



Covid-19 Insurance to Green Soldiers: PTR

Why in News

Recently, **Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR)** in **Arunachal Pradesh** has become the **first in the [eight-State northeast](#)** to provide insurance cover against **Covid-19** for “green soldiers”.

- Eight-State northeast includes Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

Key Points

- **57 frontline staff** (referred to as **green soldiers**) of the Park have been insured for nine months against health issues due to the infection by the Covid-19.
 - The **forest guards are rightly the green soldiers** in the frontline of India’s wildlife, and the onus of wildlife conservation pretty much falls on them.
- The **Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)**, an NGO, paid the insurance amount with support from Foundation Serge.
 - The NGO has been **supporting India’s frontline forest staff with accident cover** for the last 20 years.
- The **insurance coverage is of Rs. 1 lakh each** but a few who would be **retiring** soon has been insured for **Rs. 50,000**.

Pakke Tiger Reserve

- PTR (declared in 1999-2000) lies in the foothills of the eastern Himalaya in the East Kameng district of **Arunachal Pradesh** and is **also known as Pakhui Tiger Reserve**.
- It falls within the **[Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity Hotspot](#)**.
- It is home to over 2000 species of plants, 300 species of birds, 40 species of mammals, etc. Many species of the flora and fauna are globally threatened, and PTR is one of the last remaining strongholds left for these species.
- It is **known for its amazing sightings of four resident [hornbill species](#)**.
 - The **great hornbill** is the state bird of Arunachal Pradesh and it is ‘**vulnerable**’ under the **[IUCN Red List](#)**.
- **Other Protected Areas in Arunachal Pradesh:**
 - Talle Wildlife Sanctuary.
 - **[Dihang Dibang Biosphere Reserve](#)**.
 - Eagle Nest Wildlife Sanctuary.
 - **[Namdapha Tiger Reserve](#)**.
 - Mouling National Park.
 - Sessa Orchid Sanctuary.

[Source: TH](#)

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