

## First Flight

### (Class X – NCERT English)

#### Chapter 7: Glimpses of India – Lucio Rodrigues, Arup Kumar Datta, Lokesh Abrol

##### Detailed Summary (Expanded, Exam-Oriented)

The chapter "Glimpses of India" consists of three separate travelogues or descriptive essays that provide glimpses into the diverse culture, traditions, and geography of different regions of India. Each part is written by a different author and focuses on a specific aspect of Indian life.

**PART I: A Baker from Goa by Lucio Rodrigues** - This nostalgic piece describes the Portuguese influence on Goan culture, specifically focusing on the tradition of bread-making. The narrator fondly remembers the Portuguese-style bakers called "paders" who were an essential part of Goan village life.

In old Goa, the arrival of the baker was a daily event that brought excitement, especially to children. The baker would come twice a day, announced by the jingling sound of his bamboo staff. Children would run to meet him, eager for the bread-bangles they would receive.

The traditional Goan baker wore a peculiar dress - a kabai, which was a single-piece long frock reaching down to the knees. These bakers were usually plump, a sign that their profession was profitable. The phrase "bread and butter" was quite literal for them, and their physical appearance testified to their prosperity.

The baker was important not just for daily bread but for special occasions. Goan cakes and loaves were essential for festivals, weddings, Christmas, and other celebrations. The bol, a sweet bread, was a must during festivals. For marriages and Christmas, special cakes and bolinhas (coconut cookies) were prepared.

The bakers would collect their bills at the end of the month. They were treated as friends of the family and were trusted members of the community. The bakery was a profitable profession, and sons usually followed their fathers into the same trade, maintaining the tradition across generations.

Although the Portuguese left Goa in 1961, the tradition of bread-making continues. The mixers, moulders, and the furnaces still exist, though perhaps in updated forms. The author nostalgically remembers how the thud and jingle of the baker's bamboo would wake them up in the morning, and how they would climb off their beds to check if the baker had arrived.

The bread was stored in a basket on the baker's back. The loaves were bought for the elders and the bread-bangles for the children. The children would carefully choose their favorite

bread-bangles, running their fingers through the heap of fresh, warm bread.

PART II: Coorg by Lokesh Abrol - This descriptive piece takes us to Coorg (Kodagu), a beautiful district in Karnataka, India. Coorg is described as a piece of heaven on earth, with its rolling hills covered in dense forests, coffee plantations, and spice gardens.

Coorg is located midway between Mysore and the coastal town of Mangalore. It is the smallest district in Karnataka but is known for its natural beauty, coffee plantations, and martial traditions. The area receives plenty of rainfall, keeping the land lush and green.

The best season to visit Coorg is from September to March when the weather is pleasant. During the monsoons from June to September, the region receives heavy rainfall, making it even more beautiful with mist-covered hills and gushing streams.

The people of Coorg, called Kodavus or Coorgi people, are believed to be of Greek or Arabic descent. According to local legends, they are either descendants of Alexander the Great's army or Arab traders. Their martial traditions and distinct culture support these theories. The Kodavus are the only people in India permitted to carry firearms without a license, a tradition that recognizes their martial heritage.

Coorg is famous for its coffee plantations. The coffee estates are vast, covering hillsides with their green canopy. Walking through a coffee plantation is a delightful experience - the air is filled with the aroma of coffee, and the landscape is dotted with pepper vines, orange trees, and cardamom plants.

The region is also a paradise for nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts. The Brahmagiri hills offer trekking opportunities, and from the top, one can see the entire misty landscape of Coorg. The area is home to diverse wildlife, including elephants, langurs, and numerous bird species.

The river Kaveri originates in Coorg. Visitors can take a river rafting trip down the Kaveri, which offers an exciting adventure through the forested landscape. Mahaseer, a large freshwater fish, is found in these waters and is prized by fishing enthusiasts.

Coorg also has a unique cultural identity. The traditional dress of the Kodavu people includes the kuppia, a long black coat with an embroidered waist-belt. Their hospitality is legendary, and visitors are warmly welcomed into their homes.

PART III: Tea from Assam by Arup Kumar Datta - This travelogue describes a train journey from Dhekiabari to Dibrugarh in Assam, focusing on the region's tea gardens and the history of tea cultivation in India.

The narrator is traveling with his friend Rajvir to Assam to spend his summer vacation at Rajvir's home. As the train passes through the green landscape of Assam, they see endless tea gardens on both sides. The tea bushes appear like neatly trimmed hedges stretching as far as the eye can see.

Pranjol, Rajvir's friend, is reading a detective book, but Rajvir cannot take his eyes off the beautiful scenery outside. The soft green paddy fields give way to tea bushes, and Rajvir is mesmerized by the sight. He sees tea pluckers wearing plastic aprons, plucking tea leaves and putting them in bamboo baskets on their backs.

Rajvir shares his knowledge about tea with Pranjol. He tells him that over eighty crore cups of tea are drunk every day throughout the world. Tea is one of the most popular beverages globally, and India is one of the largest tea producers.

There are two legends about the discovery of tea. According to a Chinese legend, a few leaves from a tea plant accidentally fell into boiling water that the Chinese emperor was drinking. The emperor found the drink refreshing and delicious, and that is how tea was discovered about 5,000 years ago.

According to an Indian legend, a Buddhist monk named Bodhidharma felt sleepy during meditation. To overcome his drowsiness, he cut off his eyelids and threw them away. Tea plants grew from the spot where his eyelids fell. The leaves of these plants, when brewed in hot water, banished sleep - hence the stimulating properties of tea.

Rajvir explains that tea came to Europe only in the sixteenth century and was initially drunk more for medicinal purposes than as a beverage. Tea drinking became popular in England, and soon tea estates were established in British colonies, including India.

Assam has the largest concentration of tea plantations in the world. The region's climate - with its generous rainfall and warm temperatures - is perfect for tea cultivation. The tea estates stretch for miles, covering entire hillsides with their lush green bushes.

When they arrive at Mariani Junction, Pranjol's parents are there to receive them. As they drive to Dhekiabari Tea Estate, Rajvir sees even more tea gardens. He learns that the tea estates are divided into neat sections, and workers live in colonies within the estate.

The process of tea production is explained. The tea leaves are plucked, then withered by spreading them out on racks. They are then rolled, crushed, and fermented before being dried and packaged. The entire process requires skill and careful attention.

Rajvir is excited to learn more about tea cultivation during his stay. The chapter ends with him looking forward to exploring the tea gardens and understanding the complete process from plant to cup.

## Central Themes

### 1. Cultural Diversity of India

The chapter showcases the rich cultural diversity of India by presenting three distinct regions - Goa, Coorg, and Assam - each with unique traditions, landscapes, and ways of life.

### 2. Heritage and Tradition

Each part emphasizes traditional practices that have been passed down through generations - bread-making in Goa, martial traditions in Coorg, and tea cultivation in Assam.

### 3. Natural Beauty of India

The chapter celebrates India's diverse geography, from Goa's coastal traditions to Coorg's misty hills and Assam's endless tea gardens.

### 4. Unity in Diversity

Despite the differences in culture, geography, and traditions, all three parts together represent the unified diversity that defines India.

#### 5. Nostalgia and Memory

Particularly in the Goa section, there is a strong sense of nostalgia for traditional ways of life that are slowly disappearing or changing.

### Character Analysis

#### 1. The Narrator (Goa section)

Looks back fondly at childhood memories of the baker. Represents the older generation remembering traditional Goan life before modernization.

#### 2. The Baker (Pader)

Represents Portuguese cultural influence in Goa. A trusted community member whose profession was both respected and profitable. Symbolizes tradition and community bonds.

#### 3. Rajvir

An enthusiastic and curious young person interested in learning about tea cultivation. His character represents intellectual curiosity and appreciation for knowledge.

#### 4. Pranjol

Rajvir's friend from Assam who is more casual about the tea gardens since he has grown up around them. Represents how familiarity can make us take our surroundings for granted.

#### 5. The Kodavu People

Described as having a distinct martial tradition and unique cultural identity. They represent regional pride and cultural preservation.

### Important Vocabulary (With Meanings)

- **Summary** – [The chapter "Glimpses of India" consists of three separate travelogues or descriptive essays that provide glimpses into the diverse culture, traditions, and geography of different regions of India. Each part is written by a different author and focuses on a specific aspect of Indian life.', 'PART I: A Baker from Goa by Lucio Rodrigues - This nostalgic piece describes the Portuguese influence on Goan culture, specifically focusing on the tradition of bread-making. The narrator fondly remembers the Portuguese-style bakers called "paders" who were an essential part of Goan village life.', 'In old Goa, the arrival of the baker was a daily event that brought excitement, especially to children. The baker would come twice a day, announced by the jingling sound of his bamboo staff. Children would run to meet him, eager for the bread-bangles they would receive.', 'The traditional Goan baker wore a peculiar dress - a kabai, which was a single-piece long frock reaching down to the knees. These bakers were usually plump, a sign that their profession was profitable. The phrase "bread and butter" was quite literal for them, and their physical appearance testified to their prosperity.', 'The baker was important not just for daily bread but for special occasions. Goan cakes and loaves were essential for festivals, weddings, Christmas, and other celebrations. The bol, a sweet bread, was a must during festivals. For marriages and Christmas, special cakes and bolinhas

(coconut cookies) were prepared.', 'The bakers would collect their bills at the end of the month. They were treated as friends of the family and were trusted members of the community. The bakery was a profitable profession, and sons usually followed their fathers into the same trade, maintaining the tradition across generations.', 'Although the Portuguese left Goa in 1961, the tradition of bread-making continues. The mixers, moulders, and the furnaces still exist, though perhaps in updated forms. The author nostalgically remembers how the thud and jingle of the baker's bamboo would wake them up in the morning, and how they would climb off their beds to check if the baker had arrived.', 'The bread was stored in a basket on the baker's back. The loaves were bought for the elders and the bread-bangles for the children. The children would carefully choose their favorite bread-bangles, running their fingers through the heap of fresh, warm bread.', 'PART II: Coorg by Lokesh Abrol - This descriptive piece takes us to Coorg (Kodagu), a beautiful district in Karnataka, India. Coorg is described as a piece of heaven on earth, with its rolling hills covered in dense forests, coffee plantations, and spice gardens.', 'Coorg is located midway between Mysore and the coastal town of Mangalore. It is the smallest district in Karnataka but is known for its natural beauty, coffee plantations, and martial traditions. The area receives plenty of rainfall, keeping the land lush and green.', 'The best season to visit Coorg is from September to March when the weather is pleasant. During the monsoons from June to September, the region receives heavy rainfall, making it even more beautiful with mist-covered hills and gushing streams.', 'The people of Coorg, called Kodavus or Coorgi people, are believed to be of Greek or Arabic descent. According to local legends, they are either descendants of Alexander the Great's army or Arab traders. Their martial traditions and distinct culture support these theories. The Kodavus are the only people in India permitted to carry firearms without a license, a tradition that recognizes their martial heritage.', 'Coorg is famous for its coffee plantations. The coffee estates are vast, covering hillsides with their green canopy. Walking through a coffee plantation is a delightful experience - the air is filled with the aroma of coffee, and the landscape is dotted with pepper vines, orange trees, and cardamom plants.', 'The region is also a paradise for nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts. The Brahmagiri hills offer trekking opportunities, and from the top, one can see the entire misty landscape of Coorg. The area is home to diverse wildlife, including elephants, langurs, and numerous bird species.', 'The river Kaveri originates in Coorg. Visitors can take a river rafting trip down the Kaveri, which offers an exciting adventure through the forested landscape. Mahaseer, a large freshwater fish, is found in these waters and is prized by fishing enthusiasts.', 'Coorg also has a unique cultural identity. The traditional dress of the Kodavu people includes the kuppia, a long black coat with an embroidered waist-belt. Their hospitality is legendary, and visitors are warmly welcomed into their homes.', 'PART III: Tea from Assam by Arup Kumar Datta - This travelogue describes a train journey from Dhekiabari to Dibrugarh in Assam, focusing on the region's tea gardens and the history of tea cultivation in India.', 'The narrator is traveling with his friend Rajvir to Assam to spend his summer vacation at Rajvir's home. As the train passes through the green landscape of Assam, they see endless tea gardens on both sides. The tea bushes appear like neatly trimmed hedges stretching as far as the eye can see.', 'Pranjol, Rajvir's friend, is reading a detective book, but Rajvir cannot take his eyes off the beautiful scenery outside. The soft green paddy fields give way to tea bushes, and Rajvir is mesmerized by the sight. He sees tea pluckers wearing plastic aprons, plucking tea leaves and putting them in bamboo baskets on their backs.', 'Rajvir shares his knowledge about tea with Pranjol. He tells him that over eighty crore cups of tea are drunk every day throughout the world. Tea is one of the most popular beverages globally, and India is one of the largest tea producers.', 'There are two legends about the discovery of tea. According to a Chinese legend, a few leaves from a tea plant accidentally fell into boiling water that the Chinese emperor was drinking. The emperor found the drink refreshing and delicious, and that is how tea was discovered about 5,000 years ago.', 'According to an Indian legend, a Buddhist monk named Bodhidharma felt sleepy during meditation. To overcome his drowsiness, he cut off his eyelids and threw them away. Tea plants grew from the spot where his eyelids fell. The

leaves of these plants, when brewed in hot water, banished sleep - hence the stimulating properties of tea.', 'Rajvir explains that tea came to Europe only in the sixteenth century and was initially drunk more for medicinal purposes than as a beverage. Tea drinking became popular in England, and soon tea estates were established in British colonies, including India.', "Assam has the largest concentration of tea plantations in the world. The region's climate - with its generous rainfall and warm temperatures - is perfect for tea cultivation. The tea estates stretch for miles, covering entire hillsides with their lush green bushes.", "When they arrive at Mariani Junction, Pranjol's parents are there to receive them. As they drive to Dhekiabari Tea Estate, Rajvir sees even more tea gardens. He learns that the tea estates are divided into neat sections, and workers live in colonies within the estate.", 'The process of tea production is explained. The tea leaves are plucked, then withered by spreading them out on racks. They are then rolled, crushed, and fermented before being dried and packaged. The entire process requires skill and careful attention.', 'Rajvir is excited to learn more about tea cultivation during his stay. The chapter ends with him looking forward to exploring the tea gardens and understanding the complete process from plant to cup.']

• **Themes** – { '1. Cultural Diversity of India': 'The chapter showcases the rich cultural diversity of India by presenting three distinct regions - Goa, Coorg, and Assam - each with unique traditions, landscapes, and ways of life.', '2. Heritage and Tradition': 'Each part emphasizes traditional practices that have been passed down through generations - bread-making in Goa, martial traditions in Coorg, and tea cultivation in Assam.', '3. Natural Beauty of India': 'The chapter celebrates India's diverse geography, from Goa's coastal traditions to Coorg's misty hills and Assam's endless tea gardens.', '4. Unity in Diversity': 'Despite the differences in culture, geography, and traditions, all three parts together represent the unified diversity that defines India.', '5. Nostalgia and Memory': 'Particularly in the Goa section, there is a strong sense of nostalgia for traditional ways of life that are slowly disappearing or changing.' }

• **Characters** – { '1. The Narrator (Goa section)': 'Looks back fondly at childhood memories of the baker. Represents the older generation remembering traditional Goan life before modernization.', '2. The Baker (Pader)': 'Represents Portuguese cultural influence in Goa. A trusted community member whose profession was both respected and profitable. Symbolizes tradition and community bonds.', '3. Rajvir': 'An enthusiastic and curious young person interested in learning about tea cultivation. His character represents intellectual curiosity and appreciation for knowledge.', '4. Pranjol': 'Rajvir's friend from Assam who is more casual about the tea gardens since he has grown up around them. Represents how familiarity can make us take our surroundings for granted.', '5. The Kodavu People': 'Described as having a distinct martial tradition and unique cultural identity. They represent regional pride and cultural preservation.' }

• **Vocabulary** – { 'Pader': 'traditional Portuguese-style baker in Goa', 'Kabai': 'a single-piece long frock worn by bakers', 'Bol': 'a type of sweet bread eaten in Goa', 'Bolinhas': 'coconut cookies prepared in Goa', 'Furnaces': 'ovens for baking bread', 'Midway': 'halfway between two points', 'Descended': 'originating from ancestors', 'Martial': 'relating to war or military', 'Canopy': 'a covering formed by tree branches', 'Plantations': 'large farms where crops are grown', 'Trekking': 'going on long walks in mountains', 'Rafting': 'traveling on water using a raft', 'Legendary': 'famous, well-known', 'Beverage': 'a drink other than water', 'Meditation': 'deep concentration or reflection', 'Banished': 'sent away, expelled', 'Pruning': 'trimming plants to promote growth' }

• **Key Points** – [Chapter has three parts about different Indian regions - Goa, Coorg, and Assam', 'Part I: Describes Portuguese bread-making tradition in Goa', 'Bakers (paders) were important community members who came twice daily', 'Traditional Goan bread essential for festivals and celebrations', 'Part II: Coorg is a beautiful hill district in Karnataka', 'Coorg famous for coffee plantations, natural beauty, and martial traditions', 'Kodavu people believed to be

descendants of Greeks or Arabs', 'Coorg offers trekking, river rafting, and wildlife experiences', 'Part III: Describes tea gardens of Assam during a train journey', 'Assam has largest concentration of tea plantations in the world', 'Two legends about tea discovery - Chinese and Indian Buddhist versions', 'Tea came to Europe in 16th century, initially for medicinal use', 'Over 80 crore cups of tea consumed daily worldwide', "Chapter celebrates India's cultural diversity and natural beauty"]

### Exam-Ready Key Points

- Chapter has three parts about different Indian regions - Goa, Coorg, and Assam
- Part I: Describes Portuguese bread-making tradition in Goa
- Bakers (paders) were important community members who came twice daily
- Traditional Goan bread essential for festivals and celebrations
- Part II: Coorg is a beautiful hill district in Karnataka
- Coorg famous for coffee plantations, natural beauty, and martial traditions
- Kodavu people believed to be descendants of Greeks or Arabs
- Coorg offers trekking, river rafting, and wildlife experiences
- Part III: Describes tea gardens of Assam during a train journey
- Assam has largest concentration of tea plantations in the world
- Two legends about tea discovery - Chinese and Indian Buddhist versions
- Tea came to Europe in 16th century, initially for medicinal use
- Over 80 crore cups of tea consumed daily worldwide
- Chapter celebrates India's cultural diversity and natural beauty