

Ch 7 - Glimpses of India

I Coorg

- by Laksh Abzal

Questions and Answers

1. Where is Coorg?

A Coorg is the smallest district of Karnataka and is located somewhere between Mysore and the coastal city of Mangalore.

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

A It is said that the Kodavas are either Greek or Arabic descent. According to one story, a part of Alexander's Army could not return to its homeland and so, settled there. As the traditional dress of Kodavus, Kuppia is similar to the dress of the Arabs and Kurds, the Kuffia, it is said that probably the Kodavus are descendants of the Arabs.

3. What are some of the things you now know about the people of Coorg?

A People of Coorg are known to be descendants of the Greeks or the Arabs. This is because of their dressing style. They are the bravest soldiers in the Indian Army. At the same time, they are welcoming and are known for their hospitality. They have married amongst their locals and their culture is very different from what is seen in mainstream Hindus.

4. The main crop of Coorg?

A Coffee is the main crop of Coorg. During the monsoon season, when the weather is pleasant and the wind is blowing, it carries with it carries with it strong fragrance of coffee. Coffee estates with colonial bungalows are abundant and even provide homestays for visitors to experience the Coorgi way of life.

5. What sports Coorg offers to tourists ?

A A variety of high-energy adventure activities are offered to tourists like river rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock climbing and mountain biking. Trekking is also one of the famous activities.

6. The animals you are likely to see in Coorg ?

A Fishes like Mahaseers are found in the waters of the River Kaveri. Birds like Kingfishers and other animals like squirrels, langurs, butterflies, bees accompany you in this area while wild elephants can be seen enjoying bathing in the rivers. If you are on a trek, Macaques, Malabar squirrel, langurs and slender loris can be spotted on the trees.

7. Its distance from Bangalore, and how to get there?

A Coorg is at a distance of 260 kms from Bangalore. The nearest airports are Mangalore (135 kms) and Bangalore (260 kms).

There are flights to Mangalore from Mumbai, and to Bangalore from Ahmedabad, Chennai, Delhi, Goa, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata,

Mumbai and Pune. The nearest railhead are at Mysore, Mangalore and Hassan.

There are two routes to Coorg from Bangalore. Both are almost the same distance (around 200-250 - 260 km). The route

via Mysore is the most famous one. The other set via Neelamangal, Kunigal, Channarayana,

II Goa

- by Lucio Rodrigues

Questions and Answers

1. What are the elders in Goa nostalgic about?

A The narrator often finds his elders thinking about 'those good old days' and telling them about the famous breads that date back to the time when Portuguese ruled over Goa. They ponder over the past and tell them that through the Portuguese have left Goa but the bakers still exist, if not the original ones, their legacy is being continued by their sons.

2. Is bread-making still popular in Goa? How do you know?

A Yes, bread-making is still popular in the city of Goa. It is evident from the existence of time-tested furnaces, mixers and moulders. The legacy of bakers is being continuous by their sons. You will find a bakery in every Goan village as bread is an important part of the Goan culture.

3. What is the baker called?

A The baker is referred to as 'Pader' in the city of Goa.

4. When would the baker come everyday? Why did the children run to meet him?

A The baker would come twice every day during the narrator's childhood days. Once in the morning to deliver the loaves of bread and secondly, in the evening on his return after selling his stock. The children would go running to him to take the special bread bangles.

he had made for them.

5. What did the bakers wear :

(i) In the Portuguese days.

(ii) When the author was young?

A (i) In the Portuguese days, the bakers wore a unique knee-length frock dress typically known as 'kabai'.

(ii) In the narrator's childhood days, he had seen them wearing shirts and shorter than usual pants.

6. Who invites the comment — 'he is dressed like a padda'? Why

A During the narrator's childhood days, the bakers had a peculiar dress. They wore shirts and shorter than usual pants. Thus, if someone is seen wearing pants of this much length, they invite the comment — 'he is dressed like a padda'.

7. Where were the monthly accounts of the bakers recorded?

A The monthly accounts of the bakers were recorded on some wall with a pencil.

8. What does a 'jackfruit-like appearance' mean?

A 'Jackfruit-like appearance' means a well-built or plump physique, similar to a jackfruit. In those days, bakers had plump physique because baking was a profitable profession. His family and servants never starved and were prosperous.

9. Is bread an important part of Goan life? How do you know this?

A Bread is an important part of the Goan culture and it is evident from its presence at every important occasion. From sweet breads at engagement parties and cakes and Bolinhos at Christmas as well as other occasions, makes the presence of a baker in every village, very essential.

III Assam

- by Arup Kumar Datta

Questions and Answers

1. Describe the scenery outside the train. Where were Pranjal and Rajvir going by train?

A There were green, green forests everywhere. Rajvir had never seen such greenery before. He was going to Assam with his friend. Soon the soft green paddy fields gave way to tea bushes. Both of them were going to Assam. Pranjal's father Mr. Barua was the manager of a tea garden in Upper Assam.

2. What did they see on both side of the gravel-road?

A While travelling they saw tea bushes. On both sides they saw rows of tea bushes. They were all neatly pruned to the same height. Groups of tea-pluckers had bamboo-baskets on their back.

3. Why was Pranjal's father was surprised?

A Pranjal's father was surprised when Rajvir showed how much he knew about tea by saying that it was the second flush or sprouting period and that it lasted from May to July and yielded the best tea.

4. At which station did the boys stop and who recieved them?

A The boy got down at Mariani junction.

5. What are the two legends about Tea?

A Chinese Legend :-

A Chinese emperos always boiled water before drinking it. One day a few leaves of branches burning under the pot fell into the water. It gave a delicious flavour. These were tea

Indian Legend :-

Bodhidharma, a Buddhist monk cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditations. Ten tea plants grew of his eyelids. These leaves when put in hot water and drunk, banished sleep.