

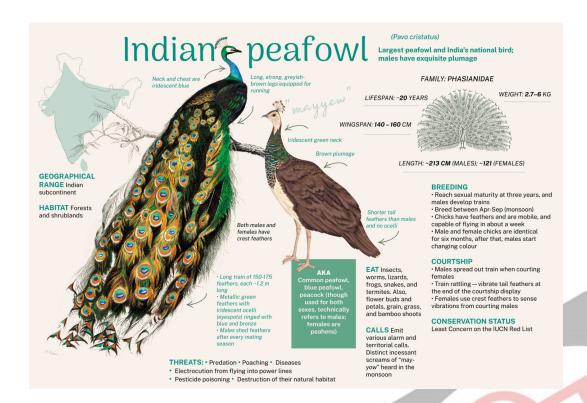
Rare White Peacock

Source: TH

Recently, a rare **leucistic peacock** with **white feathers** was rescued in Coimbatore.

- The peacock's white feathers are due to leucism, a genetic condition that prevents melanin and other pigments from being deposited on feathers at normal levels which has resulted in dark eyes, pink bill, and feet of peacock.
 - White Peacock is not a different species of peacock.
- Leucism: Leucism is a genetic condition that results in partial loss of pigmentation in animals, leading to white, pale, or patchy coloration while retaining normal eye colour.
 - It is different from **albinism**, which involves a **complete lack of melanin** and often results in red or pink eyes.
 - Melanin is a natural pigment that colours skin, hair, and eyes, and shields them from <u>Ultra Violet (UV)</u> damage.
- Peacock:
 - Peafowl is the collective term for peacocks, with the male called a peacock and the female a peahen.
 - The <u>Indian peacock</u> (*Pavo cristatus*) is the <u>National Bird of India</u>, belongs to the *Phasianidae family*.
 - This family also includes pheasants, quails, partridges, and jungle fowl.
 - Species of Peafowl:
 - Indian (Blue) Peacock: Native to India and Sri Lanka.
 - Green (Javanese) Peacock: Found from Myanmar to Java.
 - Protection Status:
 - IUCN: Listed as Least Concern.
 - Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I

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Read more: Indian Peafowl

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