

ASH REPLACED BY BEAUTY QUEEN

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, who had been reportedly finalised to play the female lead in Crooked, eventually opted out due to date issues. page 4

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BSP wins MLC election with huge margin ... page 2

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Birth, death certificates

A 'foreign hand' to help clean the Yamuna

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AGRA: St Peter's College on Wednesday hosted a workshop on water pollution in Agra. Delegates of Rivers of World Foundation and Yamuna Foundation For Blue Water organised the workshop.

US environmentalists Dick Lahn and Ginny Harris along with Braj Khandelwal from Yamuna Foundation for Blue Water addressed the students.

The World Water Day on March 22 is to be marked by concerted efforts at cleaning river Potomac in Washington DC, USA and the Yamuna in Agra. The Yamuna Foundation for Blue Water and Rivers of the World Foundation have joined hands in this endeavour. They have decided to enlist the help of the people towards this end.

Braj Khandelwal said, "Students attending the workshop were inquisitive and rather concerned seeing

the present status of the Yamuna in Agra. They are prepared to contribute in their own way and it depends on us to capitalize on the sentiment of these youngsters, who want the world to become a better place to live in." Principle Father John Ferreira encouraged students and extended support to the movement. Later, talking to media, Dr Subijoy Dutta from Yamuna Foundation For Blue Water said he was alarmed at the rising level of garbage on



Workshop on water pollution being held at St Peter's College by Yamuna Foundation for Blue Water. HT PHOTO

the river bed. There is polythene, material related to religious events dumped on the river bed that cause irrepara-

ble harm to the river ecosystem. Subijoy Dutta, now residing in USA, said, "The decaying polythene bags submerged in the river bed decays and leads to formation of chemical 'Pthalate' which is harmful in combination with water. Such garbage needs to be removed from the river bed and for this a campaign was started in 2008 and 2009. On March 22 a campaign will be undertaken in Agra, Delhi, Hyderabad and at river

Potomac in USA.

Dr Dutta added, "The trash left would be removed with help of volunteers who would be provided with gloves and special bags for the occasion. We should not wait for government support and do something on our own initiative before it is too late."

Speaking on the campaign at river Potomac in Washington DC, Ginny Harris said, "We began with a small initiative and now it is a movement with 13000 volunteers