

Amarnath yatra, 2022

March 30, 2022

In news- The annual pilgrimage to the shrine of Amarnath will commence on June 30, 2022.

About Amarnath yatra-

- Amarnath is one of the most famous pilgrimage destinations among Hindu devotees and is **organized every year by the government of Jammu and Kashmir**.
- **As per Hindu mythology, the Amarnath Cave is where God Shiva was narrating Amar Katha** (the story of becoming immortal) to **Goddess Parvati** and wanted to keep it a secret.
- **The Yatra trek through the mountains of south Kashmir Himalayas to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Amarnathji** is made available only in the months of summer to pay obeisance.
- Here, the image of **Lord Shiva is in the form of a Lingam, is formed naturally of ice – stalagmite, and which waxes and wanes with the moon**.
- **The main cave, which is situated at a height of about 12,756 feet** remains covered with snow most of the year except for a short time in summer.
- **Situated in a narrow gorge at the farther end of Lidder Valley, Amarnath Shrine** is 46 Km from Pahalgam and 14 Kms from Baltal.
- **It usually commences on the auspicious day of Skanda Shasti as per Hindu Calendar**, and shall conclude on Shravan Purnima (Raksha Bandan).
- **Every year 'Amarnath Yatra' is marked by 'Pratham Puja'** which is said to summon the blessings of Baba Amarnath, which draws a large number of Shiva's Bhakts from every corner of the world.
- **The Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Amarnathji is managed by Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB)**, which was constituted by an Act of the Jammu & Kashmir State

Legislature in 2000 with the **Governor of Jammu and Kashmir as its ex-officio Chairman.**

- The Amarnath yatra was cancelled midway in 2019 before the abrogation of Article 370 in August that year. For the last two years due to the coronavirus pandemic, a symbolic yatra was observed.