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Far & above the madding crowd

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KOLKATA, 29 APRIL: Imagine a gentle ride to your office and then back home without the hustle and bustle of the city. Moreover, an air-conditioned vehicle that keeps you serene, unmindful of the heavy traffic rush and offers you an aerial view of the city of joy.

Sounds like a fairytale in the city where traffic is choked to its throat and finding a toehold in the public transport is just a matter of luck. But hold for a moment before you dismiss the news item as a creation of a deranged mind.

A private company in the city has come up with an innovative idea to connect the streets with overhead transportation system or better known as ropeways as a solution to traffic congestion and narrow roads.

"We generally relate ropeways to the hilly regions where roads are not available, but the same service can be set up in the streets without requiring much land," said Mr S Chakravarty, managing director of Conveyor and Ropeway Services Private Limited, the company coming up with the project.

"The overhead transportation relieves you from the madding crowd, besides helping you to reach your destination faster without the problems of traffic jam common in metro cities.

It is eco-friendly and uses minimal

power without organic fuel thereby permitting the government to cut down on fuel subsidy expenditure, he added.

The ropeways can be built on the side of the roads with construction cost much cheaper than metros or monorails, said Mr Chakravarty suggesting the stations of ropeways can be linked with metro railways for better connectivity.

The company seems too serious about its project. "We have already built a 300-meters-long prototype ropeway at Joka, some 4 kilometers from IIMs that would be shown to the chief minister and her ministers for her approval, later this year."

The uniqueness about the project, company officials claim, is Curvo Ropeway the first of its kind technology in the world for serpentine roads.

"The cables are straight across the world, but for the first time we would built ropeways with curves to adjust to the twists and turns of the roads," pointed Ms Rachana Mukherjee, company's director adding that a single cabin can transport 8-10 persons at a time.

The aerial service also saves the pedestrians from becoming victims of the reckless driving," she said adding that if given a nod the company can start the service in the city by two years. It can also play an important role in boosting the tourism in the state and could add to the revenues of the government," said an official of tourism department.



ADVANTAGES OF ROPEWAYS

- No problem of traffic congestion
- Pollution free
- Comfortable journey
- Can be built on the sides of the roads
- Runs on power
- Saves fuel