

Gomti Riverfront has no parallel anywhere in the country: CM

DREAM PROJECT It will not only be a tourist attraction but also generate biz, says Akhilesh

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LUCKNOW: Chief minister Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday said the Samajwadi Party government had set an example for balanced development and timely completion of projects for other states.

Yadav was speaking at a function to dedicate the Gomti Riverfront Development project in the state capital.

"The Gomti Riverfront is one of the largest eco-friendly projects and has no parallel anywhere else in the country. It will not only be a tourist attraction but also generate business and employment opportunities," he said.

The CM also inaugurated the newly-built Ghaus Mohammad stadium on the occasion. The stadium has been named after ace lawn tennis player Gaus Mohammad, who was the first Indian to make it to the quarter finals of the Wimbledon tennis championship. Both cricket and football can be played in the stadium.

Yadav congratulated the officials and engineers of the irrigation department for timely completion of the project and said the river would also have water transport facility that would link the Old City to new Lucknow.



■ CM Akhilesh Yadav after the inauguration at Gomti Riverfront on Wednesday.

DEEPAK GUPTA/HTPHOTO

Yadav also took potshot at rival parties saying these parties had just given empty slogans on keeping the rivers clean but done nothing for their preservation and revitalization.

"Not only Gomti, we have developed so many other beautiful and leisure spots like the Janeshwar Mishra Park, the Lohia Park, Jai Prakash Narayan International Centre in Lucknow for the people," he said.

Under the riverfront development project, a diaphragm wall has been constructed on both the banks of Gomti, channelizing the water-way.

The land between the water-way and the embankment has been developed for public use by developing a cycle track, a jogging track, walking track, kids play area and facility of toilet, potable water and parking at every 500 metres.

Commuting in the water-way

has also been arranged vide a water bus, which would start plying from December. Under the project, a lake has also been developed which would have a musical fountain, place for yoga, wedding ground, 2000-person capacity amphitheatre and stadium for playing football and cricket.

The Hardinge's Bridge, Gomti barrage and Lohia Bridge have also been illuminated with coloured lights. **SEE ALSO P-15**