

Parvatmala

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In news— Recently, the Union Budget for 2022-23 announced the National Ropeways Development Programme – “Parvat Mala” to improve connectivity in hilly areas.

About Parvat Mala scheme-

- **The scheme will be taken up on PPP 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 initiative will provide a boost to the transportation sector by establishing a regulatory framework.
- In addition, **the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways will be in charge of ropeway and alternative transportation solutions**, technology development, as well as construction, research, and policy in this field.
- The budget allocation for this scheme includes the creation of an institutional, financial, and regulatory framework for the technology.

Advantages of Ropeways-

- **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.
- **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.
- **Ideal for difficult / challenging / sensitive terrain:** This mode of transportation will enable mobility to people living in difficult areas and help them become part of the mainstream.
- **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.