



International Red Panda Day

International Red Panda Day is observed on the **3rd Saturday in September** each year to raise awareness about the **endangered Red Panda** and galvanise global conservation efforts.

- **About:** The **Red Panda (also called the Firefox, Lesser Panda, or Red Cat-Bear)** is found across the Himalayas, from **Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, North Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, northern Myanmar to China's Sichuan and Yunnan provinces.**
 - The **[Great Bend of the Brahmaputra](#)** divides their population into the **Himalayan Red Panda** and the **Chinese Red Panda**.
 - Red Panda prefers **altitudes of 2,200-4,800 m** in mixed deciduous & conifer forests with bamboo understory.
- **Cultural Significance:** Red Panda is declared as **Sikkim's state animal** in the 1990s, and as the mascot of the **Darjeeling Tea Festival**.
- **Ecological Role:** Primarily bamboo-dependent, but also eats plants and small animals. It **undergoes torpor (hibernation) in winter**.
- **Conservation Status:** The Red Panda is listed as **Endangered on the IUCN Red List**, included in **Appendix I of CITES**, and is protected under **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 in India.**
 - **Conservation Efforts:** **Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (Darjeeling)** initiated a **captive breeding programme in the 1990s**.
- **Major Threats:** Habitat loss, poaching, illegal pet trade, linear infrastructure, food competition (with livestock and wild species), and **inbreeding**.
 - **Illegal Trafficking:** Reported cases in **Singalila and Neora Valley National Parks (North Bengal)**.



Read more: [Red Panda](#)

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