

Regarding need to Develop Chikkaballapur in Karnataka as a tourist destination under PRASHAD and Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Schemes- laid

DR. K. SUDHAKAR (CHIKKBALLAPUR): Chikkaballapur and the surrounding regions stands today at the threshold of a remarkable opportunity. Blessed with sacred heritage sites such as the revered Sri Bhoga Nandeeshwara Temple, the spiritually uplifting Nandi Hills, the ancient Papagni Mutt, Subramanya Swamy Temple, and the neighbouring mystical Antharagange caves, Chikkaballapur and neighbouring regions are naturally poised to become one of Indias finest religious tourism destinations. Chintamani Taluk is a treasure trove of prehistoric sites. The rock paintings are believed to date back to the Neolithic period, roughly 10,000 years ago. Yet, despite attracting lakhs of pilgrims and visitors, the true potential of these treasures remains largely untapped. What we need now is a visionary push. With support under schemes like PRASHAD and Swadesh Darshan 2.0, we can build modern amenities, strengthen last-mile connectivity, create digital information centres, improve sanitation and safety infrastructure, and develop environmentally sustainable facilities that respect the sanctity of these sites. Enhanced facilities will generate employment, empower local communities, and support our artisans and farmers. Rural tourism especially village and farm tourism has huge potential in Chikkaballapur. I request the Government of India to support and make the region a model domestic and global tourism destination.