



International Jaguar Day

Why in News?

Recently, the **National Zoological Park, New Delhi** (Delhi Zoo) celebrated the **International Jaguar Day**.

What is International Jaguar Day?

- International Jaguar Day was created **to raise awareness about the increasing threats facing the jaguar and the critical conservation efforts** ensuring its survival from Mexico to Argentina.
- **Observed annually on November 29**, International Jaguar Day celebrates the Americas' largest wild cat as **an umbrella species for biodiversity conservation** and an icon for sustainable development and the centuries-old cultural heritage of Central and South America.
- International Jaguar Day also represents the **collective voice of jaguar range countries, in collaboration with national and international partners**, to draw attention to the need to conserve jaguar corridors and their habitats as part of broader efforts to **achieve the United Nation's [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#)**.

What are the Key Facts about Jaguar?

- Jaguar is the **largest carnivore and only big cat in Latin America**, encompassing **18 countries from Mexico to Argentina**.
- Its scientific name is **Panthera Onca**.
- As a **“Near Threatened”** species on the [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\) Red List of Threatened Species](#), the jaguar is extinct in El Salvador and Uruguay, and facing pressure in remaining range countries.
- [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#) Listings: **Appendix I**
- Jaguars have experienced over **50% loss in its natural habitat range**.
- Jaguars are **often mistaken for leopards**, but can be differentiated due to the **spots within the rosettes on their coats**.
- While many cats avoid water, **jaguars are great swimmers**, and have even been **known to swim the Panama Canal**.
- The jaguar has been identified as **one species across its entire range, making the connection and protection of its habitat critical for the species’ genetic diversity**.

[Source: PIB](#)

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