

L&T is lowest bidder for construction of a road bridge across the Brahmaputra

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Larsen and Toubro Ltd (L&T) has emerged the L-1 bidder for the construction of a four-lane road bridge across the Brahmaputra river.

According to sources, L&T's bid at ₹3,166 crore was the lowest. The project will cover a stretch of 20 km from Dhubri in Assam to Phulbari in Meghalaya on NH 127B, said another source. It is financed by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The other bidder for the project was SP Singla Construction, a company which is constructing Guwahati-North Guwahati bridge. National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) is the executing agency.

L&T officials declined to comment. This is one of six bridges proposed for construction by the government over the Brahmaputra river.

To reduce travel time

The bridge will be the longest road bridge in India and is expected to be completed by 2026-27. Currently, people have to take the Naranarayan Bridge, which is 60 km upstream, or take a boat. Road distance between Dhubri and Phulbari will drop to 19.2 km from 205.3 km now.

Also, the project has strategic and socio-economic importance and has the potential to develop economically backward districts in the North-East. This alignment will further augment the transport network for the region by providing the shortest link between the western areas of Meghalaya as well as the Barak valley region of Assam and southern States in NE,



namely Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura, and the rest of the country, including the ports of Kolkata.

Other projects

The bridge project comes close on the heels of the L&T bagging two construction packages for a combined estimate of nearly ₹32,000 crore. The major one includes a ₹24,985-crore package for constructing the 237.1 km of the 508.17 km Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project (MAHSR) corridor.

This also needs to be seen in the context of tough macroeconomic conditions for the construction sector as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. In its recent second-quarter earnings, revenue from L&T's infrastructure segment, which has an order book of ₹2.2 lakh crore, fell 20.2 per cent to ₹13,095.7 crore on a yearly basis.