Amarnath Yatra

Why in news?

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Terrorist recently attacked pilgrims on Amarnath Yatra.

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What is the significance of Amaranth yatra?

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- The Amaranth cave deep is in the Himalayas in south Kashmir.
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- The cave is 3,888 m above sea level, can be reached only on foot or by pony.
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- Each year, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims make the trek up to the shrine.
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How the deity in the shrine is formed?

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- The ice lingam is formed by a trickle of water from a cleft in the cave’s roof.
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- The Shiva lingam gets its full shape in May, after which it begins to melt by August.
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- The water freezes as it drips, forming, over time, a tall, smooth ice stalagmite.
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- A stalactite is an icicle-shaped formation that hangs from the ceiling of a cave, and is produced by precipitation of minerals from water dripping through the cave ceiling.
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- Most stalactites have pointed tips.
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- A stalagmite is an upward-growing that have precipitated from water dripping onto the floor of a cave.
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- Most stalagmites have rounded or flattened tips.
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What are the other pilgrimages in Jammu and Kashmir?

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Vaishno Devi

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- Vaishno Devi Mandir is a very popular Hindu temple dedicated to the Hindu Goddess
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- It is located in the Trikuta Mountains of Jammu and Kashmir.
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- It is at an altitude of 5200 ft above the sea level.
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- The Temple is 13.5 km from Katra.
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- Various modes of transportation are available from katra including Ponies, Electric vehicles.
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- People who visits Amarnath also visits this shrine.
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Shankracharya Temple

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- Situated on the Zabarwan Mountain in Srinagar, Kashmir.
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- Shankracharya Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva.
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- Visiting this temple involves the devotees to trek to the top of the hill on which it stands, about 1100 feet above the plains.
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- Built in 371 BC, the great saint Shankracharya is said to have stayed there during his visit to Kashmir.
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Raghunath Temple

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- Raghunath Temple is one of the largest temple in North India and is located in Jammu.
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- It was built by Maharaja Gulab Singh (founder of the kingdom of Jammu and Kashmir) and his son Ranbir Singh.
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- There are seven shrines, each having its own Shikhara, present at the site of the temple.
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- Raghunath Temple enshrines many idols of the Hindu gods and goddesses but its presiding deity is Lord Rama.
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Source: The Indian Express

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