

Sharada Peeth corridor

March 27, 2023

In news— Recently, The Union Home Minister has said that the government will move forward to open Sharda Peeth on the lines of the Kartarpur corridor.

About Sharda Peeth-

- Sharda Peeth, **a revered site for the Hindu community, is located in Neelum Valley in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK)** across Teetwal village(in the Neelum Valley) in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir, along the Line of Control (LoC).
- It is situated 1,981 metres (6,499 ft) above sea level, along the Neelum River in the village of Sharda, in the valley of Mount Harmukh, believed by Kashmiri Pandits to be the abode of Shiva.
- **It was among the most prominent temple universities in the Indian subcontinent.**
- Known in particular for its library, stories recount scholars travelling long distances to access its texts.
- It played a **key role in the development and popularisation of the Sharada script in North India**, causing the script to be named after it, and Kashmir to acquire the moniker **“Sharada Desh”, meaning “country of Sharada”**.
- As one of the Maha Shakti Peethas, Hindus believe that **it represents the spiritual location of the goddess Sati’s fallen right hand.**
- Sharada Peeth is **one of the three holiest sites of pilgrimage for Kashmiri Pandits**, alongside the Martand Sun Temple and the Amarnath Temple.
- The beginnings of Sharada Peeth are uncertain, and the question of origins difficult, because Sharada Peeth might have been both a temple and an educational institution.

- It was probably commissioned by Lalitaditya Muktapida (r. 724 CE–760 CE) though no definitive evidence exists in favor.
- Al-Biruni recorded the place for the first time, as a revered shrine housing a wooden image of Sharda – however, he had never ventured into Kashmir and based his observations on hearsay.