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Title: Need to declare Barpeta town in Assam as a heritage city- laid

SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE (BARPETA): Barpeta is situated at a distance of 137 km from Guwahati. Barpeta is undoubtedly regarded as an important cultural town for its unique socio-religious and cultural heritage. Barpeta is known as Satranagari, for its innumerable satras and monuments established by the Vaishnavite saint Mahapurush Madhabdev, the chief disciple of Srimanta Sankardeva who laid a strong pillar of Assamese culture through his socio-religious Vaishnavite movement. Barpeta became the nerve centre of Vaishnavite culture as Srimanta Sankardev himself preached vaishnavite in the area. The Barpeta Satra was established in the 16th century by Mahapurush Madhavdev. As Barpeta is the Land of Satras, so all the fairs and festivals, rituals and ceremonies, observances are associated with it and centred on Kirtanghar. The people of Barpeta celebrate the festivals and ceremonies with satriya tradition. Barpeta is also famous for its traditional art heritage. Famous Vrindabani Bastra was woven by Gopal Tanti. Barpeta is also famous for making of traditional gold ornaments since the medieval period. There are many traditional cultural and economic activities which are prevalent in and around Barpeta. There are 12 heritage cities in India and Barpeta too deserves to be in the list for many a historical reasons. Once the heritage status is given to Barpeta, there would be an

overall development in the area which would also improve the socio-economic condition of the people. So, I urge the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to declare Barpeta Town as a heritage city and usher in the economic development of the area.