

Glimpses of India

Part I. A Baker from Goa

Introduction

This chapter has been written by Lucio Rodrigues. It is a pen-portrait of a traditional Goan Village baker and his position in society.

Summary

The elders fondly remember the good old Portuguese and their famous loaves of bread. The Portuguese have now left, but some bakers have stayed back. They still use the traditional furnaces to bake bread and cakes.

The writer remembers his childhood. The baker who used to be their friend, companion and guide, would come twice a day. He started his sale in the morning, and on his return, he would have had sold everything in the basket. He first delivered the bread to the servants. Then, the children of the house would crowd around his basket to choose the bread-bangles or the specially made sweet bread. Without brushing their teeth, they would eat the bread-bangles and drink hot tea.

A baker had an important place in the village-life. Marriage gifts were meaningless without bol or sweet bread and cakes and bolinhas were a must for Christmas and other festivals.

In old days, the baker used to wear a peculiar dress referred to as 'Kabai'. It was a single-piece long frock reaching down the knees. Later, they started wearing a shirt and trousers which were shorter than full length ones and longer than half-pants.

The baker used to be prosperous. They, their families and servants never starved. Their plump physique was a testimony of their prosperity and good income.

Message

This chapter conveys the message that we should never forget our roots. Reminiscing about old times recharges us. Our childhood memories stay with us all through our life.



Extract Based Questions

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

During our childhood in Goa, the baker used to be our friend, companion and guide. He used to come at least twice a day. Once, when he set out in the morning on his selling round and then again, when he returned after emptying his huge basket. The jingling thud of his bamboo woke us up from sleep and we ran to meet and greet him. Why was it so? Was it for the love of the loaf? Not at all. The loaves were bought by some Paskine or Bastine, the maid-servant of the house! What we longed for were those bread-bangles which we chose carefully. Sometimes it was sweet bread of special make.

(a) The children regarded the baker as:

- (i) guide (ii) companion
- (iii) friend (iv) All of these

(b) When did the baker come the second time?

(c) The children longed for the:

- (i) loaves (ii) bread-bangles
- (iii) cakes (iv) None of these

(d) Complete the analogy with a word from the text:

choose : select :: crave :

Answers

- (a) (iv) All of these
- (b) The baker came the second time after emptying the basket.
- (c) (ii) bread-bangles
- (d) long

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

The baker usually collected his bills at the end of the month. Monthly accounts used to be recorded on some wall in pencil. Baking was indeed a profitable profession in the old days. The baker and his family never starved. He, his family and his servants always looked happy and prosperous. Their plump physique was an open testimony to this. Even today any person with a jackfruit-like physical appearance is easily compared to a baker.

(a) How did the baker record his accounts?

(b) State whether the given statement is True or False.
Baking was a useless profession.

(c) The baker collected his bills

(d) Complete the analogy with a word from the text:

profitable : productive :: wealthy :

Answers

- (a) The baker recorded his accounts on some wall in pencil.
- (b) False
- (c) at the end of the month
- (d) prosperous



Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Who are paders and why are they friends of children? (CBSE 2023)

Ans. The bakers of Goa are also known as 'Paders'. The baker is called a friend, companion or guide of the children because he meets the children so frequently that he knows every child and treats each one very nicely. He brings special breads for each and every child.

Q 2. What are the elders reminiscing about the good old Portuguese days? What still exists of those times?

OR

What do the elders in Goa still love to remember?

(CBSE 2017)

OR

What are the elders in Goa nostalgic about?

(CBSE 2015)

Ans. The elders are recollecting about the famous loaves of bread which was available in the good old Portuguese days. In the present times, the eaters of the loaves have vanished, but the makers are still there in one form or the other. The furnaces still exist. The traditional bakers still come with a thud and a jingle of their bamboo stick.

Q 3. What importance does a baker enjoy in a Goan village? (CBSE 2019)

OR

Baking was considered essential in a traditional Goan village. What reasons does the writer give to support his point?

Ans. The baker enjoyed an important place in a Goan village. Marriage gifts were meaningless without the sweet bread known as bol. Sandwiches were required to be prepared on the occasion of daughter's engagement. Cakes and bolinhas were a must for Christmas and other festivals. Thus, the presence of a baker in a Goan village was absolutely essential.

Q 4. When would the baker come everyday? Why did the children run to meet him?

OR

Why did the children run to meet the baker every day? (CBSE 2015)

Ans. The baker would come twice a day. Once when he set out in the morning on his selling round and then again when he returned after selling his loaves of bread. The children ran to meet him for the 'bread-bangles' or the sweet bread. They wanted to select the best fare.

Q 5. How were the bakers accounts maintained?

Ans. The bakers used to collect their bills at the end of the month. They recorded their monthly accounts on some wall in pencil. It was their own way of keeping their accounts.

Q 6. Explain with examples that baking used to be a profitable profession.

OR

How do we know that Goa's bakers are very prosperous? (CBSE 2019)

OR

What do we learn about the financial condition of the bakers of Goa? (CBSE 2017)

Ans. Baking used to be a profitable profession because the family of bakers never starved. He, his family and his servants, always looked happy and prosperous. Their plump bodies showed and proved this fact openly.

Q 7. Is bread-making still popular in Goa? How do you know?

OR

How is the Goan baker still an important part of the life of a Goan village? (CBSE 2023)

Ans. Bread-making is still popular in Goa and bakers are still important to the Goan people because they carry the age old tradition of the Portuguese of baking bread. They still have the age-old, time-tested furnaces. May be the father is not alive but the son still carries on the family profession. The thud and jingle of the traditional baker's bamboo, heralding his arrival, can still be heard in some places.

Q 8. Who invites the comment—'he is dressed like a pader'? Why?

Ans. Anyone who wears a half pant which reaches just below the knees invites the comment 'he is dressed like a pader.' It is because the paders usually wore such type of dress.

Q 9. Justify the opinion that the traditional baker and his bread play a significant role in the cultural and social fabric of Goan society. (CBSE SQP 2023-24)

Ans. The traditional baker and his bread play a significant role in the cultural and social fabric of Goan society. The Portuguese introduced their famous loaves of bread to Goa. They left but the bread-makers remained, and their age-old, time-tested furnaces still exist. The baker's bread was not just a food item, but it was an essential part of Goan cuisine and culture, not just a staple food item but also

served as a symbol of social and economic status. Bread-making tradition passed down from one generation to the next. The continued existence of these bakers and their furnaces represents a living connection to Goa's cultural and culinary heritage that continues to be cherished and celebrated by the local community.



Long Answer Type Questions ▾

Q 1. How did the baker, known as pader, announce his arrival?

Ans. The baker, known as pader, used to come twice a day. In the morning, he came to sell the freshly baked loaves of bread. He returned again after selling all his loaves of bread. He would mark his arrival with the 'jhang, jhang' sound of his special bamboo stick. One hand supported the basket on his head the other banged the bamboo on the ground. The baker would greet the lady of the house with a 'good morning'. He would then place his basket on the vertical bamboo. The author and other children would peep into the basket by climbing a bench or a parapet. They longed for bread-bangles and specially made sweet bread. The baker used to push aside the children in a mild manner.

Q 2. Describe a traditional Goan village baker.

Ans. A Goan village baker had an important place in society.

The baker or bread-seller used to wear a peculiar dress known as the kabai. It was a single-piece long frock reaching down to the knees.

The baker made his musical entry on the scene with the 'jhang, jhang' sound of his specially made bamboo staff. He had his own way of greeting the village ladies. The children of the village liked the baker a lot. He was like a friend to them. They bought the bread-bangles and sweet bread from the baker. All were happy with the presence of the baker. The baker also looked very happy and prosperous. He had a jackfruit-like physical appearance.

Part II. Coorg

Introduction

This chapter has been written by Lokesh Abrol. It beautifully describes Coorg and its inhabitants.

Summary

Coorg is situated midway between Mysore (now Mysuru) and the coastal town of Mangalore (now Mangaluru) in Karnataka state. It is a heaven on earth. It is a beautiful region of rolling hills, martial men, beautiful women and wild creatures.

Coorg is famous for coffee plantations, evergreen rainforests and spices. Evergreen forests cover thirty per cent of its land. It rains heavily during monsoons. The best period for visit is from September to March, when the weather is perfect.

The fiercely independent people of Coorg are possibly the descendants of Greek or Arabs. Story goes that a part of Alexander's army settled in Coorg when their return became impractical. They married among the locals. Their martial traditions, marriage and religious rites are different from Hindu mainstream. They also wear a waist-belt which is referred to as 'Kuppia' over long black coat. This belt is similar to the *kuffia* worn by the Arabs and *Kurds*. They are very hospitable and entertain their guests with stories of bravery and courage of their sons and fathers. Coorg Regiment is the most decorated in the Indian army. The first Chief of the Indian Army, General Cariappa, was a Coorgi. The *Kodavus* are the only people in India permitted to carry firearms without a licence.

Waters from forests and hills feed river Kaveri. Many animals enjoy in its water. It also provides adventurous sports like rafting, canoeing and rappelling. Other adventure sports like rock climbing, mountain biking and trekking are also there.

Brahmagiri Hills, when climbed, gives a panoramic view of the entire Coorg. India's largest Tibetan settlement is also near Coorg in *Bylakuppe*.

Message

This chapter brings to our knowledge the rich diversity found in Coorg, places of tourist attraction and its cultural heritage.

Extract Based Questions

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Midway between Mysore and the coastal town of Mangalore sits a piece of heaven that must have drifted from the kingdom of God. This land of rolling hills is inhabited by a proud race of martial men, beautiful women and wild creatures.

Coorg or Kodagu, the smallest district of Karnataka, is home to evergreen rainforests, spices and coffee plantations. Evergreen rainforests cover thirty per cent of this district. During the monsoons, it pours enough to keep many visitors away. The season of joy commences from September and continues till March. The weather is perfect, with some showers thrown in for good measure.

(a) Coorg is home to:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| (i) spices | (ii) coffee plantations |
| (iii) rain forests | (iv) All of these |

(b) is referred to as 'a piece of heaven'.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| (i) Mysore | (ii) Mangalore |
| (iii) Kodagu | (iv) Coffee plantations |

(c) Which period is the best to visit coorg?

(d) Complete the analogy with a word from the text:

inhabit : occupy :: begin :

Answers

(a) (iv) All of these

(b) (iii) Kodagu

(c) The best period to visit Coorg is from September to March.

(d) commence

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

The river, Kaveri, obtains its water from the hills and forests of Coorg. Mahaseer..... a large freshwater fish— abound in these waters. Kingfishers dive for their catch, while squirrels and langurs drop partially eaten fruit for the mischief of enjoying the splash and the ripple effect in the clear water.

(a) Where is Mahaseer found?

(b) Kingfishers dive to

(c) State whether the given statement is True or False.

Monkeys drop partially eaten fruits in the Kaveri.

(d) Complete the analogy with a word from the text:

enjoy : relish :: acquire :

Answers

(a) Mahaseer is found in the waters of the Kaveri.

(b) catch fish

(c) False

(d) obtain

Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Where is Coorg?

Ans. Coorg is the smallest district of Karnataka. It is situated midway between Mysore and the coastal town of Mangalore.

Q 2. Why is Coorg called the land of rolling hills?

(CBSE 2022 Term-2)

Ans. Rolling hills are a series of low hills. They are referred to as 'rolling' because of the up and down motion of riding over them. Coorg is called the land of rolling hills because it is surrounded by such hills.

Q 3. What proves Kodavu people's Arab descent?

(CBSE 2015)

Ans. The Coorgis or the Kodavu people are of Arabic descent. They wear a long, black coat with embroidered waist-belt. It is known as Kuppia. It resembles a similar belt, kuffia worn by the Arabs and the *Kurds*. This proves people's Arab descent.

Q 4. The people of Coorg have a tradition of courage and bravery. How has it been recognised in modern India?

(CBSE 2015)

OR

How is the Coorgi tradition of courage and bravery recognised in modern India?

(CBSE 2019)

OR

Valour and hospitality are inherent in the people of Coorg. Explain.

(CBSE 2023)

Ans. The people of Coorg have a tradition of courage, bravery and hospitality. The Coorg Regiment is one of the most decorated in the Indian Army. The first Chief of the Indian Army, General Cariappa, was a Coorgi. The Kodavus are the only people in the country who are not required to have a licence for their firearms.

Q 5. Why do the most laidback individuals become converts to the life of high-energy adventure of Coorg?

Ans. The most laidback individuals become converts to the life of high-energy adventure because of opportunities for adventure games here. These opportunities relate to river rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock climbing and mountain biking.

Q 6. Which season is the best to visit Coorg? (CBSE 2015)

Ans. The best period to visit Coorg commences from September and continues till March. During this period, the weather is perfect with some showers thrown in for good measure. Also during this period the air breathes of invigorating coffee.



Long Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Give an account of the people of Coorg.

Ans. The people of Coorg are a proud race of martial men and beautiful women. They are possibly of Greek or Arabic descent. A popular story says that a part of Alexander's army stayed back and married amongst the locals. Their culture, marriage and religious rites are different from that of Hindu mainstream. They also wear a waist-belt called *kuppia* over a long, black coat. It resembles the *kuffia* worn by the Arabs and the *Kurds*.

The people of Coorg are very hospitable. They tell their guests stories of valour of their sons and fathers. Coorg soldiers are brave. Coorg Regiment is one of the most decorated one in the Indian Army. The first General of Independent India, General Cariappa, was a Coorgi. These people are the only people who are permitted to carry firearms without a licence.

Q 2. One is known by one's roots. The people of Coorg are also recognised for their values and traits in spite of being thousands of miles away from their places of origin Greece and Arabia. Describe their values and traits.

Ans. The statement definitely holds true that one is known by one's roots. A person may go far and wide but his place of origin remains within his heart and his actions and way of living manifest his place of origin. This holds true for the people of Coorg. It is believed that they are of Greek or Arabic descent.

And this is subtly visible in their character traits and their clothes. Like Greeks, they are ardent warriors. The Coorg Regiment is one of the most decorated in the Indian Army. Even today the Kodavus/Coorgis are the only people in India permitted to carry firearms without a licence. Their clothing habits are linked to their Arabic origin. They wear an embroidered waist-belt over a long, black coat. It is referred to as *Kuppia*. It resembles the *Kuffia* worn by the Arabs. Also they are hospitable and love to recount tales of valour, just like their deemed ancestors.

Q 3. What is the story about the Kodavu people's descent?

OR

Kodavus have contradictory traits. Support the statement with reference to the text (Glimpses of India). (CBSE 2022 Term-2)

Ans. There are two stories about Kodavu people's descent. These are as follows:

- (i) According to some, the Kodavu people are of Greek descent. To support this, the story goes that a part of Alexander's army moved south along the coast and settled here when return became impractical. These people married amongst the locals and their bloodline runs through the people of Kodavu.
- (ii) According to others, the Kodavu people are of Arab origin. To support this, the story goes that the Kodavu people wear an embroidered waist-belt over a long, black coat. This waist-belt, referred to as 'kuppia' resembles the 'kuffia' worn by the Arabs.

Q 4. Explain how one can enjoy life in the region of Coorg.

Ans. Coorg is a beautiful and enjoyable tourist place. It has evergreen rainforests and coffee plantations. The best time to visit this place is during September to March. During the monsoons, there is heavy rainfall in the region. The Kaveri river is famous for Mahaseer, a large freshwater fish and kingfisher. Wildlife is plenty here. In the forests, one can be in the company of squirrels, langurs, elephants and many other animals. The elephant ride is a great attraction for children.

People can also enjoy numerous water games such as river rafting, canoeing, rappelling, etc. Brahmagiri hill gives the entire view of Coorg. One can enjoy walking over the rope-bridge. It leads to the sixty-four acre island of Nisargadhama. One can visit India's famous and largest Tibetan colony nearby Bylakuppe, which is famous for the Buddhist monks. Thus, there are many surprises which one can unveil in the region of Coorg and enjoy life.

Part III. Tea from Assam

Introduction

This chapter has been written by Arup Kumar Datta. It tells us about the north-east state of Assam where tea plantation is carried on a large scale.

Summary

Pranjol is Rajvir's classmate in Delhi. He is from Assam and his father is the manager of a tea-garden in Upper Assam. Pranjol had invited Rajvir to visit his home during the summer vacation and Rajvir had accepted the invitation. On their journey by train, Rajvir sees a lot of greenery, paddy fields and tea gardens.

Before starting-off on his vacation, Rajvir had collected a lot of information about tea. He tells Pranjol that there are many legends regarding the origin of tea. According to one legend, a Chinese emperor used to drink water after boiling it. One day, a few leaves of the twigs burning under the pot fell into the water and gave it a delicious flavour. These leaves were tea leaves.

According to another legend, a Buddhist ascetic, named Bodhidharma, once cut off his eyelids because he used to feel sleepy during meditations. Ten tea plants grew out of these eyelids. The leaves of these when put in hot water and drunk banished sleep.

Rajvir also informed Pranjol that tea was first drunk in China far back in 2700 BC. Tea came to Europe only in the 16th century and was drunk more as medicine than as beverage.

Both the friends got down at Mariani Junction Station. Pranjol's parents had come to receive them. They took them to *Dhekiabari* Tea Estate, where Pranjol lived. His father was the manager of the tea estate. On both sides of the road, they could acres and acres of tea gardens. Groups of plucker women were plucking new sprouts of tea plants and putting them in their baskets. Rajvir comments that this might be the second-flush or sprouting period which lasts from May to July and yields the best tea. Pranjol's father praises Rajvir's knowledge. At this, Rajvir tells him that now he hopes he could learn more in his company.

Message

This chapter acquaints us with the various legends surrounding the origin of tea and also about its history and its cultivation process.

Extract Based Questions ➤

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

"Hey, a tea garden!" Rajvir cried excitedly.

Pranjol, who had been born and brought up on a plantation, didn't share Rajvir's excitement.

"Oh, this is tea country now," he said. "Assam has the largest concentration of plantations in the world. You will see enough gardens to last you a lifetime!".

"I have been reading as much as I could about tea," Rajvir said. "No one really knows who discovered tea but there are many legends".

(a) Why was Pranjol not as excited as Rajvir about the tea gardens?

- (i) He disliked looking at tea gardens.
- (ii) He had worked in tea gardens himself.
- (iii) He had grown up in and around tea gardens.
- (iv) He was bored with tea gardens.

(b) What does Pranjol mean by saying that Assam has the largest concentration of plantations in the world?

(c) How according to Rajvir does the world know about the discovery of tea?

(d) Select the option that correctly captures the application of the word 'cried' as used in line 1 of the extract.

- (i) Jaspreet cried a lot in spite of winning second place in a competition.
- (ii) Jaspreet cried out loud when she saw a white tiger in the sanctuary.
- (iii) Jaspreet cried for hours when the police were unable to find her lost pet.
- (iv) Jaspreet has barely cried since she was three years of age.

Answers

- (a) (iii) He had grown up in and around tea gardens
- (b) Pranjol means that the cultivation and harvesting of tea are the highest in Assam.
- (c) Traditional tales
- (d) (ii) Jaspreet cried out loud when she saw a white tiger in the sanctuary.

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

The train clattered into Mariani junction. The boys collected their luggage and pushed their way to the crowded platform. Pranjol's parents were waiting for them.

Soon they were driving towards *Dhekiabari*, the tea-garden managed by Pranjol's father.

An hour later the car veered sharply off the main road. They crossed a cattle-bridge and entered *Dhekiabari Tea Estate*. On both sides of the gravel-road were acre upon acre of tea bushes, all neatly pruned to the same height. Groups of tea-pluckers, with bamboo baskets on their backs, wearing plastic aprons, were plucking the newly sprouted leaves.

- (a) For whom were Pranjol's parents waiting?
(b) State whether the given statement is True or False.
The tea-pluckers were plucking the roots.
(c) What were the tea-pluckers wearing?
(d) Pranjol's father worked at the

Answers

- (a) Pranjol's parents were waiting for both Pranjol and Rajvir.
(b) False
(c) The tea-pluckers were wearing plastic aprons.
(d) tea-garden

Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. What excited Rajvir? Why did Pranjol not share his excitement?

OR

Why did Pranjol not share Rajvir's excitement on seeing the tree plantation? (CBSE 2019)

OR

Why did Pranjol not share Rajvir's excitement at seeing the tea gardens? (CBSE 2023)

Ans. Rajvir had never seen a view of tea-gardens. So, he was greatly excited to see a sea of tea bushes stretched far. Tiny tea plants and tall sturdy trees with busily moving doll-like figures amidst the orderly rows of bushes also attracted him. Pranjol used to live in Assam. He was accustomed to the vast expanse of greenery and the tea gardens there. Therefore, he did not share Rajvir's excitement.

Q 2. What is the Chinese legend regarding tea leaves?

Ans. The Chinese legend regarding tea is that one of their emperor always boiled water before drinking it. One day, a few leaves of the twigs burning under the pot fell into the water giving it a delicious flavour. It is said that these were tea leaves.

Q 3. What is the Indian legend regarding tea?

Ans. The Indian legend regarding tea leaves is that Bodhidharma, an ancient Buddhist ascetic, cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during the meditation. Ten tea plants grew out of his eyelids. The leaves of these plants, when put in hot water and drunk, banished sleep.

Q 4. When did the drinking of tea start?

Ans. Tea was first drunk in China as far back as 2700 BC. In fact, words such as tea, 'chal' and 'chini' come from

Chinese. Tea came to Europe only in the sixteenth century. It was drunk more as a medicine than as a beverage.

Q 5. How are the tea-pluckers different from the other farm labourers?

Ans. Tea-pluckers are different from other farm labourers in the following manner:

- (i) They work in an orderly manner.
(ii) They work in an hygienic manner.

Long Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Describe Rajvir and Pranjol's journey to Assam. What did they see on the way?

Ans. Rajvir and Pranjol studied in Delhi. They were classmates and friends also. Pranjol hailed from Assam. His father was the manager of a tea-garden there. Pranjol invited Rajvir to visit his home during the summer vacation. Rajvir accepted and both of them embarked on their train journey to Assam. As they sat in the train, they bought two cups of 'chal'. When the train pulled out of the station, Pranjol started reading a detective book. However, Rajvir was keen to look out at the beautiful scenery. There was greenery everywhere. Slowly the soft green paddy fields gave way to tea bushes. It was a magnificent view. Against the backdrop of densely wooded hills, a sea of tea bushes stretched as far as eye could see. Dwarfing the tiny tea plants were tall sturdy shade-trees and amidst the orderly rows of bushes busily moved doll like figures. These were the tea-pluckers with bamboo baskets on their backs. In the distance an ugly building with smoke billowing out of tall chimneys could be seen.

Rajvir was very excited to see these beautiful sights. His heart was filled with happiness.

Q 2. What are the legends related to the discovery of tea?

OR

What legends are associated with the origin of tea?

(CBSE 2016)

Ans. There are many legends related to the discovery of tea. According to one legend, it is believed that one Chinese emperor always boiled water before drinking it. One day, few leaves of the twigs burning under the pot fell into the water. It gave the water a delicious flavour. It is said that they were tea leaves. According to another legend, Bodhidharma was an ancient Buddhist ascetic. He cut off his eyelids because he used to feel sleepy during the meditations. Ten tea plants grew out of his eyelids. The leaves of these plants, when put in hot water and drunk, banished sleep.