

# Tech bids open for bullet train, 6 in race

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Ahmedabad:** The race to complete the Sabarmati bullet train station has passed its first crucial milestone. The National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) opened technical bids on Tuesday. Six firms, including a handful of consortia, have submitted bids for the construction of the 18km (package C7) stretch of the 508km Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project.

The package C7 is the third longest within Gujarat. A large part of the package lies within the city's municipal area and consists of two elevated stations — Ahmedabad and Sabarmati. The NHSRCL had first invited bids for the C7 package in October 2020 and had set the deadline of a little over



four years. The bidders include Afcons Infrastructure; Dilip Buildcon, Ranjit Buildcon, and SAM India JV; GR Infracore and Sadbhav Engineering JV; Iacon and Dineshchandra R. Agrawal Infracore JV; Larsen & Toubro (L&T), NCC, Tata Projects, and J Kumar JV; and IFB.

It is worth pointing out

that the construction of the Rs 332 crore Sabarmati station terminal building has been under way since August 2018. "In Gujarat, the tenders for the mainline construction within Vadodara are pending. This is because a realignment of the Vadodara section was undertaken recently," says a senior NHSRCL official.

The design of the Vadodara bullet train station was strategically changed to reduce the construction of various structures. "The new alignment in Vadodara will require an ordinary span of only 40m. Earlier, 13 railway lines were crossing the yard near the platform area whereas the new alignment will affect only two railway lines," says a press release of the NHSRCL. "With the new alignment, crossing over of multiple railway crossings, major displacement of commercial and housing units have been avoided."

The new design, according to the release, also offers an improved multimodal integration planning around the bullet train station area. The proposed changes will save Rs 2,000 crore.