



drishti

Rare Tarantula Sighted in Tamil Nadu

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The spider belonging to the **Genus Poecilotheria**, commonly known as the **Peacock Parachute Spider or Gooty Tarantula** was spotted in the **Pakkamalai Reserve Forests** in Villupuram District, **Tamil Nadu**.

- **Peacock Parachute Spider (Gooty Tarantula)**



- **The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** has categorised it as **Critically Endangered**.
- It is **endemic to India**.
- The **known habitat** of this species is in **the Eastern Ghats especially degraded forests near Nandyal in Andhra Pradesh**.
- Species of this genus can be **identified** based on the **banding patterns on the underside of the legs**.
- Tarantulas are **biological pest controllers** and there is a huge demand for them by collectors in the pet trade. There is an urgent need to protect them.

Source : TH