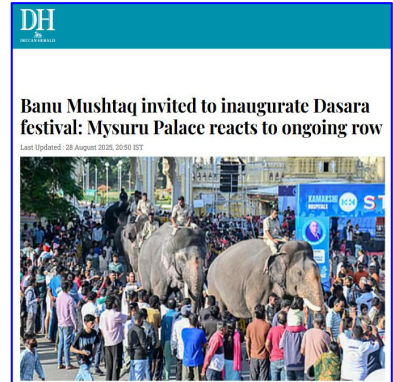


8 Incidents : Congress-led government's interference in Mysore Dussehra (1980 to 2025)

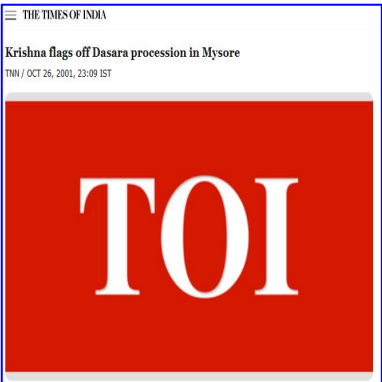
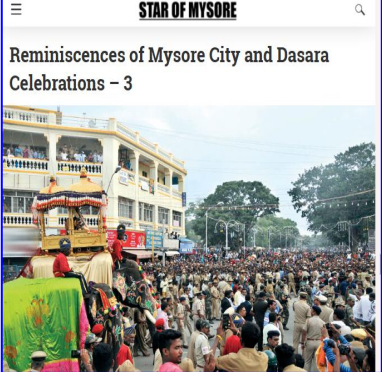
This report has compiled **8 incidents** from **1980 to 2025** in which **Congress governments** intervened in **Mysore Dasara**, turning a cultural festival into a **political platform** by selecting the inaugurator, curtailing rituals and using **policy-driven changes**, often at odds with **Mysore's royal traditions**.

On **August 22, 2025**, the **Congress-led Karnataka government** invited Kannada writer **Banu Mushtaq** to inaugurate the **Dasara festival at Chamundi Hills** in Mysuru on **September 22, 2025**.

- On August 31, 2025, CM Siddaramaiah defended the decision to invite Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate Mysuru Dasara, describing the event as a **"secular" and "cultural" festival** for all communities.

S.No	Incidents	Visual & Sources
1.	Banu Mushtaq invited to inaugurate Dasara festival Date : August 31, 2025 Place : Mysuru , Karnataka Ruling party : Indian National Congress Controversy : Inauguration selection, Karnataka government invited Banu Mushtaq (Kannada poet) Incident : On August 22, 2025, the Congress-led Karnataka government invited Kannada writer Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate the Dasara festival at Chamundi Hills in Mysuru on September 22, 2025. ● Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah on August 31, 2025, defended the decision to invite Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate Mysuru Dasara, describing the event as a "secular" and "cultural" festival for all communities. ● Member of Mysuru's erstwhile royal family and MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar's mother, Pramoda Devi Wadiyar, expressed dismay over the Karnataka government's handling of the Mysuru Dasara, saying politics had entered the Chamundeshwari Temple.	 Deccanherald India Today NDTV
2.	Political Turmoil Delays Mysore Dussehra 2024 Preparations Date : 2024 Place : Mysuru , Karnataka Ruling party : Indian National Congress Controversy : Necessary preparations of Dussehra delayed Incident : Mysuru Dussehra 2024 was scheduled to begin on October 3 and end on October 12. But the ongoing political issues at the time - MUDA scam and Valmiki Board dispute - caught the attention of the government which led to a delay in planning Mysuru Dussehra 2024. ● The Dasara High Power Committee typically meets in July or early August. This meeting is crucial for planning the festival. Unfortunately, the meeting did not occur as scheduled in 2024 due to political distractions.	 Themysore

3.	Mysore Dussehra celebrations curtailed citing drought conditions Date : Sep 22, 2023 Place : Mysuru , Karnataka Ruling party : Indian National Congress Controversy : Mysore Dasara celebrations curtailed Incident : The Congress government in Karnataka had announced that the Dasara festival 2023 "simple and meaningful" one, citing reason drought situation in the state. The festival, which is usually celebrated with grandeur, was celebrated on a smaller scale in the year 2023 following the order of the government. The Mysuru authorities had planned to celebrate Dussehra in a grand manner this year, from October 16 to 24, 2023. The Mysuru district administration had also requested a grant of more than ₹30 crore for the event.	 Hindustan Times Economic Times ibtimes
4.	Poet Prof. K.S. Nissar Ahmed invited to inaugurate Dasara 2017 Date : September 21, 2017 Place : Mysuru , Karnataka Ruling party : Indian National Congress Controversy : Inauguration selection, Karnataka government invited Poet Prof. K.S. Nissar Ahmed Incident : The Congress-led Karnataka government had invited poet Professor K S Nissar Ahmed to inaugurate the Dussehra festival at Chamundi Hills in Mysuru. KS Nissar Ahmed inaugurated 408th edition of the Mysuru Dasara festival atop of Chamundi hill in Mysuru on September 22, 2017. The announcement was made by Mysuru District In-charge Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa on August 17, 2017.	 The New Indian Express Starofmysore
5.	Mysore Dasara 2013 gets a political touch Date : October 5, 2013 Place : Mysuru , Karnataka Ruling party : Indian National Congress Controversy : Jnanpith laureate K. S. N. (Chandrashekar Kambar) chosen as inaugurator Incident : In 2013, under the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government, the poet Dr. Chandrashekar Kambar was invited to inaugurate the Mysore Dasara at Chamundi Hill alongside the Chief Minister and district officials. The event took a political turn when Kambar publicly declared that "the lives of Kannadigas are miserable under the rule of unstable governments," thereby directly linking the festival to the ruling party Congress. This led to Mysore Dussehra being used as a platform to advance Congress' political agenda under the guise of a cultural festival.	 The New Indian Express

6.	Dasara 2005 Congress CM Dharam Singh leads worship and procession Date : October 12, 2005 Place : Mysuru , Karnataka Ruling party : Indian National Congress Controversy : CM was the official inaugurator of Dasara Incident : In 2005, the Congress government led by Chief Minister Dharam Singh organised Mysore Dussehra, turning the festival into a government political spectacle rather than a community celebration. Instead of leaving the role to traditional custodians, Dharam Singh himself performed royal rituals such as worshipping the Nandi flag and showering flowers on the idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari in a golden howdah mounted on Balarama elephant.	 business-standard
7.	CM Krishna inaugurated Dasara procession Date : Oct 26, 2001 Place : Mysuru , Karnataka Ruling party : Indian National Congress Controversy : CM was the official inaugurator of Dasara Incident : On 26 October, 2001, then-Chief Minister S. M. Krishna (Congress) was the official inaugurator of the Jamboo Savari / Mysuru Dasara procession. Instead of leaving the role to traditional custodians, the Congress CM performed rituals such as offering floral tributes to Goddess Chamundeshwari's idol in the golden howdah atop elephant Balarama. This reduced Mysuru Maharaja's traditional significance	 Times of India
8.	Government appointed committee to plan/execute Dasara Date : 1980 Place : Mysuru , Karnataka Ruling party : Indian National Congress Controversy : Committee appointment for Dussehra Incident : In 1980, the Congress government led by Chief Minister R. Gundu Rao had formalised state control over Mysuru Dasara by appointing a divisional-level committee, chaired by the Divisional Commissioner, to plan and execute the celebrations. This marked a clear administrative shift away from the festival's earlier royal-led tradition. This administrative decision that changed how the festival was organised and run.	 Starofmysore