

# DECCAN Chronicle *On The Web*

Published on Deccan Chronicle (<http://www.deccanchronicle.com>)

## Ramesh rains on Reddy parade

Sep 29 2010

Sept. 28: The Union government has put a spoke in three of the state government's plans — the introduction of a night safari in Bannerghatta National Park (BNP), the 400 MW capacity Gundia hydro electric project and a broad gauge conversion of the Hubli-Ankola railway line.

Union minister of state for environment and forests, Jairam Ramesh on Tuesday said: "I doubt whether the Central Zoo Authority had granted any permission to this state to introduce night safari in BNP. I do not remember giving any such permission to any state."

On the Gundia project, Mr Ramesh said he had already written a letter asking Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa to stop the project, but the state seemed intent on implementing it.

"I am still awaiting a report from the Gadgil panel," he said. On the issue of laying a Hubli-Ankola railway line, another pet project of the Reddy mining magnates, Mr Ramesh stated that he was opposed to it as it would destroy the virgin bio-diversity hot spot of the nation.

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