



Motorable Road to Amarnath Cave Shrine

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Why in News?

The [Border Roads Organisation \(BRO\)](#) has completed the construction of a motorable road that connects the [Amarnath cave shrine](#) in Kashmir's Lidder Valley with **the Baltal base camp**, making the pilgrimage more accessible and comfortable for the devotees.

- This milestone resulted from the successful upgrade of the **Baltal road**, a feat accomplished through the continuous efforts of **Project Beacon**.

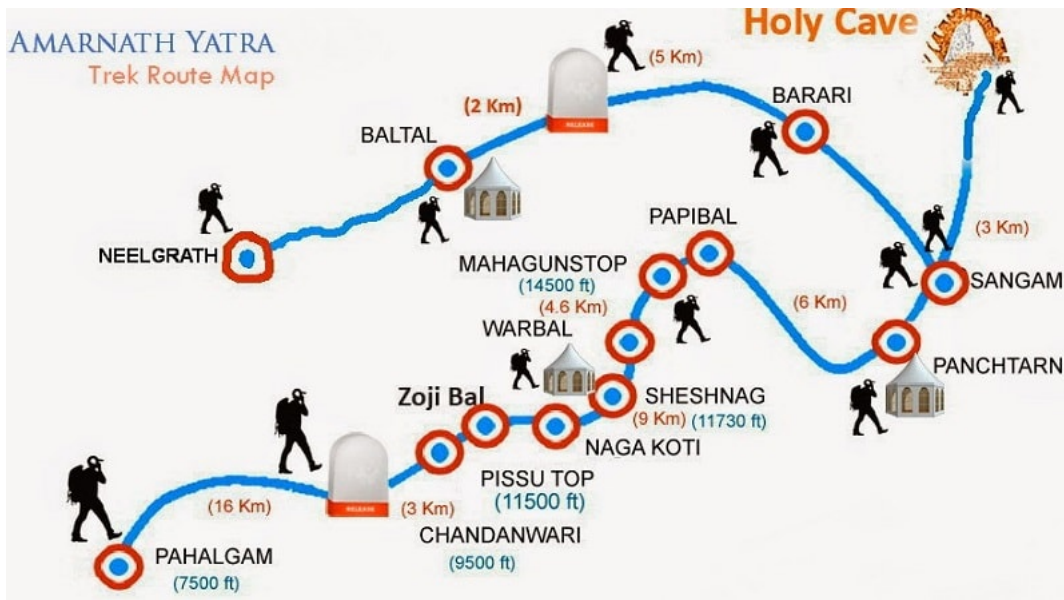
Note:

- Project Beacon is the **BRO's oldest undertaking**, was raised on May 18, 1960, with its **headquarters at Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir**.
 - Beacon currently takes care of the **road infrastructure development and maintenance** in important areas of Kashmir.

What are the Key Facts Regarding Amarnath Cave Shrine?

- The Amarnath mountain features a cave on its south famously known as the **Amarnath Cave**. This cave is the location of the **Amarnath Temple**, a significant Hindu shrine situated in the **Pahalgam** tehsil of the Anantnag district in Jammu and Kashmir, India.
 - The shrine is perched at an altitude of 3,800 metres, contributing to the challenging nature of the pilgrimage.
- **Amarnath Peak**, a part of the [Himalayas](#) is a mountain with a peak elevation of 5,186 meters, in the Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir, in the vicinity of Sonamarg.
- Amarnath yatra is an annual pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave, where devotees pay homage to an **ice stalagmite believed to be the lingam of Lord Shiva**.
 - The ice stalagmite forms every year during **the summer months** and reaches its maximum size in July and August, when thousands of Hindu devotees make an annual pilgrimage to the cave.
- **Traditional Access Routes:**
 - Pilgrims historically approached the shrine via two routes **Pahalgam and Sonamarg both located in the Lidder Valley**, each presenting its own set of challenges through demanding terrains.
 - Pilgrims also had the option to use chopper services from Baltal to Panchtarni, located 6 km away from the shrine. However, **ecological concerns** led to the **discontinuation of services** directly to the shrine.

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