



Ropeway Projects Approved in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

On March 5, 2025, [the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs \(CCEA\)](#), led by Prime Minister approved two ropeway projects in Uttarakhand.

Key Points

- **About the ropeway:**
 - The ropeways will **connect Sonprayag to Kedarnath** and **Govindghat to [Hemkund Sahib Gurudwara](#)**.
 - These projects, estimated at Rs 7,000 crore, fall under **the National Ropeways Development Programme, [Parvatmala Pariyojana](#)**.
 - The ropeways will **significantly reduce travel time to pilgrimage sites** located over 3,500 metres above sea level.
- **Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Ropeway:**
 - **Length:** 12.4 km
 - **Cost:** Rs 2,730.13 crore
 - **Development Mode:** Design, Build, Finance, Operate, and Transfer (DBFOT) under a **[public-private partnership \(PPP\)](#)**.
 - **Current Trek:** Pilgrims currently take a challenging 21-km uphill trek from Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib, traveling on foot, ponies, or palanquins.
 - **Expected Benefits:**
 - The ropeway will ease travel for pilgrims, as the Gurudwara is open only for five months a year (May to September).
 - 1.5 to 2 lakh pilgrims visit Hemkund Sahib annually.
 - It will also benefit tourists visiting **[the Valley of Flowers](#)**, a **[UNESCO World Heritage Site](#)**.
- **Sonprayag to Kedarnath Ropeway:**
 - **Length:** 12.9 km
 - **Cost:** Rs 4,081.28 crore
 - **Technology:** Similar to the Hemkund Sahib ropeway
 - **Time Reduction:**
 - The ropeway will reduce travel time from the current 8-9 hours to just 36 minutes.
 - Pilgrims currently take helicopters, ponies, or walk a 16-km uphill path from Gaurikund to Kedarnath.
 - **[Kedarnath Temple](#)** is one of the **[12 Jyotirlingas](#)** and the most visited temple of **[the Char Dham Yatra](#)**.
- **Economic and Tourism Impact:**
 - The ropeway projects will **generate employment during construction and operation**.
 - They will boost allied industries such as hospitality, travel, food & beverages (F&B), and tourism throughout the year.

Parvatmala Pariyojana

- It was announced in the **[union budget 2022-23](#)** as an Efficient and Safe Alternate Transport

Network.

- 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.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)

- It is chaired by **the Prime Minister**, and **sets priorities for public sector investments**.
- It continuously **reviews economic trends** to develop an integrated economic policy framework and oversees policies and activities in the economic field, including foreign investment, requiring high-level decisions.

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