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Class-X

English

First Flight

Chapter-5

Glimpses of India

Part - 6



Arup Kumar Datta

Neha Rajvanshi

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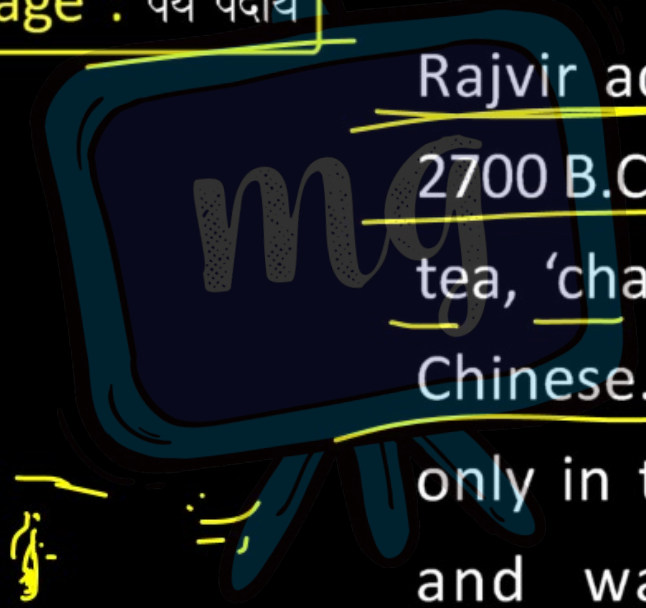
Beverage : पेय पदार्थ



"Tea was first drunk in China," Rajvir added, "as far back as 2700 B.C.! In fact words such as tea, 'chai' and 'chini' are from Chinese. Tea came to Europe only in the sixteenth century and was drunk more as medicine than as beverage."

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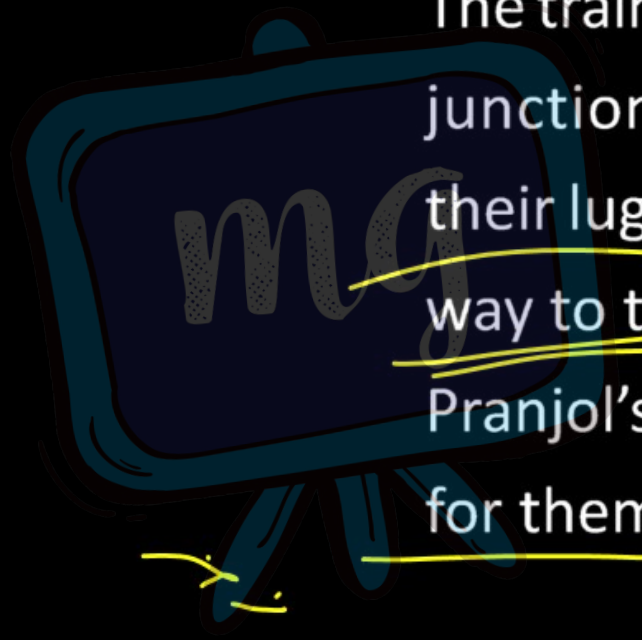

The train clattered into Mariani junction. The boys collected their luggage and pushed their way to the crowded platform. Pranjol's parents were waiting for them.

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Veered : मुड़ जाना



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.

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Gravel road : बजरी वाली सड़क

Pruned : कटे हुए



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.

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Pranjol's father slowed down to allow a tractor, pulling a trailer-load of tea leaves, to pass. "This is the second-flush or sprouting period, isn't it, Mr Barua?" Rajvir asked. "It lasts from May to July and yields the best tea."

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"You seem to have done your homework before coming," Pranjol's father said in surprise. "Yes, Mr Barua," Rajvir admitted. "But I hope to learn much more while I'm here."

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COMPREHENSION

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Question 1. What 'magnificent view' did Rajvir see outside while going in the train?

Answer : There were tea bushes here and there. Against the densely wooded hills, a sea of tea bushes spread over a vast area. Over the tiny tea plants were tall sturdy shade-trees. There were orderly tea bushes. They looked majestic.

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Question 2. What excited Rajvir? Why did Pranjol not share his excitement?

Answer : Rajvir was excited to see the tea garden for the first time. Pranjol was not excited because he had been born and brought up on a tea plantation. So he didn't share his excitement as he was not new to the tea gardens.

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Question 3. Where and when did the drinking of tea start? How did it come to Europe?

Answer : The drinking of tea first started in China as far as 2700 B.C. Words associated with tea like 'chai', 'chini' etc. are from the Chinese language. Tea came to Europe only in the 16th century. In Europe tea was drunk as medicine than the beverage.

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Question 4. What is the Chinese legend regarding tea?

Answer : Rajvir told Pranjol about the origin of tea-drinking. He told that the Chinese emperor always boiled water before drinking it. One day a few leaves of the twigs burning under the pot fell into the water. They gave the water a delicious flavour. It is said they were tea leaves.

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Question 5. Why did Pranjol's father say that Rajvir had done his homework before coming there?

Answer : When a tractor pulled before Rajvir with a load of tea leaves Rajvir asked Pranjol's father if it was the second flush or sprouting period. Tea of the best quality was from this period. Such information about tea-leaves impressed Pranjol's father. Due to this he said that Rajvir had done his homework well.

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Question 6. What was the Indian legend about the discovery of tea?

Answer : There is a legend in India about tea. According to the Indian legend. Bodhidharma cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditations. He was an ancient Boddhist ascetic. Ten tea plants grew out of the eyelids. The leaves of these plants when put in hot water and drunk kept sleep away.

