



GIVING WING TO GROWTH

Government of West Bengal's Initiatives to Take Development to the Skies

Bengal Government accelerates the aerotropolis project



It has been a little over five years since the development trajectory of West Bengal began to chart an upward curve under the visionary leadership of the State's Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee. The Bengal Government is now putting in concerted efforts to augment the State's socio-economic infrastructure, an initiative aligned with India's emergence as an economic superpower.

The Government appreciates the requirement for comprehensive connectivity to fuel growth, which includes developing Bengal's Internet of Things (IoT) and emphasising on aviation, the swiftest mode of transportation. It has taken into account the vast scope of expansion in connecting Bengal to the rest of the world by air, which can only be achieved through modernising existing facilities and setting up cutting-edge infrastructure under the aegis of inter-Government agency collaboration and public-private partnership.

Resonating with these objectives, Bengal's marquee project Sujalaam Skycity now stands tall as the Nation's first Aerotropolis. Situated at the State's leading industrial hub, Durgapur, the Skycity has been raised from its cradle by the

government's continuous facilitation and guidance.

The Skycity boasts of India's first greenfield airport — named after the famous poet Kazi Nazrul Islam — developed in the private sector. Now, the Government is pushing forward to develop a futuristic township complementing the airport, bringing the project to its deserved culmination.

The Government made no bones about turbo-charging the socio-economic development of South-West Bengal and West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) has upped its stake in the project considerably. The airport is poised to take a big role in the region's passenger flight operations and corresponding developments are going on in full swing.

Sujalaam Skycity is being developed by Bengal Aerotropolis Projects Limited (BAPL) and Changi Airports has the maximum stake in the project. Once fully developed, the aerotropolis will include an industrial park, a logistics hub, an IT park and a central business district — all of which will be supported by a residential enclave and advanced social infrastructure.



Bengal's El Dorado: Minting gold made easy at the Golden City



Leading the country in terms of vision and initiative, the Bengal Government has launched several themed cities, among which Sujalaam Skycity's vision and scope are no less than a template for the rest of the Nation to follow.

The Aerotropolis, which has been adopted under the State's smart city initiatives with the appellation "Golden City", has met every parameter of a modern smart city under its master plan. Remaining true to a Smart City's list of primary requirements, the Aerotropolis is administered by an autonomous urban local body, Golden City Industrial Township Authority (GCITA).

GCITA, a third of which has representations from BAPL, has begun to augment administrative efficiency in a number of ways. Having already started operations, GCITA will autonomously take up all municipal approvals and clearances, thus ensuring prompt sanction of projects through a single-window clearance system.

Operations of every utility will come under the purview of GCITA, with BAPL as the concessionaire. This will enable seamless operation and administration, and provide modern facilities with superior service levels.



Sujalaam Skycity: Snapshots

Zoom in



Zoom Air is all set to operate out of Sujalaam Skycity with its state-of-the-art CRJ-200 (50-seater) aircraft, which will connect Durgapur to Kolkata, Delhi and Chandigarh on a daily basis. Mumbai, Hyderabad and Northeastern cities will also be connected in the future. Passengers flying to and from Durgapur will now get premium comfort at affordable prices, as the aircraft feature only window and aisle seats with larger legroom.

Industrious, indefatigable



As the first step towards introducing green and sustainable industrial activities, while maximising the region's potential as a logistics centre, warehouses have already been set up at Sujalaam Skycity's Industrial Park and Logistics Hub. The warehouses cater to clients including Asian Paints, Tata Steel and Mahindra & Mahindra. The Skycity aims to become a multi-modal logistics hub, being able to connect facilities by air, rail and road to the rest of the Nation. Also, Ardex Endura (Indo-German collaboration in super-specialised construction material segment) has established the first phase of its facility in the industrial park.

Knowledge and health



Sujalaam Skycity is aiming to enhance Durgapur's reputation as an education and healthcare hub by planning to develop facilities for more than 10,000 students.

A spiritual school called Raj Vidya Kendra, Narayana School (CBSE curriculum; Nursery to Class XII) and India International School (CBSE curriculum; Nursery to Class XII) are three projects that are already under way. What's more, the Heritage Foundation is setting up a 300-bed multi-specialty hospital with an integrated nursing institute at the aerotropolis.

Home for all



Sujalaam Skycity will soon be home to a residential township, which will be built under a joint venture between the Shrachi Group and BAPL. Spread over 35 acres, the township would include residential formats such as apartments, row and town houses, offering world-class residential properties to people across socio-economic strata. A massive project for EWS & LIG segments is also on the anvil, which will go a long way towards putting a roof over everyone's head.



The backbone of development: Sujalaam builds robust infrastructure



Nobody can stand tall without a backbone and that applies as much to cities as it does to human beings. Sujalaam Skycity has always aimed to stand very, very tall in the India of tomorrow.

It is exemplified by the rigour with which its mother company, Bengal Aerotropolis Projects Ltd, has undertaken infrastructure development within the project's boundaries.

L&T, unquestionably a leader in their field, have undertaken much of the work and, thanks to superior knowhow, skill set and cutting-edge technology, completed a huge chunk of it.

Among various aspects of the development, the necessity to build adequate road surface both within and out of the Skycity was deemed one of the most important tasks at hand. Around 25km of trunk roads and 15kms of neighbourhood lanes have been planned within the project area. In the initial phase, construction of such roads will be limited to bituminous layer in two of four lanes, or development up to wet mix macadam. The tentative length of such development is going to be about 14 and 9km, respectively.

The Skycity will also need adequate water once it starts running on all cylinders. Therefore, the approximate length of pipes of different diameters to be laid along the trunk and neighborhood roads for potable and recycled water is going to exceed 130km. The aerotropolis will receive water from the Durgapur Municipal Corporation (DMC), which will supply 4MGD during peak demand. Pipes have already been laid up to the project battery and a pumping station will soon be commissioned.

An overhead reservoir is also being constructed and a central reservoir will soon be built. The industrial and institutional areas already have a steady supply of water from the Airport Network.

Sujalaam will have its own robust storm water drainage network, which will be around 60-km long. Around 30km of this network has already been completed. The trunk routes and neighbourhood areas will also call for a more than 30-km-long sewerage network, of which 14km is already under construction.

To charge up life and commerce at the futuristic township, massive electrical supply facilities will be imperative. Of the five 11kV substations that have been proposed, one has already been commissioned through India Power. Every facility that is up and running within the Skycity now get powered by this substation.

What's more, a boundary wall is gradually replacing the Skycity's erstwhile 6-km-long fence.

Also, 6 kilometer of cable has been laid up to the Airport Passenger Terminal Building. To highlight its importance, it would probably suffice to mention that the Reliance Jio service was launched here even before its experimental launch in the rest of the country! This service will be extended to other areas of the township, once subterranean infrastructure works are completed.

Sujalaam Skycity is rising higher and higher, because its backbone is getting stronger and stronger.