

Impressed Tortoise

April 6, 2020

Why in news?

For the first time ever, the **Impressed Tortoise (Manouriaimpressa)** has been sighted in India.

More information:

- A joint survey team of the Forest Department and two NGOs, Help Earth and Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA), found a pair of the Impressed Tortoise **in Arunachal Pradesh.**
- This is the first record of the species from India and makes India the **third most turtle-rich country in the world.**
- **Northeast India was known to be the home of only the Asian Forest Tortoise (ManouriaEmys) until the discovery of the Impressed Tortoise.**
- The species has a golden-brown shell and skin and became of its magnificent appearance it's called the impressed tortoise.
- The male Impressed Tortoise is smaller than the female.
- The species is inhabiting **moist primary forest hill tracts of the Indo- Burma hot-spot (Cambodia, China, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam).**
- It is frugivorous (fungi-eating).
- The **last reported range extension of the species was from Gwa, Myanmar.**
- TSA is currently carrying out a conservation breeding program for the Impressed Tortoise with hopes of wild reintroduction.
- IUCN status – **Critically endangered**