

Tech, tradition come together for dazzling Deepotsav

All set for grandest-ever spectacle of diyas and drones; Ayodhya gears up to set 2 world records – Aarti by 1,100 devotees and lighting of 25L earthen lamps

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AYODHYA/LUCKNOW: Ayodhya is set to be dazzled by the extravaganza of traditional earthen diyas and the technological marvel of drones on Wednesday evening that will mark the first Deepotsav celebrations here after the grand opening of the Ram temple in Ayodhya earlier this year.

Deepotsav, a five-day festival, commemorates Lord Ram's return to Ayodhya after a 14-year exile. The event showcases Ayodhya's cultural and spiritual significance, attracting millions of devotees and tourists.

The eighth edition of the festival will feature two record attempts – a 1,100-person Saryu Aarti and the main lamp-lighting event wherein 30,000 volunteers spread across 55 ghats will light earthen lamps for the Guinness World Record by lighting 25 lakh diyas. The final results are expected after the lighting. Last year, lamps were lit on 51 ghats in Ayodhya.

A 30-member team from the Guinness Book of World Records



Lakhs of diyas being placed as Ayodhya braces for Deepotsav on Wednesday.

is in Ayodhya to oversee preparations for Deepotsav.

Guinness World Records official Nischal Barot said: "The biggest challenge for us is to complete the counting. Teams are on-site counting the diyas. Our entire system relies on a symmetrical arrangement."

"The second challenge is the large area we have this time. For now, we are counting dry diyas, and we will count again once they are lit. We will also have a digital count. Our team consists of 30 members and 300 people involved in the counting," he added.

In stark contrast, just adjacent Ram ki Paidi on the old Ayodhya bridge, a mega show of 500 drones will illuminate Ayodhya's skyline making various formations. The highlight will be 'veer mudra' of Lord Ram, Lakshman, and Hanuman, brought to life through a dazzling presentation

of laser lights, voiceovers, and musical narration.

Every nook and corner of Ayodhya is decked up to welcome people reaching here to be a part of the celebrations. The majestic Ram Ki Paidi ghat is beautified for the mega show where chief minister Yogi Adityanath will light the first earthen lamp.

Around 11 gates on various themes of Ramayan have come up at Ayodhya Dham, including three within Ram Katha Park. The Bhakti Path leading to Ram temple has four gates decorated with around 10 quintals of flowers. The celebrations will also feature dynamic colour-changing LED panels and multimedia projections at various locations.

Eighteen large mechanised tableaux, including the iconic 'Ram Rath', will be a major attraction. The procession will start from Saket PG College around Ram and end at the Ram

Katha Park.

These tableaux, depicting various episodes from the life of Lord Ram, will be inspired by famous festivals from Oruro (Bolivia), Basel (Switzerland), Salvador (Brazil), Barranquilla (Colombia), Düsseldorf (Germany).

The entire Ayodhya Dham, including all major temples, has been decorated while eye-catching signage boards have come up at over 500 sites in the city.

Chief minister Yogi Adityanath will perform 'Raj Tilak' of characters performing the role of Ram and Sita at Ram Katha Park. He will also perform Saryu Aarti, along with 1,100 batuks and 157 seers.

The 15-minute aarti is set to offer a profound spiritual experience. Union minister for culture and tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat will be the chief guest on the occasion.

CM GREETES PEOPLE ON DEEPOTSAV EVE

LUCKNOW: Chief minister Yogi Adityanath extended Deepotsav greetings to the people on Tuesday evening.

In a post on X, he wrote, "The holy city of Shri Ayodhya Dham, the best among the seven cities, the city of Maryada Parushottam Lord Shri Ram, is once again going to be adorned with the divine light of innumerable lamps... Hearty welcome and greetings to all of you in the divine-grand-new Deepotsav!"

Another historic moment for temple town

Special arrangements at Ram Temple

AYODHYA: The Ram temple in Ayodhya will shine with special lamps to make the first Diwali at the newly constructed grand Temple an extraordinary and unforgettable event. To protect the temple building from stains, special lamps have been arranged. To maintain order, a retired inspector general of police has been tasked with overseeing the decoration of lamps in the temple and its premises. Temple trustee Anil Mishra said temple complex has been divided into several sections.

believed that something new should be brought on Dhanteras as it brings them luck and money," he added.

30 minutes for Guinness record

AYODHYA: Preparations have been completed for setting a Guinness World Record on the eighth Deepotsav as earthen lamps have been placed on ghats in Ayodhya. Volunteers worked till late in night to arrange the lamps. On Tuesday, the world record team will count them. If any lamps are found missing, they will be added. On main event day on Wednesday, 2.5 million (25 lakh) lamps are to be lit simultaneously within 30 minutes and they must stay lit for 5 minutes. To ensure there is no chance of missing the record, 2.6 million (26 lakh) lamps are being lit instead of 2.5 million (25 lakh).

'Chhoti Diwali today, Badi tomorrow'

AYODHYA: Shri Ram Janmabhoomi chief priest Acharya Satyendra on Tuesday cleared the confusion on the dates of Chhoti Diwali and Badi Diwali. As per him, Chhoti Diwali is on October 30 and that Badi Diwali should be celebrated on October 31 in the court of Ram Lalla. "On Dhanteras, Lord Ganesha and Goddess Laxmi are worshipped. Along with that, several other gods are also worshipped. The same traditions and rituals have been conducted over the years and everyone should follow them. People have

Deepotsav to cover religious periphery

AYODHYA: Deepotsav will be celebrated all along "84 kos" (religious periphery of Ayodhya covering nearly 152 km) of the temple town. All temples and pilgrimage sites located in the periphery will be illuminated. The tourism department and social organisations has completed all arrangements. HTc



People witness a laser show at 'Ram ki Paidi' as part of Deepotsav celebrations in Ayodhya on Tuesday

About the counting process

- A 30-member team from the Guinness Book of World Records has arrived in Ayodhya.
- The counting methodology has been developed using a software meant to ensure accuracy.
- Nischal Barot, the chief of the team, said the most significant challenges include maintaining correct dimensions for counting.
- The counting process involves a dry count of the diyas before they are lit. Volunteers ensure that all diyas conform to the required measurements. ANI