



DRI, Nagpur Regional Unit Busts Illegal Ivory Trafficking Ring

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The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Nagpur Regional Unit (DRI, NaRU), of the Mumbai Zonal Unit, successfully dismantled an illegal wildlife trafficking syndicate involved in the illicit trade of Indian elephant tusks (Ivory) in Mysuru, Karnataka, on 26.05.2026.



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During the operation, **three persons** were apprehended for their involvement in the illegal dealing and trading of Indian elephant tusks. A total of **4.058 kg of** Indian elephant tusks was recovered from their possession.

The Indian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which prohibits trade in such animals and their derivatives. Accordingly, the recovered 4.058 kg of Indian elephant tusks was seized under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

After completion of the seizure formalities, the three apprehended persons, along with the seized elephant tusks, were handed over to the Forest Range Officer, Mysuru territorial Range, for further necessary action under the relevant provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Asian ivory is often preferred by carvers for its softness, which makes it easier to work with for intricate designs and artefacts. Intricately carved Asian ivory is highly prized as a status symbol in certain global markets. Despite global bans on the international trade of Asian elephant ivory, illicit demand remains high.

DRI has dismantled multiple such illicit wildlife trafficking networks, and these sustained enforcement actions underscore DRI's continued vigilance, commitment to wildlife protection and unwavering resolve in combating organised environmental crime.

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