Indian Squid

Why in News?

The ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) recently said that it decoded the gene expression pattern of Indian squid having major implications from neuroscience to environmental science.

- **Scientific Name -** Uroteuthis duvaucelii.
- It is also known as the Indian calamari.
- **Group** - It is a cephalopod species, any member of the molluscan class Cephalopoda.
    - This group includes highly advanced species such as squids, octopuses, cuttlefish, and nautiluses.
- **Family –** Loliginidae, typically called inshore or neritic squids.
- **Appearance -** Indian squid has a distinctive coloration, with a light pinkish-gray body and 2 large fins on either side. They have 8 arms and 2 longer tentacles that they use to capture prey.



- **Behavior -** Generally, squids are extensively known for their rapid growth rate, limited lifespan, and complex population structures
- They are fast swimmers and are capable of propelling themselves through the water using a jet propulsion system.
- This allows them to reach speeds of ***up to 40 km/h*** when escaping from predators or chasing prey.
- Squids tend to prefer areas with high levels of dissolved oxygen, as this is crucial for their respiration.
- **Distribution -** It is distributed in the Indo-Pacific region, occurring in depths between 30 and 170 meters.
- Along the coast of India, squids are commonly found in the waters off the coasts of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Goa.
- **Diet** - This species is an ***active carnivore*** that feeds mainly on crustaceans and small fishes and often exhibits cannibalistic behavior.
- **Conservation Status**
    - **IUCN** - Least Concern.
- **Uses -** Food resource, utilized as fertilizer supplemental food source for highend and

expensive cultured animals.

- **Other Species - Bigfin reef squid** – IUCN Status - “Data Deficient”.

References

1. The Hindu | Indian squid
2. National Library of Medicine | Uroteuthis duvaucelii