



Thiruvananthapuram: Construction activities at the Kannur International Airport would begin within a couple of months. The project's master plan was approved by the director board of the Kannur International Airport Limited on Wednesday.

Announcing this, ports minister K. Babu said in the assembly on Thursday that the environmental clearance for the project was awaited.

Replying to submission by A.P. Abdullakutty (Cong), the minister said seven firms have been shortlisted by the director board for participation in the financial bid for the air-side construction activities. Sanjos Gammon JV, Larsen and Toubro, TAV-Essar, EKO – Unity JV, OJSC Sibmost – Gayatri JV, GMR Infrastructure, and ITD Cementation India were the firms.

The master plan was prepared in consultation with agencies like the Director General of Civil Aviation, the Airports Authority of India and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, the minister said.

Babu said the defence ministry had extended the no-objection-certificate for the project by five more years and accepted the state's plea to take ten acres of land on lease. The Kerala Road Fund Board would be constructing the green-filed roads to the airport.