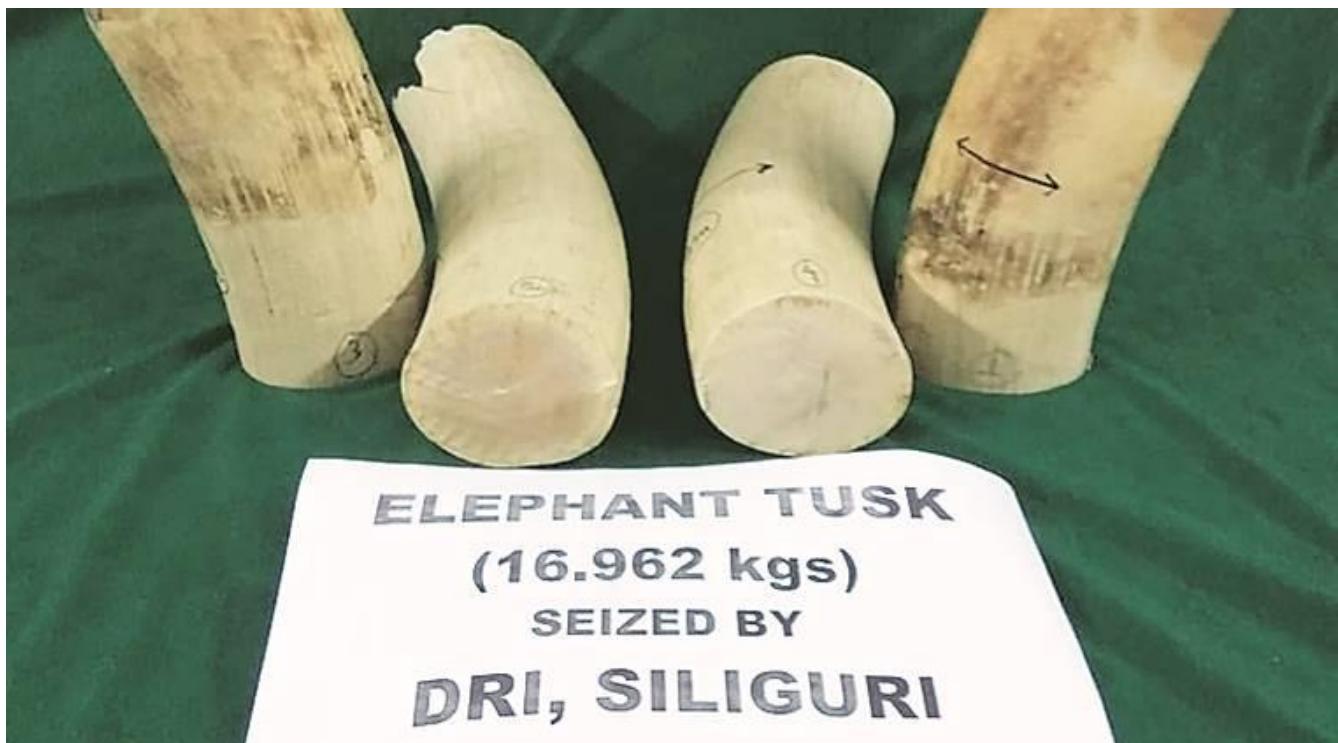


Siliguri: DRI intercepts truck, finds 17 kg of ivory under tea consignment

By [Express News Service](#) |Kolkata |Published: January 3, 2019 4:59:03 am

The ivory — four pieces of tusk valued at Rs 1.69 crore in the international market — was hidden underneath a consignment of black tea packed in the vehicle, which had come from Guwahati and was bound for Kolkata



The ivory was seized at Ghoshpukur after the DRI got a tip-off. (Express)

A Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) team on Wednesday recovered around 17 kg of elephant tusk from a container truck it intercepted on the outskirts of Siliguri.

The ivory — four pieces of tusk valued at Rs 1.69 crore in the international market — was hidden underneath a consignment of black tea packed in the vehicle, which had come from Guwahati and was bound for Kolkata. It was seized at Ghoshpukur after the DRI got a tip-off.

The driver of the truck, Subodh Das (43), was arrested later in the day. DRI sources said that during questioning, he revealed that the tusks were handed over to him at Baihata Chariali, a town in Assam.

"Preliminary investigation has revealed that the tusks were extracted from poached elephants in the forests of Assam and were being taken to Kolkata to be exported to South East Asian countries via Bangladesh. Poachers usually target illegal markets in China, Japan, Thailand, Vietnam," said an official.

"A strong nexus has formed between wildlife smugglers of neighbouring countries and India," the official added

The DRI is probing the involvement of more people in this racket.

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DRI Seizes Elephant Ivory Worth Rs 1.69 Crore In West Bengal

An elephant tusk worth Rs 1.69 crore, weighing about 17 kgs was recovered by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on the outskirts of Siliguri in north Bengal on Wednesday.

OUTLOOK WEB BUREAU 02 JANUARY 2019



An elephant tusk worth Rs1.69 crore, weighing about 17 kgs was recovered by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on the outskirts of Siliguri in north Bengal on Wednesday.

One person was arrested, a DRI official said.

The elephant tusk, cut into four pieces was clandestinely being transported in a vehicle that was loaded with a consignment of black tea.

"Driver of the vehicle was arrested and consequently, the elephant tusks valued at about Rs. 1.69 crore in the international market has been seized under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 read with the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972," the official said.

On interrogation, the driver of the impugned vehicle confessed that the elephant tusks were handed over to him in Baihata Chariali by an unknown person from Guwahati for transporting these to Kolkata.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the tusks were extracted from poached elephants in the forested areas of Assam and were being carried to the eastern metropolis for ultimate export to South East Asian countries via Bangladesh, the official said.

According to the agency, Indian (Asian) Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) is listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and also in the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

DRI has detected a series of cases involving trafficking of elephant tusks. In four such cases in the past, a total of 38.604 kg of elephant tusks have been seized by the agency last year. Eight persons have been arrested in these cases.

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Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) Seizes Assam's Elephant Ivory

January 3, 2019



Kolkata: About 17 kg of elephant tusks, valued at Rs 1.69 crore, extracted from poached elephants in the forested areas of Assam, was recovered by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on the outskirts of Siliguri in north Bengal on Wednesday.

One person was arrested, a DRI official said. The elephant tusks, cut into four pieces, were being clandestinely transported in a vehicle that was loaded with a consignment of black tea. "Driver of the vehicle was arrested and consequently, the elephant tusks valued at about Rs. 1.69 crore in the international market have been seized under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 read with the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972," the official said.

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