

India's first aerotropolis kicks off chopper service

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BENGAL Aerotropolis Projects (BAPL) is a specialised infrastructure company engaged in the identification and development of aerotropolis projects in India, on Monday, kicked off its helicopter services between Kolkata and Durgapur.

The introduction of helicopter service from the Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport in Durgapur signified that it is now totally ready for operations for commercial passenger aircraft of domestic carriers.

BAPL now expects to obtain the final approval from the director general of civil aviation (DGCA) very soon to launch commercial passenger airline operations. Once that happens, the airport, the centerpiece of the country's first aerotropolis project will also become the first operational private greenfield airport among 21 such other projects in the country, Partha Ghosh, managing director, Bengal Aerotropolis Projects, said.

"We are privileged to have an opportunity to play a significant role at improving infrastructure and



First of its kind

■ India's first aerotropolis kicks off its helicopter services between Kolkata and Durgapur

■ The helicopter service is from the Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport in Durgapur

■ BAPL is waiting for DGCA's approval to start commercial passenger airline operations

strengthening connectivity between metros and remote areas in our state. We believe that comprehensive commercial air connectivity between this region and the rest of the country through full-fledged airline operations will open new avenues for Bengal's industry, by providing fast, reliable and ad-

vanced modes of transport in and out of the Durgapur region. We foresee our Airport playing an even bigger role in ushering a holistic socio-economic growth for our State on being operational soon," said Ghosh.

BAPL has teamed up with the state transport department in its pioneering initiative of promoting regional and remote area air connectivity in the state and it has an alliance with the State-run Pawan Hans (PHL) in introducing helicopter services between Kolkata and Durgapur.

Through this coalition, BAPL would provide the required facilities and Infrastructure to Pawan Hans like terminal building for passengers, landing & parking facility at the airport, fire fighting arrangements, medical facilities etc. as well as Bharat Petroleum's refueling facility at the airport. Pawan Hans in turn would be responsible for providing helicopters and small fixed wing aircraft with its experienced crew etc. to serve the sector.

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