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Class-X

English

First Flight

Chapter-5





Lokesh Abrol

Glimpses of India



Part - 4

Neha Rajvanshi

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Macaques, Malabar squirrels, langurs and slender loris keep a watchful eye from the tree canopy.







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Panoramic : विस्तृत

I do, however, prefer to step aside for wild elephants.

The climb to the Brahmagiri hills brings you into a panoramic view of the entire misty landscape of Coorg.



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Bonus : अतिरिक्त भाग



A walk across the rope bridge leads to the sixty-four-acre island of Nisargadhama. Running into Buddhist monks from India's largest Tibetan settlement, at nearby Bylakuppe, is a bonus.

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The monks, in red, ochre and yellow robes, are amongst the many surprises that wait to be discovered by visitors searching for the heart and soul of India, right here in Coorg.

FACT FILE

How to Reach

Madikeri, the district headquarters, is the only gateway to Coorg. The misty hills, lush forests and coffee plantations will cast a spell on you. Find a resort, coffee estate or stay in a home for a truly Coorgi experience.

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By Air: The nearest airports are Mangalore (135 km) and Bangalore (260 km). There are flights to Mangalore from Mumbai, and to Bangalore from Ahmedabad, Chennai, Delhi, Goa, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Pune.

By Rail: The nearest railheads are at Mysore, Mangalore and Hassan.

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By Road: There are two routes to Coorg from Bangalore. Both are almost the same distance (around 250-260 km). The route via Mysore is the most frequented one. The other route is via Neelamangal, Kunigal, Chanrayanapatna.

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COMPREHENSION

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Question 1. Where is Coorg?

Answer : Coorg or Kodagu is the smallest district of Karnataka. It is midway between Mysore and Mangalore.

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Question 2. What is the story about the Kodavu people's descent?

Answer : It is said that Kodavus are of Greek or Arabic descent. According to one story, a part of Alexander's army could not return to its homeland and so they moved here. They married the locals and settled here.

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Question 3. What are some of the things you now know about

(i) the people of Coorg?

Answer : The people of Coorg are the descendants of the Greeks or the Arabs. They are independent and ferocious. They are the bravest soldiers in the Indian Army. They are welcoming and are known for their hospitality.

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(ii) the main crop of Coorg?

Answer : The main crop of Coorg is coffee and spices.

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(iii) the sports it offers to tourists?

Answer : It offers adventurous sports. These are like river rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock climbing and mountain biking.

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(iv) the animals you are likely to see in Coorg?

Answer : The animals one is likely to see in Coorg are Macaques, Malabar squirrel, Langurs and slender loris. Apart from this fish like Mahaseer, birds like kingfisher, butterflies, bees and wild elephant can also be seen here.

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(v) its distance from Bangalore, and how to get there?

Answer : The distance between Bangalore and Coorg is around 260 km. One can reach Coorg by Air, by Rail and by Road. The route via Mysore is the most frequented one.

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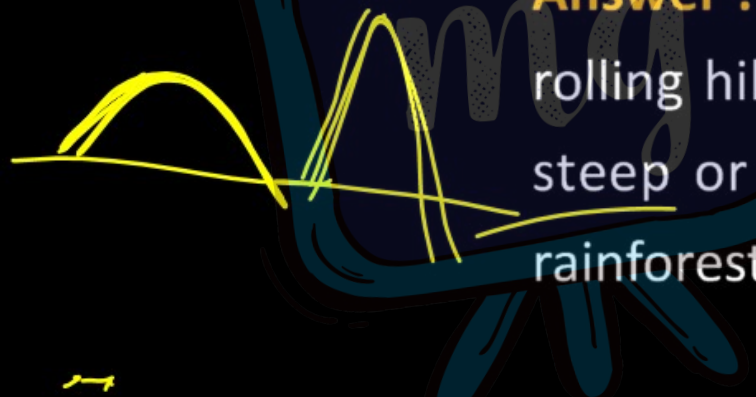

Question 4. Why is Coorg called the land of rolling hills?

Answer : Coorgs is called the land of rolling hills because the hills are not steep or very high. Then there are rainforests grown over them.

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Question 5. What shows the Coorgis might be of the Arabic descent?

Answer : The Coorgis or the Kodavu people are of Greek or Arabic descent. They wear the long, black coat with embroidered waist-belt. It is known as Kuppia. It resembles the kuffia worn by the Arabs and the Kurds.

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Question 6. The people of Coorg have a tradition of courage and bravery. How has it been recognized in modern India?

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