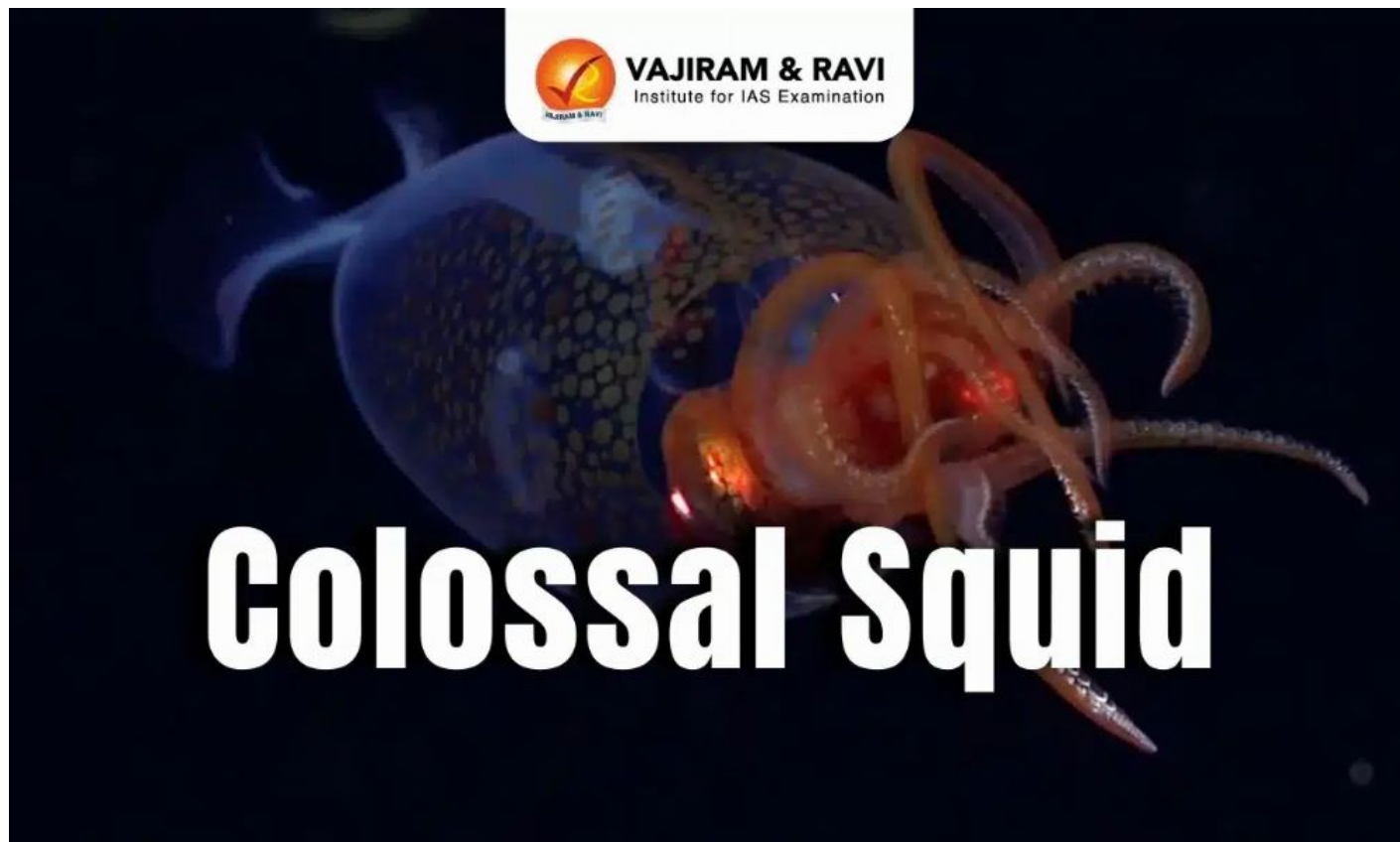


Colossal Squid

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Colossal Squid Latest News

Marine scientists recently captured the world's first footage of a colossal squid swimming freely in its natural habitat – nearly a century after the species was first identified.

About Colossal Squid

- It is **one of the largest and most elusive invertebrates** on Earth.
- Scientific Name: *Mesonychoteuthis hamiltoni*
- **Distribution:** It is found in the **icy depths** of the **Southern Ocean near Antarctica**.

Colossal Squid Features

- This **soft-bodied marine animal** is somewhat **like an octopus, but** with a **much bulkier frame and far greater length**.
- It has a **tube-shaped body, huge eyes, and arms and tentacles with suckers** to grab food.
- It can reach lengths of up to 7 metres (around 23 feet) and weight as much as 500 kilograms.

- **When they're young**, these creatures are **almost see-through**, giving them the **glassy, ghost-like look** that's typical of many deep-sea juveniles.
- **As they grow**, their appearance changes drastically, taking on a **deep red or purplish colour** and developing **thick, muscular arms**.
- **Fully grown**, they are believed to be the **largest invertebrates on Earth**, meaning they have no bones but can still grow to massive sizes.
- What really sets the colossal squid apart, though, are the **sharp, swivelling hooks on its tentacles**, something **no other squid species has**.
- It's also known for having the **largest eyes of any animal** ever discovered, believed to help it detect prey and predators in the pitch-black ocean depths.
- **Colossal Squid Conservation Status:** It is classified as Least Concern under the IUCN Red List.

Source: TH

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