

RAILWAY RODENTS

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Our reader Divyam Chhaya wrote to us, after reading our news story, 'It's pests out of control in Pune rly dvn's trains', dated August 30, saying, "I am completely shocked to see that there were 85 complaints in two months, but the railways only managed temporary fixes. From Pune station, I have travelled in AC coaches fearing that sleeper coaches might have the issue of pests. But, to my shock, when I got off the train, I noticed that two of my bags were eaten up from the sides and the handle completely damaged by a rodent. Not only that, many of the passengers complain about rats running around the floor of AC coaches. I think the biggest contributor to increase the number of pests is none other than the citizens. Even in some of the best AC coaches, which are equipped with trash bags on either sides, people tend to throw the waste on the tracks itself. Littering has been a burning issue in India and so it is in the railway stations. Because of this, the rodents have massive colonies near tracks and once the train halts at a station, the pest seek refuge on it and get inside the bags and belongings of the people."