

**ENVIRONMENT**

## National Institute of Oceanography to initiate study on Karachi coast!

Published 10 months ago on September 25, 2017  
 By **News Desk**



**TEXT & PHOTOS BY AIMAN INAM**

**KARACHI:** Rising pollution in this port city has led the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) researchers analyze the scale of toxic waste affecting the entire city coastline.

Claiming that this would be the first sort of its study, senior investigator Hina Baig maintained that they will have a comprehensive snap of Karachi's coast in terms of effluence affecting this Megapolis.

The study was instigated following a fresh analysis that demonstrated presence of innumerable disease-triggering microbes at copious spots of Karachi coast.

Commenting on this further, NIO Director General Dr Asif Inam stated that the Ministry of Ports and Shipping has been requested to assist the research as this would help the government prioritize areas for executing action plan.

Maintaining that seaside-cleaning strategies should be modified, he further reiterated that we must stop waste-dumping into the sea in its tracks.

Though it is mandatory for Unfortunately, the city is sans sewage treatment plant and therefore the entire effluent, particularly the harmful industrial waste, end up being released into the coast.

Referring to Clifton beach, Dr. Asif Inam elaborated that the situation is worse there due to unabated littering by hordes of *Karachiites*.

Not to mention that the waste coming from Lyari River, untreated effluent from close by residential areas and restaurants goes directly into the sea.

### **NIO's 2016 Study Declared Coast Unsafe for Public!**

Earlier, in 2016 a study was conducted by the experts of NIO and the Dadabhoy Institute of Higher Education, Karachi, as a joint venture.

Their findings revealed the existence of pathogenic bacteria at nine spots along the coast such as McDonald's, Sea view, Village, Sahil Avenue 2, Do Darya, Korangi creek, Gizri creek and Chinna creek.

The mentioned afore areas are considered unsafe for picnickers.

Untreated industrial and urban waste/sewage are the main culprits contaminating the Malir and Lyari rivers.

### **Pollution Takes Toll on Eco-System**

Scientists delineated by saying that polluted water does not only take a toll on human health but as well as marine creatures, particularly turtles and crabs.

Karachi's Sandspit Beach is one of the rare places in the world where over 3000 green turtles come to lay eggs.

However, plastic litter, disposable glasses and other stuff have affected their nesting cycle.

Moreover, edibles thrown by beach-goers also attract scavengers like

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dogs and birds that also eat-up the newly-hatched baby turtles.

It is pertinent to point out here that apart from concerned departments of government, citizens should also reckon keeping the city clean their responsibility as well.

Beach-goers must shun throwing packets and other stuff into the sea. Also, they should maintain proper hygiene by washing hands prior to eating as to stay away from water born infections.

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## China seizes 156 mammoth tusks in huge ivory haul

Published 21 hours ago on July 19, 2018

By Hissan Sheikh



**BEIJING:** Chinese customs authorities said they seized 156 prehistoric mammoth tusks from a truck entering from Russia in one of the country's largest such hauls.

The contraband was seized in late April at a border crossing in northeastern China's Heilongjiang province bordering on Siberia, but the find was only announced this week by Chinese customs, state media said.

The haul, which also included two elephant tusks and a range of other animal parts, was hidden under a shipment of soybeans.

Eight suspects, including Russians and Chinese, have been arrested, the People's Daily said. China banned the sale and processing of elephant ivory last year after having banned its

import in 2015.

This, along with global efforts to stamp out the ivory trade to save elephants from extinction, has led smugglers to turn to a stock of ancient mammoth tusks buried mostly in Siberia but also Europe and North America.

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### Long way home as Przewalski's horses fly to Mongolia

Published 23 hours ago on July 19, 2018

By Hissan Sheikh



**TAKHIN TAL (Mongolia):** Their violent kicks rattle the small army plane flying over Siberia as it transports the four rare horses from Prague to the vast Mongolian steppe where the once near-extinct species is slowly recovering.

Known as Przewalski's horses, the ancient species has narrowly avoided extinction thanks to breeding programmes at zoos worldwide and is now gradually being re-introduced to a wildlife reserve in its original homeland.

But confined to wooden boxes, Finnish sisters Helmi and Hanna, German mare Spes and Yanja from a Swiss zoo are not enjoying the 30-hour trip to get to their new home one bit.

"The plane trip is the toughest part," Prague Zoo chief vet Roman Vodicka told AFP over the constant drone of the twin-engine propeller plane.

"The horse might make a wrong move, get stuck and lie down, stopping the blood flow to the legs. If this happened on the truck, we might release them for a run in nature, but you can't do that on the plane," he said.

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## CRIME

### Germany opens Opel probe in 'dieselgate' scandal

Published 6 days ago on July 14, 2018

By News Desk



**BERLIN:** German authorities are investigating carmaker Opel as part of an inquiry into the "dieselgate" scandal that saw major manufacturers such as Volkswagen fined billions of euros for cheating emissions tests, the transport ministry said Saturday.

A ministry spokesman told the Media it was looking into Opel's Euro 6 diesel models but stressed "nothing definitive" could be concluded until the probe was complete.

According to the mass-selling tabloid Bild, Opel's Cascada, Insignia and Zafira models are

According to the mass testing carried out by Opel's subsidiary Magna and Exor, models are under investigation, totaling 60,000 vehicles.

Without citing its sources, the paper said Germany's Federal Motor Transport Authority (KBA) had "strong evidence" to suggest exhaust management systems in some models had been totally deactivated during normal driving.

If that were the case, it suggested Opel's diesel models would exceed emission limits "by more than 10 times". Bild quoted an Opel source as saying that models currently in production were not part of the investigation.

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