

# Durgapur airport starts operations with flight to Kolkata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
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BEGINNING a new chapter in the aviation sector, commercial flights on Monday started operation at the recently opened Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport in Durgapur — 170 km from Kolkata.

The inaugural flight — Kolkata to Durgapur and back — was operated by Alliance Air, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Air India, with a 48-seater ATR-42 aircraft.

Alliance Air flight AI 9713 will

**The inaugural flight was operated by Alliance Air, wholly-owned subsidiary of Air India**

leave at 5.05 pm from NSCBI Airport in Kolkata and reach Durgapur at 5.40 pm. The return flight, AI9714, will depart Durgapur at 6.05 pm to arrive in Kolkata at 6.40 pm. The flight will operate every day, except on Fridays.

The 650-acre Kazi Nazrul

Islam Airport, developed by Bengal Aerotropolis Projects Ltd (BAPL), is India's first operational private greenfield airport under the country's Greenfield Airport Policy.

The flight will meet a long-standing need of the residents in the Asansol-Durgapur belt that boast of power-intensive industries like mining, iron and steel, metalwork, engineering, petrochemicals and telecommunications.

At the airport on Monday.

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