

## COLLABORATION

## Soon, officials could visit Japan for India's bullet train project

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**NEW DELHI:** The National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited has sought nomination of officers, who could be sent to Japan to prepare for certifications required for India's first bullet train project, according to officials aware of the development. NHSRCL is executing the project that is expected to link Mumbai and Ahmedabad by 2023.

The Commission of Railway Safety (CRS), which certifies new rail tracks and trains in the country for safe operations, has no experience of certifying bullet trains and tracks, which are being introduced in India for the first time. This is the reason why officers are being sent to Japan, which is backing the project.

"Before offering trains and tracks for inspection to CRS, we will do a trial run... We have requested the aviation and railway ministries to constitute a team so that in future we have resources to



■ A mock-up of the bullet train displayed by the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited in Mumbai. PRAMOD THAKUR/HT FILE

certify bullet train operations. We have already sent two CRS officials to Japan," said NHSRCL managing director Achal Khare.

Former Railway Board member Shri Prakash said something new is coming to the country and most of the things associated with the project will happen for the first time. "CRS has no experience related to high-speed train operations and training will help it identify the shortcoming, if any, regarding bullet train operations in Indian conditions."

The NHSRCL also plans to run a confirmation car daily just before the start of regular bullet train operations. "As the trains will run at a very high speed, a confirmation car from both directions will help us in identifying if there are any foreign objects on the tracks. We will have eight to 10 confirmation cars for this purpose," Khare added.

India is also working with Japan to make key technical changes to the bullet trains so that they can handle extreme heat and high levels of pollution.