

IGP chairs review meeting to finalize Traffic Management Arrangements for SANJY-2026

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 30

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Traffic J&K, M. Suleman Choudhary, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess and finalize traffic management arrangements for the smooth, safe and seamless movement of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026 pilgrims along the Kashmir axis.

The meeting was attended by DIG South Kashmir Range, Javed Iqbal Matoi, DIG CRPF Anantnag, SSP Kulgam, SSP Traffic Rural Kashmir, SSP Traffic National Highway Ramban, SP Headquarters Anantnag, SP NHW Qazigund, besides other senior officers of the Civil Police, CRPF, Traffic Police and district administration of Anantnag and Kulgam.

During the meeting, a detailed review of the traffic management plan was undertaken with emphasis on ensuring close coordination and effective synergy among all stakeholder



agencies for the safe and uninterrupted movement of Yatra convoys. The implementation and strict adherence to the notified convoy cut-off timings were discussed at length and all officers were directed to ensure their meticulous enforcement without exception.

The IGP stressed the importance of seamless inter-agency coordination, real-time information sharing, prompt clearance of traffic bottlenecks and effective regulation of civilian traffic to facilitate hassle-free movement of Yatra con-

voys. He also emphasized the need for continuous monitoring of road conditions, swift response to emergencies and efficient deployment of police personnel at all vulnerable and congestion prone locations.

The officers were instructed to maintain close liaison with the district administration, CRPF, road maintenance agencies and other concerned departments to ensure immediate response to any unforeseen situation. Special emphasis was laid on effective dissemination of traf-

fic advisories, regulation of stranded vehicles whenever required, and ensuring minimum inconvenience to the general public while maintaining the highest priority for Yatra convoy movement.

The IGP Traffic reiterated that the safety and convenience of the pilgrims remain the foremost priority and directed all officers to work in close coordination, maintain high standards of professionalism and ensure flawless execution of the traffic management plan throughout the Yatra period.

VC SKUAST-K reviews KVK Srinagar, Budgam progress at SAC Meetings

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Vice Chancellor Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, on Monday chaired the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) Srinagar and Budgam, to review progress, achievements, and future strategies aimed at strengthening agricultural extension, innovation, and sustainable farming across Kashmir.

The meetings were attended by Director Extension Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth; Registrar Prof. Azmat Alam Khan; Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam Vivek Agarwal; Chief Planning Officer Budgam Javid Ahmad; heads of KVKs; statutory members; scientists from the Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH) and Dryland Agricultural Research Station (DARS) Budgam; officers from agriculture and allied departments; progressive farmers; agri-entrepreneurs; representatives of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and civil society organisations; and other distinguished stakeholders.

Detailed presentations were delivered by Dr. Shamim Ahmad Simnani, Head, KVK Srinagar, at the 22nd Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting



and by Prof. Bilal Ahmad Lone, Head, KVK Budgam, at the 13th SAC. They reviewed the action-taken reports and key achievements of 2025-26 while outlining priorities and action plans for 2026-27.

The deliberations focused on technology assessment and refinement, frontline demonstrations, capacity building, entrepreneurship development, and the wider dissemination of climate-resilient agricultural technologies. Discussions also highlighted district-specific opportunities such as urban agriculture, Dal vegetable cultivation, niche crop promotion, and natural farming to improve productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, and enhance farmers' incomes.

Addressing the meetings, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai stressed the need to promote innovation-driven agriculture, strengthen entrepreneurship, and encourage value addition,

processing, and market-oriented farming practices to improve rural livelihoods.

He appreciated the efforts of both KVK Srinagar and KVK Budgam in expanding doorstep extension services, promoting improved agricultural technologies, and creating meaningful impact through skill development and farmer-centric capacity-building initiatives.

Prof. Ganai also emphasized the critical role of KVKs in making the university's flagship Students Rural Exposure Programme a success, stating that the programme offers students invaluable field-level understanding of rural agricultural realities. He expressed confidence in continued support and co-operation from the KVKs in further strengthening this important initiative.

The Director Extension lauded the significant contribution of both KVKs in technology dissemination

and strengthening sustainable agricultural practices. She emphasized the need to transform traditional farming into a commercially viable enterprise through targeted skill development, champion farmer models, low-cost organic solutions, and focused capacity-building programmes.

Earlier, several facilities at KVK Budgam including a high-density cherry orchard, custom hiring centre, two hi-tech polyhouses, insulated mushroom unit, and bio-resource centre for natural farming were inaugurated. On the occasion, publications from both KVKs were also released.

The meetings concluded with interactive sessions in which stakeholders discussed key challenges, emerging opportunities, and collaborative strategies to accelerate agricultural transformation and improve farm livelihoods across Kashmir

Maha Yagya at Arde Nareshwar Temple Nadimarg concludes amidst Devotion and Harmony

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 30

The two-day sacred Maha Yagya at the historic Arde Nareshwar Temple, Nadimarg, concluded on June 29 amidst profound spiritual fervour, religious devotion, and enthusiastic participation by devotees and Yatris from various parts of the Union Territory and beyond.

The event witnessed large-scale participation in the sacred rituals and prayers, reflecting the deep faith and reverence associated with the occasion. Beyond its religious significance, the Maha Yagya served as a reaffirmation of the region's rich cultural heritage and its enduring traditions of communal harmony, mutual respect, brotherhood, and peaceful coexistence.

A notable feature of the event was the warm hospitality and wholehearted support extended by the residents of Nadimarg and adjoining areas to the visiting Yatris. The active cooperation of the local community and participation of



people from different sections of society exemplified the spirit of harmony and inclusiveness that continues to characterize the region.

During their visit, devotees and guests also paid homage at the Nadimarg Memorial, constructed by

the District Administration, Shopian, in memory of the innocent civilians who lost their lives in the tragic Nadimarg massacre of 2003. The memorial stands as a solemn tribute to the victims and serves as a lasting symbol of remembrance, resilience, and the

collective resolve to uphold peace, human dignity, and communal harmony.

To ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the event, extensive arrangements were made through close coordination between the District Administrations of Shopian and Kulgam. Comprehensive measures relating to security, traffic regulation, sanitation, drinking water supply, power supply, healthcare services, accommodation, and other public amenities were put in place well in advance.

Officers and field functionaries of all concerned departments remained deployed throughout the event to facilitate devotees and ensure the seamless conduct of all religious activities.

The District Administration expressed its gratitude to the local community, religious leaders, volunteers, security agencies, and all line departments whose dedicated efforts, cooperation, and coordination contributed significantly to the peaceful and successful culmination of the Maha Yagya.

University of Kashmir hosts book release ceremony of 'Durr-e-Naayaab'

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 30

Department of Urdu, University of Kashmir (KU) organised the release of Durr-e-Naayaab (The Rare Pearl), a biography authored by Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, at Main Campus here today.

The event brought together eminent academicians, literary personalities, students, scholars and writers to celebrate a work that chronicles the life, public service and enduring legacy of veteran political leader late Shaheed Wali Mohammad Itoo.

The book release function was presided over by Vice-Chancellor KU Prof. Nilofer Khan, while Sakeena Itoo attended the programme as the Chief Guest and author of the book.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo expressed her gratitude to the Department of Urdu and the University of Kashmir for organising the release of Durr-e-Naayaab at the UT's premier institution.

Describing the occasion as deeply meaningful, the Minister said that she considered it a tribute to the enduring legacy of her late father and appreciated the University's initiative in bringing the work before the academic community. "I thank the Department of Urdu and the University of Kashmir for honouring the rich legacy of my late father by releasing this book at this premier institution and highest seat of learning," she said.

Calling Durr-e-Naayaab perhaps the most meaningful contribution she could make to society, the Minister said the biography represented years of painstaking research, reflection and emotional commitment. She remarked that if she was ever asked to identify her greatest contribution beyond public life, she



would point to this book, which documents the values, struggles and unwavering commitment of a leader whose life was devoted to public service.

She added that the work was compiled after years of sustained effort and drew extensively upon family archives, personal memories and historical records. Reflecting on the emotional journey behind the book, Sakeena Itoo said that writing the biography of a person with whom one shares a deep emotional bond was one of the most difficult literary exercises. She recalled that many forgotten anecdotes were revived through her mother's recollections, which helped reconstruct significant episodes of her father's life.

The Minister also shared that several personal letters written by her father while he was away from home for studies became invaluable source material, offering intimate insights into his ideals, thoughts and unwavering commitment to the people.

She observed that he worked tirelessly to expand educational opportunities,

improve healthcare facilities and promote inclusive development across the region.

Expressing concern over the declining culture of reading, the Minister urged the younger generation to rediscover the habit of reading books, particularly biographies that preserve the lives and contributions of selfless leaders. She said young readers would discover valuable lessons in courage, sacrifice, public service and ethical leadership through such works.

In her presidential address, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan congratulated Sakeena Itoo on producing a work of lasting literary and historical value despite her demanding responsibilities as Minister. She described the biography as an extraordinary accomplishment.

She observed that documenting the life of a distinguished public figure while simultaneously discharging multiple public responsibilities was a remarkable achievement worthy of appreciation.

Prof. Khan also highlighted the rich academic

and literary legacy of the Department of Urdu, observing that generations of its faculty members had made immense contributions to the intellectual and cultural landscape of Kashmir and the country.

Referring to Durr-e-Naayaab, she said the biography presents a compelling account of late Wali Mohammad Itoo's public life, grassroots engagement and commitment to the welfare of the people. She added that the work provides readers with a deeper understanding of the region's social ethos, cultural values and traditions of public service.

The Vice-Chancellor further remarked that while reading the biography, she realised how profoundly the author's own personality had been shaped by the ideals and values of her late father.

She said the book vividly captures the qualities of humility, dedication and compassion that defined his life and expressed confidence that it would inspire young readers to embrace integrity, selfless leadership and service to society.

Itoo urges academic leaders to embrace AI with responsibility & ethical values

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30:

Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today urged the academic leaders to embrace Artificial Intelligence (AI) with responsibility and ethical values, adding that AI is reshaping education, governance and virtually every sphere of human activity.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing the valedictory session of two-day Digital Readiness Workshop for Academic Leaders on the theme "Building AI-Ready Institutions" at Kashmir University here today.

The workshop was organised by University of Kashmir (KU) in collaboration with Intel, bringing together academic leaders, administrators and faculty members to deliberate on leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) for academic excellence, institutional transformation and effective governance.

The workshop was organised as part of the University's continued efforts



to promote digital readiness and innovation in higher education, the workshop was designed to equip academic leaders with the knowledge, practical insights and strategic competencies required to integrate AI into teaching-learning processes, research, academic administration and institutional leadership.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo described Artificial Intelligence as a transformative force that is reshaping education, governance and virtually every

sphere of human activity. She said that AI is steadily becoming an indispensable part of almost every profession and urged academic leaders to equip themselves with the knowledge and skills necessary to harness its immense potential for the greater public good.

Calling for the judicious and ethical use of AI, the Minister said the technology has already demonstrated remarkable capabilities in diverse sectors, including healthcare through early detection of critical diseases, agricul-

ture by improving crop quality assessment and weather forecasting, and disaster mitigation through predictive technologies. She observed that such interventions have the potential to significantly improve governance, decision-making and service delivery when implemented responsibly.

Emphasising the need for a balanced approach, Sakeena Itoo said that while Artificial Intelligence can analyse vast volumes of data and generate valuable insights, it cannot replace human wisdom, emotions, empathy and ethical judgement. "AI is opening doors to global knowledge and innovative solutions, but it must always complement human intelligence rather than substitute it. As AI becomes more powerful, our commitment to ethics and responsible use becomes even more important," she said, urging the participants to apply the knowledge gained during the workshop in their respective institutions and departments", she said.