

Title: Need to declare Gulbarga in Karnataka as a tourist centre-Laid.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (GULBARGA): Sir, Gulbarga is a well-known place for holy shrines. It was an abode of saints and religious reformers belonging to various communities and religions. This place has the significance of having world-renowned shrine of Sufi Saint Hazrath Khwaja Banda Nawaz and other Sufi Saints and the temple of Sharanabasaveshwar. There is Sangam of river in Deval Gangapur and Malkhed near Gulbarga, where thousands of tourists visit to take the holy dip and *darshan* of the deity. Every year during the Urs celebration in Gulbarga and Halkatta of the famous Sufi Saints special trains are introduced from Hyderabad. There are a lot of temples and shrines in and around Gulbarga.

Gulbarga having the richest cultural heritage consisting of temples and holy shrines, the world famous and renowned Fort Mosque of the Bahamani Dynasty, Lake, riverbank and other places are of tourist interest. The recent excavations by Archaeological Department has brought to light the ancient and historical remains of Buddhist culture, the Buddha Vihar. In addition, Gulbarga is a place comprising of many educational institutions.

I request the Government to declare Gulbarga as a tourist centre.