

GLIMPSES OF INDIA

STUDY-NOTE

PART – 1 A BAKER FROM GOA

• Lucio Rodrigues

- In old Portuguese days, the people of Goa ate loaves of bread. Now these loaves have disappeared. But their makers are still there. The furnaces also exist there even now. The sound of the traditional bakers' bamboo can still be heard.
- Someone of the family still carries this business. These bakers are known as pader in Goa even today. The baker used to be the author's friend and guide. He used to come twice a day. The sound of his bamboo woke the author and others from sleep.
- The author used to run to him for bread-bangles. The maidservants used to buy loaves and carry them inside the houses. The bakers holds an important place in the hearts and customs of a goan village.
- Marriage gifts are meaningless without the sweet bread called "bol". Cakes & bolinhas are a must for festival. Their peculiar dress is known as "kabei" as they themselves are known as "pader". They live a satisfied life as life as they earn well.

PART – 2 COORG

• Lokesh Abrol

- The writer describes the hill station of Coorg located in the western ghats in the state of Karnataka. It is located midway between Bangalore and Mangalore. The suitable time to visit Coorg is from September to March.
- The place is famous for coffee plantations and spices. There are abundant rainforests which cover 30 percent of the area.
- The Coorgi men are brave warriors who are permitted to keep firearms without a licence due to their trustworthiness. The women of Coorg are pretty. Coorg is also known as Kodavu and the Kodavus, though are Hindus by religion but their customs differ from those of mainstream Hindus. They marry within their community.
- Kodavus are said to be of Greek or Arabic descent. Some soldiers of Alexander's army settled there.

- Also, as the ethnic dress of the Kodavus, Kuppia is similar to the Arab garment Kuffia, it is said that maybe their ancestors were Arabs or Kurds.
- The river Kaveri originates from Coorg. The fish named Mahaseer is found in the river. Many animals and birds like kingfisher, langur, squirrels and elephants can be spotted along the river.
- Coorg offers many adventurous activities such as river rafting , canoeing, rappelling, rock climbing, mountain biking & trekking. The major tourist attractions are Brahmagiri hills, Nisargdham island and Bylakuppe.
- Tibetan settlements. Coorg gives visitors a feel of India's diverse cultures. The Buddhist monks settled here give us a glimpse of the heart and soul of India.

PART – 3 TEA FROM ASSAM

● **Arup Kumar Datta**

- This part describes Assam which has the largest concentration of tea plantation in the world. The narrator tried to explain the importance of tea in the country through a dialogue between two school students RAJVEER & PRANJOL.
- Pranjol's hometown when a tea vendor asks them if they would like to have some freshly made tea. They buy two cups joining almost every other person in their compartment. From there, the journey begins and Pranjol starts reading his detective book while Rajveer decides to enjoy the scenic beauty.
- There were soft green paddy fields followed by tea bushes. Rajveer is very excited on seeing such large plantations of tea but Pranjol is unable to match the same level because he was born and brought up in Assam, famously known as the 'Tea country'.
- Visiting there for the first time, Rajveer did a lot of study about how tea was discovered and that it dates back to 2700 B.C. According to what he read, it was first consumed in China and reached Europe in the 16th century, where it was mostly popular for its medicinal properties.
- There are numerous stories as to how it was discovered, one about a Chinese Emperor and the other about a Buddhist monk. The former liked the taste of it while the latter, used it to get rid of sleep.
- As they were having this discussion, they reached their destination where Pranjol's parents had come to receive them and take them to their tea garden. On their way, they passed a cattle bridge and gave way to a truck filled with tea leaves which drew their attention to the fact that it was the second sprouting season.

- Pranjol's father was amazed at Rajveer's knowledge about tea plantations when he heard the young boy mention the second-flush or sprouting period of tea that yields the best tea. Rajveer further said that he was keen to learn more about the place from Pranjol's father.

