

## Executive Summary

### Aerial Passenger Ropeway Project from Dehradun to Mussoorie

One of the endeavours of the Government of Uttarakhand has been to develop aerial passenger ropeway systems to provide connectivity at prominent locations with high tourist footfalls and at the same time, with minimal disturbance to the natural ecosystem of the state. These systems would not only provide eco-friendly mode of transportation but, given the world class technologies available in the global market, would also prove to be much safe, fast and convenient.

Number of such projects is being developed by the Tourism Department in the state at locations such as Kedarnath Temple, Yamunotri Temple, Hemkund Sahib, Mussoorie, Nainital, etc. During peak season, these places are thronged with millions of people resulting in traffic jams and pollution. Passenger Ropeway systems would help in regulating tourist traffic & decongesting the locations by reducing vehicular movement on road.

One of such project is the development of aerial passenger ropeway system between Dehradun and Mussoorie. The salient features of the same are given as under:

- (a) **Start Point:** Purkulgaon (30°24'47"N; 78°4'2"E) About 5.6 hectares of land is owned by Tourism Department, Uttarakhand, out of which 4.2 hectares would be used for proposed ropeway terminal, multi-level parking and associated basic facilities. The current land-use for the said land is "Commercial" as per existing bye-laws.
- (b) **End Point:** MDDA taxi stand (30°27'35.5"N; 78° 3'58.5"E) About 1.7 hectares of land is with Nagar Pallika Mussoorie, which would be used for proposed ropeway terminal, multi-level parking and associated basic facilities. The current land-use for the said land is "Tourism" as per existing bye-laws.
- (c) **Route:** The proposed ropeway alignment shall be about 5.5 kms length running from Purkulgaon to taxi stand passing majorly over Kyarkulli bhatta gaon, Astel Estate and Ciffin Code Estate. About 23 intermediate towers would fall in the corridor. The route map is enclosed.
- (d) **Description of System:** The ropeway is proposed to be based on Mono-cable Detachable Gondola Technology as per CEN standards issued by European Committee of Standardization). The design capacity of the ropeway shall be 1000 PPHPD which would take about 20 minutes to travel (one-way). The total construction period shall be about 3 years.
- (e) **Project Cost:** The project cost has been estimated to be about Rs. 300 crores.
- (f) **Implementation Mode:** The project is proposed to be developed on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) format with the responsibility of design, build, finance, operate and transfer lies with the private firm. The private firm shall be selected through a transparent competitive bidding process.
- (g) **Advantages:**

The project would provide following benefits to the community:

- With the coming up of the ropeway between Dehradun & Mussoorie, part of tourist traffic shall be diverted from the main Mussoorie Road, thereby reducing the congestion and traffic jams during peak hours. Thus, would reduce air & noise pollution on the Mussoorie road.
- The parking problems of Mussoorie town shall be reduced to certain extent by having parking facility at Terminal point and by reduction in vehicular traffic on road.

- Ropeways run on electricity & do not emit any type of emissions and therefore considered to be Eco-friendly & non-polluting means of transportation.
- The land requirement is very low i.e. about 2000 sqm for terminal stations and about 25-30 sqm for towers. Therefore, not much effect on the surface strata.
- Very limited disturbance to the flora & fauna falling under the alignment, that too only during construction.
- Human interference shall be limited to terminal points only thereby reducing waste disposal along the corridor. This would help protect the environment and keep the surroundings clean.
- The ropeway can operate in rain & snow. This would help smooth traffic flow between the towns during these adverse conditions.
- Frequent supervision & monitoring of the surroundings can be undertaken at regular intervals of time by government officials by using the ropeway.
- Since only limited number of people can board the ropeway at a given time, the traffic can be regulated.
- Lastly, 5 km aerial passenger ropeway built on imported technology, passing over the valley, shall be an infrastructure marvel in itself, which would help in attracting tourists from all across the world. This would enhance tourism of the state thereby contribution to the state GDP.