

# Ayodhya to be largest tourism spot in world: Union minister

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LUCKNOW: Union minister for culture and tourism GK Reddy said Lord Ram was revered not just in India but also in Buddhist and Islamic countries and the central and state governments were working to develop Ayodhya as the largest tourist destination in the world. "By 2030 not less than 5 crore people would be visiting the temple town annually," he said. Speaking as the chief guest at the Deepotsav on Wednesday, the minister, who gave his address in Hindi, pointed out that while he hailed from Hyderabad, he made the effort to speak in the language as Hinduism and Hindi connected him with the rest of the people.

Calling August 5, 2020, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the temple, a historic day for the country, he thanked the Ram Temple Trust for making Ram Temple a 'Rashtriya Temple'.

"Crores of families have been linked with this project and this temple will belong to every person. Ayodhya will become a huge tourist spot with better roads and infrastructure and an international airport will connect it with the world," he said.

The minister said that the deepotsav celebrations were a proud testament of Indian traditions and showed the deep love and respect for Lord Ram. The 12 lakh diyas that have been lit in Ayodhya on Thursday symbolised an 'akhand deep' for not just India but provided light to the entire world.

"Lord Ram is a hero for every person. After completing 14 years in exile, he returned to Ayodhya amid massive celebrations. I can say with confidence that the deepotsav organised by UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath is of the same scale as the deepotsav organised in Lord Ram's welcome. With the lighting of 12 lakh diyas, the world is getting Lord Ram's message," he said.

He said the CM was working on Lord Rama's ideals to establish Ram Rajya in UP. He added that the government was ruling without any bias and people were free from any kind of fear. "It is because of his efforts and the vision of Modi ji that Ayodhya is being developed with a new vision and the construction of the Ram Temple has started here," he said.