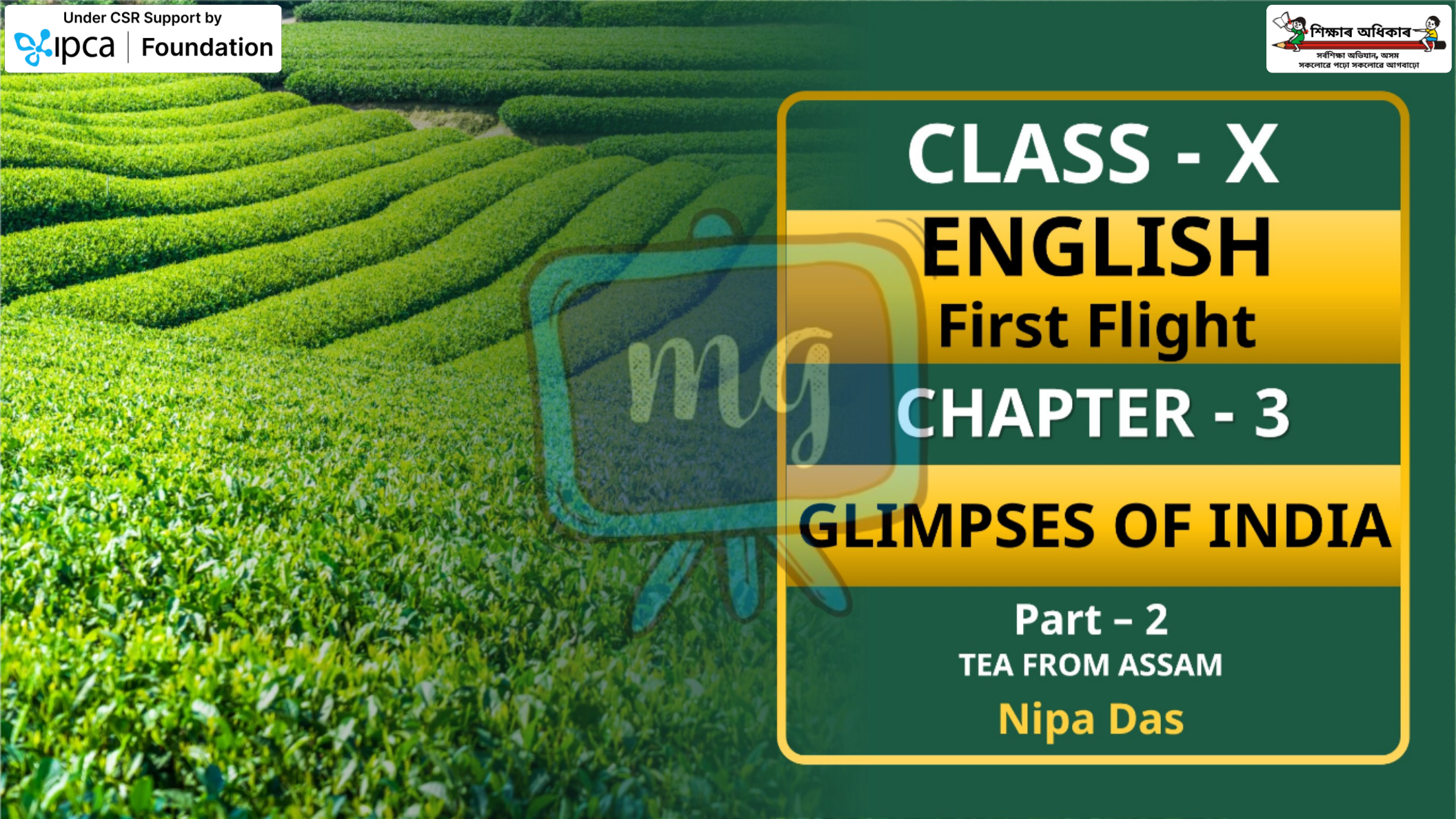
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সকলোৱে পঢ়ো সকলোৱে আগবাঢ়ো



CLASS - X

ENGLISH

First Flight

CHAPTER - 3

GLIMPSES OF INDIA

Part – 2

TEA FROM ASSAM

Nipa Das

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Arup Kumar Datta (2nd July, 1946) is an Indian writer and Journalist from Guwahati, the tea-growing Indian state of Assam.

'Tea from Assam' Arup describes how popular tea has become as a beverage in the world.

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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.

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"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 : বিক্রেতা

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



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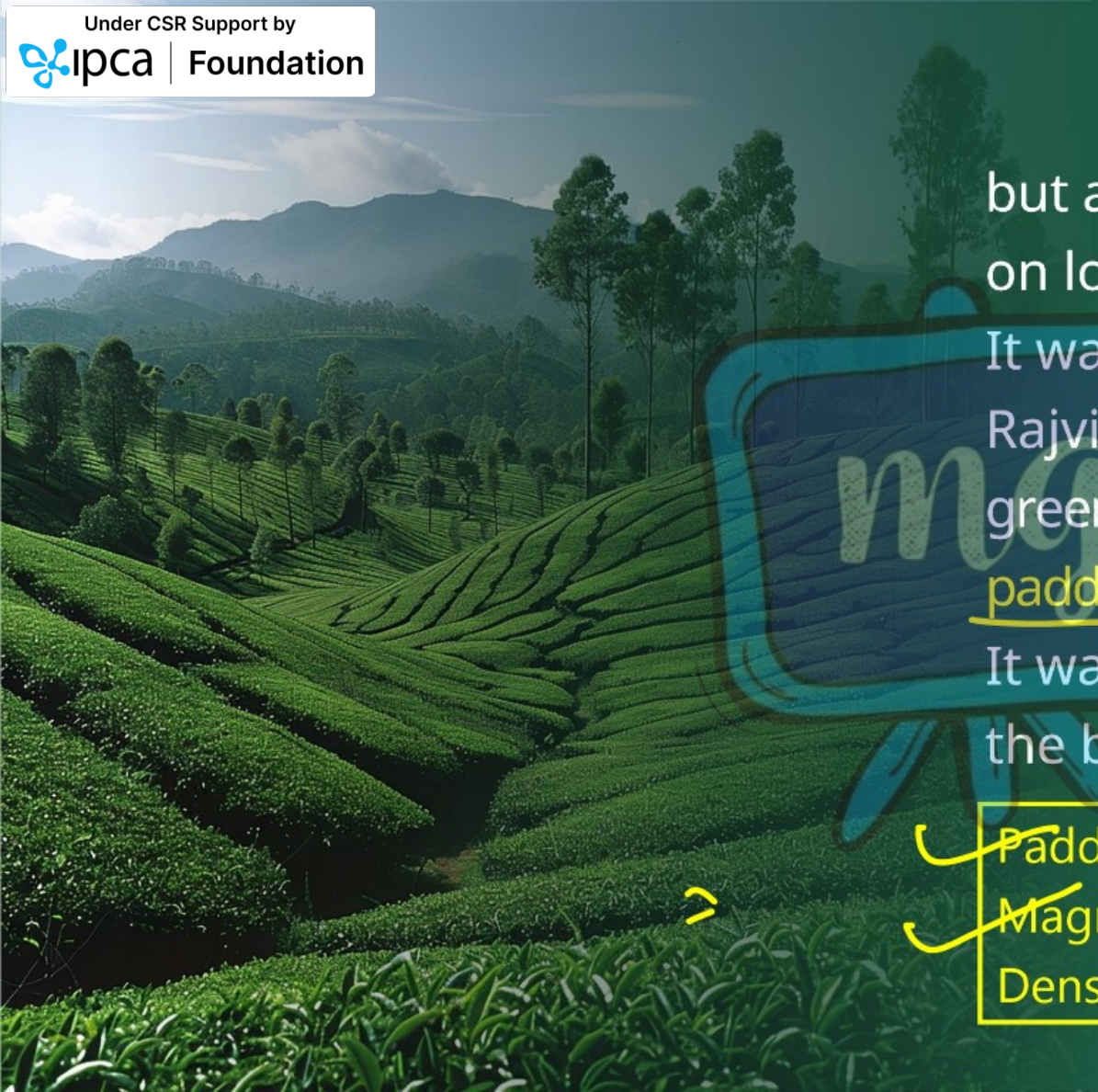
"Do you know that over eighty crore cups of tea are drunk every day throughout the world?" Rajvir said.
"Whew!" exclaimed Pranjol. "Tea really is very popular."
The train pulled out of the station.
Pranjol buried his nose in his detective book again. Rajvir too was an ardent fan of detective stories,

—

Ardent	:	উৎসাহী
Detective	:	গুপ্তচৰ

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but at the moment he was keener on looking at the beautiful scenery. 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. Against the backdrop of densely wooded

Paddy Fields	:	ধাননি পথাৰ
Magnificent	:	আকৰ্ষণীয়
Densely	:	ঘন

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

Dwarfing	:	বাওনা/চাপৰ
Sturdy	:	শক্তিশালী
Billowing	:	ওলাই যোৱা

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

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

"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!"

Concentration : কেন্দ্রীকৰণ

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"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. One day a

Legends : লোককথা

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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.

"We have an Indian legend too. Bodhidharma, an ancient Buddhist

Scoffed : ঠাট্টা কৰা

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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.

"Tea was first drunk in China," Rajvir added, "as far back as 2700 B.C.! In fact words such as tea, 'chai'

Ascetic	:	সন্ন্যাসী
Banished	:	পৰিত্রাণ

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and ‘chini’ are from Chinese. Tea came to Europe only in the sixteenth century and was drunk more as medicine than as beverage.”

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.

Beverage : পানীয়

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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.

On both sides of the gravel-road were acre upon acre of tea bushes.

Veered	:	ঘূৰি যোৱা
Gravel-road	:	শিলগুটিৰ পথ

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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. Pranjol's father slowed down to allow a tractor, pulling a trailer-load of tea leaves, to pass.

Pruned	:	কাটি পেলোৱা
Sprouted	:	অংকুৰিত হোৱা

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"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."

Yields	:	উপলবদ্ধ

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ASSESSMENT

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1 Why was Rajvir excited to see the tea gardens?

A He had never seen so much greenery before.

B He was a tea lover and wanted to taste fresh tea.

C He was interested in the process of tea making.

D He wanted to meet the tea pluckers.

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2 What is the significance of the second flush period in tea production?

A It is the time when tea plants are pruned.

B It yields the best quality tea.

C It is the time when tea pluckers are busiest.

D It is the start of the tea season.

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3 The word "magnificent" in the text means:

A Ordinary

B Splendid

C Small

D Ugly