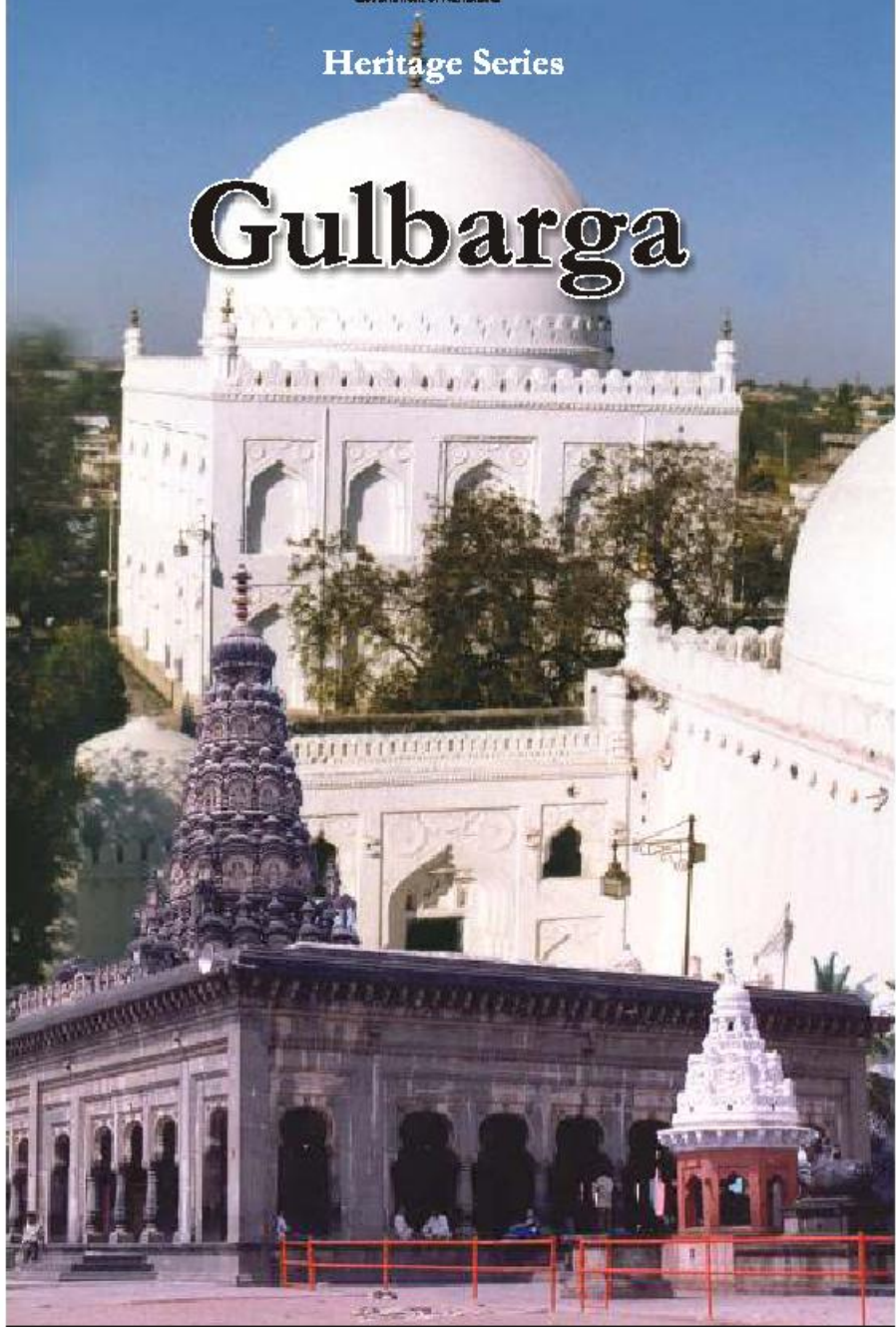




Government of Karnataka

Heritage Series

# Gulbarga



Department of  
Archaeology, Museums & Heritage  
Bangalore



Heritage Series

# Gulbarga

Editors

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Bangalore

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Department of  
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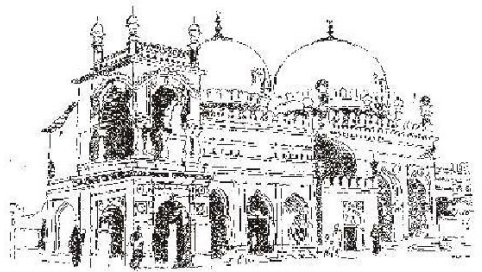
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# Gulbarga

**G**ulbarga, popularly called as Kalburgi by the local people, was once a capital of the Bahamani Kingdom. Gulbarga has a rich historical and cultural traditions. Bahamanis, the earliest Muslim empire of South India chose Gulbarga to be their capital and ruled from here from 1347 to 1424 A.D.

Gulbarga city is located on an undulating plain, presenting a vast stretch of black cotton soil. Being a Regional Headquarter of Government, it is an important city in the northern part of Karnataka. Situated 623 km north of Bangalore and 220 km west of Hyderabad, Gulbarga is well connected. The city with 4.30 lakh population (2001) is humming with number of educational institutions and variety of business activities.

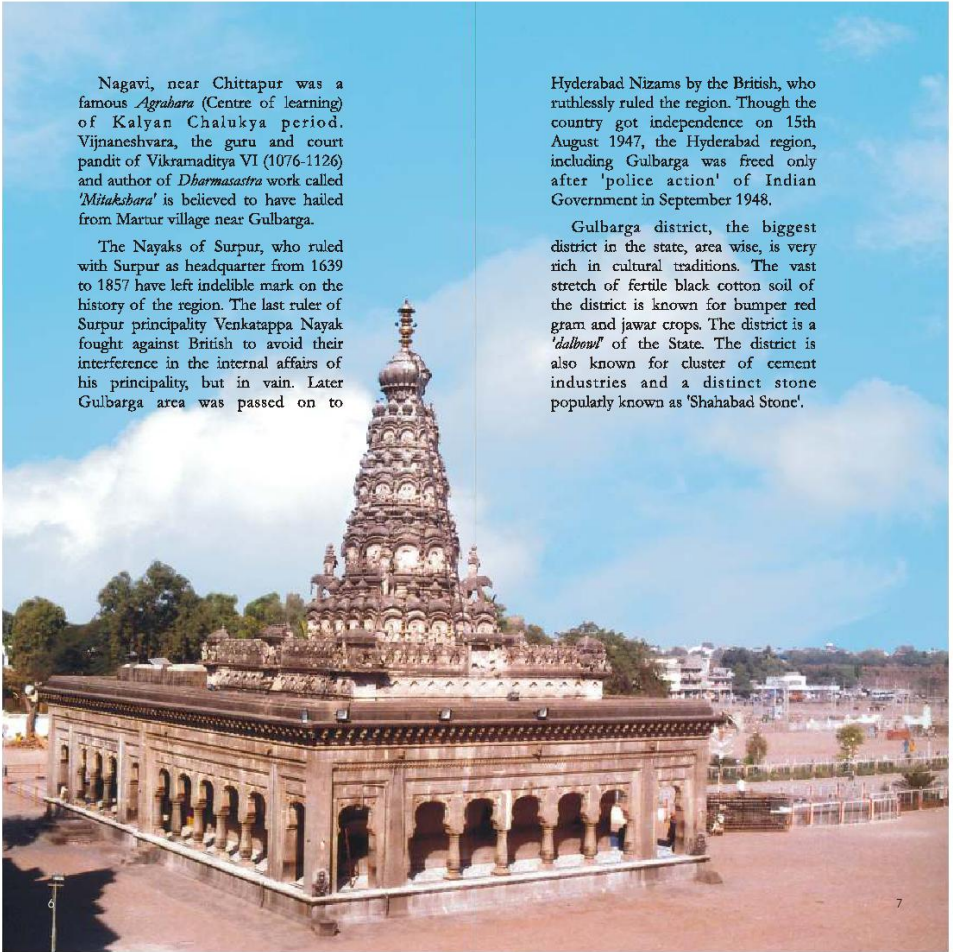
Mentioned as Kalburgi, Kalumbarige, Kalabarge etc. in ancient inscriptions Gulbarga is popularly known as 'Kalaburgi' by the locals. Gulbarga district has its roots deep in history. The famous dynasties of the South, the Satavahanas, the Chalukyas of Badami, the Rastrakutas, the Chalukyas of Kalyan, the Kalchuris, the Bahamani Sahis, the Adil Sahis, the Nizam Sahis have ruled over the district. Several Monuments of architectural importance have spread all over the district. Malakhed is believed to have been the capital of the Rashtrakutas. Earlier to it Sannati was an important city in the Southern part of Ashoka's empire. The excavations at Sannati have yielded relics of special significance dating back to Mauryan period.

Nagavi, near Chittapur was a famous *Agrahara* (Centre of learning) of Kalyan Chalukya period. Vijnaneshvara, the guru and court pandit of Vikramaditya VI (1076-1126) and author of *Dharmasastra* work called '*Mitaksbara*' is believed to have hailed from Martur village near Gulbarga.

The Nayaks of Surpur, who ruled with Surpur as headquarter from 1639 to 1857 have left indelible mark on the history of the region. The last ruler of Surpur principality Venkatappa Nayak fought against British to avoid their interference in the internal affairs of his principality, but in vain. Later Gulbarga area was passed on to

Hyderabad Nizams by the British, who ruthlessly ruled the region. Though the country got independence on 15th August 1947, the Hyderabad region, including Gulbarga was freed only after 'police action' of Indian Government in September 1948.

Gulbarga district, the biggest district in the state, area wise, is very rich in cultural traditions. The vast stretch of fertile black cotton soil of the district is known for bumper red gram and jawar crops. The district is a '*dalbowl*' of the State. The district is also known for cluster of cement industries and a distinct stone popularly known as '*Shahabad Stone*'.



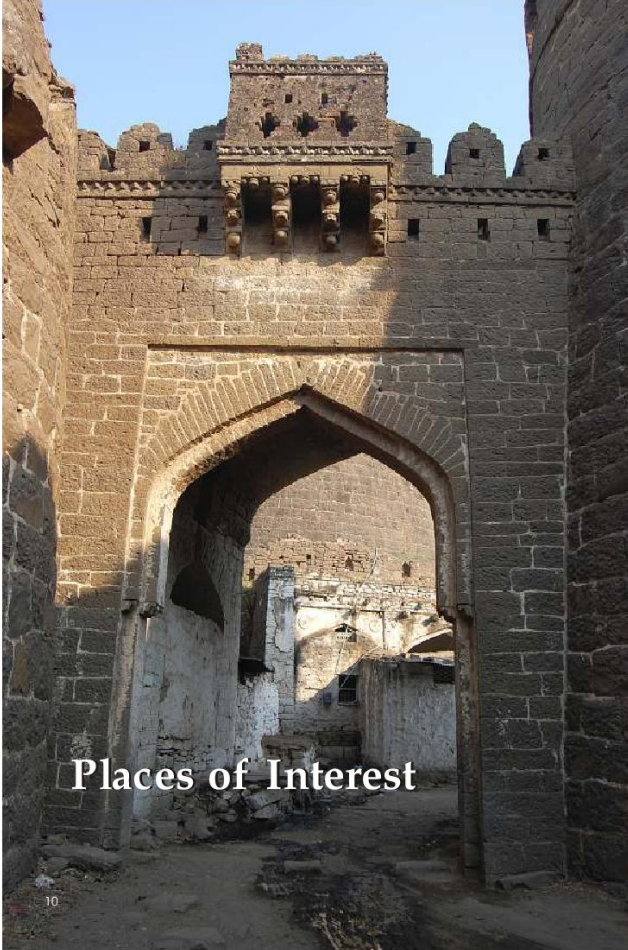


## Brief History

### The Bahamani Dynasty (1347-1528)

The Bahamani rulers with Gulbarga as their capital, stand out among other rulers for their contribution to the city of Gulbarga. The rebellion of the Deccan nobles against Delhi Sultanate resulted in the establishment of the first Muslim Kingdom of the Deccan at Gulbarga. The founder, Allaudin Hasan Gangu Bahamani (1347-58) made Gulbarga his capital and before his death he was the master of vast empire. His successors Muhammad Shah-I, Muhammad Shah-II, Firuz and other rulers extended the territories of the empire and made significant contributions to the field of art, architecture and literature. It was around 1425, during the reign of Ahmed Shah, the seat of Bahamani kingdom was shifted from Gulbarga to Bidar. The better climate of Bidar and its strategic location influenced his decision. With Bidar as capital till 1528 A.D, Bahamani's achievements were even more greater under the able leadership of Muhammad Gawan as Chief Administrator. In all 18 emperors of Bahamani Dynasty ruled from Gulbarga and Bidar. But the weakening of the last rulers of the dynasty and subsequent fall of Bahamani empire gave rise to the birth of five independent kingdoms at Bidar, Berar, Ahmednagar, Golkond and Bijapur.

In 1504 Gulbarga was permanently annexed to Adil Sahi kingdom of Bijapur. In 1657 with the invasion of Mir Jumla it passed into the hands of Mughals. Later with the establishment of Asaf Jahi (Nizam) Dynasty of Hyderabad (1724-1948) Gulbarga came under it. In 1863 when Nizam Government formed Jilbandi Surpur became district headquarter, with nine Taluks of which Gulbarga was one. In 1873 Gulbarga was formed into separate district with seven talukas. With reorganization of states in 1956 Gulbarga became part of Karnataka State and Divisional Headquarter.



## Places of Interest

The monuments of Gulbarga have an important place in the Indo-Saranic art which is known as Daccani Style. The style asserted its individual under the Bahamani's and reached its height under the Adilsahis. The Bahamanis affected local changes according to local environment in the Indo-Saranic System, evolved in the north by the Delhi Sultans.

The Bahamani rulers built Gulbarga city with Palaces, Mosques, Gumbazs, Bazaars and other public buildings. There are hundred large and small Mosques and seventy Dargahs in Gulbarga. The city is described as a 'Garden of Gumbazs'. So also number of Temples, Churches and other religious centers are spread all over the city.

## *Gulbarga Fort*

The Gulbarga Fort is said to have been built by Raja Gulachand, the king of Warangal and strengthened by Ala-ud-din Bahaman. The fort occupying an area of 20 acres of land and a circumference of 3km, consists of two rounds of fortifications. The outer fort wall is of lesser height while the inner fort wall is of greater height with 30 feet deep moat around.

There are 15 bastions with some 26 guns. One of the canons is about 25 feet long. Inside the fort is an elevated wada with few canons. There is a deep influence of western Asian and European military architecture in the construction of Gulbarga Fort. There are two main entrance gates to the fort, one in the east and other in the west, apart from several secret passages.

Fort Wall & Moat





The Bala-Hisser or Ran-Mandal refers to an elevated or high fort (inside the fort). This elevation gives the Ran-Mandal a commanding and panoramic view of the city. On this portion of the fort one can find three canons cast in metal.



Ran-Mandal

Cannon on Ran-Mandal





Another view of Fort wall & moat

Some beautiful temple remains of earlier period can also be seen inside the fort.



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Ruined Temples



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## *Jumma Masjid*

The palace and other structures inside the fort wall are now in ruins. But the Jumma Masjid, a noteworthy monument of Gulbarga is in well preserved condition. Built and completed in 1367 by Rafi an architect hailing from Iran, this distinctive Mosque has 250 arches and five large domes of which the central dome is 63 feet in diameter. It's interior surface is decorated with flowers and creepers.



Jumma Masjid (Before Conservation)



Jumma Masjid (Under Conservation)

Jumma Masjid  
Inside view



Top view of Jumma Masjid



There are 63 smaller domes. Along with impact of Persian architectural tradition, the Mosque has Indo-Islamic architectural features as well. The Mihrab of the mosque may be seen from anywhere in the mosque, all worshippers having a clear view.

It is said that it resembles the famous mosque of Cordova city in Spain. The Masjid measuring 216ft. east-west and 176ft. north-south covering an area of 38016 sqft happens to be the only mosque in India which is completely covered. Fergusson observes this "as one of the most remarkable of its class in India and in some respects unique".

Jumma Masjid  
inside



## *Shah Bazar Mosque*

Constructed during the reign of Mahammad Shah-I, the Shah Bazar Mosque is quiet attractive with beautiful columns, arches and domes. Infront of this mosque there is an arched entrance and on either side is tall minor. Inside there is an open courtyard and at the rear is the prayer hall. The Mosque has fifteen arched openings which lead to a sanctuary six bays deep enclosed by a wall. Each of the bays is surmounted by a small dome similar to the Tughalaq domes of Delhi.



## *Chor Gumbaz*

It is built on the top of a lonely hill and visible from distance. It has attractive Gumbaz and it is locally believed that it is entrance to a secret passage. Like the Gol Gumbaz of Bijapur this monument also echoes, but the immense proportion of Gol Gumbaz is not noticed in this monument. This tomb was supposedly built by a merchant for the Chishti Saint Gisu Daraz, who declined to use it because the merchant was a money lender. Hence it was abandoned and taken over by robbers as meeting place.



Inside view of Chor Gumbaz

The tomb is large, nearly thirty meters high with hemispherical dome and corner towers which have an arch in each side. Col. Meadows Taylor claims to have lived in it for some time and immortalized it in one of his literary work.

The tomb of the founder of Bahamani dynasty Ala-ud-din Hasan Gangu (1358), Muhammad Bahaman Shah-I (1375) and Muhammad Bahaman Shah-II (1397) can be seen on the left side of the road leading to Aland. The domes are attractive imitations of the tombs of pathans in North India. These tombs are more simple in nature compared to the well planned and decorated sepulchers of the later period.



Hasnaguru Bahamani Tomb



Tomb of Mohammed Shah II

### *Sath Gumbaz (Haft Gumbaz)*

The gumbazs located on the way to Khwaza Banda Nawaz Dargah consists of the tombs of Bahamani rulers and their military commanders. Of these the tombs of Mujahid and Taj-ud-din Firuz are monumental and distinctive.

Tomb Gate



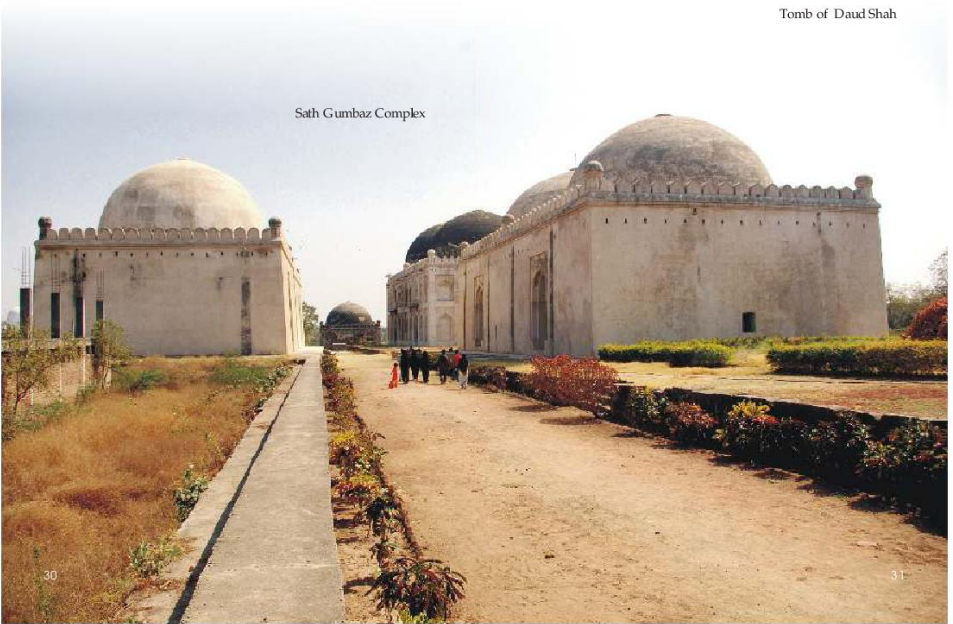


The domes of this form can be seen in various parts of Gulbarga city. This group of seven tombs are exceptional as they represent a structural arrangement not found elsewhere. This consisted in building the tomb in a double form of two mortuary chambers, one containing the cenotaph of King and the other those of his family. The tomb of Daud Shah is a double tomb i.e., two square domed tombs joined together by a narrow



Tomb of Daud Shah

Sath Gumbaz Complex



corridor built into the thickness of the walls. The Mausoleum of Taj-ud-din Firuz, the last of the Bahamani line who ruled from Gulbarga is a large and imposing monument, it marks a considerable advance in tomb architecture. Its elevational aspects is in two stories each consisting of an arcade arches some ornamented with perforated

screens. The double storied facade is seen here for the first time in Deccan. The highly decorated domes with rich plastic ornamentation stand out among Gulbarga mausoleums.

The change of capital from Gulbarga to Bidar gave an impetus to the building art. One can see more remarkable constructional features at Bidar.

Tomb of Firoz Shah Bahmani



## *Khwaja Banda Nawaz*

Sayyad Hazrat Khwaja Banda Nawaz Gesu Daraz (Rh) was a sufi saint. He came to Gulbarga for propogation of Islam. A Persian scholar to begin with, he learnt Urdu. He wrote many works in both languages and lived in Gulbarga from 1407 to 1422. The Saint was much revered and respected by all alike. The annual Urus in his memory takes place on the 15th of Zakid month which attracts devotees from all over the country. Lot of Hindu devotees also attend the Urus.

The Dargah located amidst number of large and small tombs in a compound, is known for its religious as well as architectural features. The construction of Dargah begun two years after his death and was completed seven years later. The simple walls of the Dargah are decorated with sentences from the Quran painted in gold. The paintings on the walls and domes are in Turkistani and Iranian style.

Bijapuri Arch and Mosque



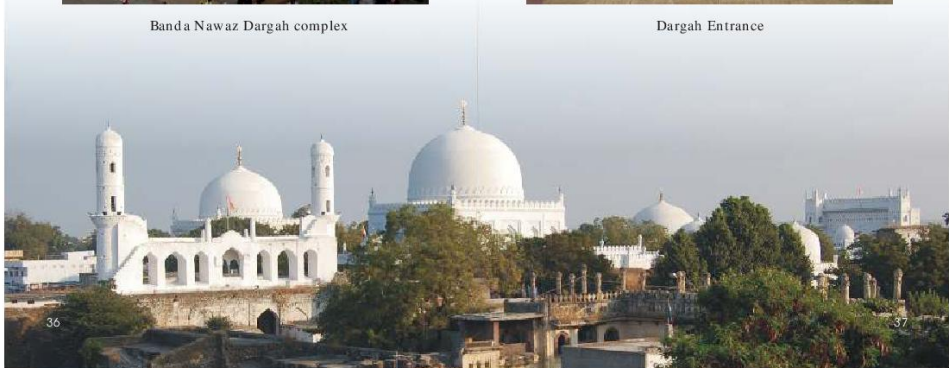
The saints corporal remains are preserved in Dargah. Besides this, is located the Dargah of saint's son. The library in the premises is having rare books on history, philosophy and religion.



Banda Nawaz Dargah complex



Dargah Entrance



## *Sharan Basaveswar Temple*

Sharan Basaveswar (1743-1822), a native of Aralgundagi village in Jewarji Taluk, came propagating Virasaivism and made Gulbarga his area of activity. He passed away at Gulbarga and a temple was built in due course over his sacred tomb. Adi Doddappa Sharana became his disciple and stood by him. Their joint effort resulted in founding the *Sharana Basaveswara Mabadasaba Pitba*.



Deity  
Sri Sharana  
Basaveswara



Sharan Basaveswar Temple

The Sharana Basaveswar temple assumed its present form during 1912-15. Some additions were made in 1977. It is an excellent piece of architecture of 20th century. The *Sabhamandapa* constructed using pilasters, independent pillars, pillar pairs and 36 arches is very attractive. Pillars are decorated with peacock, garuda, naga, parrot, elephant etc.,

There are several interesting constructions in the premises. Sharan Basaveswar fair takes place for 15 days commencing from Chaitra Bahula Panchami. The Fair and Urus are integral part of cultural heritage of Gulbarga. They draw devotees from all walks of life.

Mahatma Gandhiji visited the temple in 1927. During freedom struggle also the *Sharana Basaveswara Dasoba Pitba* had played an important role. Now it runs number of educational institutions.

Pillars of Sharan Basaveswar Temple



The Vittal temple on the station road (1717) renovated in 1848 enshrines 2 ½ feet Vithala Rukmajji Sculptures.

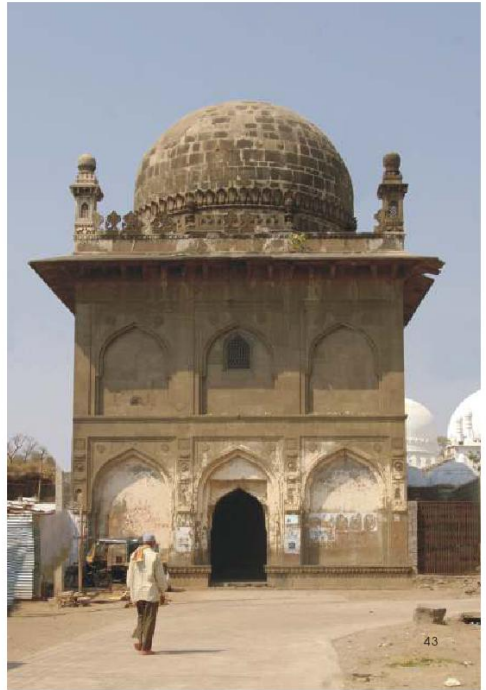
Few Jain Mandirs, Churches and numerous Temples of recent period are spread all over the city.

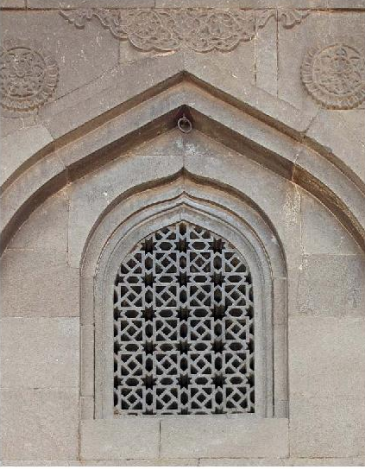
Vittal temple



### *Tomb of Chand Bibi*

The beautiful tomb of Chand Bibi, near Banda Nawaz is a two storied structures with inched arches set in rectangular panels. A projecting slab runs along the edge at the top. There is no cenotaph inside the tomb. Hence the tomb remains empty.





Window, Chand Bibi Tomb

Several Dargas and Mosques which are architecturally important are spread all over Gulbarga city. Of these H.Karnal Mosque near Khwaja Banda Nawaz, old Idaga, Dargha of Hazrat Shaikh Sirajuddin Junaidi, the Langar-ki-Masjid, Hirapur Mosque and well, Qalandar Khan's dargha are prominent. The elegant structures and plain arches and domes and rising minarets of these monuments take us to the bygone Bhamani era. Some of the monuments have become anonymous with the passage of time. Adil Shahis of Bijapur also built and added to the monuments at Gulbarga. Recent additions and alterations are also made to some of the monuments, thus affecting the heritage character of the building.



Bodki Gumbad



Govt. Museum



Mini Vidhana Souda





Old Gate



Gate - Mini Vidhana Souda



Ibrahim Adilshahi Masjid - Hirapur

Langarki Masjid & Gumbaz





Gateway - Hazrat Shaikh Sirajuddin Juraidi Dargah (Rh)



Buddh Vihara



Qalandar Khan's Dargah

## *Aiwan-e-Shahi*

The building, rustic in appearance is distinguished by use of two kinds of stone one of a darker shade and the other of a lighter shade. Each wall is characterized by three divisions, the central one being an arched opening and flanked on each side by horse shoe shaped arch windows. Constructed during Nizams period the building used as a rest house of Nizams, stand out as a prominent monument of pre-independence period.



## *Appankere*

A huge water body which is an integral part of Gulbarga natural heritage is a Tank, popularly called as "Appankere". Situated in the centre of the city, the tank presents an impressive look when it is full. The tank bund and the garden nearby is a popular outing place for the locals.



Tank - Jumma Masjid background

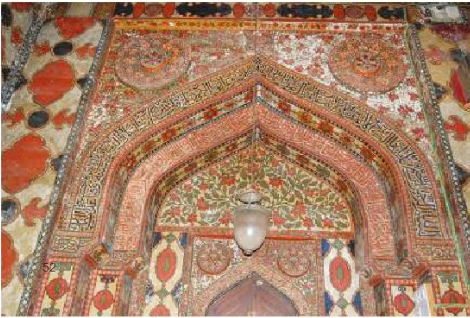
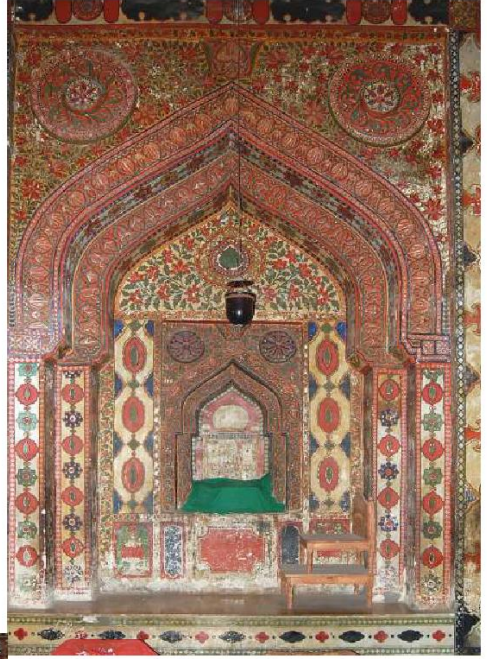
Garden



## *Gulbarga Paintings*

Though not much of Bahamani period painting could be seen at Gulbarga, some calligraphy and design drawings can be seen in the premises of the tomb of Banda Nawaz. Some traces of paintings can also be seen in Firoz Shah tomb and Chor Gumbaz. Many designs of stars, interwoven honey combs can be seen here. Surpur kings were great patrons of art. Garudadri style of art patronised by Surpur Nayaks was very popular in the area.

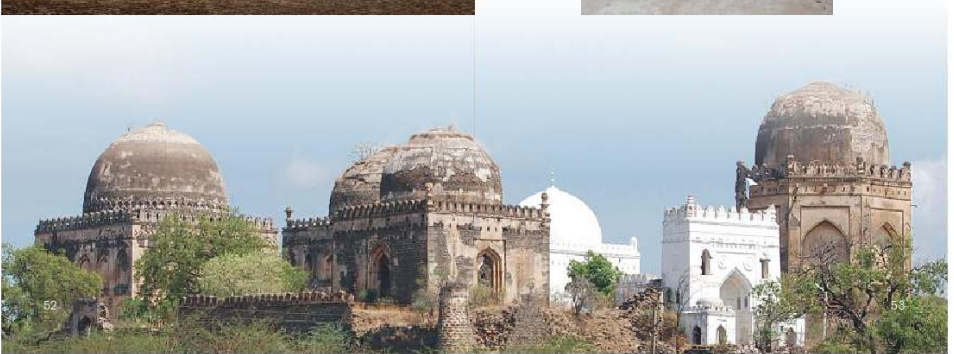
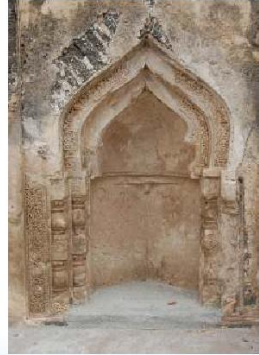
Beginning of twentieth century gave rise to new generation of artists in Gulbarga. Of them Sri S.M.Pandit, Sri J.S. Khanderao, Sri V.G. Andani are renowned in the state and outside as well.



The Art Schools at Gulbarga train number of young artists every year who are making their mark in different art forms at state and national level.

## *Holakunda Monuments*

The tombs at Holakunda (28km north of Gulbarga) belonging to significant personalities of the Bahamani Empire with beautiful gumbazs, resemble the Haft gumbazs of Gulbarga.



## *Firozabad Monuments*

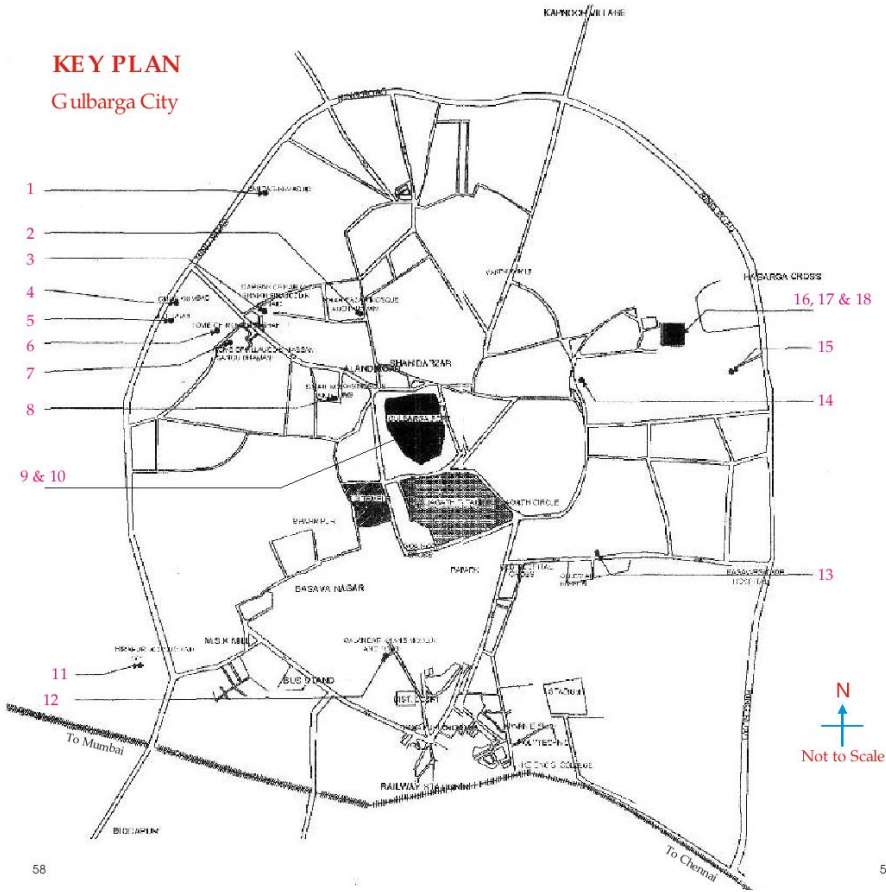
Firoz Shah Bahamani (1397-1422) built a capital on the Bank of Bhima river on lines similar to Akabar's Fatehpur Sikri. He built beautiful Palace, Fort, Mosque and gateways and called it Firozabad (34km South of Gulbarga).



The ruins at Firozabad speak volumes about the beginning of Indo-Islamic style of construction. Though the Bahamani capital was supposed to be shifted to Firozabad for strategic reasons but it could not become the capital and instead the capital was shifted to Bidar by Ahmed Shah I after 1424. Flooding in Bhima was also said to have influenced the decision.



**KEY PLAN**  
Gulbarga City



### *List of Monuments*

1. Langar - Ki- Masjid
2. Shah Bazar Mosque & Hummam
3. Dargah of Hazrat Shaikh Sirajuddin Junaidi
4. Chor Gumbaz
5. Old Idgah
6. Tomb of Mohammed Shah-1
7. Tomb of Ala-ud-din Hasan Gangu Bahmani
8. Siddi Ambar's Tomb Ismail Mukh's Mosque and grave
9. Gulbarga Fort
10. Jumma Masjid
11. Hirapur Mosque and Well
12. Qualnder Khan's Mosque and Tomb
13. Govt. Museum
14. Haft Gumbaz (Royal Tombs or Seven Tombs)
15. Dargah Mosque and Sarai of H. Kamal Mujarrad
16. Dargah of Sayyad Hazrat Khwaja Banda Nawaz Mohammad Gesu Daraz (Rh)
17. The large Bijapuri Arch and Afzal Khan's Mosque
18. Chand Bibi's Tomb

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