



# Humboldt Penguin

## Why in News

Recently, Mumbai's Byculla Zoo announced the addition of **two new Humboldt penguin chicks**.

## Key Points

### ▪ About:



- Humboldt penguins (*Spheniscus Humboldti*) are a **medium-sized species** with an average height of just over 2 ft.
- They have **large, bare skin patches around their eyes**, an adaptation to help keep them cool.
- Their breeding season in the wild is **either March-April or September-October** depending on the location of the colony.
- They are **one of the most popular zoo penguins** due to their ability to withstand warmer climates.

### ▪ Habitat:

- Humboldt penguins are endemic to the **Pacific coasts of Chile and Peru**.
  - They are so named because their habitat is **located near the Humboldt Current**, a large **oceanic upwelling characterised by cold waters**.

### ▪ Threats:

- Entanglement in fishing nets, loss of key breeding sites, harvesting of guano for use as

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fertiliser, and being hunted by introduced species such as cats and dogs.

▪ **Protection Status:**

- [IUCN](#): Vulnerable
- [CITES](#): Appendix I

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