

For Immediate Release

AU Small Finance Bank Boosts Nashik Forest Dept's Wildlife Rapid Response



Representatives of AU Small Finance Bank formally handed over the vehicle to the Forest Department in the presence of government officials

Nashik, March 24, 2026: AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB), India's largest Small Finance Bank and the first in over a decade to receive *in-principle* approval to transition into a Universal Bank, reinforcing its commitment to community safety and environmental stewardship, has donated a dedicated field operations vehicle to the Forest Department in Nashik to strengthen its response to increasing human-wildlife encounters.

The initiative follows a request from the District Administration of Nashik, seeking the bank's assistance in addressing the rising frequency of human-wildlife encounters. The initiative includes the deployment of a rescue pick-up vehicle, which will significantly enhance the mobility and rapid response capabilities of forest officials managing wildlife-related incidents across the region. The initiative will also benefit the residents of Nashik and nearby areas as well as the forest officials and local authorities engaged in wildlife response.

With the growing interface between urban spaces and wildlife habitats, Nashik has witnessed a rise in human-wildlife interactions. The newly deployed vehicle will enable forest teams to:

- Respond swiftly to emergency calls and wildlife sightings



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- Conduct rescue and safe relocation operations more efficiently
 - Enhance patrolling and monitoring in sensitive areas
 - Ensure timely intervention to safeguard both citizens and wildlife

The vehicle was formally handed over at the Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Nashik West Division, located at Untwadi Forest Rest House Compound, Sambhaji Chowk, in the presence of distinguished dignitaries including the Hon'ble District Collector of Nashik, Mr. Ayush Prasad, and senior Forest Department officials — Mr. G. Mallikarjun (Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional Nashik), Mr. Siddhesh Savardekar (Deputy Conservator of Forests, West Division), Mr. Prashant Khairnar (Assistant Conservator of Forests, Regional), and Mr. Sumit Nirmal (Range Forest Officer, Nashik Division). AU Small Finance Bank was represented by Mr. Arvind Purohit (National Business Head, Government Relationship & Interbank Depo. Sales) and Mr. Anirudha Hajare (Deputy Vice President, Legal Recovery).

Through this initiative, AU SFB aims to support frontline forest personnel with improved infrastructure, enabling faster and more effective response in critical situations, along with safeguarding the citizens of Nashik. The effort reflects the Bank's broader focus on contributing to sustainable development and fostering safer communities.

About AU Small Finance Bank

From its roots in Rajasthan to a growing national footprint, AU Foundation has remained committed to building resilient and self-reliant communities an approach shaped deeply by the vision and stewardship of Sanjay Agarwal, Founder, MD & CEO of AU Small Finance Bank. His leadership anchors the Foundation in AU's "Forever Bank" philosophy, ensuring that community interventions create lifelong impact rather than momentary support. As the CSR arm of AU Small Finance Bank—India's largest Small Finance Bank, now holding the RBIs in principle approval to transition into a Universal Bank, the foundation operates with the conviction that a bank is not merely a participant but a co-author in Bharat's growth story. Under Sanjay Agarwal's thought leadership, AU Foundation blends financial discipline, innovation and empathy into programmes that are scalable and sustainable, aligned with the national vision of Viksit Bharat and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For Sanjay Agarwal, CSR is merely not an added responsibility but an accountability to design interventions that outlast funding cycles, outgrow geographies and outperform expectations on inclusion and dignity. Anchored in transparent processes, meaningful stakeholder engagement and impact oriented, the foundation ensures that every effort compounds into durable social capital.

Under his guidance, the AU Foundation continues to strengthen communities at scale, through grassroots developments, consistently translating vision into value and intent into impact, one

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livelihood, one athlete, one entrepreneur and one village at a time. AU Foundation's impact spans a holistic portfolio of flagship programmes: AU Ignite, which has trained 33,700+ youth and enabled 23,900 placements; AU Bano Champion, supporting 6,000+ athletes with 1,570+ medals; AU Udyogini, empowering 5,500+ women entrepreneurs; and AU Kartavya, advancing community development across healthcare, education, environment, water conservation and road safety.

For Details click here: [CSR Activities & Initiatives | AU Small Finance Bank](#)

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