

For Immediate Release

AU Small Finance Bank marks Van Mahotsav with Tree Plantation Drive in Hyderabad



- Independent Director Phani Shankar leads Van Mahotsav plantation drive in Hyderabad
- 580+ AU SFB branches plant 5,000+ saplings across 21 states and 4 UTs
- 12,000+ seed-paper certificates distributed under the Van Mahotsav campaign
- Drive aligned with 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 3.0'; campaign continues through July 2026

Hyderabad, July 17, 2026: AU Foundation, the CSR arm of 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, marked **Van Mahotsav** with a tree plantation drive in Hyderabad under the Ministry of Education's "**Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 3.0**" campaign. The initiative reflects AU Foundation's commitment to environmental sustainability and community participation. The event was attended by **Mr. Phani Shankar, Independent Director, AU Small Finance Bank**.

As part of the campaign, **over 580 AU SFB branches across 21 states and 4 Union Territories** have come together to plant **more than 5,000 saplings** in schools and community spaces nationwide. The initiative, which began on **1 July 2026**, reflects AU Foundation's commitment to environmental sustainability and will continue through **31 July 2026**.

The Hyderabad event was organised at **Basil Woods Nature School, Ghatkesar, Malkajgiri District**, where **Mr. Phani Shankar** was welcomed by the school leadership, including **Mr. Madhusudan Nawandhar, Director, Finance; Mrs. Rashmi Jeswal, Principal; and Mrs. Gayathri K, Vice Principal**. The programme featured interactions with the school management and students, sapling distribution, and a plantation drive in which Mr. Shankar participated alongside the students.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Phani Shankar, Independent Director, AU Small Finance Bank, said, "At AU Small Finance Bank, we believe environmental responsibility begins with small, meaningful actions. A sapling planted by a child today can grow into a lasting legacy for tomorrow. Van Mahotsav gives us an opportunity to pause and contribute to a greener future, but our commitment to sustainability extends far beyond this season. Through initiatives like these, we aim to nurture environmental awareness and collective responsibility within our communities."

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It has been a privilege to plant saplings alongside the students of Basil Woods Nature School today. Each sapling represents a small but meaningful step towards cleaner air, greener communities and a more sustainable future. I am proud to see our Hyderabad team come together to support this initiative and translate our commitment to environmental stewardship into action."

Similar plantation initiatives, led by members of AU Small Finance Bank's Board of Directors, are being conducted across six states, further amplifying the campaign's reach and reinforcing AU's institution-wide commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable community development.

About AU Foundation - CSR arm of 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 (AU SFB). 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 SFB, 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 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 36,000+ youth and enabled 26,000+ placements; AU Bano Champion, supporting 6,000+ athletes with 1,570+ medals; AU Udyogini, empowering 5,900+ 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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