



AMARNATH CAVES

One of the most pious and perilous of Hindu pilgrimages, the 'Amarnath ji yatra' is situated at a height of 3888 m, accessible only during the months of July-August for a period of roughly 45 days. The destination of the pilgrimage consists of a cave with a natural formation of an ice stalagmite in the form of a Shiva lingam.

The brief was to re-design the pilgrimage by way of developing residential accommodation for the pilgrims and allied infrastructure facilities. The location of the site is in an avalanche-prone zone and the weather permits a very small window of only about 3 months each year is suitable for building activity. The start point was the formulation of a masterplan wherein the yatra was reorganized to demarcate areas for specific activities and more importantly to provide a sense of order to an otherwise chaotic arrangement. The entire masterplanning is done in a manner to ensure and permit all avalanches to be diverted away from the semi-permanent facilities and be allowed to flow into the river with minimal damage to the infrastructure during the period when it is not being used.

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