

CEO visits Glaxo's med outpost at Deonar dump

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Glaxo CEO Andrew Witty was adamant. For his first trip to India after taking over as CEO, he wanted to visit the Deonar dumping ground to understand the reach of Glaxo India's corporate social responsibility (CSR).

The Deonar dump in suburban Mumbai almost singly accommodates the entire waste of Mumbai.

Witty tramped down to the global pharma giant's medical outpost in Deonar on Monday morning, after flying in to Mumbai in his private aircraft. The outpost provides medical facilities to rag-pickers and their families who work in and around the dump. With rag-pickers increasingly exposed to wastes like used-needles, syringes, medical equipment, un-segregated garbage, and associated infections, the drug major has



FOR A CAUSE: Andrew Witty

stepped in to lend a hand. The rag-picker project aims at providing primary healthcare services and health education to rag-pickers and their families living in area.

Witty also visited another global NGO programme — Phase — in the same area.

“GSK's partner for Phase in India is Pratham, a non-profit organisation working in the primary education sector. For around three years now, GSK has been working with Pratham to improve hygiene behaviour and healthcare,” said an official present

during Witty's visit.

With closely built homes, poorly maintained roads, poor waste management and freely roaming livestock in slums, Glaxo has identified the huge unmet need for good hygiene and sanitation education.

The CEO “is very CSR oriented. He especially visited the dumping ground when he was told that not many people are willing to work there because of the unsanitary conditions. He also visited the day-care centre, where kids who work in the dumping ground are given basic education,” the GSK official said, requesting anonymity.

Soon after, Witty flew down to Nashik to inaugurate the new albendazole manufacturing production line of GSK. The unit is part of GSK India's engagement with the World Health Organisations (WHO) global programme to eliminate lymphatic filariasis.