

AAI to equip Bengal's first Greenfield airport

DESTINATION DURGAPUR According to senior AAI officials and those at Bengal Aerotropolis Projects Limited, some critical equipment to facilitate launch of operations has already reached Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport

ALL READY

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KOLKATA: The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has volunteered to equip Bengal's first Greenfield airport (an airport that is built from scratch in a new location) in Durgapur and help it launch operations at the earliest.

According to senior AAI officials and those at Bengal Aerotropolis Projects Limited (BAPL), some critical equipment to facilitate launch of operations has already reached Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport.

"The MET (Meet Evolving

Threats)-equipment have arrived in Kolkata and will be moved to the Durgapur airport soon," Partha Ghosh, managing director, BAPL, said.

DVOR, a critical navigational equipment, and VHF, a communication aid, have already reached the Durgapur airport, sources said.

"Installation work will begin soon. Experts from the AAI headquarters in Delhi will be here (in Durgapur) to oversee the installation process," S Bhaduri, regional executive director (RED), eastern region, AAI, said.

"We were waiting for power supply at the airport and are now ready to begin the installation process," Bhaduri said, adding that the MET equipment would also be up and running soon.

Once done with the installation process, the AAI would shift focus to the calibration process. The agency would fly in a special aircraft from its Delhi headquarters to begin the calibration process.

The installation, once complete, would enable the airport authorities to apply for licence at DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation). The DGCA

would then send a team for inspection, following which the airport would get the green light to begin operations, sources said.

Ghosh said the installation of precision approach path indicator (PAPI) is already on and would be done soon. However, he said that there was still some work to be done to facilitate better road connectivity between the airport and National Highway 2.

A meeting to review and assess the preparedness of the Durgapur airport was held at HIDCO Bhawan in New Town

on Wednesday.

The meeting featured top AAI officials and DGCA, in addition to representatives from such airlines as Air India, Jet Airways, IndiGo, Go Air, SpiceJet, Air Costa and such non-scheduled carriers as Sprit Air, Par Air, Bafna Aviation, Airbus (euro-copter) and Pinnacle Air.

Top officials of the police administration and fire services department were also present at the meeting.

Some non-scheduled airlines are reportedly keen to operate flights to and from the state's first Greenfield airport.