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Rural Sustainable Footprints: Nature and Conservation Tourism in Chandrampalli

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ABSTRACT

Karnataka state's Kalaburagi district has been bestowed with abundant natural, historic, cultural and religious attractions that present substantial scope for development of tourism industry in the region. Among various places that have come up in the district recently, Chandrampalli in Chincholi taluk has great potential to emerge as a leading tourism spot. The primary attraction of Chandrampalli is its Chandrampalli Dam built on Bhima River in 1973. The dam, its reservoir, hilly terrain, forests and island topography offer unique tourist attractions for travelers looking for leisure and recreation experience. There are opportunities for various types of tourism at Chandrampalli due to the natural environment which include trekking, camping, nature trails, bird watching, photography of landscape, picnicking, and other forms of recreation activities. The presence of Gottam Gutta forest and the backwaters of the Chandrampalli reservoir adds value to the place for nature and eco-tourism purposes. Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary is located near Chandrampalli which makes it rich in vegetation, wildlife and bird species. There are possibilities of adventure and recreational tourism at Chandrampalli. With the reservoir and the surrounding landscape there could be scope for planned and regulated tourism activities. Development of trial boating activities shows that there are efforts to improve tourism facilities in the region. Besides, the close location of Chandrampalli to Gottam Gutta and seasonally waterfalls makes possible development of integrated Chincholi-Chandrampalli eco-tourism circuit.Chandrampalli also possesses potential for adventure and recreational tourism, with the reservoir and surrounding landscape providing scope for carefully planned and regulated activities. The development of trial boating activities indicates growing interest in enhancing tourism facilities in the area. In addition, the proximity of Chandrampalli to places such as Gottam Gutta and seasonal waterfalls provides an opportunity to develop an integrated Chincholi-Chandrampalli eco tourism. The development of tourism in Chandrampalli can help in boosting its economy through various means, such as homestay options, catering services for tourists, tour guiding, transport, handicrafts, camping, and adventure tourism, among others. However, the development of tourism should not take place without considering the need for sustainability. It is imperative that proper waste disposal, safety, protection of the environment, regulated tourism activities, community involvement, and training of tourism personnel is undertaken. Therefore, it can be said that Chandrampalli is a developing tourism destination for Kalaburagi. With the right infrastructure and planning, it has the ability to boost nature, eco, adventure, and leisure tourism in the district.

***Keywords**: Chandrampalli, Kalaburagi, Chincholi, Eco-tourism, Nature Tourism, Adventure Tourism, Bhima River, Gottam Gutta.*

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Introduction

Tourism is one of the major tools for regional development that not only creates employment opportunities but also helps to promote local businesses and conservation of natural and cultural heritage. In recent years, tourism has evolved from being traditional sightseeing to a wide variety of tourism activities based on nature, culture, adventure, heritage and community. Tourism destinations that have scenic value and recreational and educational potential can make a significant contribution to diversification of tourism sector of a region. Under these circumstances, search for emerging destinations is one of the important factors in improving tourism potential of a relatively less developed region.

There are lots of interesting and diverse tourism resources available in Kalaburagi district of Karnataka. For many years, this district has been visited by tourists owing to popular destinations like Gulbarga Fort, Sannati, Ganagapur, Khwaja Banda Nawaz Dargah and Buddha Vihara. These are just some examples of diverse tourism resources in this district, including history, architecture, religion, archaeology and culture. Besides these destinations, Kalaburagi also has natural landscape suitable for developing nature and adventure tourism.

Diversification of tourism products is especially relevant in a case of a district like Kalaburagi in that it will be possible to promote exploration of other areas apart from traditional tourism destinations. There could be natural attractions to supplement the existing heritage and religion tourism products, offering recreation and relaxation for the tourists. Diversification of tourism products can provide many opportunities for the local community by promoting development of services such as accommodations, transport, food services, guiding services and others.

Chandrampalli is an emerging destination in Chincholi taluk in Kalaburagi district. The most interesting aspect of this destination is the reservoir, hills, forests and beautiful landscape around the place. The Chandrampalli Dam built across Bhima river is the main attraction in the place. It has a combination of natural water bodies, hills and forest landscape suitable for different types of tourism.

Chandrampalli Dam has been listed as one of the points of interest in Kalaburagi district by the government of Karnataka whereas Karnataka Tourism also considers Chandrampalli as one of the tourism points of the district. The inclusion of Chandrampalli by the government clearly reflects the significance of this place in relation to tourism in the district. The attributes of this destination can help in developing various forms of tourism activities like trekking, camping, nature watching and photography.

One more significant attribute of Chandrampalli destination is that it lies in close proximity to Gottam Gutta forest and Chincholi landscape as well. The presence of both the reservoir and forest makes it possible for the tourists to explore various forms of nature in the same geographical location. It even helps in developing connections of this destination with other nearby destinations.

Therefore, considering the development of tourism, Chandrampalli can be seen as more than just a dam or reservoir; rather it can become a tourist destination with many resources for tourism. The environment, water landscape, hills, forest surroundings and culture together can help in creating a diversified tourist experience. On the other hand, development of the destination will also require considerations for environmental protection, visitor safety and community involvement.

Development of tourism in Chandrampalli can help in the economic development of the community as well. Increase in tourists can provide employment opportunities to local communities both directly and indirectly. Many small businesses like food business, transportation, accommodation, guiding, crafts and recreation can get the advantage of the increased number of tourists. Therefore, community involvement is an important aspect of making sure that the tourism development benefits the locals.

Tourism development needs to be planned and done in a sustainable way. Natural environment is one of the major resources in Chandrampalli for tourism development, and unplanned development can have negative effects on these resources. Waste management, visitor services, safety, environmental considerations and responsible tourism are thus essential.

Chandrampalli is one of the important areas to develop diversity in tourism at Kalaburagi District. The natural beauty, presence of the reservoir, hills, forest environment and culture in the area make it a perfect place for nature tourism, eco-tourism, adventure tourism and leisure tourism. If developed properly, Chandrampalli can be an important element in tourism policy of Kalaburagi.

Chandrampalli Dam and Its Natural Setting

The Chandrampalli Dam is a major tourist attraction of the Chandrampalli region. The dam is built on the Bhima River near Chandrampalli village, and the construction of the dam was completed in 1973. The dam consists of six gates, and a reservoir is formed which makes a substantial contribution to the scenic view of the destination. The existence of the reservoir helps to create a unique landscape where water body, hills and forest areas meet.

The natural scenery of the Chandrampalli region is one of the biggest tourism attractions of the region. The Government of Karnataka depicts the region as a place which is surrounded by plenty of natural beauty with mountains on both sides and Gottam Gutta forest at the backside. The combination of all this helps in creating scenic surroundings which can attract tourists who have interests in natural beauty and recreation.

One of the distinct elements of Chandrampalli is the island present in the middle of the reservoir. The island presents another interesting feature for tourists and adds to the uniqueness of the place. The island and the surrounding region may allow visitors to engage in camping and trekking, depending on the availability of appropriate facilities and conditions.

The presence of hills in the surroundings of the reservoir also opens up prospects for organizing recreational activities outdoors. Trekking and nature walks can be considered in the areas where it is possible. These activities can help tourists engage with the natural surroundings while also giving an opportunity to the local guides and tourism companies.

Another cultural component of the destination is the temple dedicated to the monkey god Hanuman situated in the nearby hills. Access to the temple is possible through a stairway from the island, and thus it offers cultural and spiritual aspects of tourism alongside with natural ones. The union of natural environment with religious site shows the possibility of development of tourism product combining nature, entertainment and culture.

The interaction between reservoir, island, hills, forest and temple gives unique features of tourism in Chandrampalli. Tourists will be able to enjoy scenic landscapes, outdoors activities and cultural aspects all within one destination. The diversity of the destination can attract various types of tourists like families, nature lovers, adventure seekers, photographers and students.

Eco-tourism and responsible tourism programs are other possibilities through the natural landscape of the destination. Tourism-related plans should be implemented in a way that helps protect the reservoir, the forests, and hills of the destination. Some of the facilities that could be included to enhance the experience of visitors and reduce environmental degradation are campsites, trekking trails, waste management facilities, and safety measures.

Hence, Chandrampalli Dam along with the natural landscape of the destination serves as the main tourism attractions of the destination. The reservoir offers recreational value while the hills serve as adventure opportunities. The forest setting offers nature-related experiences, and the temple provides the cultural aspect of the destination. Therefore, all these attractions serve as the foundation of the emerging destination of Chandrampalli of Kalaburagi.







Chandrampalli as a Nature Tourism Destination

Nature tourism can be developed around the landscape of Chandrampalli owing to the presence of water bodies, hills, forests, and open landscapes.

The Gottam Gutta forest near Chandrampalli which is located around 7 km away from Chandrampalli is surrounded by forests and the backwaters of the Chandrampalli reservoir. The description provided by the Karnataka Tourism website says that this place is ideal for camping and trekking.

The Chincholi region in general is rich in ecological importance. Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary was established in 2011 covering an area of 134.88 sq.kms, having dry and moist deciduous forests. Wildlife documented at Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary include blackbuck, common fox, four-horned antelope, hyena, and Indian wolf, among other birds.

Adventure and Recreational Tourism Potential

Chandrampalli offers prospects for various forms of adventure and recreation tourism in the form of:

- Trekking through the hills around Chandrampalli
- Recreational camping within suitable spots around the reservoir
- Nature walks and excursions into the forests
- Bird watching
- Landscape photography
- Family picnics
- Water-based recreational activities, if suitable measures for safety are ensured

The latest reports from March 2026 suggest that trial boat rides have been carried out at Chandrampalli reservoir in order to develop tourism facilities at the spot.

These trends imply the scope for developing tourism beyond merely sightseeing at Chandrampalli.

Connectivity with Other Tourist Attractions

Another key benefit of Chandrampalli lies in its connection with other tourist spots in Chincholi. Gottam Gutta, Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary, and some waterfalls like Yeti Pote Falls may form a part of the larger tourism circuit. According to Karnataka Tourism, these sites are included within the larger Chincholi tourism circuit.

This would make it possible for creating a tourism circuit of Chincholi-Chandrampalli, consisting of:

Chandrampalli Dam -> Gottam Gutta -> Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary -> Waterfalls -> Cultural sites

This would motivate tourists to visit multiple sites in the region.

Contribution to the Local Economy

The tourism industry at Chandrampalli can provide opportunities to the local community. The local community may benefit from:

- Homestays and accommodations
- Local foods and refreshments
- Guidance for tourists
- Travel facilities
- Local handicrafts and other products
- Adventure and camping
- Photography and cultural activities
- Tourism enterprises

For sustainable tourism to have positive impacts on the community, tourism activities must be in harmony with the local environment and culture.

Why Chandrampalli can Become a Prime Tourism Destination

- **Scenic Natural Landscape**

The most striking feature of Chandrampalli is its natural surroundings. The tank is surrounded by the hills and forest making it distinct from the arid landscapes commonly found in most of north Karnataka.

The presence of the Bhima River, the backwaters of the tank, and the vegetation in the surrounding area makes photography and nature walks an attractive prospect.

According to Karnataka Tourism, Chandrampalli is a scenic location in the Gottam Gutta mountain range.

Sustainable Tourism Development

Chandrampalli's natural setting is one of its most important tourism assets. Hence, there should be a concentration on developing tourism through responsible and sustainable means as opposed to unrestrained commercialization.

Some of the strategies might include:

- Adequate waste management facilities.
- Protection of the reservoir, forest cover, and wildlife.
- Clearly marked trekking paths.
- Safety provision for tourists.
- Regulated boating activities.
- Local community involvement.

- Tourist centers.
- Training of local guides.
- Controlled camping sites.
- Promotion of environmental responsibility among tourists.

Such measures could contribute to preserving the natural amenities that make Chandrampalli suitable for tourism.

Future Prospects

Chandrampalli has the potential to emerge as a nature and adventure tourism destination in the Kalaburagi district because the presence of the dam, hills, forests, the island terrain and Gottam Gutta as well as the Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary makes possible the creation of the necessary resources that would form a diverse tourist attraction. The Government of Karnataka already includes the Chandrampalli Dam among the places of interest in the district.

The future development of Chandrampalli Dam can concentrate on making it a managed destination involving ecological accommodation, trekking, boating, nature interpretation and photography.

Emerging Potential for Water-Based Tourism

Water tourism can become another significant factor for tourism development in Chandrampalli.

According to an article in Prajavani published in March 2026, there had been some attempts to do boating in Chandrampalli reservoir, with increasing interest in the tourism possibilities of the reservoir.

Prajavani: If boating becomes permanent, it has to have the following features:

- life jackets and mandatory safety equipment;
- trained operators of boats;
- designated boating areas;
- water level monitoring and weather conditions;
- emergency services;
- limits to the number of visitors;
- rules of environment conservation;
- garbage disposal measures.

In such a way, water tourism should become a controlled and sustainable activity.

Rural Tourism Opportunities

The other benefit of Chandrampalli lies in providing the scope for combining nature tourism with rural tourism.

Rural activities in this regard include:

- Cooking experiences using local food
- Walking around the village
- Making traditional crafts
- Folklore shows
- Tourism experience of agriculture
- Storytelling experiences
- Living in the local area
- Rural festivals
- Nature interpretation using indigenous knowledge

Such an effort would ensure that the money generated from tourism gets distributed among the local people.

This is especially important in Kalaburagi because of the rural tourism potential available there besides heritage tourism.

Community Participation as the Foundation of Sustainable Tourism

The success of Chandrampalli in the long run would hinge on the involvement of local communities.

Local people could be educated to become:

- Nature guides
- Trekking guides
- Canoe paddlers
- Homestay proprietors
- Local food suppliers
- Drivers
- Culture interpreters
- Photographers
- Tourism entrepreneurs
- Handicraft makers

Women and youths from nearby villages could also be engaged in tourism-related businesses.

Community-based tourism would create employment and at the same time make local people stake-holders in conservation.

Creating a Chandrampalli Tourism Circuit

Instead of promoting just the dam, a “Nature and Adventure Tourism Circuit” could be created with “Chandrampalli” as the brand name.

This circuit could take the form of:

- **Circuit 1 - Nature and Adventure**

  Chandrampalli Dam → Reservoir Island → Trekking → Gottam Gutta → Forest Trail

- **Circuit 2 - Wildlife and Nature**

  Chandrampalli → Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary → Nature Trail → Bird Watching → Local Village Experience

- **Circuit 3 - Water and Rural Tourism**

  Chandrampalli Reservoir → Boating → Local Cuisine → Local Village Visit → Sunset Experience

- **Circuit 4 - Heritage + Nature**

  Kalaburagi City → Heritage Sites → Chandrampalli → Gottam Gutta → Chincholi

Such circuits would make it possible for tourists visiting Kalaburagi for heritage and religious tourism to prolong their stay and enjoy nature.

Policy and Development Perspective

Chandrampalli is not a completely novel concept in tourism planning for Karnataka. Previously there has been some mention of Chandrampalli Dam and Chincholi as tourism destinations in Karnataka.

Therefore the question is not one of recognizing Chandrampalli as a tourism asset but rather to convert a natural tourism asset into a professionally managed and sustainable tourism destination.

This development process must include cooperation between:

- Karnataka Tourism
- Kalaburagi District administration
- Forests department
- Other local governance institutions
- Irrigation/water resource departments
- Local communities

- Tourism operators
- Education institutions
- Environmental agencies

Such collaboration will minimize piecemeal development and lead to an integrated management of the destination.

Conclusion

Chandrampalli is certainly among the best prospects in terms of developing Kalaburagi's tourism sector outside of the known religious and historical tourist spots.

The combination of Bhima River lake, surrounding hills, forests, islands, trekking possibilities, Gottam Gutta, proximity to Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary and rural areas constitute a base for a special kind of nature-based tourism destination. Tourism websites of the government consider Chandrampalli a tourist attraction and it has recently been reported that boating could become a part of tourism here. However, the success of Chandrampalli tourism shouldn't be judged only in terms of attracting visitors to the spot.

Tourism development in Chandrampalli will be a success if this place provides employment opportunities to locals, preserves the biodiversity of the place, encourages responsible tourism, strengthens the rural economy and provides enjoyable experiences for the tourists. With proper infrastructure, destination branding, community involvement and proper tourism planning Chandrampalli can become a unique nature and adventure tourism destination of Kalaburagi district.

In this sense, Chandrampalli can become more than a dam—it can become a gateway through which visitors discover the natural, rural and ecological identity of Kalaburagi.

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