engagements on 5G, telecoms, and Internet of things standardisation will also be increased. Easing market access and building resilient value chains for trade cooperation is also a key area of focus. Engagements will also be intensified on carbon border measures, while addressing global and multilateral trade issues, especially related to the WTO.



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