

Ganga pollution pains Ralf



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Formula One racer Ralf Schumacher among the students of Go Ahead Kids House in Nagwa area of Varanasi on Wednesday.

**HT Correspondent
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FORMULA 1 racer Ralf Schumacher was on a different track in Varanasi on Wednesday. Not speeding cars, but the plight of the Ganga drew his attention. He was clearly pained at the river's sorry state.

"It was nice to see the ghats, but the state of the holy river Ganga is not good," he said.

"There are buffaloes bathing at one side and people doing so and washing clothes at another," he observed.

"This is the state of a holy river," he said. He went on to ask, "Why there is so much pollution in it?"

To a question, he said, "I would be glad to help in promoting Formula 1

races in India."

He was, however, pleased to be in Varanasi.

"This is my first visit to India and it was very nice to visit holy city of Varanasi as I had heard a lot about it," said Schumacher.

He, along with UB Group chairman Vijay Mallya, was here to attend a function at a school in the Nagwa area on Wednesday.

Mallya, too, expressed concern at the rising pollution in the Ganga and poor developmental scenario in the city. "A lot needs to be done to clean up the river," he said.

Earlier, Mallya and Schumacher arrived on a special flight from Mumbai and drove straight to the famous Dashashwamedh ghat. From there, they cruised in a steamer to Assi ghat.