



THE  
DOON  
SCHOOL

# Birds of Chandbagh

2017-18

## Black-headed Oriole

*(Oriolus xanthornus)*

*The black head had quite a distinctive call... another one that would disrupt ongoing geography lessons as Guru would look out of the window and say 'Well, bark... what is that bird?'*



The multifarious and diverse flora on the Chandbagh Estate attracts numerous birds. For those species that have made homes on the campus, there are rich pickings on offer - ranging from mango and leechi groves near Skinners to the safety of the bamboo thickets behind the Rosebowl, among the abundant foliage all around.

Our visitors come in different girths and plumage. You can spot the busy little Yellow-backed Sunbirds and Tree Pies on a regular walk, while the magnificent Golden Orioles and the Paradise Catcher will make a grand entry when you least expect it. Through the seasons, nature's bounty is on display. Their presence, however, does not go unnoticed. Come spring-summer, and you will be woken up by a wonderful cacophony of morning ragas while the monsoon mugginess is pierced by the echoing calls of the Asian Koels. Through the day, the Jungle Babblers do their fair share of attention seeking.

Over the years, a few masters and students have quietly observed this year-round activity and turned into keen birdwatchers. Among them, naturalist, author, filmmaker, avid photographer and a once upon a time artist Shiv Kunal Verma (182 H, 1976) has managed to 'capture' them in a series of drawings and watercolours. For this year's calendar, he shares a few of them with us from his collection spiced with interesting anecdotes of masters during his years in School.

**Indian Pitta**  
(*Pitta brachyura*)

*I remember seeing one for the first time just behind  
the bamboo clump near the main entrance. I had no clue what it was.  
Described it to Guru who said it must have been the Pitta.*



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- Boys Return after Founder's Day Break
- Districts Athletics Meet
- Inter House Squash
- Inter House Tennis
- Inter House Table Tennis
- Inter House Badminton
- Inter House Basketball
- Inter House Chess
- Inter House Boxing
- Assessment Week
- First Aid Competition
- Trinity Examinations
- Art Gala
- Community Lunch
- The Chuckerbutty Memorial Debates
- Bakble English Literature Prize Test
- Special Assembly
- House Feasts

*November 2017*

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4*	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30										

\* *Guru Nanak Jayanti*

**Scarlet Minivet**  
(*Pericrocotus flammeus*)

*I don't recall which junior form we were in... Col Simeon was away and Guru was taking assembly in the Music School when suddenly a flock of scarlet minivets descended from nowhere onto the tree there... assembly was delayed as we all stood on the gravel, marvelling at the sheer brilliance of it all.*



**THE  
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- Round Square Projects/ Conference
- Thar Expedition
- Winter Vacation



*December 2017*

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25*	26	27	28	29	30	31							

\* Christmas



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**Yellow-backed Sunbird**  
*(Aethopyga siparaja)*

*Garden visitor... quite common now in  
the Doon Valley... sit in any garden and one can spend  
an entire day watching them...*

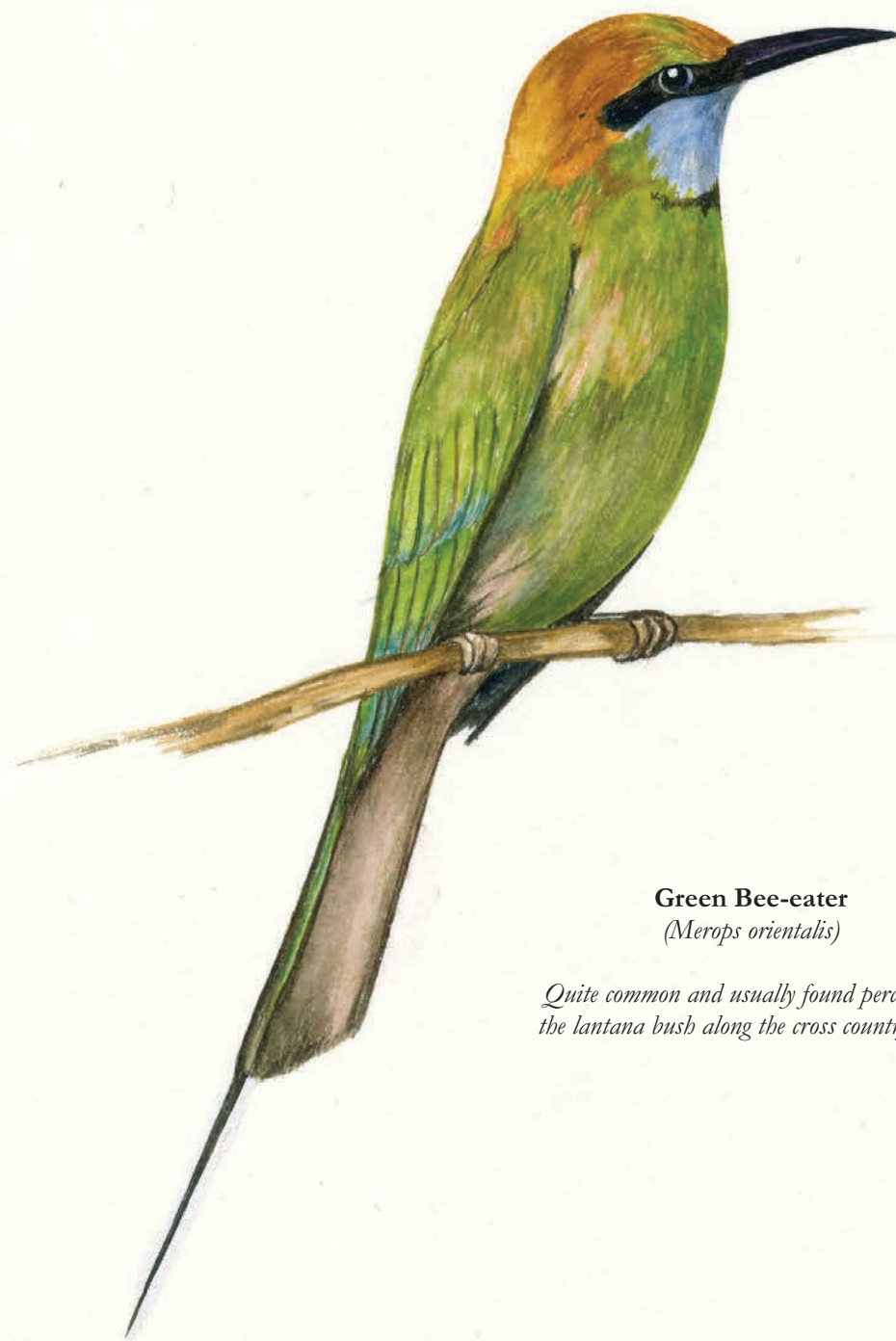


- Jaipur Literary Festival
- Republic Day
- Pre-season Senior Cricket Camp
- Staff Workshop
- Round Square Conference
- Harvard MUN Conference
- School Opens for Spring Term
- School Captain Election
- Prefects' Workshop

*January 2018*

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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22	23	24	25	26**	27	28	29	30	31											

*\* New Year's Day \*\* Republic Day*



**Green Bee-eater**  
(*Merops orientalis*)

*Quite common and usually found perched on the lantana bush along the cross country route*



**THE  
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- Preliminary Trials A Form (ICSE), SC Form (ISC) and SC Form (IB)
- A Form (ICSE), SC Form (ISC) and SC Form (IB) PTM
- Workshop for S-form (Gender sensitivity)
- Workshop for Board Exam Students (Handling Exam stress)
- ICSE & ISC Examinations
- Cricket Season
- Inter House English Debates (Senior)

## February 2018

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13*	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28											

\* *Mahashivratri*

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- Prize Giving Day
- World Theatre Day
- World Poetry Day
- Workshop for C-form  
(Communication Skills)
- Trials

**Hoopoe**  
(*Upupa epops*)

*I bet most people still think it's a woodpecker... the crest only opens  
as it alights on a perch (or the ground). Busy little creatures around Skimmers...  
now of course we have Oberoi House there.*

## March 2018

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30**	31								

\* Holi \*\* Good Friday

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**Golden Oriole**  
(*Oriolus oriolus*)

*This Oriole had a distinctive call. Another one of Guru's 'Well, hark what is that bird?' I remember seeing a specimen near the Music School. It was a rare sighting, the black-headed variety being more common.*



**THE  
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- *Swimming Season*
- *New Boys Arrive*
- *New Boys' Induction Programme*
- *Mid-Term*
- *Hockey Season*
- *Smt. Mirchandani Hindi Essay Writing Contest (Junior)*
- *BP Chandola Memorial Essay Prize Contest*
- *Bakble English Essay Writing Competition*
- *Terry Fox Run*
- *BG Pitre Science Short Story Contest*
- *RLSS Camp*
- *Workshop on Emotional Literacy*
- *The Doon School Literary Festival*
- *A and B form PTMs*
- *Earth Day Conference*

## April 2018

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						

\* Easter \*\* Baisakhi

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**Blossom-headed Parakeet**  
(*Psittacula roseata*)

*Smaller than the Rose Ring variety, these would often be found near the swimming pool. RD Singh pointed out that the females had grey heads and were not another species.*

- *IB Examination*
- *Inter House One Act Play Competition*
- *Afzal Khan Memorial Basketball Tournament*
- *C and D form PTM*
- *Dr. S R Vohra Individual Tennis Tournament*
- *Kanwar Rani Tara Devi Hindi Essay Writing Contest (Senior)*
- *Young Entrepreneurs' Conference*
- *Historical Circle Essay Contest*
- *Prefects' Review Workshop*
- *IOE Teacher training*
- *Assessment Week*
- *Battle of the Bands Concert*
- *House Feasts*
- *Special Assembly*
- *Golden Night Dinner*

*May 2018*

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**Asian Koel**  
*(Eudynamys scolopaceus)*

*A brood parasite, these are perhaps the loudest birds, especially during the monsoon. Sitting in KK's garden one day, we bet Mr AN Dhar it wasn't a crow. Guru arrived just then and AD had to cough up whatever he had lost to KK.*

- Summer Vacation
- Summer at Doon Programme
- Round Square Projects/Conferences
- Expeditions
- Educational Trips



*June 2018*

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30								

*\* Id-Ul-Fitr (date to be confirmed)*

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**Indian White-eye**  
*(Zosterops palpebrosa)*

*Fairly common... especially around the HM's residence  
towards the old Music School and Tata House*

- *Staff Workshop*
- *Pre-season Soccer Camp*
- *School reopens for the Autumn Term*



*July 2018*

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					



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**Jungle Babbler**  
(*Turdoides striata*)

*Gregarious and noisy, they would hop along the lower branches. When RP was told they were also known as the 'Seven Sisters', he promptly gave them yet another nick name - Welhamites!!*

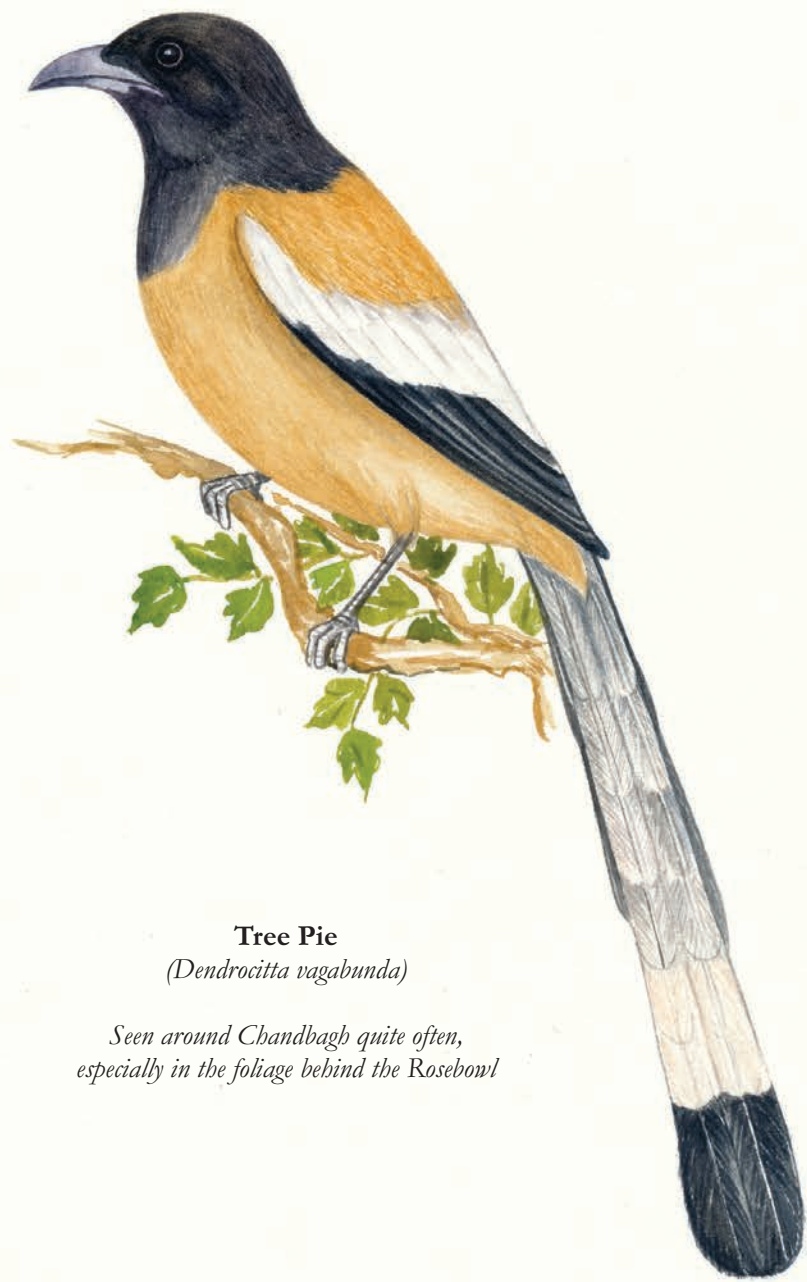
- *Asset Exams for D-A forms*
- *Senior English Inter House Debates (Finals)*
- *Shanti Swaroop Science Essay Prize Test*
- *Gombar Speech Contest*
- *Inter House Hindi Debates*
- *The Doon School Chess Tournament*
- *DS Aquatic Meet*
- *DSMUN*
- *Navin Chandra Best Hindi Debater's Cup (Round 1)*
- *Inter House Music Competition (Dance & Band)*
- *Inter House Swimming*
- *Inter House Junior English Debates*
- *Soccer Season*
- *C & D Form PTM*

## August 2018

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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20	21	22**	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31									

*\* Independence Day \*\* Id-Ul-Juba (date to be confirmed)*

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**Tree Pie**  
(*Dendrocitta vagabunda*)

*Seen around Chandbagh quite often,  
especially in the foliage behind the Rosebowl*



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- *Dipankar Sen Science Quiz*
- *Senior Math Colloquium*
- *Council Football Tournament*
- *Mid-Year Trials*
- *Sardar Mohammad Tennis Finals*
- *Mid Term*
- *Inter-House Music Competition (Tabla, Vocal and Instrumental)*
- *Inter-House Music Competition (Drums, Piano and Choir)*
- *Inter House Soccer*
- *Uttarakhand State Ranking Tennis Tournament*
- *Navin Chandra Best Hindi Debater's Cup (Round 2)*
- *S & SC Form PTM*
- *Kamla Jeevan Inter School Hindi Debates*

*September 2018*

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							

\* *Janmashtmi*



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**Indian Roller**  
(*Coracias benghalensis*)

*Extremely colourful, especially in flight,  
many consider it to be among the most beautiful  
birds in the subcontinent.*



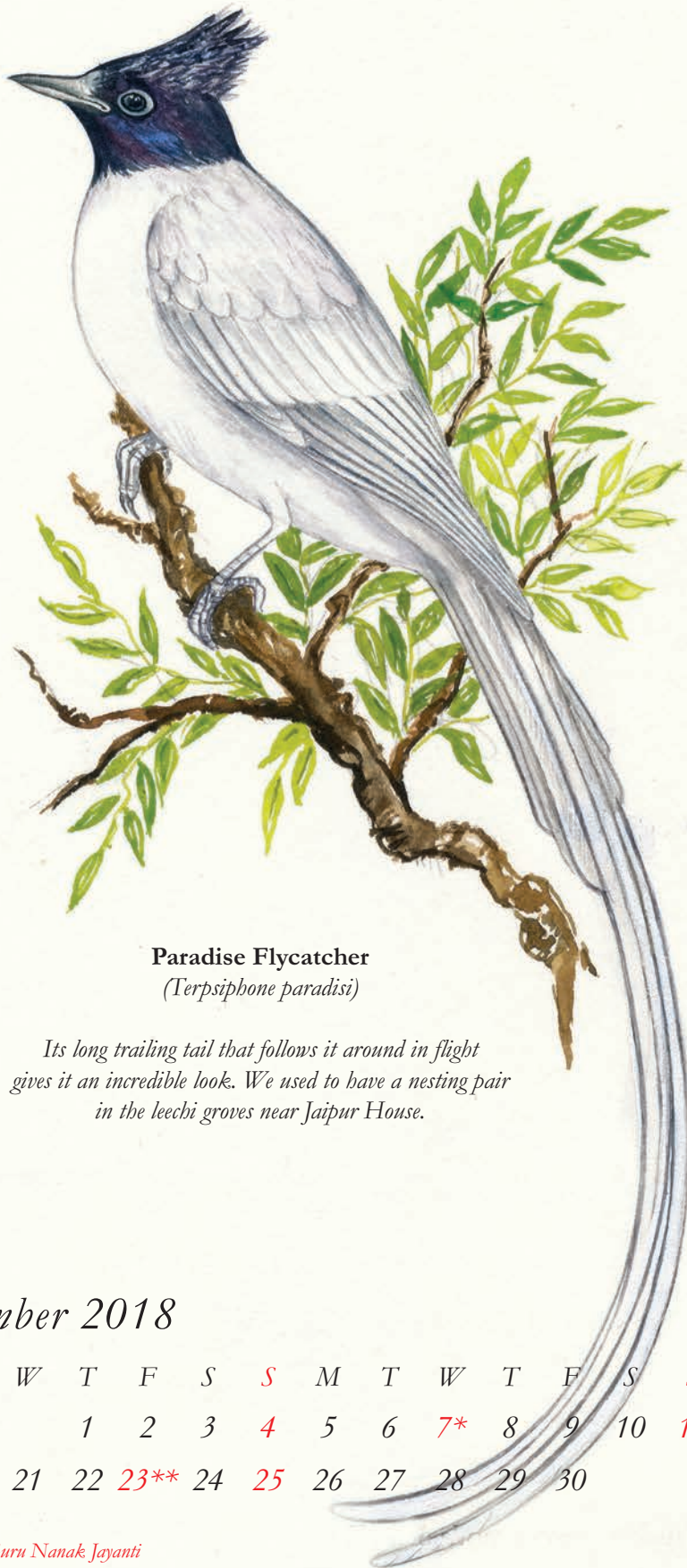
- *Celebration of Wildlife Week*
- *Mental Health Day*
- *Frank Anthony Basketball Tournament*
- *National Creativity Olympiad Test*
- *Founder's Day Programme*
- *RL Holdsworth Cricket Match*
- *Inter House Athletics*
- *Round Square Conference*
- *International Students' Science Conference*
- *Founder's Day Break*

*October 2018*

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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*\* Gandbi Jayanti \*\* Dussebra*

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**Paradise Flycatcher**  
(*Terpsiphone paradisi*)

*Its long trailing tail that follows it around in flight gives it an incredible look. We used to have a nesting pair in the leechi groves near Jaipur House.*



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\* Diwali \*\* Guru Nanak Jayanti

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- *Round Square Projects/ Conference*
- *Thar Expedition*
- *Winter Vacation*



**Hill Myna**  
*(Gracula religiosa)*

*Way back in 1972, I had a Hill Myna. One day I brought her to school and she got away. When all seemed lost, she suddenly came and alighted on my shoulder after having explored Chandbagh. I have seen some around Rajpur Road... but not on campus per se.*

### December 2018

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25*	26	27	28	29	30	31						

\* *Christmas*

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