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India's Longest River Ropeway in Assam

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Why in News

The Assam government has inaugurated a **1.8-km ropeway across the Brahmaputra river**, and described it as India's longest river ropeway.

BRAHMAPUTRA & OTHER ROPEWAYS

1.8 km

Between Guwahati city and North Guwahati town, across the river Brahmaputra.

2.5 km

In Gulmarg, J&K. One of the world's highest (4,390 m) cable-based lift services.

4 km

In Auli in Uttarakhand, said to be the longest in the country (not a river ropeway)

2 km

In Darjeeling, West Bengal, one of the oldest ropeway services in India, started 1968).

Key Points

- **About the Ropeway:**

- Built at the cost of **Rs. 56 crore**, it extends from **Central to Northern Guwahati**. It takes **eight minutes** to traverse the entire length of the ropeway.
- It passes over the mid-river **Peacock Island** that houses **Umananda**, a medieval Shiva temple.
- According to the government, this is **one of the most advanced & longest river crossing Aerial Tramway systems in India**.

Aerial tramways are particularly well-suited in extreme terrain since the towers can be erected at larger intervals.

- **Need:**

Thousands of people commute every day between the capital city of Guwahati and the town of North Guwahati, where IIT Guwahati is located.

Other travel options between the two banks are by ferry (30 minutes or more, depending on current and season) or by road through a bridge that usually takes over an hour in the traffic.

- **Other Benefits:**

- Apart from substantially reducing travel time, the ropeway will provide a **brehtaking view of the Brahmaputra river** and **promote tourism** in the State.
- Tourists can take the ropeway to North Guwahati and spend quality time on that side. Hospitality services will also develop on that side and thus the ropeway is expected to be an overall boost for tourism in the city.
- Further, the ropeway is considered as a **convenient and non-polluting means of transport**, as well as a **source of environmentally friendly tourism**.

It is ecologically sustainable as it is run by electric power protecting the beauty of the area, while simultaneously providing passengers with a comfortable and speedy means of travel.

Source: IE