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Changi Airport Welcomes Air India Express

Airline is the first Indian low-cost carrier to operate to Singapore

Singapore Changi Airport received the maiden flight of Air India Express (AIE) from Chennai at 1820hrs. AIE is the first Indian low-cost carrier to operate to Singapore. Singapore is also the airline's first international destination in the Asia Pacific. Passengers and crew onboard the flight were warmly welcomed by the High Commissioner of India to Singapore, His Excellency Alok Prasad, and Acting Director-General of Civil Aviation, Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), Mr Chiang Hai Eng.

For a start, AIE will operate 10 weekly flights between Singapore and Chennai from Changi Airport's Terminal 1. The flight departs Chennai at 1155hrs and arrives in Singapore at 1820hrs. The return flight leaves Singapore at 1925hrs, arriving in Chennai at 2055hrs.

Speaking at the welcome ceremony, Mr Chiang said, "The launch of Air India Express' service to Singapore is indeed very timely, as air traffic between India and Singapore has grown from strength to strength over recent years. In the first nine months of this year, total passenger movements between India and Singapore reached 1.5 million, a growth of an impressive 22%, compared to the same period in 2005. During the same period, passenger movements on the Chennai-Singapore sector also saw very strong growth of 15% year-on-year." Mr Chiang added, "With its low cost, low fare operating model, I am sure that the entry of Air India Express will stimulate even greater people flows between Singapore and Chennai, as well as other parts of South India."

With the addition of AIE, Changi Airport now serves 83 scheduled airlines which connect Singapore to more than 180 cities in over 55 countries via more than 4,100 weekly scheduled flights.