INTRODUCTION:
Amarnath cave has been a long-established place of Religious tourism or faith tourism and has been one of the most popularly and well-regarded annual yatra among Hindus from all over the India, trekking the Himalaya's most hostile and ecologically fragile mountainous routes to reach the cave situated at an altitude of 12,756 feet ASL. But the huge number of pilgrims enroute the amarnath cave affect and most of the times badly, the pristine environment and destroy the unique topography of Pahalgam, world's famous tourist destination. Apropos to this, the better management of this annual yatra needs attention of not only policy makers but also the researchers and social scientists to find out better ways and means to conduct this pilgrimage without disturbing the fragile environs and geo-ecological settings of this region.

OBJECTIVES:
The Precise focus of the present study is:
1. To analyse temporal trends in flow and pattern of Amarnath pilgrims.
2. To highlight the issues & concerns and remedial measures pertaining to Amarnath yatra.

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY:
The present study is mainly based on secondary sources and the Supplementary data related to the present study has been gathered using a variety of methods to gain a better understanding of the perspectives and priorities. Secondary data were obtained from publications of different organisations and offices of different organisations, different reports, journal articles etc. The methodology adapted in the present study was of integrative, supplementary and complementary nature, to fulfill the set objectives related to the study area.

Highlights of Major Findings:
Table 1 below clearly reveals that there has been marginal increase in number of yatris in early 1990’s, but it showed an abrupt increase in first decade of 21st century and there has been phenomenal growth in yatris arrivals post year 2004, especially in years 2011-2012 when it reached the maximum (above 6 lakh).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Yatris (in Lakh Numbers)</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Yatris (in Lakh Numbers)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>5.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>3.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>4.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>6.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>6.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1.19</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>3.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>3.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>1.53</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>3.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>3.88</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Economic Times (2017)
The study concluded that there is need for better management of noise, more use of fire has resulted in the increase of temperature which makes the Yatra of some elites easy. The Baltal remains too noisy for giving rise to water borne diseases. The new practice of air means the pollution goes down to other villages through this river, Pahalgam flows through various villages and is the only source which and faunal species found in this ecological zone. The river from garbage along the river banks, drainage from bath rooms, latrines, invites the ecological concern. Like the heaps of waste products and their duty to keep the local environment clean and unpolluted, which of plastic, polythene, bottles, dirt and other solid garbage, unmindful of of efficient management and public concern. Also due to the increased Kashmiri economy but on the other it has become a problem due to lack responsibility. Pilgrimage tourism, on one hand is the boon of interface; must be introduced on actual carrying capacity of the region. The collection and disposal of solid waste during yatra period is a problem area which needs to be focused on. The Amarnath Yatra must be conducted in accordance with the principles of preservation, conservation and sustainability as upheld by the National Environment Policy, the State Forest Policy and also Nitish Sengupta Committee recommendations and on pattern of Gangotri pilgrimage. Having the privilege of being located in the heart throbbing landscape of Himalayas, the holy cave of Amarnath shares the vicinity which is highly diverse in flora and fauna. Therefore any attempt to upgrade the related infrastructure must be in line with the delicate environs which add to the aesthetics of holy shrine. Education is a crucial ingredient in strategies for integrating biodiversity conservation and ecotourism. Yatris, local people and other stakeholders- all need to be educated about proper behavior and practices in environmentally and culturally sensitive areas.

REFERENCES
4. Bultjens, J., & Fuller. D. (2007). Striving for Sustainability: Case studies in Indigenous Policy and also Nitish Sengupta Committee recommendations and on pattern of Gangotri pilgrimage. Having the privilege of being located in the heart throbbing landscape of Himalayas, the holy cave of Amarnath shares the vicinity which is highly diverse in flora and fauna. Therefore any attempt to upgrade the related infrastructure must be in line with the delicate environs which add to the aesthetics of holy shrine. Education is a crucial ingredient in strategies for integrating biodiversity conservation and ecotourism. Yatris, local people and other stakeholders- all need to be educated about proper behavior and practices in environmentally and culturally sensitive areas.

WHAT IS SUGGESTED/RECOMMENDED?
The study concluded that there is need for better management of Amarnath yatra to improve the pilgrimage tourism without disturbing pristine environment of Pahalgam.

a) Regularity in Flow of Yatra:- It has been observed that there remains a poor and irregular flow of Yatra. In the beginning days of Yatra, pilgrims exceed 4000 and even at times touch 10,000 Yatris/day. But in the later period i.e. after 1 month the number comes down to below 300 Yatris.

b) Trimming Yatra Period:- Change as well as increase in Yatra period since 2004 has an adverse effect on environs of area. Before 2004 Yatra period was only 1 month, Now it has been extended to 2 months.

• A Tourism Policy facilitating a regulated/rationed number of visitors and Time Gap between successive Re-visits, to the ecologically fragile region; must be introduced on actual carrying capacity of the region.
• The collection and disposal of solid waste during yatra period is a problem area which needs to be focused on.
• The Amarnath Yatra must be conducted in accordance with the principles of preservation, conservation and sustainability as upheld by the National Environment Policy, the State Forest Policy and also Nitish Sengupta Committee recommendations and on pattern of Gangotri pilgrimage.
• Having the privilege of being located in the heart throbbing landscape of Himalayas, the holy cave of Amarnath shares the vicinity which is highly diverse in flora and fauna. Therefore any attempt to upgrade the related infrastructure must be in line with the delicate environs which add to the aesthetics of holy shrine.
• Education is a crucial ingredient in strategies for integrating biodiversity conservation and ecotourism. Yatris, local people and other stakeholders- all need to be educated about proper behavior and practices in environmentally and culturally sensitive areas.

WHAT IS SUGGESTED/RECOMMENDED?
The study concluded that there is need for better management of Amarnath yatra to improve the pilgrimage tourism without disturbing pristine environment of Pahalgam.

a) Regularity in Flow of Yatra:- It has been observed that there remains a poor and irregular flow of Yatra. In the beginning days of Yatra, pilgrims exceed 4000 and even at times touch 10,000 Yatris/day. But in the later period i.e. after 1 month the number comes down to below 300 Yatris.

b) Trimming Yatra Period:- Change as well as increase in Yatra period since 2004 has an adverse effect on environs of area. Before 2004 Yatra period was only 1 month, Now it has been extended to 2 months.

• A Tourism Policy facilitating a regulated/rationed number of visitors and Time Gap between successive Re-visits, to the ecologically fragile region; must be introduced on actual carrying capacity of the region.
• The collection and disposal of solid waste during yatra period is a problem area which needs to be focused on.
• The Amarnath Yatra must be conducted in accordance with the principles of preservation, conservation and sustainability as upheld by the National Environment Policy, the State Forest Policy and also Nitish Sengupta Committee recommendations and on pattern of Gangotri pilgrimage.
• Having the privilege of being located in the heart throbbing landscape of Himalayas, the holy cave of Amarnath shares the vicinity which is highly diverse in flora and fauna. Therefore any attempt to upgrade the related infrastructure must be in line with the delicate environs which add to the aesthetics of holy shrine.
• Education is a crucial ingredient in strategies for integrating biodiversity conservation and ecotourism. Yatris, local people and other stakeholders- all need to be educated about proper behavior and practices in environmentally and culturally sensitive areas.

WHAT IS SUGGESTED/RECOMMENDED?
The study concluded that there is need for better management of Amarnath yatra to improve the pilgrimage tourism without disturbing pristine environment of Pahalgam.

a) Regularity in Flow of Yatra:- It has been observed that there remains a poor and irregular flow of Yatra. In the beginning days of Yatra, pilgrims exceed 4000 and even at times touch 10,000 Yatris/day. But in the later period i.e. after 1 month the number comes down to below 300 Yatris.

b) Trimming Yatra Period:- Change as well as increase in Yatra period since 2004 has an adverse effect on environs of area. Before 2004 Yatra period was only 1 month, Now it has been extended to 2 months.

• A Tourism Policy facilitating a regulated/rationed number of visitors and Time Gap between successive Re-visits, to the ecologically fragile region; must be introduced on actual carrying capacity of the region.
• The collection and disposal of solid waste during yatra period is a problem area which needs to be focused on.
• The Amarnath Yatra must be conducted in accordance with the principles of preservation, conservation and sustainability as upheld by the National Environment Policy, the State Forest Policy and also Nitish Sengupta Committee recommendations and on pattern of Gangotri pilgrimage.
• Having the privilege of being located in the heart throbbing landscape of Himalayas, the holy cave of Amarnath shares the vicinity which is highly diverse in flora and fauna. Therefore any attempt to upgrade the related infrastructure must be in line with the delicate environs which add to the aesthetics of holy shrine.
• Education is a crucial ingredient in strategies for integrating biodiversity conservation and ecotourism. Yatris, local people and other stakeholders- all need to be educated about proper behavior and practices in environmentally and culturally sensitive areas.

WHAT IS SUGGESTED/RECOMMENDED?
The study concluded that there is need for better management of