

Humboldt penguins

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

About Humboldt penguins-

- Humboldt penguin, (*Spheniscus humboldti*), **also called Peruvian penguin**, is a species of penguin (order Sphenisciformes).
- Penguins are divided into six genera and the **Humboldt penguin (*Spheniscus humboldti*) belongs to a genus that is commonly known as the 'banded' group.**
- **They are so named because their habitat is located near the Humboldt Current**, a large oceanic upwelling characterised by cold waters.
- The geographic range of the species is limited to the **coasts of Peru and Chile and nearby Pacific islands.**
- They have **large, bare skin patches around their eyes, an adaptation to help keep them cool.**
- It is characterized by the **presence of a broad C-shaped band of white feathers on the head**, a wide band of black feathers that runs down the sides of the body and **a large pink fleshy region on the face.**
- Their **breeding season** in the wild is **either March-April or September-October** depending on the location of the colony.
- They **primarily feed on anchovies, pilchards (sardines), and herring and also consume crustaceans and cephalopods.**
- This penguin's **lifespan is about 20 years.**
- The **Humboldt is one of the most popular zoo penguins due to its ability to withstand warmer**

climates.

- **IUCN status-** Vulnerable



Difference between Humboldt penguins & other Penguins-

- The largest, the Emperor penguin, stands at over 4 ft tall while the Little penguin has a maximum height of 1 ft.
- Humboldt penguins have an average height of just over 2 ft.

Mumbai's Byculla Zoo-

- Veermata Jijabai Bhonsale Udyan, also known as the Byculla Zoo and formerly Victoria Gardens, is a zoo and garden covering 50 acres located at Byculla, in the heart of Mumbai, India.
- It is the oldest public garden in Mumbai.
- After Indian independence it was named after Jijamata, the mother of Shivaji , the first Maratha emperor.