

## **AI Express launches Kolkata-Port Blair flights**

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Kolkata: Air India Express launched daily flights from Kolkata to Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair) on Sunday (Dec 1) as part of its regional network expansion.

The inaugural flight departed Kolkata at 5:40 am, providing a direct and convenient connection to the picturesque Andaman Islands, the airline announced.

Starting December 15, an additional daily flight will be introduced, offering twice-daily service between Kolkata and Port Blair, enhancing connectivity between the two destinations.

To celebrate the inaugural flight, Kolkata airport hosted special festivities, including decorated check-in counters, distribution of sweets, and ceremonial boarding pass presentations to passengers.

“Exciting news! Air India Express (IX) has launched daily flights from

Kolkata to Port Blair, with the inaugural flight taking off today at 05:40 hrs, carrying 175 passengers. #AirIndiaExpress #KolkataToPortBlair #NewRoute," the Airports Authority of India (AAI) officials of Kolkata airport posted on X.

This initiative marks a significant step towards enhancing connectivity and promoting regional growth in the aviation sector, the post on the microblogging site said.

"#AAI wishes all the best to Air India Express on this milestone. As the key enabler of aviation infrastructure, the Airports Authority of India is proud to support the seamless operation of this new route, ensuring world-class facilities, safety, and efficiency at airports," the Kolkata airport's post said.

Kolkata holds significant importance for Air India Express, as the airline continues to strengthen its presence in the region, the statement said. The airline has increased its services from Kolkata and Bagdogra by 37 per cent this winter season, offering over 230 weekly flights from these two cities.

The airline's commitment to the region is further reflected in its two brand new aircraft, featuring liveries inspired by Jamdani and Kantha tail art, which celebrate the rich cultural heritage of West Bengal and invite guests to experience the traditions of the region, the statement said.

It also said that the airline commenced Bengaluru-Sri Vijaya Puram flights on Sunday, inaugurated Jammu as a new destination, and will start Chennai-Sri Vijaya Puram service on New Year's Day.

Air India Express, is a subsidiary of Air India and a part of the Tata group, operating over 400 daily flights, connecting 36 domestic and 15 international airports, with a fleet of 90 aircraft.

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