

# India's first private airport to start operations from mid-April

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The Changi-promoted airport at Andal in West Bengal is set to start commercial operations by next month. On Monday, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) calibrated the navigational system at the facility, the final step towards it being commissioned.

While Pinnacle Air will launch non-scheduled operations through small fixed-wing aircraft, connecting the airports of Andal and Cooch Behar in north Bengal with Kolkata four days a week, scheduled airlines GoAir and Indigo are in the final



**Flight calibration by AAI at Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport, Andal** PHOTO: SUBRATA MAJUMDER

stages of negotiations with Bengal Aerotropolis Ltd (BAPL) to commence operations on the Delhi-Durgapur route. Apart

from sales tax waiver on aviation turbine fuel, BAPL is offering concessions on parking-landing charges and 'seat underwriting', or buying seats to attract fliers.

"With this calibration process, we have now overcome all hurdles towards commissioning the airport. After AAI sends its report to the DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation), it will take three-four weeks to get the final licence. We are looking at sometime around Bengali New Year (April 14) to start commercial operation," BAPL promoter and Managing Director Partha Ghosh told the media at the facility, named Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport.