DRI Foils Elephant Tusks Smuggling Attempt in Assam; Two Tusks Weighing 3.7 kg Seized

- *DRI Operation: DRI officers intercepted a suspected wildlife trafficking operation near Sonapur Toll Gate, approximately 27 km from Guwahati, on 5 November 2026, based on specific intelligence.*
- *Seizure: Two elephant tusks measuring 29 inches and 30 inches, with a combined weight of approximately 3.7 kg, were recovered from an abandoned bag.*
- *Armed Resistance: Five suspects travelling on two two-wheelers attempted to escape and threatened pursuing officers with a Khukri and a Dao before fleeing into a nearby village.*
- *Legal Action: The tusks were seized under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and handed over to the Assam State Forest Department for further investigation.*
- *Wildlife Protection: Elephant tusks are protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and Appendix I of CITES. Trade and commercial dealings in articles derived from these protected species are prohibited under Indian law.*

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Acting on specific intelligence regarding the movement of elephant tusks, officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) intercepted an attempted wildlife trafficking operation near Sonapur Toll Gate, approximately 27 km from Guwahati, on 5th November 2026.

At around 1740 hours, DRI officers spotted five suspects on two 2-wheelers, one carrying a bag suspected to contain elephant tusks. On being intercepted, the suspects attempted to

flee, brandishing a Khukri and a Dao at the pursuing officers, before abandoning the bag and escaping into a nearby village.

The examination of the abandoned bag, resulted in the recovery of **two elephant tusks measuring 29 inches and 30 inches in length, with a combined weight of approximately 3.7 kg**., which were seized under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and subsequently handed over to the Assam State Forest Department for further investigation and necessary action.

Elephant tusks are protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Trade in and commercial dealings in articles derived from such protected species are prohibited under Indian law.

DRI remains committed to combating wildlife trafficking and the illegal trade in protected species through intelligence-led enforcement and close coordination with sister agencies.