

Trust seeks funds to cover Gir wells

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Junagadh: Wildlife Conservation Trust of Rajkot has made a fresh appeal to corporates to help them fund their effort to construct parapet walls around open wells in Gir area so that lions don't fall into them. The trust said that while a number of wells have been made safe, more needs to be done.

According to the executive director of the trust, Kishore Kotecha, "While some corporates have already helped in the endeavour, others too should come forward for this cause," he said. "We will give full technical support to such corporates so that they can do it independently." He also appealed to the state government to bring legislation which compels well owners to construct parapets at the time of digging the well itself.

A number of organizations, from Saurashtra and NRIs, like Rajendra Thakrar from London who offered Rs 1.25 lakh for building the parapets, have stepped in to support this initiative. Kotecha said they have so far built walls around 781 wells. Of these, donors helped in 108 wells.

Both NGOs like World

Wildlife Fund, and corporates like Tata Chemicals, Reliance and the Ambuja group have contributed to the effort. The trust has surveyed ten places including Kotda, Paniya, Chanchai, Dalkhania, Kangsa, Sukhpur, Matanmala, Sodapara, Ambagala and Chavna. The state government had then proposed an action plan



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to build parapets around the wells. Top corporate bosses attended a high-level meeting in May 2007 in which they were roped in to build these parapet walls.

Boy hospitalized after lion attack:

A lion attacked a 14-year-old boy in Patra village of Dhari Taluka in Amreli district on Wednesday. When Govind Koli was working in a farm with his family, his son, Bhavesh was suddenly attacked by the big cat, injuring him seriously on his back and legs. The lion was chased away by the family. The boy had to be rushed to the government hospital at Dhari. The village had made headlines last year when two lions were poached and their carcasses were discovered by officials.

SOURCE : SANDESH