

WINDOWS
Minister lauds CESC
for Guinness World
Record drone show

MYSURU: Energy and Tourism Minister K J George on Thursday lauded the CESC for setting a Guinness World Record with a drone show at the Mysuru Dussehra celebrations and praised the city's spectacular electrical illumination during the 11-day-long festivities.

He said the Energy Department and Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) played a key role in showcasing the festival's splendour to the world.

"The Energy Department and CESC have played a key role in showcasing the grandeur of Dussehra to the world in an even more impactful manner. This year, the creation of a spectacular peacock formation using 3,473 drones has earned a Guinness World Record, further enhancing the global visibility of the festival," George said.

The electrical illuminations added a distinctive splendour to the celebrations, with colourful lighting installations spread across 146 km of roads, 123 circles and prominent locations, besides 80 illuminated artistic installations, he said, according to a release by CESC.

"The effective management of the city's illuminations, coupled with an impressive technology-driven drone show, reflects the operational efficiency of the Energy Department and the technical capabilities of CESC," he said.

Commending the four-day drone show held at the Torchlight Parade Grounds in Bannimantap, George said 12 visual formations created using different colours and designs mesmerised audiences, with the peacock formation emerging as the highlight.

He said managing the city's electrical illuminations during the festival, which attracts lakhs of tourists and the public, required meticulous planning, technical preparedness and coordination.

"Given the scale of the festival, priority was accorded to the reliable management of the power infrastructure, technical preparedness and coordination at various levels. The initiatives undertaken by CESC under the Energy Department have played a significant role in enhancing the grandeur of the Dussehra festivities," he said.

George also praised CESC for balancing its responsibility of ensuring uninterrupted power supply with the execution of the illuminations and the technology-driven drone spectacle.

"After creating a tiger formation using drones and setting a record last year, CESC has continued its remarkable journey by creating a peacock formation this year and setting a new record. The electrical illuminations and drone show have also significantly contributed to positioning Dussehra as a major global tourism attraction," he said.

Meanwhile, Archana, Managing Director of CESC said the Dussehra electrical illuminations would remain in place for 10 more days, until October 31, and urged tourists and the public to follow safety guidelines while enjoying the displays.

"Tourists and members of the public are encouraged to follow the necessary safety guidelines and enjoy the spectacular beauty of the illuminated city," she added.

Police crack
woman's murder
case, husband
arrested

BENGALURU: A man was arrested for allegedly murdering his 25-year-old wife over suspicion of an illicit relationship and dumping her body in a stormwater drain, police said on Thursday. The decomposed body of Rukana, a native of Bihar, was found in a stormwater drain within the Magadi Road police station limits on October 13. Police said she was allegedly killed by her husband, Mohammed Irfaz, on October 10.

Mysuru Dasara showcases state's cultural richness and innovation

The event was also notable as Chief Minister D K Shivakumar celebrated his first Dasara as head of the state government

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MYSURU Dasara 2026 stood out for its blend of traditional grandeur and contemporary attractions, reinforcing its reputation as one of Karnataka's most celebrated cultural festivals. The event was also notable as Chief Minister DK Shivakumar celebrated his first Dasara as head of the state government.

The festivities began with special prayers to Goddess Chamundeshwari at Chamundi Hills and culminated in a series of events across the city, including the spectacular Jamboosavari, cultural performances, flower exhibitions, wrestling bouts and the traditional torchlight parade. This year's celebrations introduced several attractions intended to broaden the festival's appeal. Bands from the Indian Army, Air Force and Navy participated in the procession, bringing military music and patriotic fervour to the celebrations. Kannada film personalities and cultural troupes from different states also attracted considerable public attention.

One of the major innovations was the inclusion of coastal Karnataka's Kam-bala, the traditional buffalo race associated with the region's farming communities. The event brought an important element of coastal culture to Mysuru and highlighted the diversity of Karnataka's traditions. The flower show at Kuppanna Park featured elaborate floral displays, including a model of Vidhana Soudha. The Dasara exhibition and wrestling competitions offered additional entertainment to residents and tourists.

Young audiences gathered for Yuva Dasara, where popular singer Sid Sriram entertained music lovers. Performances at Mysuru Palace celebrated classical music, dance and literature. Professor Nagamani Srinath was honoured with the State Sangeetha Vidwan award, while an Urdu poetry programme conveyed a message of cultural harmony.



The participation of Kerala Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan and Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy in the Jamboosavari strengthened the festival's inter-state significance. Cultural tableaux and performers from outside Karnataka further highlighted India's diversity. A spectacular drone display during the Bannimantap torchlight parade became another talking point, combining technology with entertainment. The festival attracted tourists from across the country, benefiting local businesses and tourism-related activities. Mysuru Dasara 2026 demonstrated that preserving heritage while embracing new ideas can make a traditional celebration more inclusive, vibrant and relevant to younger generations.

Shivakumar orders probe into ministers
being stopped at Nandi flag puja

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CHIEF Minister DK Shivakumar has directed Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh to investigate the incident in which three ministers were prevented from entering the venue of the Nandi flag puja at Mysuru Palace during Dasara celebrations and submit a report.

Ministers Balakrishna, P.M. Narendra Swamy and K.S. Basavanthappa were stopped by Mysuru Superintendent of Police Rishy-anth when they were proceeding to attend the ritual ahead of the Jamboosavari procession. The police officer reportedly cited security reasons for restricting their entry, triggering confusion between the ministers and police personnel.

Shivakumar said the conduct of officials in stopping ministers was unacceptable. He stated that he had personally intervened and instructed the police to allow the ministers to enter the venue. "The casual attitude of officials cannot be tolerated," the Chief Minister said in a statement.



He added that the Chief Secretary had been asked to establish who was responsible for the incident and submit a report. Action would be taken against officials found guilty after the report was received, he said.

The incident has triggered a political controversy, with allegations that the ministers were disrespected despite being part of the government delegation attending the state's major cultural festival.

The controversy has also taken a social dimension, with some Congress leaders describing the incident as an insult to Dalit ministers and demanding action against the police officer concerned. They have urged the Chief Minister and Home Minister to take the matter seriously.

The episode has raised questions about coordination between the police and elected representatives during high-profile public events.

The proposed inquiry is expected to examine the circumstances that led to the ministers being stopped and determine whether the security restrictions were justified. The government is awaiting the Chief Secretary's report before deciding on further action.

'MINOR HUMAN ERROR'

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DEPUTY Chief Minister DrG Parameshwara and Health Minister U T Khader stated that the action by SP Rishyanth in preventing certain ministers from proceeding during the Nandi Dhvaja Puja of Mysuru Dasara should not be inflated into a major controversy.

Dr. Parameshwara noted that officers simply carry out the directions given to them and that, when crowds of 15-20 lakh people arrive over ten days of the festival, occasional small lapses occur. After viewing the video, he observed that no physical manhandling took place; the ministers were merely asked to stop.

Chief Minister to advance at that point.

On remarks that Dalit ministers had been insulted, Dr. Parameshwara asked why the caste label needed to be attached at all. "Ministers are ministers, and other ministers are not identified by caste," he said.

Health Minister U T Khader added that the police action was not deliberate and that human error is a natural occurrence. He pointed out that officers had been on continuous duty without proper meals for a month and that minor slips in a security setting should not be sought out and enlarged.

The episode had already drawn a formal response from Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who instructed Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh to conduct an inquiry and submit a report.

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Ramalinga Reddy calls
for strict guidelines for
elephants at public events

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FOLLOWING the incident in which a forest department elephant ran out of control during the Dasara procession in Shivamogga on October 21, Ramalinga Reddy has called for strict guidelines governing the use of elephants at religious festivals and other public events.

Somanna, an elephant from the Sakrebailu Elephant Camp in Shivamogga, was carrying the howdah during the procession when it suddenly lost control and began running, reportedly damaging a car and a few two-wheelers. The incident created panic for some time, but forest department personnel acted swiftly to bring the elephant under control. No casualties were reported.

In a statement, Ramalinga Reddy said elephants could become stressed and behave unpredictably when exposed to large crowds, loud music, firecrackers and other intense sounds at religious festivals, fairs and public gatherings. Therefore, adequate precautions must be taken whenever elephants are used in such events.

He said organisers should obtain prior permission from the competent authority at least one month before the event. Elephants participating in programmes should undergo a minimum of 20 days of preparatory training, while officials must ensure that they are physically and mentally fit to take part. Permission should be granted only after assessing whether the elephants can cope with large crowds, commotion and high noise levels, he said. Organisers must also implement all necessary safety measures throughout the event to protect both the animals and the public.

Ramalinga Reddy stressed the need for the Forest Department to issue clear and comprehensive guidelines at the earliest and ensure their strict implementation by officials and event organisers without yielding to external pressure. He called for all necessary precautionary measures to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Sugarcane farmers' meeting scheduled
for October 26 in Belagavi: CM

Karnataka to hold separate talks on drought,
water sharing and forest land issues

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A meeting with sugarcane farmers and sugar factory owners has been scheduled for October 26 in Belagavi to discuss their concerns, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said on Thursday.

Speaking to the media outside his Sadashivanagar residence before leaving for Delhi, Shivakumar said Union Minister Pralhad Joshi would not be able to attend the meeting due to other commitments. "Joshi has said that you should hold the meeting first, after which we can meet. The issue of sugarcane farmers is not limited to Karnataka but concerns the entire country. We will hold a separate meeting with officials at the Centre to discuss the matter and find a solution," he said.

The Chief Minister said he would also discuss forest land disputes with the concerned Union Minister. Taking a decision on the Mahadayi issue could be difficult due to the upcoming elections in Goa, he added.



On the Tungabhadra reservoir, Shivakumar said a request had been made to meet the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister for discussions on the water situation. The meeting could take place either in Andhra Pradesh or Delhi. "The water level in the Tungabhadra reservoir is critically low, while the demand for water from farmers is very high. With no adequate rainfall, we need to formulate a strategy for the coming days," he said. Shivakumar added that he would meet the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister to present Karnataka's demands regarding drought-related assistance.

Bengaluru trio wins World's Best
Extreme Cake Sculptors' title

Team India SugarSutra Defeats
Finalists from Australia, Japan and
Taiwan in live 12-hour contest

BENGALURU: Three pioneering cake and sugar artists from Team India came together to represent the country on the international stage and returned as world champions, winning the 2-Day International Cake-Off Challenge at the International Cake Show Australia (ICSA) 2026.

Representing the country, Team India/ SugarSutra's Anna Austin, Arati Mirji and Samie Ramachandran won the title of "World's Best Extreme Cake Sculptors 2026" at the ACADA Australasian Cake Oscar Awards, competing against finalist teams from Australia, Japan and Taiwan.

The team's winning sculpture interpreted the theme "Adventure" through Tamil Nadu's Jallikattu tradition, bringing the ferocity, colour and energy of the sport to life in cake, sugar and chocolate. Every inch of the piece, from the bull's structure to the fine details on the garlands and the sculpted facial features of the Jallikattu player, was built live in just 12 hours. The cake captured the 'adventure' spirit through movement, rhythm, and visual drama, embodying India's diversity, vibrancy, and artistic heritage.



Anna Austin, Arati Mirji and Samie Ramachandran, representing Team India, were chosen for the competition because of their established work and expertise within the Indian and international cake-art community.

Anna said, adding that formats such as DCP and MOV can preserve viewing quality at 2K resolution. He questioned why the state government continued to insist on Blu-ray when the National Film Awards, Indian Panorama, international film festivals and the Film Archives in Pune had shifted to pocket hard drives.

Mansore also questioned whether the Blu-ray discs submitted to the Department of Information and Public Relations were stored securely. Citing his own experience with his film Act-1978, he said he had personally submitted the application and Blu-ray disc, but on the day the State Film Awards selection committee screened the film, a problem reportedly arose with the disc. The film was subsequently obtained on a pen drive for viewing. "If the work can be completed using a pen drive or pocket hard disk, why insist on Blu-ray? Even from the perspective of content security, would an open DCP format not be sufficient?" he asked.

He further said the government had fixed application fees of Rs 16,193 for Kannada films released in 2022 and Rs 18,621 for films released in 2023, separately for awards and subsidies, citing a bylaw that allows fees to be revised once every two years. When application fees, Blu-ray preparation costs and the expense of producing multiple sets of documents are taken into account, a producer applying for both an award and a subsidy could end up spending approximately Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000 for a single film.

and a subsidy could end up spending approximately Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000 for a single film, he said. Mansore noted that many producers who invested in films after the COVID-19 pandemic had suffered losses and were hoping that awards and subsidies would help them recover at least part of their investments. Instead of placing additional financial and procedural burdens on them, the government and the Department of Information and Public Relations should immediately simplify the application process, he urged. He also appealed to the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce to intervene with the government and help secure a solution in the interest of Kannada film producers.

'Stop harassing Kannada film producers in the name of awards and subsidies'

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FILM director Mansore has urged the government to simplify the application process for state film awards and subsidies, alleging that the existing procedures impose an unnecessary financial burden on Kannada film producers.

Applications have been invited for the 2022 and 2023 State Film Awards, with October 31 set as the deadline. However, delays in the award and subsidy process over the past seven to eight years have made it difficult for producers to submit applications, he said in a press release.

Mansore pointed out that only a handful of production houses in the Kannada film industry operate on a full-fledged basis, while most are independent or part-time ventures that close their offices after producing one or two films. Many producers do not systematically preserve the necessary permissions and documents related to film production. After a film's release, directors, production managers and other team members often move on to different assignments, leaving producers struggling to collect the required paperwork.

He alleged that the government had made the application process excessively complicated, apparently to avoid disputes after announcing awards and subsidies. Applicants are required to submit 10 copies of certain documents separately for awards and subsidies, even though such a requirement does not apply when submitting films for the National Film Awards, he said.

The biggest hurdle, according to Mansore, is the mandatory submission of Blu-ray discs. He said Blu-ray was a preferred format for viewing films in full 2K resolution a decade ago, but DVDs and Blu-ray discs have since largely disappeared from the market. Five good-quality blank Blu-ray discs cost between Rs 1,000 and Rs 4,000 online, he said. The state application process requires separate Blu-ray discs for awards and subsidies, with two discs required for each category. In Bengaluru, only four or five people are available to write films onto Blu-ray discs, and preparing each disc costs between Rs 2,000 and Rs 4,000. The total expense for four discs can therefore range from Rs 8,000 to Rs 16,000.



In contrast, a pocket hard disk could be used to submit a film for around Rs 5,000, he said, adding that formats such as DCP and MOV can preserve viewing quality at 2K resolution. He questioned why the state government continued to insist on Blu-ray when the National Film Awards, Indian Panorama, international film festivals and the Film Archives in Pune had shifted to pocket hard drives.

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