

# CM roots for FDI flow to Andal

## Gives 100% Sales Tax Waiver On Aviation Turbine Fuel To Attract Investors

Debayyoti Chakraborty | TNS

**Andal:** Chief minister Mamata Banerjee eyes more FDI flow from Singapore to make the aero city project at Burdwan's Andal a reality. Her incentive to investors is a 100% sales tax waiver on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) for aircrafts touching down the upcoming aero city.

Inaugurating the Aero-tropolis project on Thursday, the CM appealed to Singapore high commissioner Lim Thuan Kuan to bring in more investments for the project, years after her predecessor Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee's effort to try the Indonesia route got swamped in land hurdles.

The Singapore high commissioner and CEO Changi Airports International (CAI) Lim Liangsong are quite happy with the CM's gesture. CAI already has a 26% stake in the project. A business delegation from Taiwan visited Andal a few days ago and is impressed with the project.

In fact, the Rs 10,000-crore aero city project spread over 1820 acres could be Mamata's answer to the failed Nano project in Singur. Land acquisition for 11 mozass started in 2008 when the Left Front was in power. But while farmers in Singur were up in arms, most of the



Chief minister Mamata Banerjee with Singapore high commissioner Lim Thuan Kuan and Changi Airports International CEO Lim Liangsong at the naming ceremony of Andal airport on Thursday; (right) she garlands a bust of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. The airport has been named after him

Andal land owners willingly sold out the infertile land.

Mamata promised all help on her part and rallied a total 11 secretaries, four ministers and two former Union ministers to show that her government is all for the project. "The aero

said while addressing the gathering. Mamata also announced that the government has already signed an MoU with Pawan Hans to start helicopter services soon.

Mamata christened the upcoming airport at Andal, Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport, and unveiled a bust of the rebel poet. "Few days back we dedicated a new university in the name of the rebel poet at Asansol and classes have already started in the varsity. Both of them are our tribute to the late poet who was born near Asansol," the CM said.

Mamata also harped on the six coal blocks in Birbhum that will generate em-



Sudanta Mukherjee

The aero city will boost gainful activities in the area and also bring about a major uplift in the lives of people residing in neighbouring Purulia, Bankura, Burdwan and Birbhum

Mamata Banerjee | CM

Partha Ghosh said later that the CM was excited with the prospect. "We are thankful to Mamata Banerjee for her decision to waive sales tax on aviation turbine fuel (ATF)," Ghosh said. He expects more FDI to flow besides Changi and Joy Mining, USA.

CH is also upbeat with the development. A host of leading industrialists flown from Kolkata to attend the ceremony. They include Sanjiv Goenka, Harsh Neotia, C K Dhanuka and Ghanshyam Sarda among others. "This will be a game changer," Sarda said.

CH eastern region director Saugat Mukherjee said: "The new airport at Andal is a landmark initiative in the infrastructure development of the state."

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city will boost gainful activities in the area and also bring about a major uplift in the lives of people residing in neighbouring Purulia, Bankura, Burdwan and Birbhum. More than a lakh people will get job once this project is complete," the CM

ployment opportunities. "We have received six coal blocks in Birbhum. A lot of people from the district will get jobs. We have also received proposals for five to six new thermal power plants and cement plants in the state. In Raghunathpur in Purulia, industries are making a beeline and it will become an industrial hub. In Durgapur-Asansol region SAIL is investing Rs 20,000 crore and another Rs 10,000 crore investments are on the anvil. The wagon factory of Kulti is facing some land problem and the issue will be solved shortly," the chief minister said.

Director of Bengal Aero-tropolis Project Limited