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Press Note

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Acting on specific intelligence, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence intercepted two persons near Guwahati Railway Station and recovered 24 pieces of ivory totally weighing 5.838 Kgs from their possession on 26.05.2018 at 1300 hours.

The interception took place as the recipient of the ivory Shri Suraj Kr Das hailing from West Bengal was in the process of receiving the package from one Md. Badrul Hussain, hailing from Hojai district of Assam. *Shri Suraj Kr Das is a contractual employee of Railways working as a coach attendant of Saraighat Express Train.*

Interrogation of the two persons have revealed that Md. Badrul Hussain had picked up the package containing ivory from a person at Hojai in Assam and was supposed to deliver it to Shri Suraj Kr. Das who would have in turn delivered it to another person at *New Jalpaiguri* who would have smuggled it to Nepal through the border townships at North Bengal.

It has been confirmed by Wildlife officials that these tusks have been extracted after killing at least five adult and sub-adult elephants, and since the ivory has been sourced from Hojai it is believed that the elephants were in all likelihood killed in the Karbi Anglong region of Assam.

It is a known fact that endangered species are regularly being slaughtered for their parts especially because of the rising demand in the international market. In a recent case DRI had seized 12.410 Kgs of ivory from a bus at Siliguri on 15.02.2018 . In that case too the ivory was sourced from Lakhimpur district of Assam. Further investigation to unearth the masterminds behind the gang of poachers and smugglers of animal parts is in progress.

There is an urgent need to step up the fight against Wild Life Crime, which has environmental, social and economic ramifications, and a concerted effort is the need of the hour. DRI is committed to combating wild life crime and has been regularly seizing Wildlife articles such as red sanders, Star Tortoises and other species of turtles, deer antlers and tiger and leopard skins. DRI has also been working with several other enforcement agencies to combat cross border crime.

Anybody can support this crusade by giving information to DRI, which can assist in combating this crime.
