

india/bengal



DIRECT FLIGHTS TO CAPITAL ON THE WAY

AIR INDIA TO OPERATE AIRBUS 319 ON THE ROUTE



West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee with the MD of Bengal Aerotropolis Projects Limited (BAPL) Partha Ghosh and others during a press meet at the NSCB airport in Kolkata on Monday. —Sourav Das

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
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Direct flight services will be introduced from Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport at Andal to Delhi from 21 December, chief minister Miss Mamata Banerjee said at Kolkata airport today.

The direct flight from Kolkata to Andal and from Andal to Delhi will be operated thrice a week, Miss Banerjee said. Air India will operate Airbus 319 with 122 seats on this route.

The flight will leave Kolkata airport at 8:30 a.m. and reach Andal airport at 9 a.m. The flight will be operated every Monday,

Wednesday and Friday.

The same flight will take off at 9:30 a.m. and reach New Delhi at 11:45 a.m. The return flight no. AI 734 will take off from Delhi at 12:35 p.m. and reach Durgapur at 02:40 p.m. It will depart from Andal at 03:20 p.m. and reach NSBI airport at 06:50 p.m. The fares will be decided shortly.

Residents of Purulia, Bankura and West Midnapore are getting the benefit after flight operations began from Andal airport, Miss Banerjee said. Miss Banerjee was talking to reporters at Kolkata airport this afternoon before she left for Andal airport.

The number of passengers travelling from Andal to Delhi will gradually go up, said a senior official of Bengal Aerotropolis Projects Ltd (BAPL). "You cannot expect maximum passengers from the very beginning of flight operation on a new route," the official said.

Andal airport's 2,800-metre runway is equipped with a CAT I instrument landing system and can handle narrow-body aircraft like Airbus A320 and Boeing 737. The airport apron has four parking bays and a helipad. The airport is equipped with category VII fire fighting and rescue capability.

Kolkata-Andal-Delhi flight: Flight services will be introduced from Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport at Andal to Delhi from 21 Dec, CM said. The flight will leave Kol at 8.30 am & operate every Monday, Wednesday, Friday. **P5**