

Ivory Artefacts in Lucknow

- 54 exquisitely crafted artefacts made of ivory seized, four arrested
- **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** on **19 August 2026** busted a syndicate involved in the illicit trade of wildlife products in **Lucknow**.
- Acting on **specific intelligence**, DRI officers conducted an operation and intercepted **four persons** allegedly involved in the illegal ivory trade.
- **54 intricately carved ivory artefacts** were recovered and seized.
- The seized artefacts included:
 - **Animal figurines:** bull, elephants and dog.
 - **Human figurines:** warrior and mother holding her child.
 - Other household/religious items such as **scissors, comb, agarbatti stand and sindoor dani**.
- The artefacts were described as **exquisitely crafted and finely detailed**, with potentially significant **commercial and antique value**.
- The **54 ivory artefacts and four members of the syndicate** were handed over to the **Uttar Pradesh Forest Department** for further investigation.

Legal framework

- The **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** prohibits trade and commerce in **elephant ivory and articles manufactured from it**.
- The prohibition supports India's international commitments under **CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)**.

Recent DRI wildlife-trafficking operations

- **July 2026:** DRI conducted two separate operations:
 - Seized **11 kg of elephant ivory tusks** at **Sujargarh, Rajasthan**.
 - Seized **two intricately designed ivory deity idols** at **Howrah/Kolkata**.
- **May 2026:** DRI busted another syndicate in **Mysuru, Karnataka**, recovering **4 kg of elephant tusks**.

Significance

- The successive seizures highlight the **continuing threat of illegal wildlife trafficking and ivory trade**.

- The operations demonstrate DRI's role in **dismantling organised wildlife-trafficking networks** and enforcing India's domestic wildlife-protection laws and international obligations under **CITES**.

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In a major operation, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) busted a syndicate of wildlife traffickers and seized 54 intricately carved ivory artefacts on 19 August, 2026.

Acting on a specific intelligence regarding the illicit trade of ivory artefacts, officers of the DRI, planned a meticulous operation at Lucknow and intercepted four persons of a syndicate involved in illicit trade of wildlife items that led to recovery of 54 exquisitely crafted artefacts made of ivory.

The recovered artefacts include animal figurines of bull, elephants, dog; human figurines of warrior, mother holding her child, and other items such as scissors, comb, agarbatti stand, sindoor dani etc. The recovered artefacts made from ivory are exquisite, finely detailed and of potentially substantial commercial and antique value. The seized artefacts made from ivory and four members of syndicate were handed over to UP Forest Department for further investigation.



The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, inter alia, prohibits trade and commerce in elephant ivory and articles manufactured therefrom, in furtherance of India's international obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

In month of July (Release link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2284262®=1&lang=1>), in two distinct operations had seized 11 kg elephant ivory tusks in Sujargarh, Rajasthan and two intricately designed ivory idols of deities in Howrah Kolkata.

In month of May (Release link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2266027®=48&lang=2>), DRI had busted one syndicate in Mysuru, Karnataka and had seized 4 kg of elephant tusks.

These series of operations underscores the increasing threat of illegal wildlife trafficking and highlights DRI's unwavering commitment to safeguarding India's biodiversity and dismantling such criminal networks in accordance with national laws and international obligations under CITES.