

# COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE



Grenoble (France), October 31, 2025

## **India is now the world's largest market for cable transport.**

**Mountain Planet, the largest international trade show dedicated to mountain development and cable transport, will take place in Grenoble from April 21 to 23, 2026. Among the many foreign delegations attending the show, the Indian delegation is particularly eagerly awaited by European ski lift manufacturers. After Colombia, Peru, China, and others, India is now the new global hub for cable transport, combining innovation for urban mobility with rural and tourist access in mountainous areas. While India has three ski resorts (Gulmar, Auli, and Manali)<sup>1</sup> with around 20 ski lifts, cable transport meets India's urgent need for alternative transport solutions.**

Northern India is a mountainous region with several peaks over 7,000 meters high. Skiing was introduced there by Europeans in the early 1970s and has become popular with some foreign skiers. Although some Indians enjoy skiing, most are still unfamiliar with the sport. Some operators were considering developing more modern ski areas, but these projects have not materialized so far. Currently, the range of ski areas in India remains limited. <sup>[2]</sup> However, the need to improve tourist and religious connectivity, as well as urban mobility in high-traffic areas in India, now positions cable transport as one of the modes of transport of the future in India.

The global cable transport market is experiencing sustained growth, and India is positioning itself as the next major area of expansion for European manufacturers. Supported by the national “Parvatmala Pariyojana” (National Ropeways Development Program), this gentle mode of transport, which overcomes obstacles on the ground, is establishing itself here as a sustainable, efficient, and economical alternative in urban areas and for areas that are difficult to access and mountainous. India, with a population of 1.43 billion, plans to build more than 200 cable transport lines by 2030, covering a total of 1,200 kilometers and with a public budget of over €13 billion. This ambitious state-backed plan offers European manufacturers the opportunity to combine growth, innovation, and a commitment to sustainable mobility.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: 2025 Global Snow and Mountain Tourism Report by Swiss expert Laurent Vanat

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India's first urban public transport cable car in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, will open soon. By 2025, 25 new projects are in the pipeline in 10 states. With iconic projects soon to be operational, such as those in Varanasi, Kedarnath, and Girnar, cable transport is establishing itself as the model for sustainable mobility. Other cities such as Mumbai, Aizawl, and Shimla could soon join this circle of cities committed to green mobility through the air thanks to cable transport. In Varanasi, the study shows that passengers will save 75% in travel time, with the journey time reduced from the current 45 minutes by road to 16 minutes by cable, and a capacity of 96,000 passengers per day. Elsewhere in the country, cable transport is set to revolutionize mobility in mountainous areas. The gondola lift currently under construction, which will link the towns of Sonprayag and Kedarnath (12.9 km), will reduce the journey time from the current 8-9 hours to just 36 minutes, with a capacity of 1,800 passengers per hour in each direction. Located in the Rudraprayag district, between two sacred rivers (Basuki and Mandakini), Sonprayag is an important pilgrimage site for Hindus, renowned for its spiritual significance and natural beauty.

Whether for religious projects (Kedarnath, Hemkund Sahib), urban projects (Varanasi, Aizawl) or tourism projects (Kerala), India's future cable transport network will also be a major lever for local and national development, combining efficient mobility, tourism, accessibility and ecological sobriety. India has chosen cable transport as the standard for its mobility because it represents a mode of transport for the future that has multiple advantages, such as significantly lower costs than building roads/tunnels in mountainous terrain, speed of construction, high reliability/safety, very low land use, low energy consumption, and no CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The massive financial support, estimated at over €13 billion, includes mixed financing of 60% of the construction cost by the state and 40% by private operators, as well as the commitment of major global players and manufacturers to invest in India (at least 50% of the components of each installation must be manufactured locally, in accordance with the "Make in India" policy), show that cable transport will soon be carrying large numbers of tourists and city dwellers alike. For European manufacturers such as Doppelmayr, Bartholet, Leitner, Poma, and MND Ropeways, which have been world leaders in cable transport for decades thanks to their expertise, their achievements around the world, their world-class safety standards, and their technologies, India now represents an essential market for tourism and urban projects. A market worth more than €13 billion by 2030, which is set to become the most important in the world for all major European manufacturers.

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## Market Key data:

- Number of projects identified: 360 projects under development or under consideration, including 200 under the Parvatmala program
- Target of 1,200 km of lines by 2030, one of the largest in the world
- Estimated budget: More than €13 billion
- Uses: Urban, pilgrimage, tourism
- Governance: National “Parvatmala Pariyojana” program under the supervision of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and implemented by the public company National Highways Logistics Management Ltd (NHLML), a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Highways Authority of India.

**About Mountain Planet:** Created in 1974 in Grenoble (France), MOUNTAIN PLANET is the global trade show for mountain development and industry, held at ALPEXPO, the event park in Grenoble, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes. An international gathering for mountain development and a showcase for the latest innovations and market trends, this major event for mountain professionals brings together the entire global mountain ecosystem (manufacturers, elected officials, local authorities, accommodation providers, ski area operators, etc.) every two years. It allows professionals in the sector to unveil innovations and the latest trends/technologies for sustainable mountain development in summer and winter. Each year, MOUNTAIN PLANET welcomes more than 900 international exhibitors and brands. Its exhibition area covers 60,000 m<sup>2</sup>. More than 20,000 professional visitors from over 68 countries attend. The 2026 edition of the MOUNTAIN PLANET trade show will take place from April 21 to 23, 2026, at Grenoble-ALPEXPO (France). For more information, visit: [mountain-planet.com](https://mountain-planet.com)

<sup>[1]</sup> Source: 2025 World Snow Tourism Report by Swiss expert Laurent Vanat

<sup>[2]</sup> 2025 World Snow Tourism Report by Swiss expert Laurent Vanat

<sup>[3]</sup> Source: UN 2025

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