

Satish Chandra Memorial School

Class XI

Case Study and HOTS

English

Read the passage and answer the questions

Varanasi, also known as the holy land of India has a rich history filled with art and traditions. The city is a beautiful maze that has life in every nook and corner. While there is rush and chaos, there are colours, and tranquillity that float harmoniously in this holy land of India. There are also many [hotels in Varanasi](#) that you can stay in at, while you plan a trip to this place. Though there are reasons umpteen for you to visit Varanasi, the facts laid below are sure to fascinate you even more.

Here are a few interesting facts that you should know about the holy land, Varanasi:

- 1.** Varanasi or Benaras is one of the most ancient living cities in the world dating over 3000 years. It has maintained its 'vibe' despite growing modernism and commercialisation. This city on the banks of river Ganga is also one of the most popular tourist destinations in India.
- 2.** It is believed that the individual who takes his final breath in Old Varanasi will most likely accomplish salvation. Considered as "Mahashamshana" or "the huge crematorium ground"; bodies of the departed are brought here from far-off places at Manikarnika Ghat.
- 3.** This holy land is the origin of the 23rd Tirthankara (saviour in Jainism), named Parsvanath. Also known Parshva, Parsvanath is one of the four Tirthankaras that have the most Jain devotees. Tirthankaras are the ford-makers and teachers of Jainism.
- 4.** It is the only place on the planet, which has 84 Ghats, making it the city with the most astounding number of stream banks on the planet.
- 5.** Banaras Hindu University of Benaras is one of the greatest colleges on the planet offering courses in Hindu sacred writings – Vedas.
- 6.** Marriage of a frog – a bizarre tradition is conducted in Varanasi with much enthusiasm and show to please the Rain Gods. Hundreds assemble at Ashwamedh Ghat to witness this intriguing frog marriage conducted by a Hindu cleric.

7. Famous artists like Pandit Ravi Shankar and Ustad Bismillah Khan have their roots in Varanasi.

8. Each year a huge number of travellers come here and several of them make this place their home – such is the wealth of this devout place!

9. Varanasi witnesses huge crowd during festivals like the five-day long music festival- Drupad Mela (February-March), and the Ganga Mahotsav a grand festival held in November on the banks of River Ganga.

10. Varanasi is also famous for its Benarsi silk saris. Historians trace the silk work in Varanasi to the Vedic times.

Q1. Have you ever gone to Varanasi? If yes write about the trip. If no, then write about why you want to travel there?

Q2. How old is the city?

Q3. Do you know about the prominence of Bengalis in Varanasi?

Q4. Name the festivals held in Varanasi.

Q5. Who is Ravi Shankar?

Q6. Describe the bizarre tradition of Varanasi.

Q7. How many ghats are there in the city?

Q8. Name the renowned University in Varanasi. Why is it famous?

Q9. What is the belief in cremating the departed in Varanasi?

Q10. Name the origin of 23 rd Tirthankara in Jainism. Write a few sentences about Mahavira.