

Bids invited for 24 trainsets worth ₹11,000 cr as govt plans to run first bullet train in 2027

Dipak.Dash@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: NHSRCL, the agency executing the first bullet train project in India, has invited bids for procurement of 24 E5 Series Shinkansen trainsets costing around Rs

11,000 crore as the government targets to run the first such train in 2027 on the Gujarat stretch of the Ahmedabad-Mumbai corridor.

Sources said only Japanese players are to be allowed in this procurement as per funding norms of

Japan International Cooperation Agency. They added that only a couple of Japanese firms such as Hitachi Rail and Kawasaki Heavy Industries produce such trainsets.

A spokesperson of National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd

(NHSRCL) confirmed the entity has issued Invitation of Proposal (IFP) for procurement of the trainsets for the project. The spokesperson said, "Estimated cost for the rolling stock (trainsets) cannot be disclosed as IFP has been invited."

TOI has learnt the firms will have to submit bids by October-end. Each trainset will have 10 coaches and accommodate 690 passengers. They will be modified to meet Indian conditions like hot weather and omnipresent dust, sources said.

Bids called for 24 trainsets; first Bullet run likely in '27

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Only Japanese players are to be allowed in the procurement of Shinkansen trainsets (pictured), costing around Rs 11,000 crore

Railways to review Vande Bharat fares

The railway ministry has decided to review the fares of Vande Bharat Express trains that have low occupancy rate. The move is aimed at making such trains affordable, sources said. The rationalisation will be only for specific routes and not for all Vande Bharat routes. They said there is a possibility of around 5-10% reduction in fares of some of these premier trains that cover shorter distances of around 200-300 km and where Shatabdi trains are in operation. TNN

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In response to a question on the revised cost of the project, NHSRCL spokesperson said, "The cost of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail project as per feasibility report is Rs 1.08 lakh crore. The actual cost of the project can be ascertained after finalisation of all the contracts and completion of land acquisition process."

Bids for 25 Shinkansen trainsets invited

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