



Glimpses of India

Part III

Tea from Assam

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Lesson No. 7 _ Mod.3 of 3_First Flight
Class X English Language &
Literature

Introduction

- ▶ Tea is a popular beverage
- ▶ Assam - the 'tea country'
- ▶ Tea was not discovered in India
- ▶ Lesson through a beautiful conversation between two friends- Pranjol and Rajvir
- ▶ Travelling to Pranjol's hometown Assam for the summer vacation.
- ▶ Assam has the largest concentration of plantations in the world.
- ▶ During their journey they discuss about the various 'legends' that are known to have discovered tea.
- ▶ The story also tells us about the popularity of tea as a beverage.

About the Author

- ▶ Arup Kumar Dutta is an Indian writer and journalist from Guwahati, Assam.
- ▶ Written 16 books for adults
- ▶ 17 adventure novels for young people.
- ▶ In 2014 he was awarded the Life Time Achievement Honour by Association of Writers and Illustrators for Children, New Delhi.
- ▶ He has been also awarded the civilian award Padma Shri by Government of India in 2018

On the Way to Assam

- ▶ Rajvir is a classmate of Pranjol
- ▶ Rajvir is invited by Pranjol to visit his home
- ▶ A scene set on a train station
- ▶ Have two cups of tea in Railway compartment.
- ▶ Pranjol highlights the fact-almost eighty crore cups of tea are consumed everyday throughout the world
- ▶ Pranjol is interested in reading detective stories
- ▶ Rajvir is more interested in the outside scenery
- ▶ Talks about the increased popularity and use of the tea

Beauty of Tea Gardens

- ▶ The train started moving
- ▶ Pranjol got engaged in reading
- ▶ Rajvir chose to look at the scenic beauty at the moment
- ▶ The magnificent view of stretched tea gardens
- ▶ Rajvir became very excited
- ▶ Trees' shades over the area
- ▶ A 'sea' of tea bushes
- ▶ Hills with dense forests
- ▶ Orderly rows of tall and strong moving trees
- ▶ An ugly building with smoke releasing from tall chimneys
- ▶ The gardens increased Rajvir's excitement to share his information about tea.

Legends about Origin of Tea

- ▶ Rajvir shared two traditional stories about the discovery of tea
- ▶ One of which was about a Chinese Emperor
- ▶ A habit of drinking boiled water
- ▶ Once few tea leaves fell into the boiling water
- ▶ gave a delicious flavour
- ▶ Liked by the emperor when drank the water.
- ▶ another story about an Indian legend named Bodhidharma.
- ▶ An ancient Buddhist Hermit, Bodhidharma cut off his eyelids to avoid sleepiness.
- ▶ Eventually, tea plants grew out of his eyelids
- ▶ upon consuming after boiling with water helped in getting rid of sleep

Rajvir Highlighted Facts

- ▶ Rajvir highlighted a few facts
- ▶ Tea dates back to 2700 B.C.
- ▶ The first tea was consumed in China
- ▶ Words 'chai and 'chini' have originated from Chinese language.
- ▶ Tea was introduced to Europe quite late- in the sixteenth century
- ▶ It was considered to have medicinal properties.

Approaching Dhekiabari

- ▶ The train stopped at Mariani Junction
- ▶ Took their way towards the Dhekiabari Tea Estate, Pranjol's tea garden
- ▶ Pranjol's parents received them
- ▶ Reached Dhekiabari after taking a turn and making their way through a cattle-bridge
- ▶ Acres of tea bushes on both sides
- ▶ Stretched upon a vast area of land
- ▶ Groups of tea-pluckers with bamboo baskets
- ▶ Wearing plastic aprons

In Dhekiabari:

- ▶ Pranjol's father Mr Berua
- ▶ On their way a tractor loaded with tea leaves
- ▶ Rajvir displays his knowledge
- ▶ The second sprouting period of the year
- ▶ This period lasts from May to July
- ▶ Gives excellent yield
- ▶ Mr Berua appreciated Rajvir
- ▶ Pranjol excited for learning more about the amazing beverage

Difficult Words

- ▶ Paddy fields- a field where rice is grown
- ▶ Backdrop- lie behind or beyond; serve as a background to
- ▶ Dwarfing- cause to seem small or insignificant in comparison
- ▶ Billowing- moving or flowing outwards
- ▶ Concentration- cluster
- ▶ Ascetic- characterized by severe self-discipline and abstention from all forms of indulgence, typically for religious reasons.
- ▶ Banished- get rid of
- ▶ Clattered- (loud noise made by the train brakes)
- ▶ Veered- change direction
- ▶ Gravel- small, rounded stones often mixed with sand
- ▶ Pruned- cut away from a tree

THANK YOU

