



Amarnath Yatra 2025

Why in News?

The **38-day annual Amarnath pilgrimage** to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine in South Kashmir will begin on **3rd July 2025**.

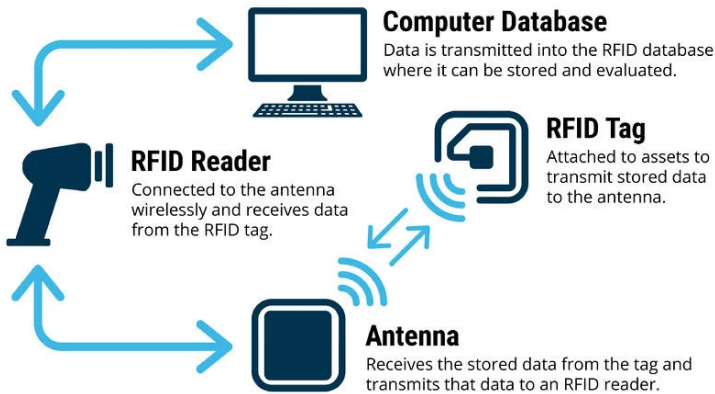
Key Points

- **Board Meeting and Decision:**
 - **The Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board (SASB)** held its 48th board meeting at Raj Bhawan under the chairmanship of **Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha**.
 - The board decided that the 38-day Amarnath Yatra will commence on 3rd July, 2025, and conclude on 9th August, 2025 (Raksha Bandhan).
 - The pilgrimage will **begin simultaneously from both routes - Pahalgam track (Anantnag district) and Baltal (Ganderbal district)**.
- **Enhancing Facilities for Pilgrims:**
 - The board discussed improving facilities and services for devotees.
 - **Measures were proposed** to increase lodging capacity at centres in Jammu, Srinagar, and other key locations.
 - Plans were made to operationalize yatri facilitation centres for **e-KYC (Know Your Customer), Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) card issuance, and on-spot registration at Nowgam and Katra railway stations**.
 - Similar facility enhancements were recommended at Baltal, Pahalgam, Nunwan, and Pantha Chowk Srinagar.
- **Infrastructure and Safety Measures:**
 - The ongoing infrastructure projects and their progress were reviewed.
 - The L-G stressed ensuring adequate arrangements and essential amenities along the pilgrimage route.
 - The meeting discussed **decongestion measures at the holy cave and lower cave area**.
- **Security, Medical, and Logistics Enhancements:**
 - The board deliberated on **disaster preparedness and mitigation strategies**.
 - Adequate **Helicopter services and medical facilities** will be provided.
 - Enhancements in weather forecasting infrastructure and security arrangements were also discussed.

Radio Frequency Identification

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Basic RFID System



- RFID is a **type of passive wireless technology** that allows for tracking or matching of an item or individual.
- **The system has two basic parts: Tags and Readers.**
 - The **reader gives off radio waves and gets signals back from the RFID tag**, while the **tag uses radio waves to communicate** its identity and other information.
 - A **tag can be read from up to several feet away** and does not need to be within the direct line-of-sight of the reader to be tracked.
- The technology has been **approved since before the 1970s** but has become much more **prevalent in recent years** due to its usages in things like global supply chain management and pet microchipping.

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.