

# Druk Air may fly via Andal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kolkata:** Druk Air is likely to start a new flight from Bhutan's Paro to Singapore via Andal soon. Chief minister Mamata Banerjee made the announcement on the concluding day of the Bengal Global Business Summit.

Later, sources in Bengal Aerotropolis Projects (BAPL) said that a new flight route — Paro-Andal-Kolkata-Singapore or Paro-Andal-Kolkata-Dubai — in collaboration with Druk Air is likely to be introduced. "Druk Air already has several unused locations across the globe. The company is in talks with the



BAPL is currently exploring the opportunity of strategic tie-ups with international airlines so that it can widen the scope of air-connectivity to the South Bengal region

## BETTING BIG

Centre and is planning to change the locations to Singapore and Dubai. The flights would be routed through Bengal," said a senior official of BAPL. However, the official also said that the idea of new routes is under process and nothing has been finalized.

BAPL is currently exploring the opportunity of strategic tie-ups with international airlines so that it can widen the scope of air-connectivity to the South Bengal region. The company may also use Airbus A320 for this route.

Mamata said, "A new route will be initiated and we have joined hands with a private company to start this initiative."

Druk Air has also signed

an MoU with BAPL so that it can use Durgapur's Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport as a base to refuel aircrafts and look into their technical needs.

Earlier, the chief minister demanded that Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport at Andal be clubbed with airports in the North-East, Andaman & Nicobar, Jammu & Kashmir and Lakshdweep where it is mandatory for Indian carriers to operate flights.

BAPL has also planned to develop a mega theme park and resort through a joint venture with a Mumbai-based hospitality major — Golden Chariot Retreats and Infra Pvt Ltd. The proposed mega theme park will be the largest water theme park resort in Bengal, with a total investment of Rs 110 crore.