

**CLASS – 10**

**ENGLISH**

**First Flight**

**CH-5 : Glimpses of India**

**Part – 3**

**Tea From Assam**

**KOMAL JETWANI**



# OVERVIEW

1. Friendship of Rajvir <sup>Delhi</sup> and Pranjol <sup>Assam</sup>

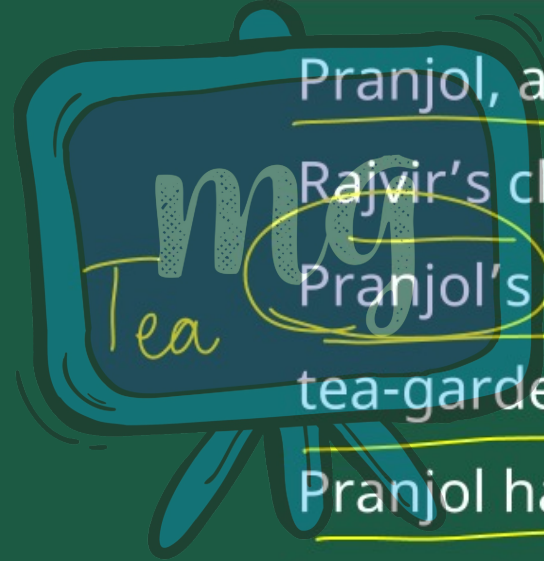
2. Curiosity and interest

3. Assam- Tea Country

4. Legends about tea's discovery

5. Landscape of Tea Gardens

### III. Tea from Assam



Pranjol, a youngster from Assam, is Rajvir's classmate at school in Delhi. Pranjol's father is the manager of a tea-garden in Upper Assam and Pranjol has invited Rajvir to visit his home during the summer vacation.

“CHAI-GARAM... garam-chai,” a  
vendor called out in a high-pitched  
voice.

He came up to their window and  
asked, “Chai, sa’ab?”

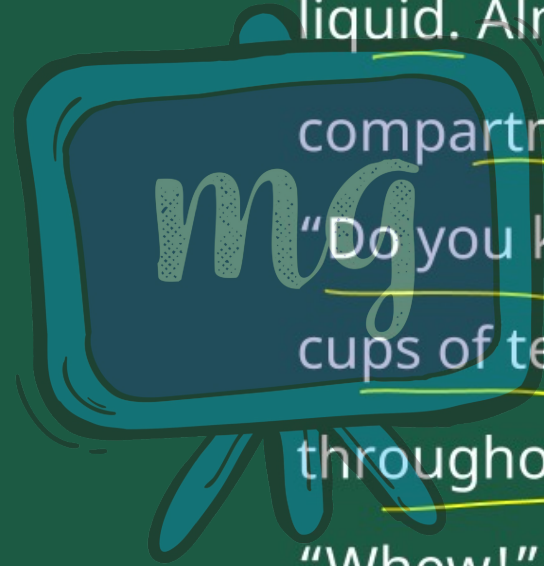
“Give us two cups,” Pranjol said.

Vendor : seller

They sipped the steaming hot liquid. Almost everyone in their compartment was drinking tea too.

“Do you know that over eighty crore cups of tea are drunk every day throughout the world?” Rajvir said.

“Whew!” exclaimed Pranjol. “Tea really is very popular.”



The train pulled out of the station.

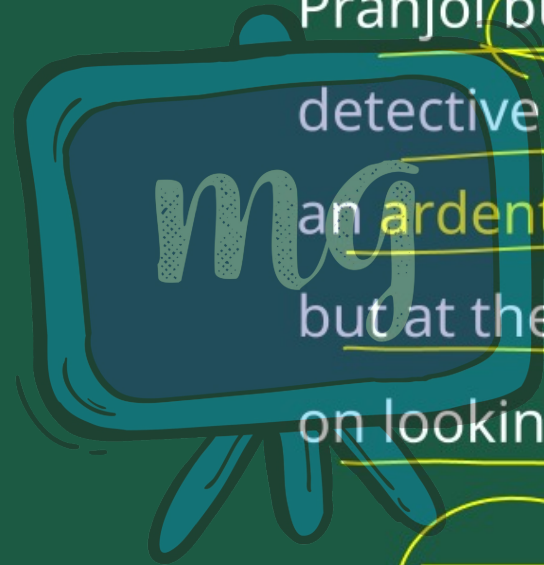
Pranjal buried his nose in his

detective book again. Rajvir too was

an ardent fan of detective stories,

but at the moment he was keener

on looking at the beautiful scenery.



Ardent

:

enthusiastic

It was green, green everywhere.

Rajvir had never seen so much  
greenery before. Then the soft  
green paddy fields gave way to tea  
bushes.

It was a magnificent view.

Paddy Fields	:	fields of rice
Magnificent	:	extremely beautiful

Against the backdrop of densely  
wooded hills a sea of tea bushes  
stretched as far as the 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.

Densely : thick  
Dwarfing : cause to seem small  
Sturdy : rough and strong

In the distance was an ugly building with smoke billowing out of tall chimneys.

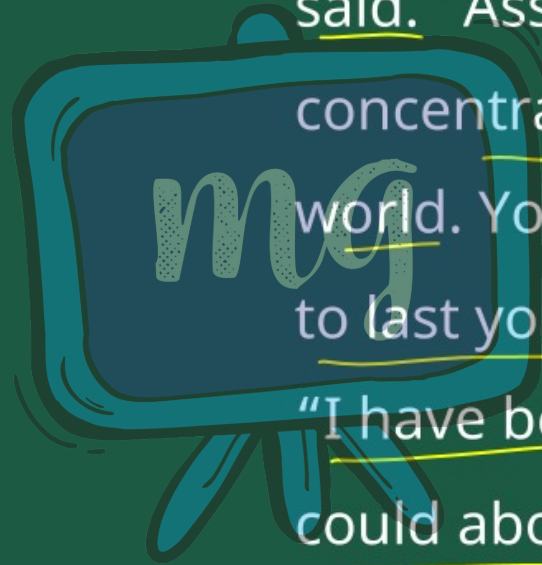
"Hey, a tea garden!" Rajvir cried excitedly.

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

**Billowing** : to flare out in the wind

“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.



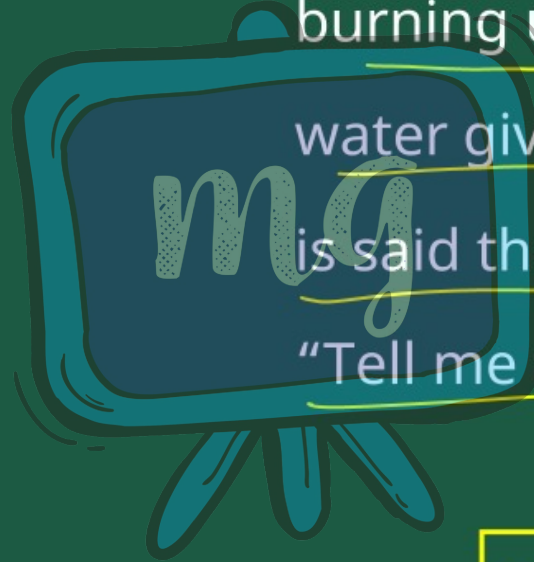
"No one really knows who discovered tea but there are many legends."

"What legends?"

"Well, there's the one about the Chinese emperor who always boiled water before drinking it."

Legends : traditional story

One day a few leaves of the twigs  
burning under the pot fell into the  
water giving it a delicious flavour. It  
is said they were tea leaves.”  
“Tell me another!” **scoffed** Pranjol.



**Scoffed** : mocking

"We have an Indian legend too.  
Bodhidharma, an ancient Buddhist  
ascetic, cut off his eyelids because  
he felt sleepy during meditations.  
Ten tea plants grew out of the  
eyelids. The leaves of these plants  
when put in hot water and drunk  
banished sleep.

monk

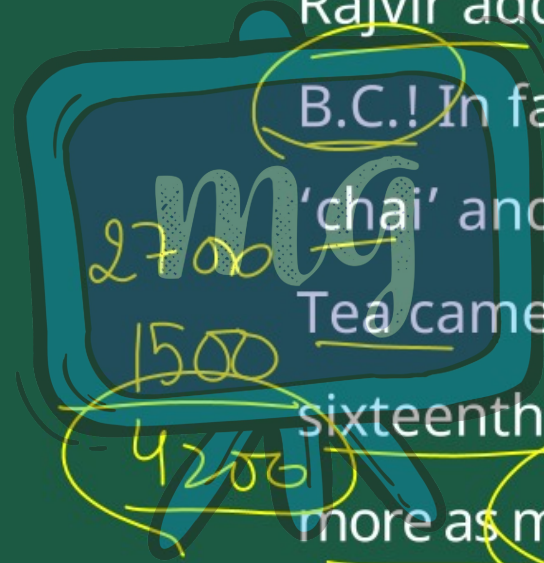
ascetic : austere  
Banished : get rid of

"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.

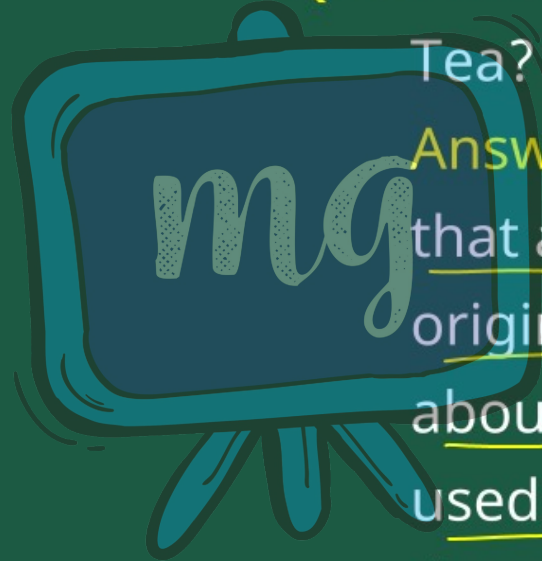
Tea came to Europe only in the  
sixteenth century and was drunk  
more as medicine than as beverage."



**Beverage** : a drink

## ★ CBSE QUESTION CHECK

Q1 : What are the two legends about Tea?



**Answer :** There are two legends that are associated with the origin of tea. The first one is about a Chinese emperor who used to drink boiled water. One day a few leaves of the twigs fell into the boiling water and they gave it a delicious flavour.

It is said that they were tea leaves.

The other is an Indian legend. Once

a Buddhist monk had cut off his

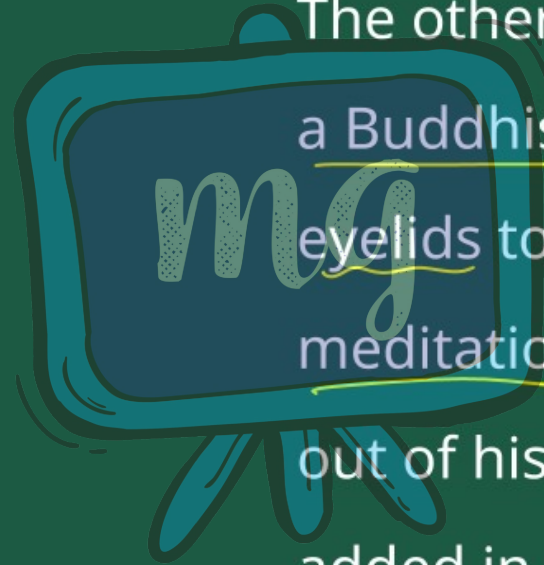
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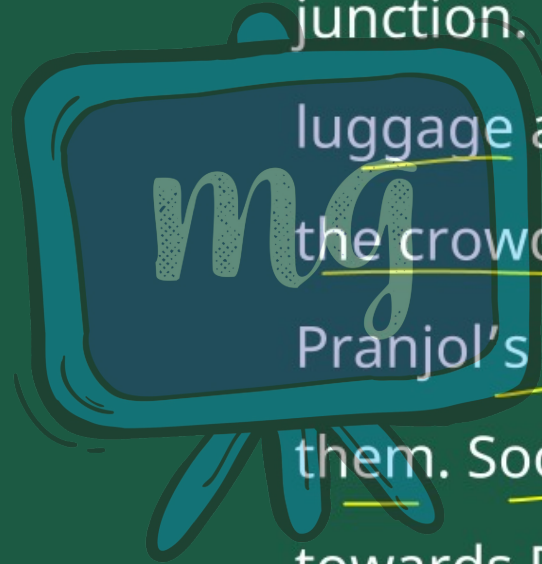
added in boiling water and then

consumed, banish sleep.



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.

Tea Garden

**Veered** : change direction suddenly:

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.

Gravel-Road	:	Stony roads
Pruned	:	to trim

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

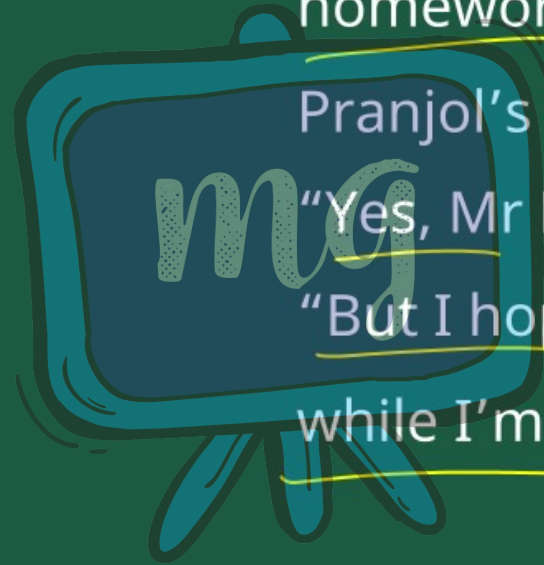
Barua?" Rajvir asked. "It lasts from May to July and yields the best tea."

"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."



## LITERARY DEVICES

It was green, green everywhere.

— Repetition

Then the soft green paddy fields  
gave way to tea bushes. —

— Personification

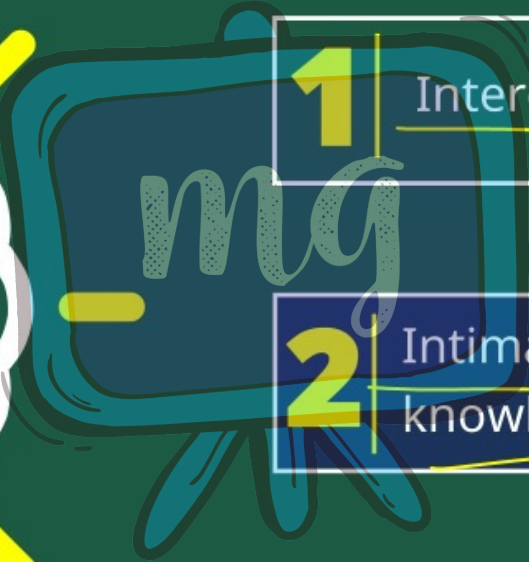
a sea of tea bushes — Metaphor

Doll-like figures — Simile

- ☛ This is tea country – **Metaphor**
- ☛ You will see enough gardens to last you a lifetime!! – **Hyperbole**



# LEARNING OUTCOMES



1

Interest makes education easy.

2

Intimate experience and practical  
knowledge always help

# ASSESSMENT

1

What can be inferred about Rajvir's character from his interest in tea and detective stories?

A

He is adventurous and curious.

B

He is uninterested in learning.

C

He prefers solitude and quiet.

D

He dislikes travelling.



2

Why does the author mention the ugly building with smoke in the chapter 'Tea from Assam'?

A

To highlight tea production.

B

To show pollution

C

To contrast with the tea garden's beauty.

D

To show a nearby factory.