

REGISTRATION FORM

Title: Prof./Dr./Mr./Ms.

Name:.....

Designation:.....Organization/Institution:.....

Address:.....

City :..... Postal code:..... Country:.....

E-mail Mobile Tel

Name of accompanying person(s) (if any) :.....

For foreign delegates only

Nationality..... Passport No.:Date and Place of issue

Registration fee

The registration fee includes conference kit, access to inaugural function, scientific sessions, exhibitions, lunch, dinner and session tea.

Category	Upto Aug 31, 2010	After Aug 31, 2010	On Spot
Student*	Rs. 1000	Rs. 1250	Rs. 1500
Faculty member	Rs. 1500	Rs. 1750	Rs. 2000
Accompanying person**	Rs. 750	Rs. 1000	Rs. 1250
Foreign delegate	USD 100	USD 125	USD 150

*Endorsement by the supervisor,

**Excludes registration kit.

Mode of Presentation (Indicate preference)

Symposium

Presentation by Young Scientists: Oral /Poster (Size: 1mx1m)

Broad Area:.....

Sub Area:.....

Title of presentation:.....

Signature

Date :

Place:

ACCOMMODATION FORM

Limited accommodation is available on first come first serve basis to early registered participants in the guest house (Rs.400/- per night). Hotel accommodation is also available and may be booked directly or through travel agents (Email:omsaiconference@gmail.com). As November is the festival season, the city is full of tourists. It will be difficult to arrange accommodation without advance payment and for those registered late.

Name.....

Male/Female.....DesignationAge.....

Organization/Institution.....

.....

Phone :..... E-mail :.....

Accompanying person(s): Name:.....Male/Female :.....Age.....

Mode of Payment

All payments should be made through the demand draft drawn in favor of **Brain Aging Symposium 2010, BHU** payable at **Varanasi**. The duly filled Registration form along with fees and Accommodation form along with charges for the entire period of stay should reach the **Convener** by **August, 31, 2010**.

Draft No..... Date of issue

Amount: Registration feeAccommodation charges.....Total.....

TRAVEL INFORMATION FORM

To avoid any inconvenience, the participants should send their travel schedule to the Convener latest by **October 31, 2010**

Full Name..... Male/Female.....

Designation

Organization/Institution.....

Accompanying person(s): Name:..... Male/Female :.....

Arrival:

Date..... Time..... AM/PM Flight/ Train No.....

Departure:

Date..... Time..... AM/PM Flight/Train No.....

ABOUT VARANASI

Varanasi, also known as Benares, Banaras, or Benaras is a famous Hindu holy city situated on the banks of the river Ganges (Ganga) in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. It is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world, dating back thousands of years. The city is called Kashi, "the luminous" (city of light) in the Rigveda. It is often also referred to as "city of temples and learning."

Geography and Climate

The city of Varanasi is located in the middle Ganga valley of North India, in the Eastern part of the state of Uttar Pradesh, along the left crescent-shaped bank of the Ganga river. It has a humid subtropical climate with large variations between summer and winter temperatures. Summers are long-stretching from early April to October - with the monsoon season in between. Cold waves from the Himalayan region cause temperatures to dip across the city in the winter from December to February. The average temperature is 32°C–46°C in the Summer and 5°C–15°C in the Winter. November is pleasant and quite comfortable with light woolen clothes.

People and culture

The culture of Varanasi is deeply associated with the river Ganges and the river's religious importance. The city has been a cultural and religious center in northern India for thousands of years. Varanasi has its own style of classical Hindustani music, and has produced prominent philosophers, poets, writers and musicians in Indian history, including Kabir, Ravi Das, Munshi Premchand, Jaishankar Prasad, Acharya Ram Chandra Shukla, Pandit Ravi Shankar, Hariprasad Chaurasia and Ustad Bismillah Khan. Tulsidas wrote his Ramcharitmanas here, and Gautam Buddha gave his first sermon at Sarnath near Kashi. The language spoken in Varanasi is Kashika Bhojpuri which is closely related to Hindi.

Regions near the banks of the Ganges are extremely crowded and house several Hindu temples, narrow winding lanes and road-side shops. Varanasi has nearly 100 ghats, most of which are bathing ghats, while some others are for cremation. According to Hindu belief, dying at Kasi ensures release from the eternal cycle of birth and rebirth. Various legends are associated with the ghats and it is believed that Dasaswamedh Ghat is where Lord Brahma sacrificed 10 horses in a yajna. Manikarnika Ghat is the place where Lord Vishnu dug a pit with his Chakra and, while performing various penances, filled it with his perspiration. While Lord Shiva was watching him, his earring (Manik) fell into the pit, and hence the name. Among other interesting ghats are Tulsi Ghat where Tulsidas wrote Ramcharitmanas.

Holy city

Varanasi is a holy city in Hinduism, one of the most sacred pilgrimage places for Hindus. The Hindu God Shiva supposedly once lived there making many Hindus want to go there on a pilgrimage. More than 1,000,000 pilgrims visit the city each year. Here is the holy shrine of Lord Kashi Vishwanath (an aspect of Lord Shiva) and one of the twelve revered Jyotirlingas of the Lord Shiva. Hindus believe that bathing in the river Ganga will remit sins and that dying in the holy city of Kashi (Varanasi) circumvents rebirth. This holy city is worshipped as one of the Shakti Peethas where Divine Mother Sati's earring fell and so devotees believe that on that spot stands the present Vishalakshi Temple and Hindus of the shakti sect come to the city because the

river itself is said to be shakti (goddess) . It is here that Adi Shankara wrote his commentaries on Hinduism, leading to the great Hindu revival.

Varanasi has also links with Buddhism, Islam and Jainism. It is believed to be the birthplace of Parshvanatha, the twenty-third Tirthankar. In the residential neighbourhood of the city lies Sarnath, the site of the deer park where Gautama Buddha is said to have given his first sermon about the basic principles of Buddhism. It is one of the four pilgrimage sites designated by Gautama Buddha, the other three being Kushinagar, Bodh Gaya, and Lumbini. The Dhamek Stupa is one of the few pre-Ashokan stupas remaining, although only the foundations remain. Also remaining is the Chaukhandi Stupa commemorating the spot where the Buddha met his first disciples, dating back to the fifth century or earlier and later enhanced by the addition of an octagonal tower.

Temples

Varanasi is a city of temples. Almost every road crossing has a nearby temple. Such small temples form the basis of daily local prayers and other rituals. There are many large temples too, erected at different times throughout the history of Varanasi.

Kashi Vishwanath Temple, also called Golden Temple, which in its present shape was built in 1780 by Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar of Indore, is located on the outskirts of the Ganga. This temple makes Varanasi a place of great religious importance to the Hindus, as Vishweshwara or Vishwanatha, the aforementioned Jyotirlinga of the Lord Shiva is enshrined here. Durga Temple, also nicknamed "Monkey temple," was built in 18th century by a Bengali Queen. The temple got the name 'Monkey temple' because of the presence of large number of monkeys in the temple. Thousands of Hindu devotees visit the Durga temple during Navratri and other auspicious occasions. The temple is accompanied by a rectangular tank of water called Durga Kund. ("Kund" meaning a pond or pool.) The temple has multi-tiered spires and is stained red with ochre, signifying the red colour of Durga.

Sankat Mochan Temple is dedicated to Lord Hanuman and is very popular with the local citizens. It is a place for many yearly religious as well as cultural festivals. The new Vishwanath Temple, called Birla Mandir, mainly funded by Raja Birla of the Birla family of industrialists, was built as a replica of the old Kashi Vishwanath Temple. Planned by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, the temple is part of the Banaras Hindu University, and stands for national revival. The temple is open to people of all castes and religions.

Art

A holy city, Varanasi does not take a backseat when it comes to fine arts and literature. Great Indian writers have lived in this city from Kabir, Ravi Das, and Tulsidas to Bharatendu Harishchandra, Jayshankar Prasad, Acharya Ram Chandra Shukla, Munshi Prem Chand, and many other notables. Art lovers and historians like Rai Krishnadas, musicians like Pt. Omkarnath Thakur, Pt. Ravi Shankar, Ustad Bismillah Khan, Girija Devi, Sitara Devi, Gopi Krishna, Pt. Kishan Maharaj, and numerous others have kept the city alive to the spiritual aspect of fine arts apart from their ability to entertain. Numerous festivals are celebrated that preserve traditional styles of classical and folk culture. All night, open music concerts like ones organised at Sankat Mochan Temple, Hori, Kajri and Chaiti Mela, Budwa Mangal, are annual features that draw connoisseurs from all over.

Economy

Varanasi has several small cottage industries, including Silk sari making, the production of textiles such as hand-woven carpets, and handicrafts. The world famous Banarasi Pan (betel leaves) and Banarasi Khoa (a milk product, somewhat similar to cheese) are popular, and the related small-scale industries employ many people. Indian Railways runs a major diesel locomotive factory in Varanasi,

Transport

Varanasi is well connected to Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata, and Nepal by air, rail and buses and all the important places of India. All the major domestic Indian carriers like Jet Airways, Kingfisher Airlines, Indian Airlines, Spicejet, and Alliance Air operate from here. From ancient times the city was connected to cities like Taxila, Ghazipur, Pataliputra, Vaishali, Ayodhya, Gorakhpur, Agra etc. The city was connected through a single road from Taxila going through Pataliputra during the Mauryan empire. This road was later renovated and extended by Sher Shah Suri during the 16th century and later came to be known as the famous Grand Trunk Road. Auto Rickshaw and Rickshaw are the most widely available public transport within Varanasi. In outer regions of the city, mini-buses are common. Small boats and small steamers are used to cross the river Ganga.

Education

In Indian tradition, Varanasi is often called "Sarva Vidya Ki Rajdhani" (capital of all knowledge). Varanasi is the site of three public universities. Banaras Hindu University, which includes Institute of Technology, Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Institute of Medical Sciences, is among the top 3 largest residential universities in the world having more than 128 independent teaching departments. Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth University and Sampurnanand Sanskrit University are the other two universities.

Banaras Hindu University (1916) was founded by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya with the cooperation of Dr Annie Besant. Its 1350 acre (5.5 km²) campus was built on land donated by the then Maharaja of Kashi. Governor General Lord Cornwallis established the Sanskrit College (1791), which was the first college in Varanasi. After independence this college turned to in Sampurnanand Sanskrit University. Central Institute for Higher Tibetan Studies at Sarnath is a deemed university with a preference for the traditional Tibetan method of teaching within a framework of modern universities. Uday Pratap College, another deemed university, is the center of sports and science study for the suburban students of modern Benares. Varanasi is also noted for many private and public institutes.

Tourism

Probably due to its unique culture, Varanasi is a major tourist destination for foreign tourists in India. A number of 3, 4 and 5 star hotels are present in the city. All sort of cuisines are available mostly as street food due to rich and hospitable culture of Varanasi.

Varanasi is a noted centre for silk weaving and brassware. Fine silks and brocaded fabrics, exquisite saris, brassware, jewellery, woodcraft, carpets, wall hangings, lamp shades and masks of Hindu and Buddhist deities are some of Varanasi's shopping attractions. The main shopping areas include the Chowk, Godaulia, Vishwanath Lane, Lahurabir, Maldahiya, Sigra and Thatheri Bazaar.