



Parvatmala Scheme

For Prelims: Parvatmala Scheme, Ropeway.

For Mains: Significance of Parvatmala Scheme and Benefits of Ropeways.

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Finance Minister in the [Union Budget for 2022-23](#) announced **National Ropeways Development Programme - “Parvatmala”** to improve connectivity in hilly areas.

What is the Scheme?

- The scheme will be taken up on **PPP (Public Private Partnership)** mode, which will be a **preferred ecologically sustainable alternative in place of conventional roads** in difficult hilly areas.
- The idea is **to improve connectivity and convenience for commuters, besides promoting tourism.**
- This may also cover congested urban areas, where conventional mass transit systems are not feasible.
- The scheme is **being presently started in regions like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir and the other North Eastern states.**
- The Finance Minister announced that contracts for 8 ropeway projects for a length of 60 km would be awarded in 2022-23.

Who is the Nodal Ministry?

- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH)** will have responsibility for development of ropeway and alternative mobility solutions technology, as well as construction, research, and policy in this area.
- In February 2021, the **Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961** was amended, which enabled the MORTH to also look after the development of Ropeways and Alternate Mobility Solutions.
 - The move will give a boost to the sector by setting up a regulatory regime.
 - The MORTH has so far been responsible for development of Highways and regulating the road transport sector across the country.

What is the Significance?

- **Economical mode of transportation:**
 - Given that ropeway projects are built in a straight line over a hilly terrain, it also **results in lower land acquisition costs.**
 - Hence, despite having a higher cost of construction per km than roadways, ropeway projects' construction **cost may happen to be more economical than roadways.**
- **Faster mode of transportation:**

- Owing to the **aerial mode of transportation, ropeways have an advantage over roadway projects** where ropeways can be built in a straight line, over a hilly terrain.
- **Environmentally friendly:**
 - Low dust emissions. Material containers can be designed **so as to rule out any soiling of the environment.**
- **Last mile connectivity:**
 - Ropeway projects **adopting 3S (a kind of cable car system) or equivalent technologies** can transport 6000-8000 passengers per hour.

What are the Benefits of Ropeways?

- **Ideal for difficult / challenging / sensitive terrain:**
 - **Long rope spans:** The system crosses obstacles like rivers, buildings, ravines, or roads without a problem.
 - **Ropes guided over towers:** Low space requirements on the ground, and no barrier for humans or animals.
- **Economy:**
 - Ropeway having multiple cars propelled by a single power-plant and drive mechanism.
 - This reduces **both construction and maintenance costs.**
 - The use of **a single operator for an entire ropeway is a further saving, in labor cost.**
 - On level ground, the **cost of ropeways is competitive** with narrow-gauge railroads, in the mountains the ropeway is far superior.
- **Flexible:**
 - Transport of different materials - A ropeway allows **for the simultaneous transport of different types of material.**
- **Ability to handle large slopes:**
 - Ropeways and cableways (cable cranes) **can handle large slopes and large differences in elevation.**
 - Where a road or railroad needs switchbacks or tunnels, a ropeway travels straight up and down the fall line. The old cliff railways in England and ski resort ropeways in the mountains take advantage of this feature.
- **Low footprint:**
 - The fact that **only narrow-based vertical supports are needed at intervals**, leaving the rest of the ground free, **makes it possible for ropeways to be constructed in built-up areas** and in places where there is intense competition for land use.

[Source: PIB](#)

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