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PRESS RELEASE

Drone light show big draw at Onam fete

Sky spectacle at University Stadium concludes on Sept. 7

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept. 06: King Mahabali, with a glittering crown on his head, strode majestically in the evening skies over the city as a fleet of thousand drones wove spectacular aerial images of the Onam festival, turning out to be a showstopper for tourists and public on *Thiruvonam* day here on Friday.

The three-day drone light show, being conducted 250 feet above the University Stadium here from 8.45 pm to 9.15 pm, is part of the Onam Week Celebrations of Department of Tourism. It will conclude on September 7.

The specially designed 20-minute drone light show, with LED lights, is a moving tribute to Kerala's heritage weaving together the state's traditions, legends, and modern aspirations.

The stunning show opens with the resounding Chenda and Kombu, echoing the rhythm of Kerala's festive spirit, before welcoming the legendary King Mahabali, whose return marks the essence of Onam.

The tapestry of images includes Kerala's iconic *Vallam Kali* boat race gliding across the skies, while the martial art form *Kalaripayattu* and the graceful *Mohiniyattam* dance showcase the state's artistic and martial prowess.

The show then pays homage to the elaborate *Kathakali* mask, a cultural emblem, before highlighting Kerala's progress through the Vizhinjam Seaport and the mythical grandeur of the Jatayu Earth Centre, the world's largest bird sculpture.

The performance culminates with a portrait of Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, wishing everyone "Onashamsakal" and the luminous Kerala Tourism logo.

So far, the event has elicited overwhelming response from tourists and public alike, who turned up to the capital city to celebrate Onam and also witness the stunning visual spectacle that was visible in a four kilometre radius of the stadium.

Minister for Tourism and Public Works Shri P A Mohamed Riyas and Minister for General Education and Labour Shri V Sivankutty watched the drone light show on *Thiruvonam* day. Kerala Tourism Director Smt. Sikha Surendran was also present.



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Shri Riyas said this is for the first time that such a drone light show featuring 1000 drones is being held in the capital city. He added that the drone light show will provide a unique experience to the visitors, besides adding a new charm to the week-long Onam celebrations.

Global leading drone technology company BotLab Dynamics, which has set the record of hosting India's largest drone light show with 1,000 drones at Rashtrapati Bhawan on January 29, 2022 for the Beating Retreat ceremony, is orchestrating the September 5-7 event.

Ends