



Press Release
December 8, 2025

First international flight takes off from Gelephu International Airport

Gelephu, Bhutan: The Gelephu International Airport marked a historic milestone today with the launch of its first international flight on the Gelephu–Kolkata–Gelephu sector. Operated by Drukair, the new route establishes Gelephu as Bhutan’s newest international aviation gateway.

The commencement of international operations from Gelephu is expected to significantly enhance regional connectivity for investors, visitors, and travellers, unlocking economic opportunities across tourism, logistics, trade, and services.

Following the inaugural flight, Drukair will commence two scheduled commercial flights per week on the route beginning December 12, 2025 (see schedule below):

DAY	FLIGHT NO	ROUTING	DEP	ARR
MON & FRI	KB210	GLU-CCU	1210	1310
	KB211	CCU-GLU	1350	1520

Onboard the inaugural flight, Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) Governor Dasho Dr Lotay Tshering highlighted the essence of international connectivity for GMC’s emergence as a vibrant regional hub.

“With the launch of international flights, Gelephu will connect Bhutan more seamlessly with our neighbours and partners. This is a symbol of our readiness to engage the region through mindful, sustainable, and future-focused development,” he added.

Drukair CEO Tandi Wangchuk said, “The launch of international flights from Gelephu is more than a route expansion, it is the opening of Bhutan’s future gateway. With direct links to Kolkata, Gelephu will accelerate its transformation into a global destination for mindful living, innovation, and sustainable development.”

This is the first international flight from Gelephu International Airport following its receipt of the Aerodrome Certificate from the Bhutan Civil Aviation Authority in September 2023. Aerodrome certification ensures that an airport meets international safety and operational standards for commercial aviation.

Situated along Bhutan’s southern border with India, the Gelephu Mindfulness City is being developed under a unique governance framework aligned with international standards. The city focuses on eight priority sectors—spirituality; health & wellness; education & knowledge; agri-tech & forestry; green energy & technologies; finance & digital assets; aviation & logistics; and tourism—creating a new model of holistic and sustainable growth.

- End -



About Gelephu Mindfulness City

The Gelephu Mindfulness City Special Administrative Region is a visionary initiative to build a world-class and vibrant economic hub in southern Bhutan, centred on mindfulness, sustainability, and innovation. Integrating traditional Bhutanese values, global governance models, and cutting-edge urban design, GMC aims to become a global exemplar of holistic development.

Visit www.gmc.bt | Email info@gmc.bt or invest@gmc.bt

About Drukair, Royal Bhutan Airlines

Drukair Corporation Limited, the national flag carrier of Bhutan, was established in 1981. Operating from its hub at Paro International Airport, Drukair serves 10 international destinations across South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East, including India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand, Singapore, and the United Arab Emirates. Drukair also operates domestic flights to three destinations within Bhutan and provides helicopter services extending beyond fixed-wing operations.

Visit www.drukair.com.bt