



Marvellous Aunt Maneka

Aunt Maneka is an environmentalist, a Minister of State, and an animal lover. She is here to answer all your questions on animals and birds so that you can take better care of the animals around you and be a better friend of nature.

Q. Do fireworks harm animals?

Amit Sharma, 12 years, Jhansi

Dear Amit,

A. Yes, fireworks terrify animals and kill many of them, especially birds. Birds fly away and remain away from their nests for days because of which they get disoriented. It may cause heart attacks, especially in smaller birds. Sometimes, fireworks fly into trees and burn nests. Dogs are frightened by the loud sounds. Many dogs break out of their houses because of fear and can get into accidents on the roads. Some stray animals too are forced to hide inside gutters. Many of them are hit by fireworks. Please avoid using them.

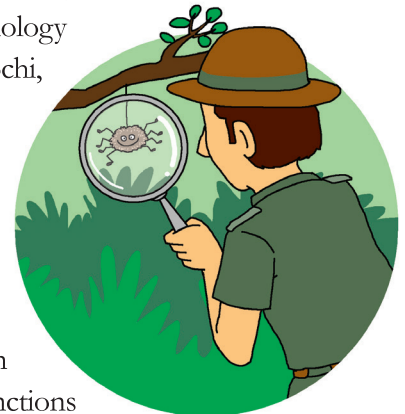


Q. Is there still any place in India where new species can be discovered?

Saji Thomas, 10 years, Cochin

Dear Saji,

A. Yes, almost all of India's natural wildlife has not been discovered because there are fewer scientists to explore our natural wealth. The Western Ghats are one example in which thousands of unknown creatures abound. Every week or so, a new species is found by scientists. For instance, in March this year, the Division of Arachnology of Sacred Heart College, Kochi, under the leadership of Dr. P.A. Sebastian, who have found many new kinds of spiders found yet another—a little jumping spider with a unique whitish plug on the copulatory organ of the male spider which functions as the paternity protection device. Another notable feature of these spiders is the presence of strong bristles around the eye region in both males and females. Deforestation may destroy forests as people clear them to build houses.



If you have questions about pets/animals/birds, write to us and we'll ask Aunt Maneka to answer.

✉ writetochampak@delhipress.in
f www.facebook.com/ChampakMagazine

