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# THE LITTLE MAGAZINE

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April 2025 Vol. 1 No. 1

● SANNIKAT

● Bengali Association of Minnesota

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## Lovely Spring

Ishani Roy (10)

When Spring awakes,  
and in nature takes  
the refreshing air  
with wonderful care!

Months pass by,  
And people say goodbye  
Spring is winding down  
and waiting for next year-round!

The sunlight is glowing,  
while the flowers are  
blooming  
the people are grinning  
and this is just the  
beginning!

Now it's time for summer,  
Where it will be much warmer  
and when you're feeling lonely  
Nature will keep you company!

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## Kalpana Chawla: Woman of the Month

Shivali Choudhury (21)



Udantica Roy (12)



Sunita Williams, a celebrated astronaut, spent nine months in space, demonstrating the immense strength, determination, and resilience required to thrive in such a challenging environment. Her incredible journey continues to inspire people, highlighting the pivotal role that women play in space exploration.

One such trailblazer is Kalpana Chawla, who made history as the first Indian-born woman to reach space. Her story continues to motivate young girls to dream big and pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) while breaking down barriers.

Kalpana Chawla was born in 1962 in Karnal, India. From an early age, she was deeply fascinated with aeronautics and space, a passion that would shape her future in extraordinary ways. She began her academic journey at Tagore School in Karnal, then moved to Dayal Singh College in her hometown, where she studied basic engineering. Her thirst for knowledge led her to Punjab Engineering College in Chandigarh, and later to the United States in 1982, where she earned both a master's degree and a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering.

After finishing her Ph.D., Kalpana joined NASA's Ames Research Center in California in 1988. There, she worked on powered-lift computational fluid dynamics, making her a recognized expert in the field. By 1994, her talent and dedication led to her selection for astronaut training, a pivotal moment that would alter the course of her life forever. In November 1997, Kalpana Chawla flew into space for the first time as part of the STS-87 mission aboard the space shuttle Columbia. As a mission specialist, she operated the shuttle's robotic arm. During the two-week mission, she orbited Earth 252 times. This mission not only made her the first Indian-born woman to travel to space but also made her a trailblazer for South Asian women in space exploration.

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# Kalpana Chawla: Woman of the Month (cont.)

Shivali Choudhury (21)

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Tragically, her second mission aboard the Columbia in January 2003 would be her last. On February 1, 2003, the shuttle broke apart as it re-entered Earth's atmosphere due to a catastrophic failure, and unfortunately, all seven crew members lost their lives. Although her passing was a profound loss, her legacy lives on in the fields of science and space exploration.

Kalpana was incredibly passionate about encouraging young girls, especially in India, to pursue STEM careers. She often interacted with students, mentoring them and creating opportunities for them to learn about space and engineering. Through NASA's Summer Space Experience Program, she invited young girls from her hometown of Karnal to visit the United States and experience the wonders of space education up close.

Today, Kalpana Chawla's legacy is more powerful than ever. She continues to inspire countless young girls to dream of careers in space, science, and technology. By breaking through barriers and challenging societal norms, Kalpana opened doors for future generations of women in space. Her courage, determination, and unwavering commitment to making the world a better place remain a guiding light for girls everywhere, reminding them that with hard work and belief in themselves, they too can reach for the stars.



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## She Does Too

Anvita Ghosh (13)

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When I stand up, she does too—always watching me with brown eyes, full of curiosity.

When I sit down, she does too—always right beside me, her warmth settling in.

When I sleep, she does too—always resting against me in a drowsy daze, snoring softly.

When I wander, she does too—always following step by step, never straying.

When I watch, she does too—always raising her head high, as if to find something in the sky.

When I wish, she does too—always sharing my hope, reinforcing it with her mind.

When we dream, the world stills—full of exciting and new possibilities for us to discover.





of gods

Ira Chinta (13)

by gods

for gods



## IT'S A PARTY

*even if you only come for the prasad.*

Durga Puja Season is here, and the gods are getting ready to observe another 4 days of festivities. Sponsored by Owlchoice, Flutus Magnificus, and Strumlords Vinas, the Heavenly Puja will be observed by all celestial residents, whether god, demigod, godly mount or other heavenly being. We are excited to present the schedule for these grand events:

**DAY 1:** A seasonal favorite, the Shopper's Alley comes back featuring saris by Celestial Couture (and designed by Urvashi), Swarovski modeled by Saraswati's swan, and of course, Heavenly Hilsa Fish is coming back (of course Ganga from heaven, not earth, is giving us these fish).

**DAY 2:** Mounts on Parade has the Owlchoice Owl leading, a peacock strutting its stuff, and of course, The Elephant (call him Airavat. Please pronounce it right). Ganesha's mouse is present, so getting front-row seating is advisable if you want to see him. Laddus are provided.

**DAY 3:** Annually, everyone in Heaven looks forward to Gift Day on the third day of Durga Puja. Take home offerings from Earth, adorn your space in a decoration contest, try on new clothes in a Gift Fashion Show, and watch a Gandharva-Apsara collaboration while snacking on prasadam.

**DAY 4:** As we prepare for the end of the season, we have the Final Festival. SwanStage will play host to this event, with technology demos by Vishwakarma, a series of three renewable energy-themed DEVELOper Talks by Surya, Vayu, and Varun talking about the merits of alternative power, a new set of Durvasa's best work in Curses to Crush The Soul, and a raffle, where the prize is replica weapons like the ones Durga fights with. For introverted gods, it will also be available to livestream.

THE SPORTS PAGES:

## DO OR DIE

*stakes sponsored by Kubera Asset Management Private Limited*

Hopefully you don't lose any kingdoms. DiceCon is coming again to Heaven, and even if you're not playing, you'll still bet. Bet on what, you ask? Of course, the winner! We have our dice cast (pun intended) on Shakuni, the 20 time winner whose soul is coming back for another round. We want to know this: who are YOU betting on for the game... and whose kingdom do you think will get it this time? Place your bets down below!



### VOTING BOOTH:

Shakuni. Going with the majority.	85%
Yudhishtir. So what he lost the last 20 rounds?	10%
Other. This is dice, not Kurukshetra 2.0.	5%

## GODLY GOSSIP:

Menaka is taking ballet lessons. I think she's trying to become a Western god. Why? I don't know, but maybe she wants to tour Europe like the rest of us. Please don't leave us! We also want to take selfies with famous landmarks!

Speaking of travel, Vishwakarma was trying to replace Garuda with a state of the art plane called the "Pushpak 2". We just are clamoring to know: how is Vishnu going to afford to feed that snake throne (sheshnaga) after buying it?

Also, you will never guess the SCANDAL that has happened in the Apsara world. Rambha has come under fire for taking a side job as a movie choreographer. Now if you want to know why the RRR dance was so good, that is why.

Edit: Rambha is not in trouble anymore, as RRR was a box-office success. She is thinking of permanently moving to Bollywood. You will be missed.

--Apsara-In-Chief.

### ADVERTISEMENTS:

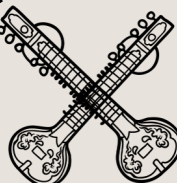


*flutus magnificus*  
THE REASON RADHA LOVES KRISHNA



OWLCHOICE  
FINANCIAL

STRUM LORDS



VEENAS - ALL STRINGS ATTACHED!

## WEATHER:



LOUDY

99% CHANCE OF IMMORTALITY BOONS

GODS ON VACATION:

Expect fair weather. To make a little extra money, Arun, charioteer of Surya, has become an Uber driver for puja season. Sun will decrease and temperatures will drop to a nice 70-80 degrees Fahrenheit. Vayu and Varun are traveling to meet family, so wind and rain won't interrupt puja plans. This is some of the best weather we've had in a while, so we encourage all gods to get outside.

GOD-ERN FASHIONISTA

## BEAUTIFUL:

The Alley has to be the best part of puja season. There's entertainment, shopping, and the best Hilsa fish ever. But what draws us today? A new shop called Heaven on Your Face. I never expected makeup and skincare, but it's a welcome addition. Our favorite is Satyavati Perfume, aka Fish to Flower. The flower scent is strong, and I mean so strong that I probably won't be smelling the Hilsa fish from Heavenly next door. The next is Kamdeva's Lipstick Lovers collection. The adorable brushes resembling arrows were one thing. But the colors blew us away. A fittingly romantic pink called Apsara Hall was the top pick, while others such as Agni Fire and Celestial Coral also found a place among the best. And we can't forget a returning favorite! There was always one shop selling Sword/Shield/Shampoo, Draupadi's hair care brand. This one is Perfect.

# A Festival of Wisdom and Unity: The Essence of Saraswati Pujo

Shivali Choudhury (21) & Mishti Choudhury (14)



Saraswati Pujo has always been more than just a festival for our community; it is a celebration of knowledge, creativity, and the sheer joy of learning. It is a day when we come together, bound by tradition and love, to honor the goddess of wisdom. With every passing year, this festival strengthens our bonds, filling our hearts with happiness and gratitude.

As the auspicious day approaches, a palpable excitement fills the air. Households buzz with preparations, and everyone eagerly anticipates the festivities. The color yellow dominates the scene—symbolizing Basanto, the spring festival—adorning our clothes and decorations. Women drape themselves in elegant sarees, glowing with grace, while men look dapper in their panjabis and dhotis.

On the day of the pujo, we gather with reverence to set up the idol of Saraswati. The goddess radiates serenity and wisdom. Fresh garlands of fragrant flowers are placed around her, and we lay books, pens, and musical instruments at her feet, seeking her blessings for academic success and artistic inspiration. The pandal, decorated with intricate designs and vibrant fabrics, becomes a reflection of our collective effort and love.

As the priest chants sacred mantras, our hands fold in prayer, our hearts brimming with hope and faith. The rhythmic beats of the dhaak reverberate through the air, and the fragrance of incense weaves an aura of divinity. The most soul-stirring moment arrives with the pushpanjali, as we offer flowers to the goddess, reciting prayers in perfect unison. The unity of voices, the sincerity in every whispered plea, creates an atmosphere of pure devotion.

Among the most touching traditions is the Haate-Kori ceremony, where the youngest children, ready to embark on their journey of learning, write their first letters under the guidance of Maa Saraswati. Watching their tiny hands grasp chalk for the first time, eyes wide with wonder, is a moment of pure magic.

Saraswati Pujo is also a celebration of culture and togetherness. The air fills with melody as children perform songs and recite poetry, their voices ringing with enthusiasm. And then, of course, there is the food—prepared with love and savored with joy. The community kitchen becomes a space of camaraderie, where all hands come together to slice vegetables, stir bubbling pots, and serve steaming plates of khichuri, labra, and payesh. Cooking side by side and sharing meals strengthens the ties that bind us.

The younger generation plays an indispensable role in making Saraswati Pujo a cherished experience. Youth volunteers bring boundless energy and dedication, coordinating cultural programs, assisting elders, and ensuring that every aspect of the event runs smoothly. Their enthusiasm is infectious, ensuring that everyone—from the smallest child to the eldest grandparent—feels included and valued.

Saraswati Pujo is a testament to the beauty of learning, the power of community, and the deep-rooted traditions that shape us. As I bow before the goddess each year, I feel a profound sense of gratitude—not just for her blessings, but for the privilege of sharing this celebration with those who make learning a joyful, lifelong journey. It is in these moments, surrounded by love, wisdom, and unity, that I understand the true essence of Saraswati Pujo.



# The Little Rat

Utsa Banerjee (8)



Once there was a little rat. He had no home. He felt lonely, he missed his mom. He was on a search for a home. He looked in all directions for animals to ask for a home. But nobody. Said yes. He was shy, white and he was a bit brave.

Once on a sunny, different day, he was on a stroll looking for animals to ask for a home. He met a fox. Fox said, "Yes, in one condition." The excited mouse said "what is it?" The fox said, "I can tell some of it today and some of it tomorrow". The mouse agreed and in excitement and in a flash, he got to work, mowing the grass and plucking the weeds.

When he was done in about an hour, the fox was super excited and very pleased of the mouse. So, he asked for the name of the rat. The little rat said, "I don't have a name". The fox understood that the mouse did not have a home, so the mouse did not have parents to give him a name. The fox said, "Now I will call you, Chester from now on". Chester was pleased with his new name.

The next day, the fox had a grill ready on full heat. When Chester was sleeping, he was in the fox's hand. And almost got dropped on the grill. But then Chester woke up and said, "What are you doing?" to the fox. The fox dropped Chester on the ground and Chester gave up his name.



Samara Jena (8)



Dinner Time for the Giraffe - Meru Roy (7)



Snowy Mountains - Kaya Roy (5)

# BAM Sunday Soccer

Ayush Brahma (15), Shiladitya Pal (14) & Shayaan Purkayastha (14)



Today, three high school boys from the BAM community will give you their personal opinions on a BAM unofficial event called Sunday Soccer.

**Ayush Brahma:**

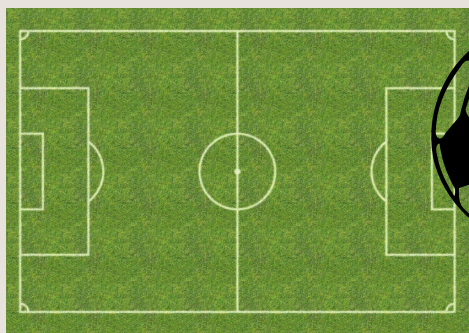
It's a Saturday night. My friends and I, who are all in the BAM community, are at a get-together when we spontaneously think of asking our parents for a sleepover because we know that there's soccer to play the night after. The feeling of excitement and joy when our parents say yes overwhelms us. We all gather together at my house, eager and excited to play the sport we all love tomorrow morning. The excitement and joy keep us awake until it's early in the morning. When we do finally go to sleep, we end up pulling ourselves out of bed less than two hours later, ready to go run around, get sweaty, and have fun. We gather all of our things, our water bottles, shin guards, soccer balls, soccer cleats, and most importantly, our community spirit. Finally, we get into the car and drive over to the infamous Flying Cloud Fields. Excitement fills the air, and as we get there and get out of the car, we get warmed up and get ready to start the beautiful BAM game known as Sunday Soccer. In conclusion, I hope I was able to help you understand why I love excitement and joy relating to BAM Sunday Soccer.

**Shiladitya Pal:**

The thing about Sunday soccer that I like the most is the sense of competitiveness and belonging between the people. There is a huge age difference between the people, but that doesn't get in the way. People who are in their 40s with full-time jobs and 14-year-olds like me competing with each other is the reason why the game is so fun. We all have differences, but the two things in common that all the people at BAM Sunday soccer have is a love for the sport of soccer and a hard sense of belonging. Don't worry because new players are always welcome and always treated just like anyone else playing. As the game goes on, there are multiple instances of competitive and fun gameplay. Whether it's someone being offside that leads to a goal eventually or a nasty foul, there are always moments of heat at BAM Sunday soccer. After all that heat and running around, there are always snacks provided by Lukaku (aka Abhjit Sarkar). In recent years, we have been more healthy, so the snacks are usually apples, but back in the day, he would bring really good donuts. Hopefully, I was able to give you a little bit of info about BAM Sunday Soccer and why I like it.

**Shayaan Purkayastha:**

I personally don't play soccer, but I love watching the thrilling game of excitement. Going to Sunday Soccer with friends makes it even more fun. Supporting your friends and cheering for them is a great feeling, it makes you feel like you're playing the game too. It's exciting watching people moving around the field pushing themselves to score a goal. What I personally love the most is the fouls, seeing people of different ages arguing for getting a card or not is pretty fun. There's absolutely no reason to be uncomfortable, everyone in the field are the nicest people I have met. They genuinely want you to take part in the game whether you're good at it or not. In half-time, you get to discuss with the players how the game is going for their perspective and you can also tell them ideas to win too. You also get the chance to shoot shots during halftime if you really want to, might as well get active on a field! At the end, everyone celebrates the wins or losses. Sportsmanship plays a major role in Sunday Soccer, that's all you need to have. Lakeville is pretty far from Eden Prairie, it can get a little annoying sometimes but what you get to experience at the end, the journey is definitely worth it. Just to sum up what I said, Sunday Soccer is exciting whether you're good at it or not and something you should give a shot at.



# Watermelon

Utsa Banerjee (8)



Once upon a time, me and watermelon were bored. So, I told her, we should play outside. She said, "Yes!". I ran to get my pink sparkly plane. Then, watermelon said, "She wanted to be in her cart too." So, I ran to get her cart. I told her if she wanted to, she could get out of her cart and start flying. If she wanted to come back, she would tell me, and I would fly closer to her. So, we walked to the airport and went to the landing pad. Hopped into my plane and watermelon got ready for flight. We soared in the air like we were birds even though I am not. We spent hours flying. The End.

P.S. Watermelon is the name of my stuffed animal bird, and I am the kid author ☺



## স্মুলিঙ্গ - আমার প্রস্তুতি

Ayushmita Mondal (11)

তোমরা অনেকেই হয়তো স্মুলিঙ্গ, বই-চিত্রের প্রথম জন্মদিনে এসেছিলে। আশাকরি তোমাদের ভালো লেগেছে। আজ তোমাদের স্মুলিঙ্গ-র পরিকল্পনার কথা বলব।

বই-চিত্র হচ্ছে ছোটদের জন্য বাংলা শেখার একটি প্লাটফর্ম যেখানে আমরা সব বন্ধুদের সাথে বাংলা শিখি।



স্মুলিঙ্গ-র প্রস্তুতি শুরু হয়েছিল আমাদের শীতকালের ছুটির সময়। আমরা কে কি গান করব বা কবিতা বলব, সেটা তখনই ভেবে নেওয়া হয়েছিল যাতে সবাই প্র্যাক্টিস করতে পারে আগে থেকে। একদিন মা আমাকে বললো যে আমি আমার বন্ধুদের সাথে নাটক আর emceeing করছি। তাই তখন থেকেই আমারও rehearsal শুরু। আমার আরো বেশ কয়েকটা দায়িত্ব ছিল অনুষ্ঠানের জন্য - যেমন posters, pamphlets, magnets, আর certificates বানানোর। স্মুলিঙ্গ-র জন্য সাজানোর জিনিসও সব আগে থেকেই বাড়িতে সাজিয়ে আমরা একবার দেখে নিয়েছিলাম সবার সাথে, যাতে সেদিন ওখানে গিয়ে আমরা তৈরি থাকি। এইভাবেই আমরা চেষ্টা করেছিলাম প্রত্যেকটা ছোটো ছোটো detail-এর জন্য প্রস্তুতি নিতে।

স্মুলিঙ্গ-র অনুষ্ঠানে অনেক কাজ ছিল সেটা সত্যিই, কিন্তু পড়াশোনার ফাঁকে ফাঁকে তা করতে আমার খুব ভালো লেগেছে। অনেক কিছু শিখেছি আর খুব মজা করেছি। আমি এখন থেকেই excited পরের অনুষ্ঠানের জন্য। আশাকরি তোমাদের সাথে ওখানে দেখা হবে।

Magazine Edited By Subhangee Das (15)



## Announcement from Board of directors, Bengali Association of Minnesota

Hey, readers  We have some exciting news for you! It's time to celebrate the Bengali New Year together! 

 Date: April 19, 2025

 Location: Burnsville High School

An evening full of fun, laughter, and joy, where you'll get to:

 Show off your talents in the cultural program

 Enjoy a yummy dinner with friends

 Play and have fun all evening!

So put on your brightest festive outfits and join us for a fantastic celebration! 



# Thank You



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Heartfelt thanks to the incredible editorial team for your hard work, dedication, and attention to detail. Your expertise brings everything to life!

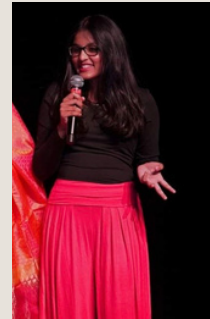
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My name is Shivali Choudhury. Age: 21  
Currently finishing my last semester of college at Carlson School of Management and soon to be working full time. I love watching Bollywood movies.



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My name is Mishti Choudhury. Age: 14  
I'm a 8th grader at Scott Highlands Middle School. I do martial arts and currently a 3rd degree black belt and a junior instructor in Taekwondo!



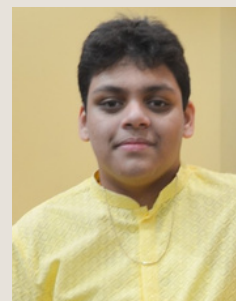
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My name is Subhangee Das. Age: 14  
I'm a 9th grader at Minnetonka High School. I am a swimmer. I enjoy playing sports, traveling, and being with friends. I live in Victoria and have one dog, Tito.



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My name is Arnav Chakraborty. Age: 13  
I am a 7th grader at Wayzata Central Middle School. I love basketball and play for Wayzata. I also like Digital Arts, writing, and going out with my friends.



# Thank You



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Heartfelt thanks to the incredible editorial team for your hard work, dedication, and attention to detail. Your expertise brings everything to life!

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My name is Shoumili Tarafder. Age: 16  
I am 11th grader at Blake High School. I enjoy reading, swimming, and hanging out with my friends and family. I also love discovering new music and foods.



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My name is Ayush Brahma. Age: 15  
I'm a 10th grader at Eden Prairie High School. I like playing soccer and listening to music.



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My name is Shayaan Purkayastha. Age: 14  
I am a 9th grader at Lakeville North High School. I love staying active outside and participating in BAM events.



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My name is Aditya Brahma. Age: 22  
I am currently in my second year of flight school training to become a commercial pilot. A couple things that I like are spending time with friends and cars.



# Thank You

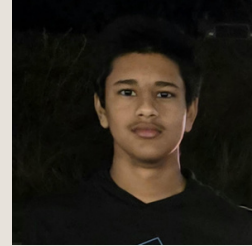


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My name is Shiladitya Pal. Age: 14  
I am a 9th grader at Eden Prairie High School. I  
enjoy volunteering by tutoring and helping out  
with events in my community. I also love to  
hang out with friends/ family.



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My name is Naisha Biswas. Age: 15  
I am a 9th grader at Wayzata High School. I do  
Taekwondo and I volunteer for my school.



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Edited By Arnav Chakraborty (13)

*Questions, comments or want to contribute to a future issue of The Little Magazine?  
Please email: [sannikat@mnbangali.org](mailto:sannikat@mnbangali.org)*

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