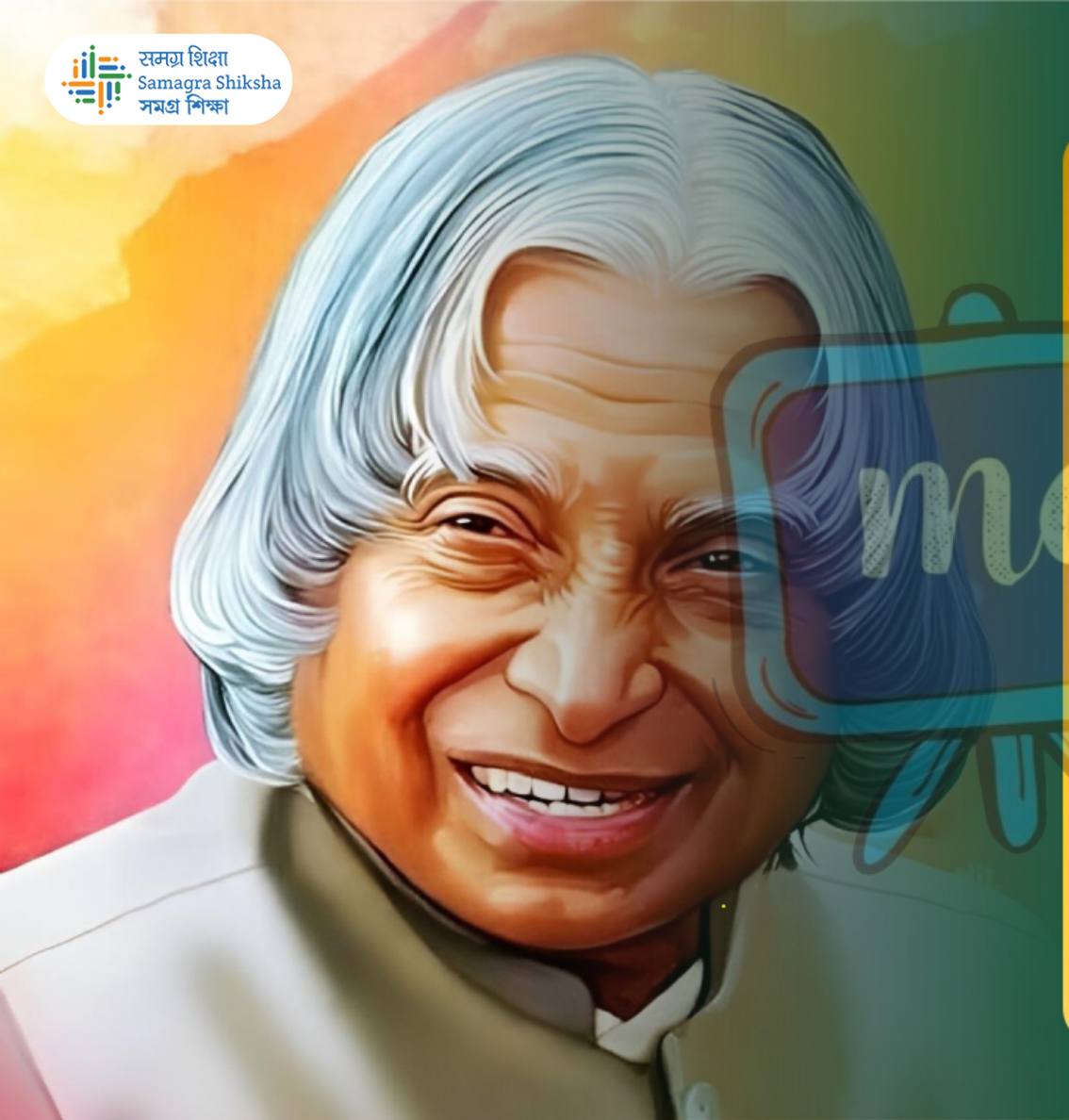
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CLASS - IX

ENGLISH

BEEHIVE

CHAPTER - 3

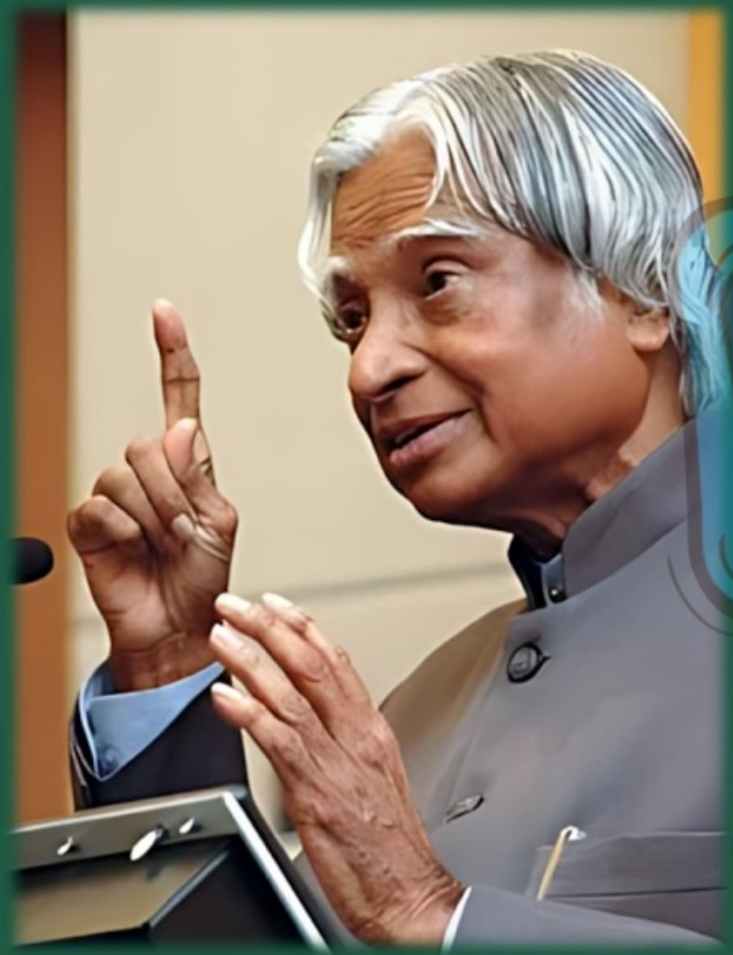
My Childhood

Part - 1

Nipa Das

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BEFORE YOU READ

- Can you think of any scientists, who have also been statesmen?
- A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, whose projects in space, defence and nuclear technology guided India into the twenty-first century, became our eleventh President in 2002.
- In his autobiography, Wings of Fire, he speaks of his childhood.

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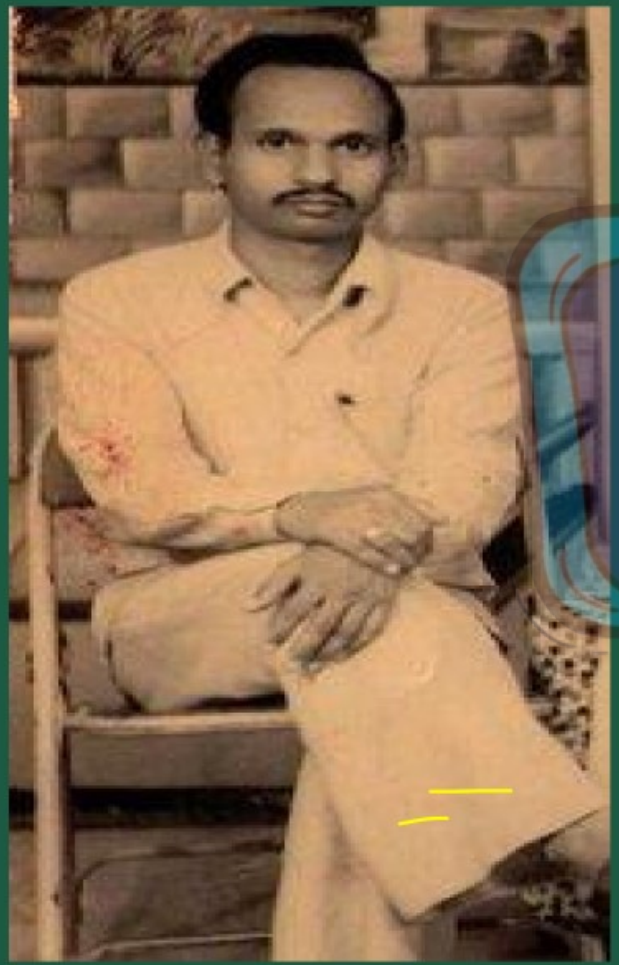


1. I was born into a middle-class Tamil family in the island town of Rameswaram in the erstwhile Madras State. My father, Jainulabdeen, had neither much formal education nor much wealth;

- Middle-class : মধ্যবিত্ত
- Island : দ্বীপ
- Town : নগৰ
- Erstwhile : পূৰ্বতে
- Formal : আনুষ্ঠানিক
- Education : শিক্ষা
- Wealth : ধন

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despite these disadvantages, he possessed great innate wisdom and a true generosity of spirit.

Despite : সত্ত্বেও
Disadvantages : অসুবিধা
Possessed : অধিকাৰ কৰা
Innate : জন্মগত
Wisdom : জ্ঞান
Generosity of Spirit : মনৰ উদাৰতা বা মহানুভৱতা

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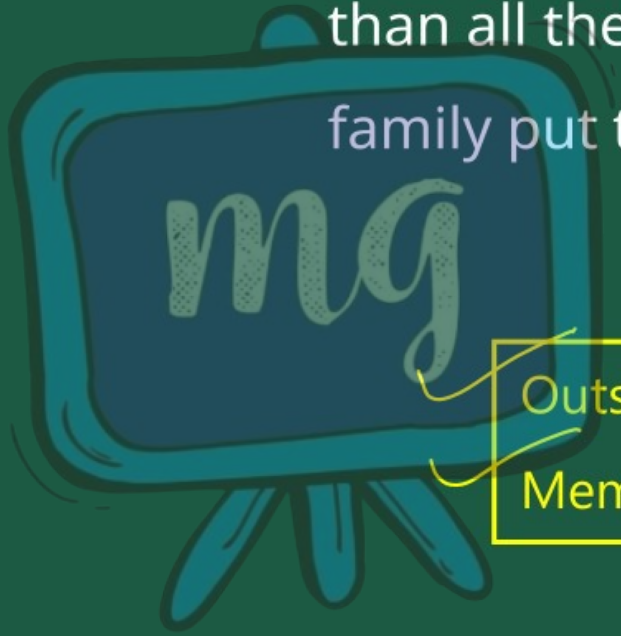
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He had an ideal helpmate in my mother, Ashiamma. I do not recall the exact number of people she fed every day, but I am quite certain

- Ideal : আদর্শ
- Helpmate : সহায়ক
- Recall : মনত পেলোৱা
- Exact : সঠিক
- Certain : নিশ্চিত

that far more outsiders ate with us than all the members of our own family put together.



Outsiders : বাহিৰৰ মানুহ

Members : সদস্য



2. I was one of many children — a short boy with rather undistinguished looks, born to tall and handsome parents. We lived in our ancestral house,

Undistinguished : সাধাৰণ
Handsome : দেখনিয়াৰ
Ancestral : পূৰ্বপুৰুষ

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Which was built in the middle of the nineteenth century. It was a fairly large pucca house, made of limestone and brick, on the Mosque Street in Rameswaram.

Built : বনাইছিল
Middle : মাজ
Fairly : পর্যাপ্ত
Limestone : চূণশিল

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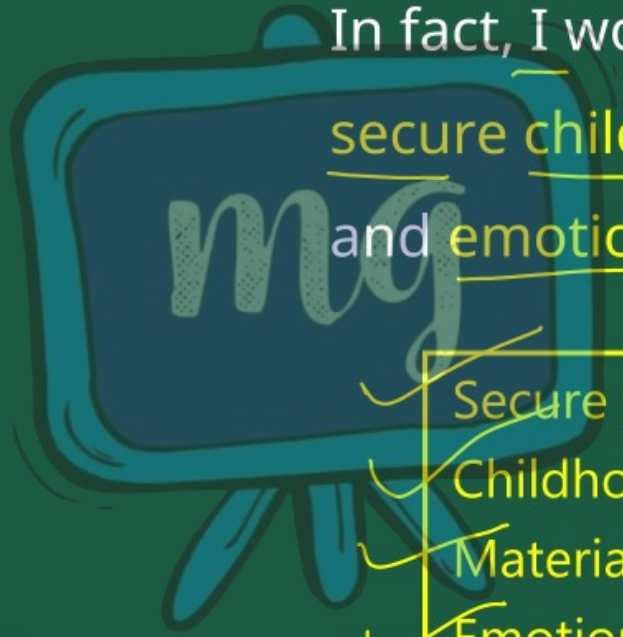
My austere father used to avoid all inessential comforts and luxuries. However, all necessities were provided for,

- Austere : কঠোৰ
- Avoid : এৰাই চলা
- Inessential : অপ্রয়োজনীয়
- Comforts : সুবিধা
- Luxuries : বিলাসী বস্তু
- Necessities : প্রয়োজনীয়
- Provided : প্রদান কৰা

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in terms of food, medicine or clothes. In fact, I would say mine was a very secure childhood, both materially and emotionally.



Secure : সুৰক্ষিত
Childhood : শিশুকাল
Materially : আৰ্থিকভাৱে
Emotionally : আৱেগিকভাৱে

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3. The Second World War broke out in 1939, when I was eight years old. For reasons I have never been able to understand, a sudden demand for tamarind seeds erupted in the market.

Reasons : কাৰণ
Understand : বুজি পোৱা
Sudden : হঠাতে
Demand : চাহিদা
Tamarind seeds : তেতেলী বীজ
Erupted : বাঢ়ি যোৱা

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I used to collect the seeds and sell them to a provision shop on Mosque Street. A day's collection would fetch me the princely sum of one anna. My brother-in-law Jallaluddin would tell me stories

Collect : গোটোৱা

Provision : খাদ্য

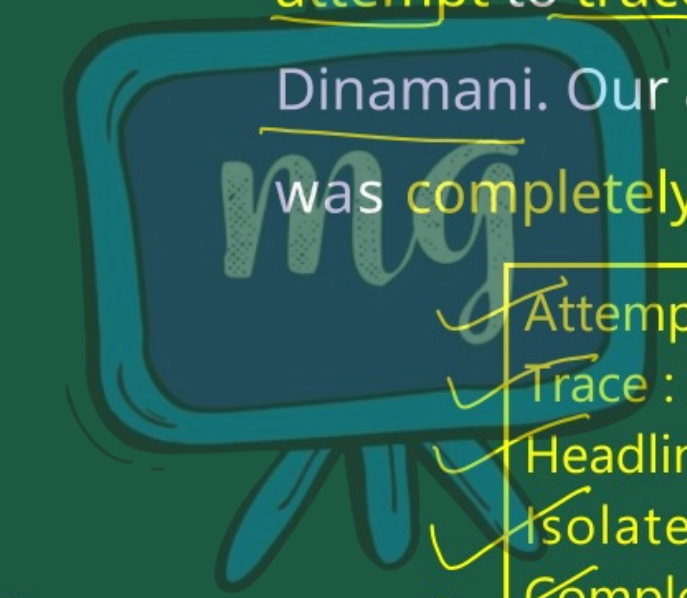
Collection : সংগ্ৰহ

Fetch : অনা _

Princely sum : পৰ্যাপ্ত পৰিমাণৰ ধন

Anna : পুৰণি ভাৰতীয় মুদ্ৰা (ছয় পইচা)

about the War which I would later attempt to trace in the headlines in Dinamani. Our area, being isolated, was completely unaffected by the War.



Attempt : চেষ্টা কৰা
Trace : বিচৰা
Headlines : শিৰোনাম
Isolated : পৃথক কৈ থকা
Completely : সম্পূৰ্ণ
Unaffected : অপ্ৰভাৱিত

But soon India was forced to join the Allied Forces and something like a state of emergency was declared.

Forced : বাধ্য কৰা হৈছে

Join : যোগদান কৰা

Allied Forces : মিত্রশক্তিৰ সেনা

(U.K., U.S.A and Russia)

Emergency : জৰুৰীকালীন

Declared : ঘোষণা কৰা হৈছে



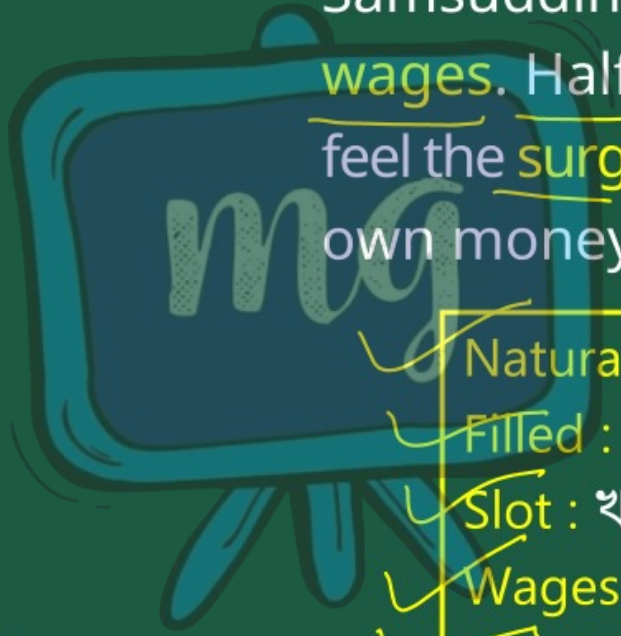
The first casualty came in the form of the suspension of the train halt at Rameswaram station. The newspapers now had to be bundled and thrown out from the moving train on the Rameswaram Road between Rameswaram and Dhanuskodi.

Suspension : নিলম্বন কৰা
Halt : ৰৈ থকা
Thrown out : বাহিৰলৈ পেলাই দিয়া

That forced my cousin Samsuddin, who distributed news-papers in Rameswarm, to look for a helping hand to catch the bundles and,

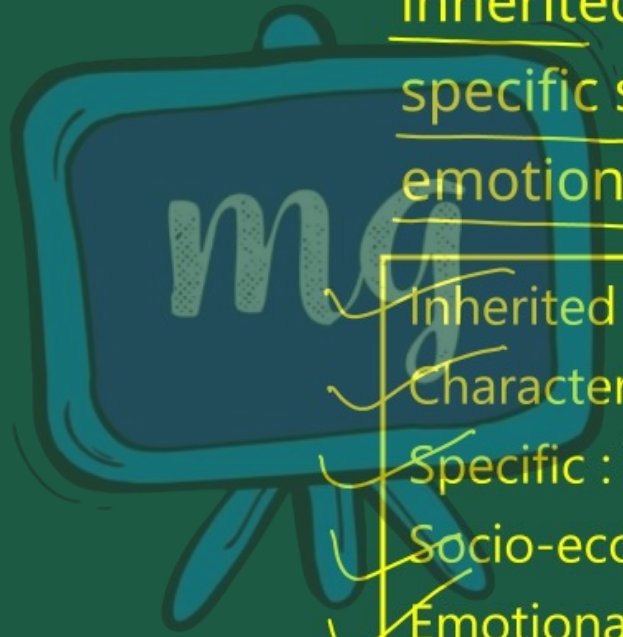
Distributed : বিতৰণ কৰা

as if naturally, I filled the slot. Samsuddin helped me earn my first wages. Half a century later, I can still feel the surge of pride in earning my own money for the first time.



Naturally : স্বাভাৱিকতে
Filled : পূর্ণ কৰা
Slot : খালী ঠাই
Wages : দৰমহা
Surge : হঠাৎ আৱেগ
Pride : গৌৰৱ

4. Every child is born, with some inherited characteristics, into a specific socio-economic and emotional environment, and



- Inherited : বংশানুক্রমে
- Characteristics : বৈশিষ্ট্যসমূহ
- Specific : নির্দিষ্ট
- Socio-economic : আর্থ-সামাজিক
- Emotional : আবেগিক
- Environment : পৰিৱেশ

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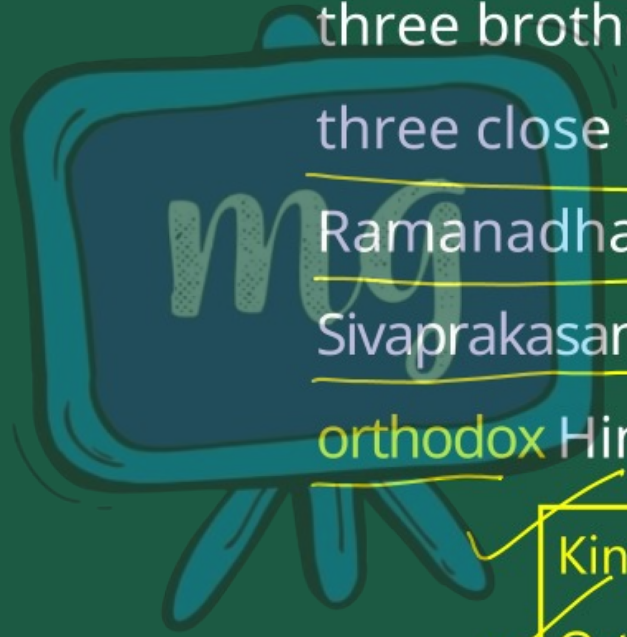
trained in certain ways by figures of authority. I inherited honesty and self-discipline from my father; from my mother, I inherited faith in goodness

Trained : প্রশিক্ষণপ্রাপ্ত
Figures of authority : কর্তৃত্বত থকা মানুহ
Honesty : সততা
Self-discipline : আত্ম-অনুশাসন
Faith : বিশ্বাস
Goodness : সুস্থতা

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and deep kindness and so did my three brothers and sister. I had three close friends in my childhood- Ramanadha Sastry, Aravindan and Sivaprakasan. All these boys were from orthodox Hindu Brahmin families.



Kindness : দয়া

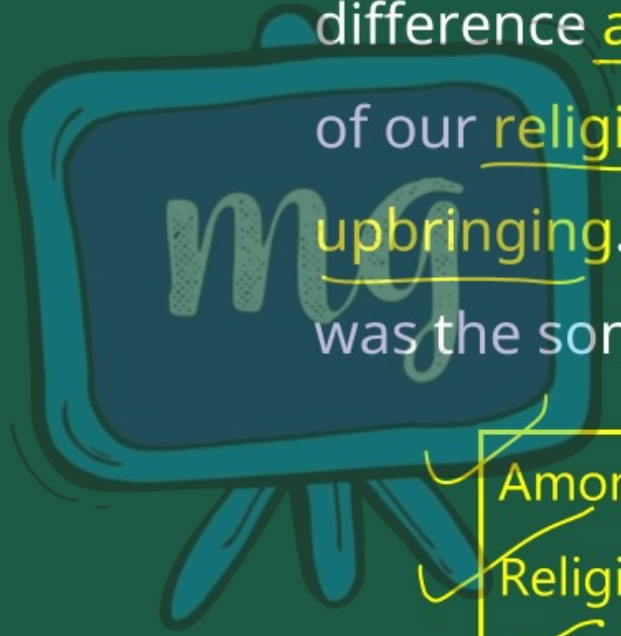
Orthodox : ৰক্ষণশীল

Families : পৰিয়ালবোৰ

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As children, none of us ever felt any difference amongst ourselves because of our religious differences and upbringing. In fact, Ramanadha was the son of Pakshi Lakshmana



Amongst : মাজত

Religious : ধার্মিক

Upbringing : লালন-পালন



Sastry, the high priest of the Rameswaram temple. Later, he took over the priesthood of the Rameswaram temple from his father; Aravindan went into the business of arranging transport for visiting pilgrims;

- Priest : পূজাৰী
- Priesthood : পুৰোহিতৰ পদ
- Business : বাণিজ্য
- Arranging : ব্যৱস্থা কৰা
- Transport : পৰিবহণৰ মাধ্যম
- Visiting : দৰ্শনাৰ্থী
- Pilgrims : তীৰ্থযাত্ৰী

and Sivaprakasan became a catering contractor for the Southern Railways.



Contractor : ঠিকাদাৰ

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5. During the annual Shri Sita Rama Kalyanam ceremony, our family used to arrange boats with a special platform for carrying idols of the Lord from the temple to

Annual : বছেৰেকীয়া
Ceremony : অনুষ্ঠান
Arrange : ব্যৱস্থা
Platform : মঞ্চ
Idols : মূৰ্তি

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the marriage site, situated in the middle of the pond called Rama Tirtha which was near our house.

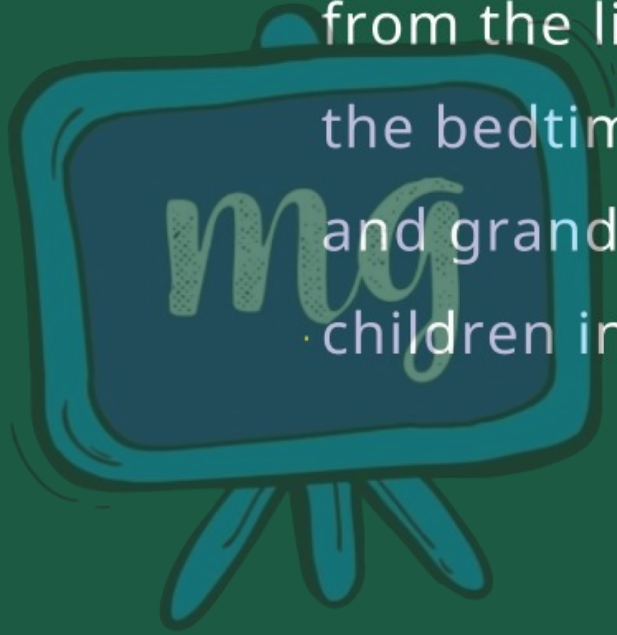


Site : স্থান

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Events from the Ramayana and from the life of the Prophet were the bedtime stories my mother and grand mother would tell the children in our family.



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ASSESSMENT

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1 .....is the Autobiography of Abdul Kalam.



ASSESSMENT



2 He was born in the island town of -

A Rameswaram

B Mangalore