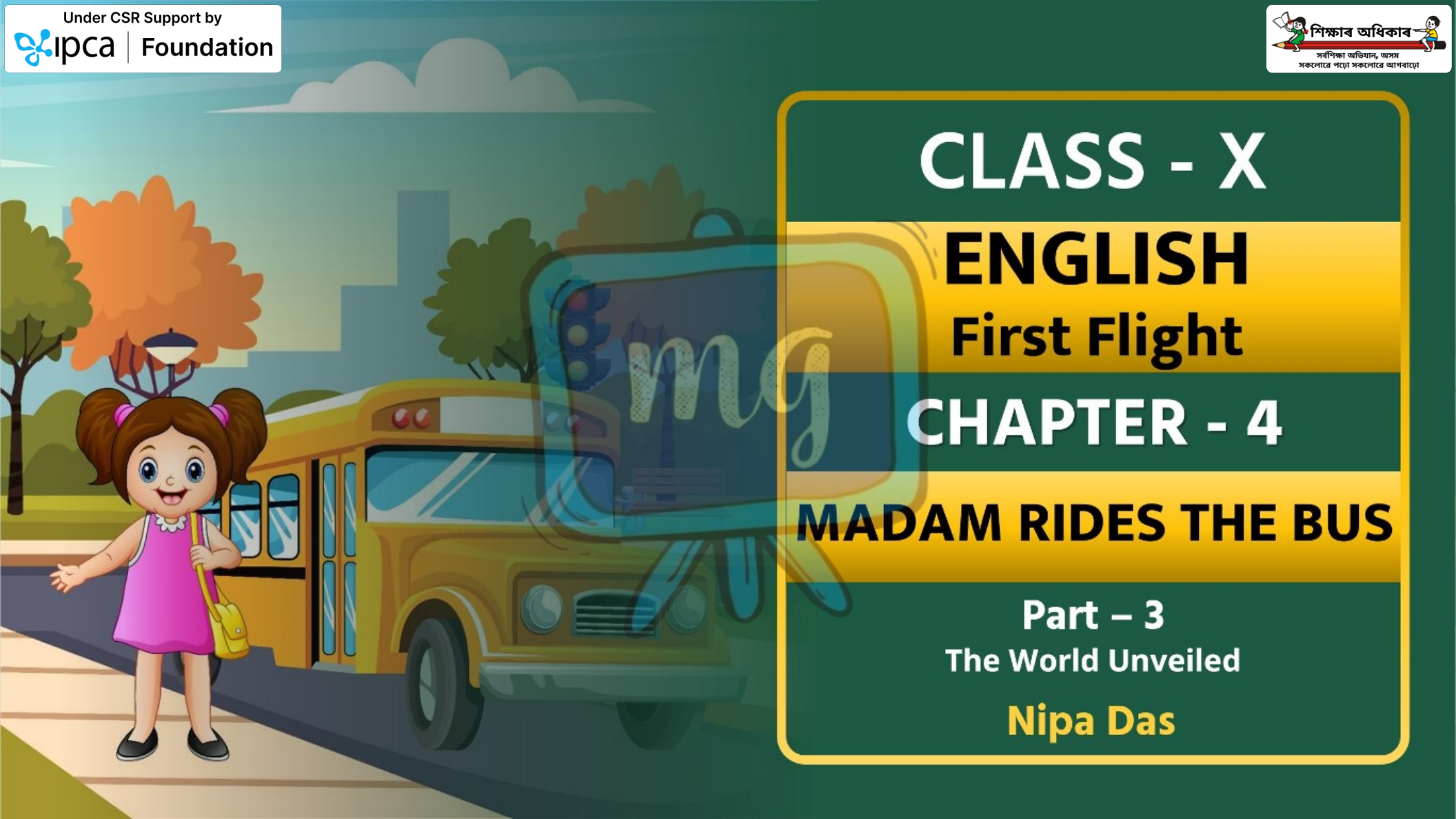
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সকলোৱে পঢ়ো সকলোৱে আগবাঢ়ো



CLASS - X

ENGLISH

First Flight

CHAPTER - 4

MADAM RIDES THE BUS

Part – 3

The World Unveiled

Nipa Das

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III

Her first journey what - careful, painstaking, elaborate plans she had had to make for it! She had thriftily saved whatever stray coins came her

Painstaking	:	কষ্টেৰে
Thriftily	:	কৃপণালি কৰি
Stray	:	য'ত ত'ত পোৱা

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way, resisting every temptation to buy peppermints, toys, balloons, and the like, and finally she had saved a total of sixty paise. How difficult it had been, particularly that day at the village fair, but she had

Resisting	:	বিৰোধ
Temptation	:	প্ৰলোভন

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resolutely stifled a strong desire to ride the merry-go- round, even though she had the money. After she had enough money saved, her next problem was how to slip out of the house without her mother's knowledge. But she managed this

Resolutely Stifled : দৃঢ়তাৰে দমন কৰা

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without too much difficulty. Every day after lunch her mother would nap from about one to four or so. Valli always used these hours for her 'excursions' as she stood looking from the doorway of her house or sometimes even ventured out into

Excursions	:	ভ্ৰমণ
Ventured out	:	ওলাই যোৱা

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the village; today, these same hours could be used for her first excursion outside the village.

The bus rolled on now cutting across a bare landscape, now rushing through a tiny hamlet or past an odd wayside shop. Sometimes the bus seemed on the point of gobbling up

Hamlet : সৰু চুবুৰী

Gobbling : খৰকৈ খোৱা/গিলি লোৱা

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another vehicle that was coming towards them or a pedestrian crossing the road. But lo! somehow it passed on smoothly, leaving all obstacles safely behind. Trees came running towards them but then stopped as the bus reached them

Pedestrian	:	পথচাৰী
Obstacles	:	বাধা

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and simply stood there helpless for a moment by the side of the road before rushing away in the other direction.

Suddenly Valli clapped her hands with glee.

A young cow, tail high in the air, was running very fast, right in the middle of the road,



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the road, right in front of the bus. The bus slowed to a crawl, and the driver sounded his horn loudly again and again. But the more he honked,



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the more frightened the animal became and the faster it galloped - always right in front of the bus. Somehow this was very funny to Valli. She laughed and laughed until there were tears in her eyes.

"Hey, lady, haven't you laughed enough?" called, the conductor. "Better save some for tomorrow."

Galloped : দ্রুত গতি

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At last the cow moved off the road.
And soon the bus came to a railroad crossing. A speck of a train could be seen in the distance, growing bigger and bigger as it drew near.
Then it rushed past the crossing gate with a tremendous roar and rattle,

Speck	:	সৰু বিন্দু
Tremendous	:	অতিশয়

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roar and rattle, shaking the bus. Then the bus went on and passed the train station. From there it traversed a busy, well-laid-out shopping street and, turning, entered a wider thoroughfare. Such big, bright-looking shops!

Traversed : পাৰ হৈ যোৱা
Thoroughfar : মাজেদি যোৱা ৰাস্তা

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What glittering displays of clothes and other merchandise! Such big crowds!

Struck dumb with wonder, Valli gaped at everything.

Then the bus stopped and everyone got off except Valli.

Merchandise : বিক্ৰীৰ বস্তু

Gaped : মুখ মেলি চাই থকা

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"Hey, lady," said the conductor, "aren't you ready to get off? This is as far as your thirty paise takes you."

"No," Valli said, "I'm going back on this same bus." She took another thirty paise from her pocket and handed the coins to the conductor.

"Why, is something the matter?"

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"No, nothing's the matter. I just felt like having a bus ride, that's all.

"Don't you want to have a look at the sights, now that you're here?"

"All by myself? Oh, I'd be much too afraid."

Greatly amused by the girl's way of speaking, the conductor said,

Amused : আনন্দ পোৱা

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"But you weren't afraid to come in the bus."

"Nothing to be afraid of about that," she answered.

"Well, then, why not go to that stall over there and have something to drink? Nothing to be afraid of about that either."

"Oh, no, I couldn't do that."

"Well, then, let me bring you a cold drink."

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"No, I don't have enough money. Just give me my ticket, that's all."
"It'll be my treat and not cost you anything."
"No, no," she said firmly, "please, no."
The conductor shrugged, and they waited until it was time for the busto begin the return journey. Again there weren't many passengers.

shrugged : কান্ধ ওপৰলৈ তোলা

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1 What was Valli's biggest challenge before taking the bus journey?

- A Saving enough money
- B Convincing her mother
- C Overcoming her fear
- D Planning the bus route

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2 What did Valli do when everyone else got off the bus in the town?

A She panicked and cried

B She decided to explore the town

C She took another ticket for the return journey

D She asked the conductor for help

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3 What does the word "thriftily" mean in the context of the story?

A Spending money carelessly

B Saving money carefully

C Earning money quickly

D Borrowing money easily

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4 Why did Valli refuse the conductor's offer of a drink?

- A She was not thirsty
- B She was afraid to accept anything from strangers.
- C She wanted to save her money
- D She was in a hurry to return home