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TEA TIME

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Standing 2nd Row : 17. M. Kotak 18. M. Singh 19. A. C. Mukherjee 20. E.R. Rao 21. G.M. Mohani 22. A.R. Patibandla 23. M. S. Ahmed 24. V.S. Padmanabhan
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The Photo House 69, Pandariba, Allahabad

Responding to the Chinese aggression of 1962, I volunteered for and passed the Territorial Army test

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Errol O'Brien

TEA QUIZZY

QUESTIONS

- 1) Which type of Tea Bag is named after the last standing construction of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and what type of tea does it contain?
- 2) A Handcrafted tea from Arunachal Pradesh recently fetched the highest price in the Guwhati Auctions at Rs. 18,001 per kg. name the garden
- 3) Which State run tea company moving to an engineering major has embarked on setting up a fully automatic bought leaf factory of global standards in Assam and the Dooars
- 4) A tea stall on Gujarat's railway platform at Vadnagar Railway Platform will soon become a spot of tourist attraction. Why?
- 5) How is processing Green Tea with powder to give it a shine described?
- 6) Yorkshire is famous for a scone which originated in the early 19th century as a Tea Cake. It has been called by a peculiar name which has also been registered as a trade mark. By what name?
- 7) The Rungabano Tea Company, the African venture in Rwanda is a subsidiary of which Darjeeling based Company?
- 8) How does the tea taster describe the precipitate obtained after the cooking of a liquor?
- 9) How is the Expression : "That is a very different matter," described using a tea phrase
- 10) The century old Shree Dwarika Tea estate is popularly known by what name?



Answers

1) Pyramid tea bag with large leaf | 2) Donyi Polo in the Ssang District | 3) Andrew Yule | 4) Our honourable Prime Minister served tea to customers in his early years | 5) Polishing | 6) Fat Rasal | 7) Luxmi Tea, the owner of Makabari Tea Estate | 8) Creamy | 9) That is a different cup of tea | 10) Vah Tukvar

Flavours Trending

We celebrate our Founder Mr Prafull Goradia's 60 year working career and the story unfolds in the following pages.



A taste for flavoured and herbal teas is growing in popularity in India. It is the fastest growing segment. The growth rate is envisaged at 20-25% per year. The market is expected to touch Rs 2000 Crores within the next 4-5 years, says a reliable industry source. There are several minor as well as major entrants. These are gaining popularity among the college students and health and fitness conscious housewives. Favoured Green Teas are more popular than black teas. Then there is the non-sophisticated aspect of flavouring as well. Recently on a tour to western Uttar Pradesh we found a packet which contained a 'magic mix'-(aka Maggie masala mix, contained within the polypouch), which was to be added when the tea was being 'cooked'. A pinch of his mix, mainly cardamom and cinnamon, gave the otherwise flat liquor a very pleasant "masala-tea" taste.

Manufacturers of flavoured teas tell us that apart from Orthodox teas, full flat liquors are the preferred cup attributes for flavouring. Perhaps therein lies an opportunity for the common varieties that we are producing in larger quantities each year. After not all like thick sweet milky "kadak chai".

Linked to flavour and herbal teas is the growth of Tea Bag consumption, which we propose to feature in our next issue.

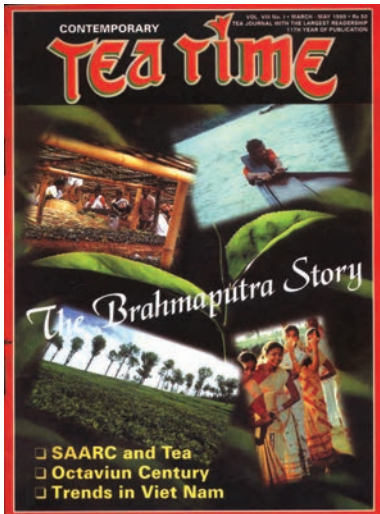
Apart from the usual happenings we carry an article on a strategic way forward for the Industry in Assam by Harki Sidhu.

Wishing all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, full of great opportunities.

Handwritten signature of A Nandkeolyar.

A Nandkeolyar





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Festive GIFTS & AWARDS mark the season



P S Sundar

It is festive season now and hence gifting season as well. While corporates and individuals are busy

scouting for gifts to be given to their business associates and dear ones, for the first time ever, they have a

new option of gifting premium Nilgiri teas in specialised packs with signature tags highlighting their



American writer on Tea and Coffee industry Frank Miller (right) receiving the first 'Gift Avataa Tea Pack' from Avataa Beverages Production Executive ENR Vejayashekara



(a) G Udayakumar, (b) Ramesh Bhojarajan and (c) Dinesh Raju receiving 'Golden Leaf India awards' from Union Ministers Giriraj Singh and Parsottambhai Rupala.

identity.

"This is a unique offer. The packs are garnishing! The tins are cute and reusable for long. There is value-addition as consumers can enjoy up to four varieties of the Nilgiri teas. I tasted some of them and believe that they are a wonderful gift during the forthcoming festive season", Frank Miller, American writer on tea and coffee industry, told me.

He received the first Festive gift pack of four square tin boxes of Avataa teas flavoured with natural essence of tulsi, vanilla, cardamom and cinnamon at Billimalai Estate.

"This is a fine gift as the receivers can enjoy four varieties of quality teas at one go", Miller said.

"We have come out with 13 varieties of festive gift packs containing premium Award winning Avataa teas manufactured from the hand-picked tea leaves with the quality enhanced due to high location of 6,000 feet above mean sea level in Billimalai Estate", Avataa Beverages Speciality Tea Production Executive ENR Vejayashekara, who released the Festive Gift Packs, said.

"The consumer packs include Avataa teas which have won Golden Leaf India Award of Tea Board and UPASI, the tea which recently created history by fetching Rs 2,086 a kg at Coonoor auctions as the highest-ever price in the whole of

South Indian auctions, the one which had fetched Rs 11,500 a kg at Nilgiri winter speciality tea auction, as also those which have won international awards", Vejayashekara disclosed.

"These are green and black teas in consumer-friendly small boxes with affordable prices. Tea Board had distributed some of our teas at Olympics in the past. We had also successfully launched Valentine Gift Tea. But, this is the first time varieties of premium Nilgiris tea are being offered exclusively as festive gifts for Deepavali, Christmas, New Year and Pongal", Avataa Beverages Director Udayakumar said.

"Corporates can use these gifts with their signature logos under the theme, 'Be different; gift different' stressing on Prime Minister's 'Make in India' concept", he added.

September was a month of Annual General Meetings of planters' and traders' bodies in South India. It was also a month for change of guards of these Associations for the coming year. But, more interestingly, a change in the very conduct of the proceedings was visible due to the Modi-BJP factor. Take, for instance, the UPASI Annual Conference - Hindi entered as the ruling language in its official business.

In keeping with the tradition, Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of State

for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, who was the Chief Guest, announced in English the inauguration of the 124th UPASI Annual Conference.

Subsequently, the Guest of Honour Parsottambhai Rupala, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, spoke in Hindi.

Following this, Giriraj Singh said, "I will also speak in Hindi. 'Mixed vegetables' dish is very famous in restaurants. Likewise, I will mix Hindi with English". However, he delivered his long speech in Hindi with only occasional English words. He referred to planters as 'suited and booted' a few times !!

Union Ministers and Secretaries had been the Chief Guests at its Annual Conferences. English had been the ruling language even when BJP Ministers had attended the conference in the past. It was for the first time in 124 years that the Ministers addressed the UPASI Conference in Hindi.

Besides, Giriraj Singh made the planters raise the slogans "Bharath Matha ki Jai" and "Vande Matharam" !!

A highlight of the UPASI meet was that the Ministers honoured the 40 winners of 13th edition of Golden Leaf India Southern Tea Competitions with trophies. They



expressed appreciation that Harrisons Malayalam Ltd had won eight awards while Vigneshwar Estate Tea Factory five awards.

"We are delighted that the UPASI made a special mention that our whole leaf green tea which won the Award fetched Rs 2,086 a kg at the auction of Coonoor Tea Trade Association. This tea has created

is much more but to some extent, we will be able to ease the fiscal tension of the plantations. We hope to get regular funding hereafter", Tea Board Executive Director C Paulrasu told me.

"Our thrust is on exports for which there is a special subsidy for the manufacture of orthodox teas meant for exports. We will extend

unscrupulous retailers are selling packet teas in the market without conforming to law. This is a serious challenge faced by the industry in marketing quality teas. It is common to see Nilgiris adulterated teas being sold at various picnic spots in the district to the unwary tourists. We appeal to the concerned authorities for strict enforcement of relevant



Tea Board Executive Director C Paulrasu (second right) addressing the AGM of Nilgiri Planters' Association in the presence of (-/-) NPA Vice Chairman R Rajkumar, UPASI President, T Jayaraman and NPA Chairman Mohamed Iqbal

history by fetching all-time highest price in entire South India. The Ministers enquired if the tea had been exported. Yes, it has gone to the USA", G Udayakumar, Director, Avataa Beverages, Billimalai Estate, who received the award, told me.

"We competed in five categories and won the Award in all, making a clean sweep. Our Hittakkal group has bagged this Award in all the 13 editions held so far. This time, we won titles in Leaf, Fannings and Dust categories in the Nilgiris beating even corporate entries. In Orthodox tea among bought-leaf factories, we won in both the entries", Ramesh Bhojarajan, Managing Partner of Vigneshwar Factory said.

Another small-scale factory Darmona Tea Industry has done hat-trick by winning the award for the third consecutive year. "In all, we have won Golden Leaf award seven times", Darmona Managing Partner Dinesh Raju said.

A significant development was that the much awaited response of the Union Government to the plea of Tea Board for funds to disburse subsidies has come about.

"Tea Board has received Rs 5.06 crore of which Rs 3 crore is for South India. This pertains to the quarter ending September. Our requirement

subsidy if 20 per cent of the production is exported", he said.

Earlier, delivering his Chief Guest address at the AGM of Nilgiri Planters' Association (NPA), he urged planters to go for orthodox tea production. "The cost of production is increasing because of wages. Climate change is affecting our volume of production. However, we do not have control on these. So, the best way to survive is to get higher price realisation. That is possible by changing over to orthodox tea which is exported from CTC tea which is consumed more internally", he said.

"Of the 115 million kg (mkg) tea produced annually in the Nilgiris, 84 mkg are CTC and only 25 mkg is orthodox, the remaining being other varieties like green tea. The climate is suitable for orthodox tea", he said.

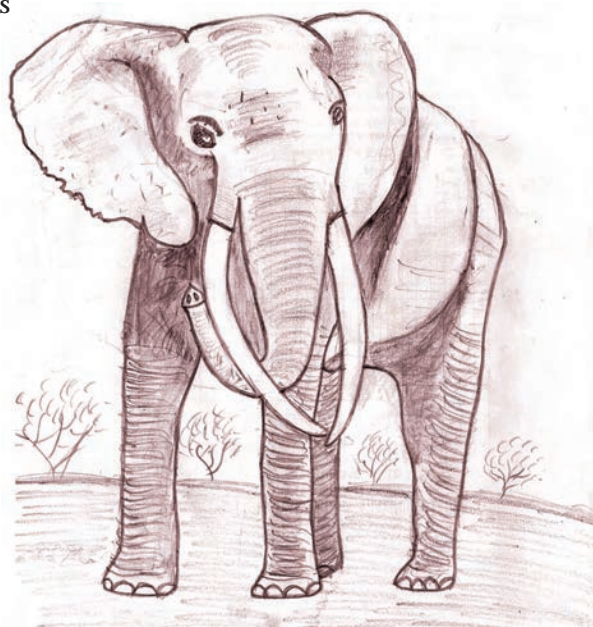
" S o m e

laws and to keep constant vigil on the spurious teas marketed rampantly", NPA Chairman Mohamed Iqbal Chairman said.

"This is essential not only for safeguarding the fair-name of Nilgiri teas but in the interest of protecting the health and safety of consumers.

Only a co-ordinated action can redeem the situation. This is our primary concern and we appeal to the authorities to end this rampant illegal activity", he insisted.

Photos : Author





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Tea and pakoras welcome the rain.
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Nothing to declare with tea.
Board meetings go overboard with tea.
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Nothing works better then tea.
All sports have their companion as tea.
Company matters, matters the most to tea.
Reading newspapers can not be but without tea.
Tea moves the mind to perfection.
The troubled mind jumps up and down for tea.
Tea brings two hearts together.
Tea takes away the boredom from your life.
I get restless without tea.
Having finished taking tea I don't want anything more in life.
I could only live on tea.
Tea makes me perform. Tea makes me go.
Tea is affordable by one and all.
Tea cartons are the most attractive packing in the world.
Trouble never comes near tea.
Tea opens the mind from blackness.
Nothing worries tea then your well being.
Come have tea with me means I like you.
Retired do nothing but talk over tea.
Two friends get united over a mere cup of tea.
The cuckoo in my clock coos to tell of tea time.
Anytime tea is better then no time tea.
I take my years to tea.
I keep on waiting for some more.
I light with tea.



Compiled by
Leena Mehta
M-144, Greater Kailash II, New Delhi

Vintage and classic car enthusiasts in Kolkata

Sourajit Palchaudhuri, belongs to a group of vintage and classic car enthusiasts, not satisfied with taking out their old beauties just once a year, have taken it upon themselves to take out their cars every week



On the streets, the cars evoke some amusing reactions. Sourajit Palchaudhuri, who drives a Mercedes-Benz W115 1968 and goes on “car dates” with Mishra, gets his car out every Sunday except for summers, as it doesn’t have air-conditioning. “People nearly always react, ‘Ei dyakh, ulto dike steering (Look, the car has its steering wheel on the left)’. Once I was near Beckbagan when four youths jumped in front of my car and exclaimed, ‘Uncle, stop. Photo,’” recalls Palchaudhuri, while an Uber driver parked next to him at a traffic light clicked a selfie with it saying, ‘Darun lagche (Looking great)’. Palchaudhuri finds such experiences “thrilling” and taking his car out with other drivers is much more fun.



A Ford 1928 from Palchaudhuri stables



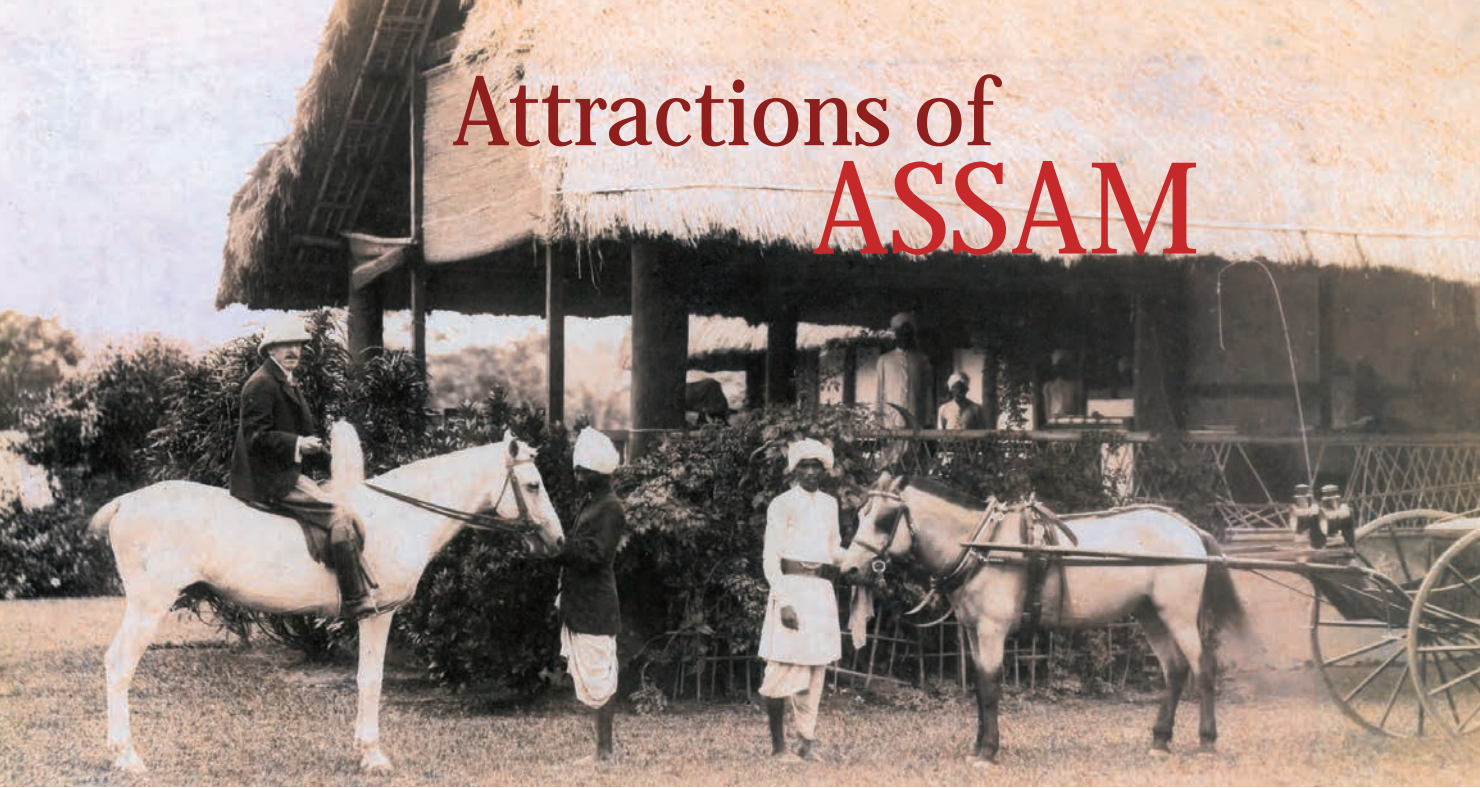
At Maheshgung their Heritage Home



On a road trip in Europe, in a MGB-GT-1957



Attractions of ASSAM



Caption on the original picture reads "R C White starting out". We do not know. The buggy on the right is probably for the memsahib. Notice the beautiful pair of coach lamps. Also, the profusion of liveried servants in the background. Assam, around 1880

Why did hundreds of British youth since the beginning of tea plantation in north-east of India in the 1840s to the end of 1960s want to be a planter in the remotest part of the Empire? What were the attractions of a lonely life in the wilderness of fields and jungles, among the 'primitives' and primates? That making quick money and living like a rich man on return to Britain was obviously one reason. One observer of planter's life wrote: "I think there can be no doubt that where two young fellows start on an equality, one in England and the other in the Indian tea districts, given that they are of an equal mental caliber, and neither possessed money or influence, that the Indian one stands an infinitely better chance of success, in a greater measure and at an earlier date than the one who remains in England." A rather romantic view of India of John Company's time when men returned from that fabulous land with immense amount of gold formed the mental baggage of many young men for many years. But there were other motives no less significant. In biographies and other writings of retired planters we find a miscellany of factors that prompted young men from different parts of the Island and beyond go to Assam and north Bengal.

An Assam planter wrote: "There are young fellows in England who are of such active temperament as to rebel at the prospect of an indoor life, and who, from the same cause, have been unable to settle down to the study necessary to a profession. They have not felt good enough for the church, nor studious enough for the Bar, and although they might have pulled through



Kalyan Sircar

the years necessary to the practice of medicine, and eventually pass, they would do so to find themselves lacking the capital which is generally requisite for a fair professional beginning. Studying for the higher grades of government service has been too severe for their fancy; clerkship in bank or public companies,

obtainable through influence, have seemed only openings available, and even those of but poor prospect as regarded the future. For many such, the Indian tea districts have solved the problem of what to do."

Quite a few 'town dwellers' with office jobs in the City felt bored with life and longed for a life in the open air and penetrate the heart of the wilds somewhere with a rifle and a dog - anything to get away from the mass. For one young aspiring planter: "It is the country that interests me, and so long as there is plenty of fishing and shooting and poking about in unknown places I'll be happy in Assam."

Frank Nicholls had a job in the office of a tea agency in London. But from childhood the young man took a keen delight in being in the woods, among the trees, birds and flowers. When an offer came for a position as an assistant manager in a tea estate in Assam, he took it without a second thought. After fifty years in tea, he retired in 1951. In his memoir he wrote: "When I went out to Assam the forests gave me a new sort of life, different and fascinating."

In 1870s one Oscar Lindgren had an office job in the City. But he was not happy: 'being by nature I was a wander[hoping] for an opportunity occurring to go abroad.' One of his uncles was on the board of a tea



... "It was a forest in which even an elephant had a hard time advancing." Paul Butel, *Histoire du the*. Elephants clearing a plantation in Assam, circa 1880

company in London who told Lindgren's father of an opportunity in tea in India. The young man was lured by 'the glamour of the east.' Fortunately another uncle was already in Lucknow in north India. The young adventurer's feet firmly on the ground...'a quick material gain cemented it.' On his first journey to Assam his thoughts were 'how long it would be before I should be returning Home pockets heavy with gold mohurs culled from the tea tree.' Aged 20 he left for India in 1877.

Tales of relatives already in tea would inspire some to come to Assam. One George Paterson was related through his wife to W.M. Fraser, already well established in the Surma Valley, and he came to fill a vacancy in his garden.

In the early 1860s when there was an excessive and unwarranted speculative investment in land for plantation, a large number of people from a variety of profession wanted to become planters. Colonel Richardson, commanding officer of Sylhet Light Infantry and some of his officers opened the first estates in

Sylhet. In the venture Colonel Richardson's nephew, Oswin Weynton, whose previous career was sailing ships, joined as the estate manager. There were geologists prospecting coal, a retiree from the Bengal River Pilot service, and retired personnel from the army.

One contemporary wrote: "Tea planters in those days were a strange medley of medical men, engineers, veterinary surgeons, steamer captains, chemists, shopkeepers of all kinds, staple-keepers, used up police men, clerks and goodness knows who besides."

Joining tea could be quite casual. Once the Senior Partner Kenneth Warren of the famous firm was returning from England to India. On board the ship two officers of the ship requested him to find position in the tea industry in Assam. "A that time the new tea industry was attracting considerable interest at home, and the expression then current of having 'come to tea' was some what equivalent to the expression of having 'struck oil.'

The story of an Italian Count is interesting. Mandelli, son of Count Bastel-Nuovo, who belonged to an old Maltese family, was born in 1883. Mandelli joined Garibaldi's expedition to South America. The venture was not successful. Rather than face derision of his family he made his way to India and settled in Darjeeling. Mandelli made a successful career as a planter. He became well known as an ornithologist, 'many varieties of Himalayan birds being named after him.'

Foreign Christian missionaries were not also left behind. Some of them came from Britain and Germany. Their conversion effort was not successful. Instead, some of them became tea planters. They planted in Darjeeling and neighboring areas.

Tea in north east India attracted the young adventurers from home, British people of all ages already in India, and in other professions, speculators and profiteers, straights and crooks. Making money in shortest possible time, enjoy life in sports, hunting and fishing and other weakness of the flesh was the goal.

(This article is an abridged extract of chapter "Attraction of Assam" from CTT Sept-Nov 2014 Issue)



Many planters volunteered as troopers in the Surma Valley Light Horse at silchar turn-of-the century



Caddies First Golf Tournament *in* Dooars



Harsh Kumar

NISWARTH has been extending help to Disabled and Underprivileged persons since 2006 through its 4 Vocational training centres located at Nagrakata, Damdim Garden, Bagracote garden and Khaprail Bazar, Siliguri. NISWARTH in the past has organised 79 eye camps and 20 disability camps in North Bengal and Assam covering over 290 Tea Estates.

Stevens caddied for Sam Snead, Ben Crenshaw, Nick Faldo, Bill Rogers, Tony Jacklin, Curtis Strange, Sergio Garcia, Ernie Els, Hale Irwin and Sandy Lyle, winning a variety of events from the British Masters to the

“Niswarth received T shirts from L R Berlia Fresh Foods, Golf balls from A Hasan and NISWARTH, Golf clubs from A Nandkeolyar, Amir Hasan, MK Mehta, KK Mehra and two sets from me. On the whole, an opportunity for Caddies to show their talent and a dream come true for Niswarth.” - *Harsh Kumar*



To grammarist.com, "caddie" (from the French cadet) refers to the golf assistant and "caddy" (from the Malay kati) means a small holder for tea. ... Further dictionary research revealed, however, that "caddy" is not at all correct when applied to the person carrying your golf bag.



Mary Queen of Scots was the first woman to play golf. It was during her reign that the famous golf course at St. Andrews was built, in 1552. Mary grew up in France where military cadets carried GOLF CLUBS for royalty. It is possible that Mary brought the custom to Scotland,

Australian Open. He also caddied for Tom Watson, winning the 1984 Australian Open at Royal Melbourne.

He also broke the world joke-telling record in 1977 with a time of 8 hours, 22 minutes, to enter the Guinness Book Of World Records.

One of the short but very well laid out golf course in Dooars at Williamson Magor's Chuapara club has the unique distinction of having young garden girls as caddies- thanks to a veteran planter Mr Aamir Hasan having introduced this novel idea to have gender equality.

Seeing the caddies playing with their locally, hand made wooden golf clubs, one always wondered about how to motivate them and the younger kids to take up golf. Niswarth, decided to organise a golf tournament only for caddies of Dooars Tea Clubs.



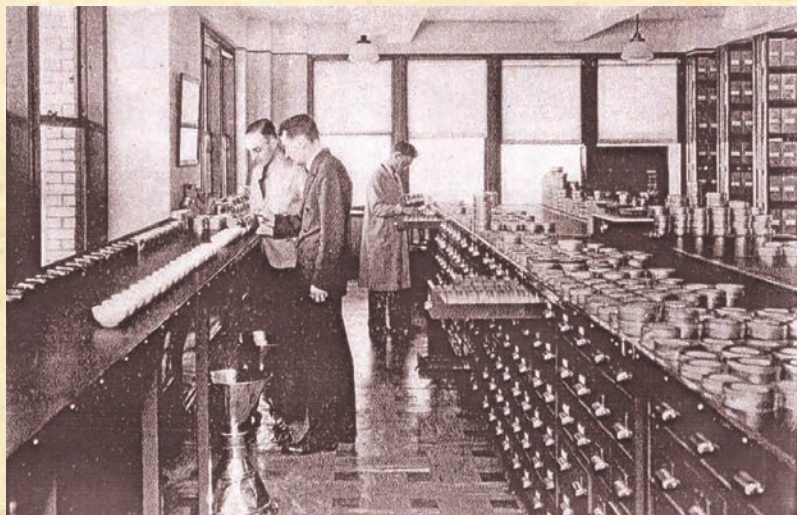
As many as 55 caddy golfers from Six clubs - Chuapara club in Kalchini, Dalgaon club, Central Dooars Club , Nagrakata club , Ranicherra club and Chulsa Polo Club - travelling as far as 150 kms, took part in the tournament at Chulsa Polo Club. Many caddies did not have proper clubs but took part with their hand made wooden clubs.



Selling Forward

In September 1924, the committee of the Indian Tea Association (London) obtained assent from practically all members to a proposal that producers should not make forward sales for the 1925 crop. The Indian Tea Association of Calcutta co-operated, as did the Ceylon growers. The agreement was renewed for the 1926 and 1927 crops of Northern India, but was not renewed in 1928

Two reasons were given for the opposition to selling forward. The first was that contracts entered into at a high price might not be honored



In this tea tasting room the Drawers for filing samples are a special feature

reduced competition at the auctions. Producers, therefore, preferred to obtain current prices and refrain from running these risks. However, in 1928, two or three of the largest buyers

brought about a reversal of the policy of not selling forward, and, since then, it has been optional with the producers either to sell forward by private contract or to submit teas at auctions in the usual way.

from Ukers

of ships, etc.

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Two reasons were given for the opposition to selling forward. The first was that contracts entered into at a high price might not be honored by the purchaser when the price had fallen, and the producer might thus be left with large quantities of unsalable tea. The second reason was that when the price of tea rose, purchasers were tempted to throw upon the market supplies of teas they had obtained at lower prices by means of forward contracts. Also, forward selling reduced competition at the auctions. Producers, therefore, preferred to obtain current prices and refrain from running these risks. However, in 1928, two or three of the largest buyers brought about a reversal of the policy of not selling forward, and, since then, it has been optional with the producers either to sell forward by private contract or to submit teas at auctions in the usual way.

Tea Prices at London

The London market rules the tea prices of the world. The Calcutta and Colombo

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where have all the gardens gone?

DEHRA DUN

ANNFIELD TEA ESTATE—Post and Tel Office, Choharpur, Dehra Dun; Ry Stn, Dehra Dun, O & R Ry. Garden—Annfield. Acreage, 416. Total gross acreage, 416. *Propr.*, H H The Maharaja of Sirmoor State, Nahau. *Mangr.*, P Sita Ram. *Assts.*, Nand Kishore Sumar Chand Jain, Sirdar Narendra Singh and P Jagdish Pershad. *Agts.*, Lyall Marshall & Co, 4, Fairlie Place, Calcutta

BUNJARA TEA ESTATE—Dehra Dun, Garden—Bunjara T E. Acreage under cultivation, 200. Total gross acreage, 500. Elevation, 2,300 ft. *Propr.*, K P Singh and D Singh. *Mangr.*, Radha Krishen. *Selling agts.*, Lyall Marshall & Co, 4, Fairlie Place, Calcutta

DEHRA DUN TEA CO. LD.—Post, Tel Office and Ry Stn, Dehra Dun, O & R Ry. Gardens—Hurbanswala and Arcadia. Acreage under cultivation, 1,245. Total gross acreage, 5,551. *Dirs.*, H G Raynor, Capt F G Quarry, v.d., P B Talati, Lala Balbeer Singh and Lala Mukund Lal. *Secy.*, E P Mendoza. *Mangrs.*, P Jackson, Arcadia divn and H Macqueen. Hurbanswala divn, *Cai agts.*, Lyall, Marshall & Co, 4, Fairlie Place, Calcutta

EAST HOPETOWN ESTATE CO. LD.—Post, Tel Office and Ry Stn, Dehra Dun, O & R Ry. Garden—East Hopetown. Acreage, 600. Total gross acreage, 3,491. Elevation, 2,000 ft. *Dirs.*, H G Raynor (Chrmn), F G Quarry, Lala Balbeer Singh, Lala Mukund Lal and P B Talati LL.B., M.B.E. *Mangr.*, E W Bell. *Agts.* in India, Lyall, Marshall & Co, 4, Fairlie Place, Calcutta

GOODRICH TEA ESTATE—Post and Tel Office, Choharpur, Ry Stn, Dehra Dun, O & R Ry. Gardens—Goodrich, Fatehpur, Jamipur and Charba. Acreage, 345. *Propr.*, Mohant Lachmandass of Temple Darbar Guru Ram Rai Sahib, Dehra Dun. *Mangr.*, Darshan Lal. *Asst.*, Makbool Ahmad, Patwari. *Agts.* in India, Lyall Marshall & Co, 4, Fairlie Place, Calcutta

GORUCKPORE TEA ESTATE—Post and Tel Office, and Ry Stn, Dehra Dun. Acreage under cultivation, 105. *Proprs.*, Mrs F A Maynard, Lady Stewart and P S Quarry, 1 p (retd). *Agts.*, Lyall Marshall & Co, 4, Fairlie Place, Calcutta

KOWLAGARI TEA ESTATE—Post, Tel Office and Ry Stn, Dehra Dun. **FACTORY**—Kowlagari, Gardens—Kowlagari, Mahikawala and Balawala. Total acreage, 500. Elevation, 2,300 ft. *Propr.*, H H The Maharajah of Sirmoor State (Nahan). *Mangr.*, Pt Harish Chandra. *Asst.*, Uma Shanker. *Agts.*, Lyall, Marshall & Co, 4, Fairlie Place, Calcutta

RAIPUR TEA ESTATE—Post, Tel Office and Ry Stn, Dehra Dun. Garden—Raipur (Athlumbur). Acreage, 230. Total gross acreage, 447.9. *Propr.*, Maj Kanwar Shamsheer Bahdr Singh. *Mangr.*, Janki Prashad. *Agts.*, Lyall, Marshall & Co, 4, Fairlie Place, Calcutta

UDHIYABAGH TEA FACTORY—Post and Tel Office, Choharpur; Ry Stn, Dehra Dun. Garden—Udhiyabagh. Total acreage, 422 (under Tea, 325). *Proprs.*, Mrs H G Raynor. *Mangr.*, H G Raynor. *Agts.*, Lyall, Marshall & Co, 4, Fairlie Place, Calcutta

from Thackers Directory 1936

Prices of Calcutta Sales 1938-39 to 1965-66

Calcutta Sale Summary Leaf



(Price per lb.)

SEASON	Assam		Cachar		Darjeeling		Dooars		Terai		Tripura		Green Tea		All others		Total	
	Chests	Avg. Rs.P.	Chests	Avg. Rs.P.	Chests	Avg. Rs.P.	Chests	Avg. Rs.P.	Chests	Avg. Rs.P.	Chests	Avg. Rs.P.	Chests	Avg. Rs.P.	Chests	Avg. Rs.P.	Chests	Avg. Rs.P.
1938-39	279,741	0.62	40,323	0.55	23,335	0.80	210,472	0.57	31,353	0.55	4,161	0.52	.....	.....	50,750	0.55	640,135	0.60
1948-49	657,946	1.65	28,893	1.31	58,944	1.85	156,512	1.36	21,751	1.36	2,268	1.21	2,034	2.12	9,223	1.25	937,571	1.59
1952-53	1,031,232	1.58	171,492	0.92	120,592	1.82	448,490	1.16	74,066	1.15	12,585	1.02	44	1.83	65	0.92	1,858,566	1.41
1953-54	849,418	2.05	146,913	1.84	92,857	2.40	450,721	1.88	79,446	1.93	16,038	1.85	.....	.....	36	2.25	1,635,429	1.99
1954-55	814,980	3.18	122,401	2.80	92,131	3.52	471,234	2.96	71,038	3.21	18,626	2.99	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,590,410	3.09
1955-56	1,267,598	2.17	194,115	1.68	123,830	2.47	574,831	1.77	93,147	1.70	23,695	1.51	.....	.....	334	1.21	2,277,550	2.02
1956-57	1,154,279	2.55	199,207	1.91	131,942	2.99	538,866	2.12	88,878	2.08	24,160	1.80	.....	.....	426	1.82	2,137,758	2.37
1957-58	1,066,709	2.30	195,942	1.72	147,681	2.91	598,324	1.82	93,082	1.74	25,602	1.67	.....	.....	1,189	1.83	2,128,529	2.10
1958-59	1,086,851	2.29	236,087	1.76	153,575	3.29	594,041	1.87	97,959	1.82	27,833	1.70	.....	.....	771	1.84	2,197,117	2.15
1959-60	1,091,599	2.41	208,715	1.97	166,009	3.08	598,162	2.08	114,277	2.05	26,079	1.92	.....	.....	236	1.92	2,205,077	2.29
1960-61	1,019,554	2.51	155,200	2.11	191,483	3.08	563,656	2.21	99,410	2.19	26,439	2.10	.....	.....	48	2.41	2,055,790	2.00
1961-62	1,129,694	2.20	209,375	1.75	192,444	2.93	603,425	1.91	107,450	1.86	32,859	1.73	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,275,247	2.11
1962-63	1,003,039	2.52	202,194	1.96	190,803	3.37	562,464	2.10	113,373	2.08	32,359	1.83	1,009	2.60	112	3.61	2,105,353	2.39
1963-64	1,004,486	2.40	202,798	2.05	178,493	3.23	512,452	2.12	100,909	2.15	31,169	1.97	602	3.34	98	2.26	2,031,007	2.34
1964-65	1,253,369	2.25	203,104	1.94	177,498	3.46	552,486	2.03	107,912	2.03	35,793	1.76	696	3.22	.....	.....	2,330,858	2.25
1965-66*	1,131,113	2.44	161,565	2.14	165,568	3.92	521,629	2.25	104,150	2.25	29,169	1.97	507	2.84	85	2.13	2,113,786	2.47

From Season 1948-49 figures include Private Sales.

The averages are exclusive of excise duty.

* Provisional

The figures up to and including 1961/62 pertain to Export Sales only.



Calcutta Sale Summary Dust

(Price per lb.)

SEASON	Assam		Cachar		Darjeeling		Dooars		Terai		Tripura		Green Tea		All others		Total	
	Chests	Avg. Rs.P.	Chests	Avg. Rs.P.	Chests	Avg. Rs.P.	Chests	Avg. Rs.P.	Chests	Avg. Rs.P.	Chests	Avg. Rs.P.	Chests	Avg. Rs.P.	Chests	Avg. Rs.P.	Chests	Avg. Rs.P.
1938-39*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	316,791	0.27
1948-49*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	576,783	1.39
1952-53	448,337	1.52	68,347	1.14	12,316	1.58	250,962	1.21	20,501	1.21	5,051	0.94	199	0.43	4	0.55	805,717	1.37
1953-54	430,379	1.92	69,607	1.77	11,918	1.91	217,305	1.77	19,953	1.80	3,450	1.68	159	1.03	137	1.78	752,908	1.84
1954-55	445,670	2.47	67,878	2.20	10,304	2.45	197,681	2.24	19,295	2.27	3,475	1.99	124	1.45	.....	.....	744,427	2.39
1955-56	515,655	2.06	78,433	1.57	11,442	1.92	220,152	1.65	22,538	1.48	4,574	1.26	101	1.70	168	1.39	853,063	1.89
1956-57	542,873	2.12	75,629	1.75	13,666	2.04	219,350	1.88	20,556	1.78	5,373	1.50	354	0.59	41	1.57	877,842	2.03
1957-58	577,797	1.96	66,754	1.60	10,879	2.02	209,069	1.64	20,669	1.58	5,651	1.55	177	0.59	183	1.59	891,179	1.86
1958-59	614,315	2.05	76,106	1.74	9,605	2.12	190,214	1.80	16,610	1.75	6,120	1.65	135	0.97	282	1.77	913,387	1.97
1959-60	635,424	2.17	76,127	1.98	7,992	2.18	208,271	2.02	21,609	2.03	7,062	1.92	2	1.00	3	1.54	956,490	2.12
1960-61	607,170	2.40	77,901	2.03	10,110	2.26	243,218	2.17	21,831	2.07	7,391	1.96	.....	.....	.....	.....	967,621	2.31
1961-62	824,386	2.25	96,075	1.66	10,129	2.07	289,472	1.87	23,480	1.63	8,011	1.47	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,251,553	2.10
1962-63	820,578	2.35	91,386	1.94	9,457	2.16	309,136	2.02	20,193	1.89	6,139	1.72	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,256,889	2.23
1963-64	773,766	2.23	103,446	2.05	10,350	2.22	348,205	2.08	26,061	1.99	5,077	1.86	.....	.....	6	1.85	1,266,911	2.17
1964-65	878,765	2.23	108,391	2.01	9,458	2.17	434,420	2.03	31,126	1.97	6,910	1.71	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,469,070	2.15
1965-66*	624,296	2.36	78,302	2.23	7,673	2.41	359,413	2.26	30,760	2.22	4,004	1.97	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,104,448	2.32

From Season 1948-49 figures include Private Sales.

The averages are exclusive of excise duty.

* Up to the end of March 1966.

* Details not recorded.

Targett Archives

HISTORY





A2Z TEA MACH

Small
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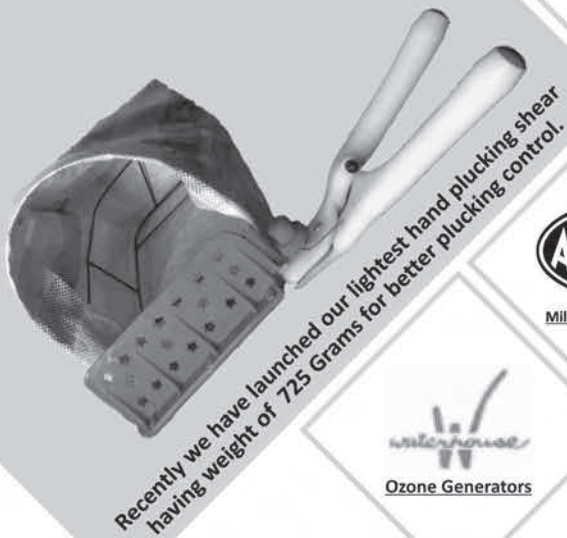
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Recently we have launched our lightest hand plucking shear having weight of 725 Grams for better plucking control.

We have four wings In our group, Project design drawings, Customer based solution for existing Machinery & proposed Machinery, Mini & Micro Tea Processing Machinery for CTC /Orthodox & Green Tea Processing and Quality Manufacturing Training and final product marketing assistance.

To tell more about ourselves, we have our branch at Siliguri, Golaghat & shortly we will be opening our branch at Coonor for better reach & services. We are already dealing with major tea producers of INDIA & Overseas.

We also would like to inform you that we are jointly doing R&D for O3 application in Tea as well as for DCP with world renowned Tea Research Organization TRA, INDIA.

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Siliguri

Golaghat, Assam

Kotagiri, Tamil Nadu

Donyi Polo Record Prices



The hard crafted tipping tea from Donyi Polo garden in East Seaing District fethed Rs 18001 beatings its previous record of Rs. 12001.

The tea was sold by Contemporary Brokers Hand made teas are graded as whole leaf teas, said senior Manager, Manoj Kumar of Donyi Polo Garden.

Some Donyi Polo record prices

Grade	Price (Rs/kg)
Tippy	3101
Silver Needle	6503
Pekoe White	12001
Golden Needle	18001

Govt bans the use of staple pins in tea bags

The Food Safety and Standards authority of India (FSSAI), of staple pins in tea bags from January 1, 2018 (this date is extended to mid 2019) as the are potentially dangerous for consumers since they could end being swallowed with the cup that cheers.



Contemporary Brokers - Team Guwahati

AGM

Mr. Adarsh Kanoria (President) addressing the 46th Annual General Meeting of Tea Association of India at the Oberoi Grand, Kolkata on 31.10.2017. Seated from left (Mr. P.K. Bhattacharjee, Secretary-General, Tea Association of India, Mr. Mudit Kumar, Sr. Vice-President, Tea Association of India, Shri Moley Ghatak, Hon'ble Minister, Labour Law and Judicial Service, Govt. of West Bengal, Mr. P.K. Bezboruah, Chairman, Tea Board, Mr. Raj Bansal, Vice-President, Tea Association of India.



Bardhaman TEA Market

The Curzon Gate a prominent landmark in Bardhaman city in Purba Bardhaman district in West Bengal, India, Located at the crossing of Bijoy Chand Road and Grand Trunk Road, it was built in 1902/03, on the occasion of the coronation of Maharaja Bijay Chand Mahatab, to welcome Lord Curzon. The former royal palace is located 1 km from the gate.

We made our first stop at a dhaba on NH2, Gurap, Hooghly. **Hindusthan Hotel**. Mr. Gopal Nayarsaid they use BP grade of Factory teas. People want more colour in the cup and milk plays a big role. They buy 25kgs tea per week from Kolkata.

At **Sarkar Tea** on the GT road a loose tea shop, 4kms before Curzon gate, Mr. Tamal Sarkar informed us that BOPSM and OF grades are popular grades. While BOPSM is selling around Rs 200-220, OF is selling around Rs 180-200. He is also



selling Darjeeling teas. His major clientele is the local hotels which prefers the fannings grade.

Golden Tea Company - Mr. Subhas Ghosal was very reluctant to speak much about the blends and the teas that he was selling initially but later he said that they sell mostly single garden teas of Assam, Darjeeling and Dooars BLE. The most preferred mark was Monabarie BOP grade for CTC, Risheehat Darjeeling fannings grade. He makes his blends



as well and his counter is always crowded and he sells all varieties of teas.

A triumphal Arch at Burdwan

A triumphal arch was put up by the Maharaja of Burdwan to welcome the British viceroy Lord Curzon in the year 1902/03. As was the custom, Viceroys made tours of princely states in spring and autumn. In summer they fled the sultry heat of the plains to the cool breezes of Simla. And with the Viceroy moved the entire machinery of State. In November they returned to Calcutta for the winter.

A viceregal visit sent the princely rulers into a whirl of activity. Trains were rescheduled and vast spaces cleared to put up tent cities. Tigers were rounded up for the viceregal shoot. Palaces were overhauled, quantities of expensive furniture imported and, on one occasion, even a silver bath fitted to pamper the visiting Viceroy!

Putting up triumphal arches of welcome to the viceroy was a part of this ritual. Sometimes the enthusiastic Babu tripped over his words to convey as altogether different meaning! Once a visiting Viceroy was greeted with a banner declaring "Have A GAL A DAY" instead of "Have a gala day"!

- Nayana Goradia



Curzon Gate, Bardhaman

Indian Tea Company — We met Mr. S R Chakraborty, said that the pet jars of 2kgs and 5kgs does well for the local grocery shops in the villages which has got good demand (up to Rs 275). He sells his own blend of Dust and Darjeeling Fannings grade which was popular at his shop. He said that Nepal teas are taking over Darjeeling teas but the feedback on the quality is very poor as Nepal teas do not have the keeping quality and the strength. Goodricke Dooars teas is popular too.

Trustful Tea Company — (Borehat Bazaar) We met Mr. Soumen Karmakar. He told us that there is a demand for BOPSM and Fannings grade. He has his own 10kg bags in the name of Royal Bengal Tiger. His shop was selling Green Tea of Sigma Tea Bags and Hanuman Tea



Bags (both Kolkata Auction Buyers of P-36). His shop is very popular and he sells his own brands in pre printed paper packets.

Subhash Tea House — (Next to Nataraj Cinema) Mr. Subhas, said that there is only demand for Tata Tea Gold, Premium and Agni of Rs

In 1904, when the British imposed Import duty on teas, for imports to the UK local producers rushed to Lord Curzon, uncertain about the future of India's teas. Lord Curzon, it is believed told them then, that, " teach the natives to drink tea" and you will have no dearth of consumption. A Yule and Company made some frays into packaging then, without much success. Soon thereafter Brooke Bond entered India.

10 and Rs 5. And no other local brands were available. He sells Cachar and Dooars teas and the preference for the buyers are reddish cups. Jayshree's Cachar marks are popular at his shop.

At Tetul Tala which has local tea shops like Rajakatra area in Kolkata, we found out that Dooars tea especially BLF teas are in demand for the villages. Town people have the preference for good Assam teas and Darjeeling teas in Bardhaman. Jars are popular with the local grocery sellers in the villages.



Abhishek Mitra



The Challenges of Reform in Assam's Struggling Tea Sector



Tea industry veteran and Rainforest Alliance expert **HARKI SIDHU** explains the hard realities of Assam's struggling tea estates — and why he remains optimistic about the potential for transformation despite seemingly intractable challenges

I've witnessed many changes since I joined the tea industry in 1971, fresh out of St. Stephens College (Delhi University) and eager to make my mark on the world. As I worked my way up from the tea factory floor to estate management, international operations at Unilever, and eventually the Rainforest

Alliance, I've seen the tea sector advance in significant ways, thanks to mechanization and technology. During these three and a half action-packed decades, I myself have played a role in some of these changes, introducing computers and vermiculture to India's tea sector; designing new irrigation, water

collection, and drainage systems; and developing integrated pest management to replace chemical pesticides.

Yet despite these advancements, we are still contending with distressing, complicated, and deeply entrenched inequities that make the limitations of sustainability certification painfully clear. Many of our problems are part of the thorny legacy of the colonial era, when the British appropriated vast tracts of fertile land across Assam and created a commercial tea production model fueled by quasi-slave labor in the form of indentured servitude. Today, despite occasional periods of robust growth and technological innovations, tea workers in Assam still struggle to meet their basic needs due to a complex combination of sociopolitical, economic, and environmental factors.

Historical tensions between workers and management that have, in the past, resulted in bitter disputes



A pensive Harki Sidhu at Glenbran Tea Factory

have been inflamed in recent years by the violent menace of ethnic nationalist politics. Today's razor-thin to nonexistent profit margins for tea estates have essentially kept workers trapped in a cycle of poverty. And the annual monsoon rains that once posed cyclical disruptions to tea production have intensified into nearly annual climate catastrophes, wreaking havoc across entire landscapes and quite literally washing away what small improvements the sector has made in the living conditions of tea estate workers.

To really understand the social problems and labor unrest in Assam's tea sector, which today employs roughly 1.2 million workers, one must consider the birth of India's tea industry. The success of the British colonial mode of commercial production relied heavily on indentured laborers the British brought in from Bihar, Andhra, Orissa and Bengal, since the local Assamese did not want to work for the colonists. In a remote region like Assam, the lack of social integration between these ethnic groups for nearly a century bred deep hostility and distrust.

Eventually, ethnic Assamese began to seek—and eventually demand—employment in tea estates; since most of them had land holdings they did not want to work as field laborers, so they claimed management and clerical jobs instead. In the 1980s, an armed Assamese separatist group called the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) began operations, including the demand for 'protection money' from tea estates and other businesses. ULFA gained a lot of support because of the apparent neglect to the development in the region. Estate managers and local authorities lost control of the situation. Things got so bad over the next few years that the local district government and police told tea estate managers to work out their own deals with the ULFA in the event

of confrontations. Some of the student leaders, part of the agitation against the centre gained political clout and formed a new political party, Assam Ganasangram Parishad (AGP), which won state elections in 1985 and governed for five years.

Some former ULFA members, surrendered to the government and established themselves as business



owners in the region, with the help of government loans. And some of them eventually joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), India's Hindu nationalist party, and won the state elections last year. As part of its platform, the new state government has made promises to tea workers to increase wages—and in doing so stepped into a morass of global economic forces, longstanding ethnic tensions, and dismal social conditions that tea industry groups and sustainability organizations have only begun to address.

In Assam, 750 estates and 100,000 smallholder plots, mostly concentrated in the eastern part known as Upper Assam, produce more than half of India's annual 1.2 million-ton yield—second only to China's total production. Yet India's tea industry is in grave financial trouble, posing a conundrum for government officials who understand that a wage increase would likely lead to the collapse of hundreds of tea estates and tens of

thousands of small-scale gardens that are barely holding on during a prolonged, precipitous downward trajectory on the supply-and-demand roller coaster. Because of the macroeconomic forces bearing down on India's tea sector as a whole, efforts to ameliorate the dismal living conditions and meager earnings of tea workers have met with little success.

Enter sustainability organizations like the Rainforest Alliance, which began training and certification work in Assam and some other of India's prized tea-producing districts like Darjeeling and Nilgiris. For the past decade, my colleagues and I have worked with over a hundred tea estates, including some that are successful and plenty that are financially ailing, to prepare them for certification by introducing best environmental and social practices in sustainability.

What we found as we began working with the tea estates and smallholder gardens is that longstanding social problems on Assam's tea estates, from child labor and sexual abuse to poor or non-existent sanitation facilities, are inextricably linked to the socio-political and economic problems I've described above. For tea estates on the verge of collapse, improving housing conditions or building sanitation systems seems out of reach when they cannot even raise worker pay to India's paltry minimum daily wage (the equivalent of US\$ 3.80 per day). And even for those who find a way to make infrastructure improvements, logistics are complicated immensely by the fact that only 20 percent of the people who live on Assam's tea estates are actually tea workers (the rest are family members, relatives, and people who may have once worked on the estate but do not any longer). Not to mention the annual monsoon floods, which killed more than 1,200 people this year across South Asia and displaced 183,000 in Assam alone.

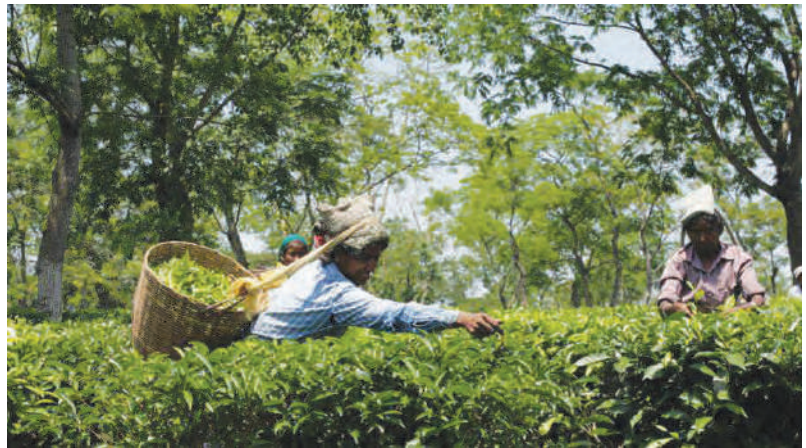


And yet, amid what might seem like a hopeless scenario, I am full of hope-not the kind that stems from naive dreaming, but a kind of confidence inspired by the people I work with every day in the field. Surely, the big challenges we face can only be addressed through the combined efforts of actors far more powerful than the Rainforest Alliance. Yet I observe a tangible sense of determination among the companies seeking to make their supply chains more socially and environmentally responsible; from international development organizations that recognize the vital need for sustainability training that improves social conditions; from tea estate managers eager to improve yields enough to withstand a sustained depression in prices; from local government officials who want to avoid the massive social unrest that would occur if tea estates were to go out of business; and from the workers themselves, who strive every day to create better lives for themselves and their children.

These are the key players in the transformation we are working to achieve, and no matter how complicated this work gets, we are determined not to abandon them. Because of complexity of India's poverty profile and the deep-seated sociopolitical dysfunction affecting Assam's tea sector, however, we have adopted a "continuous improvement" approach to our work here, meeting estates and smallholders where they are-no matter how ailing-in order to keep them engaged and moving forward on the sustainability journey.

Despite the intractable problems I see firsthand every day, I am here to say that there is always hope-if we can harness the will and talents of all the stakeholders involved in the industry. Workers will be on board if we can improve their living standard and educational opportunities. Tea estates will make changes once they see the increase in yields that inevitably follows a few

Despite the intractable problems I see firsthand every day, I am here to say that there is always hope-if we can harness the will and talents of all the stakeholders involved in the industry. Workers will be on board if we can improve their living standard and educational opportunities. Tea estates will make changes once they see the increase in yields that inevitably follows a few solid years of implementation of our sustainability best practices. Buyers-the vast majority of whom are domestic- will pay more for tea and invest in training once they understand the consumer appeal and long-term socioeconomic benefits of a responsible supply chain.



solid years of implementation of our sustainability best practices. Buyers-the vast majority of whom are domestic- will pay more for tea and invest in training once they understand the consumer appeal and long-term socioeconomic benefits of a responsible supply chain. And savvy government officials are already engaged because they understand that disgruntled tea workers are potential fodder for political unrest and opposition.

At difficult moments like these, it's useful to take a step back and survey what we've learned through past experiences. The Rainforest Alliance first began its sustainable agriculture program to tackle problems in the banana industry, which became notorious in the 1980s for large-scale deforestation in Central America and the terrible abuse of workers. We brought

together industry leaders, companies, scientists, and farmers to travel a long and sometimes bumpy journey to sustainability together-as we are doing today in Assam.

We have learned two crucial lessons along the way. First and foremost, the sustainability journey never ends. And second: the bigger the problems, the greater our obligation to do our very best to keep trying. We persist in our efforts, despite the tremendous difficulties we face in Assam, because we know how critical sustainable agriculture is to stabilizing a region so vulnerable to climate catastrophes. And whenever we get discouraged, we think about the 1.2 million people who have no other choice but to eke a living out of this land every single day and dare to dream a better life for the next generation.

Goodricke Acquires Godfrey Phillips Tea Division

Goodricke Group Ltd., acquires the packet tea business of Godfrey Phillips India (GPI) for Rs. 30 crore.

The acquisition is part of Goodricke's plan to drive aggressive expansion in the packaged tea business. "This acquisition will bring synergy to our branded tea business and help us integrate all channels and develop this department further." A N Singh CEO and MD of Goodricke Group Ltd. said in a statement.

At present, Goodricke earns 30 per cent of its revenue from packet tea. After this acquisition the share of the packet tea sales will go up by another 10 per cent.

Goodricke is managing a business of 9 million kg through the packet tea route that may touch 14 million kg after absorbing the Godfrey Phillips brands, distribution and operations.

Courtesy : The Telegraph

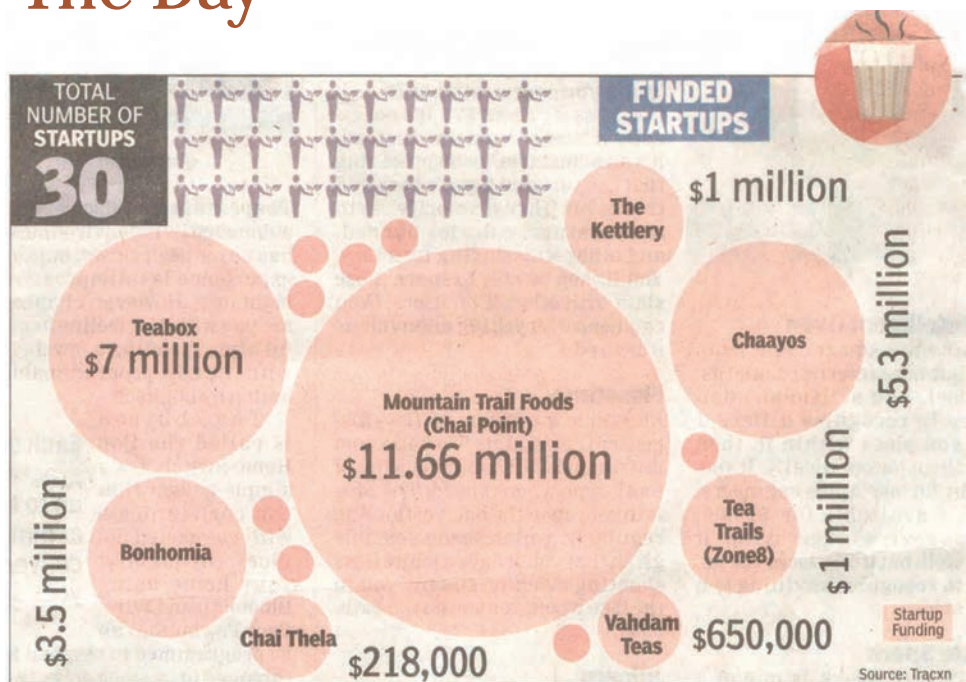


A N Singh CEO and MD of Goodricke Group Ltd.



Drink of The Day

Making a cuppa is an art, and beverage startups in india know it. they're looking at profit and taste over growth and expansion as they build desi brands



A Story in STAMPS



Tea stamps issued by various countries

I often ask myself why in the world am I still interested in stamps in my senior citizen years? Isn't it a hobby for kids? Not really. It used to be in the Sixties when every school going child collected stamps. And so did I. But not anymore. Today kids are not interested in stamps. Once upon a time, stamps were cherished because they brought images and information from around the world. Today TV and internet has changed all that. Now stamps are no child's play. It is a serious business, driven by the dealers. But that is not my story.

The sheer variety and beauty of

this world came in colorful stamps of flowers, all kinds of exotic birds and animals, stunning landscapes and historic buildings, the arts and the sciences etc. etc.etc. Stamps cover all subjects from all walks of life. I see stamps as cultural ambassadors of the country they represent. They carry images of important peoples, and places and local produce and events from that country. Stamps not only reflect the culture of the people but also carry a distinct 'stamp' - a *clik* - of the nation. For instance, Swedish stamps have an identity all their own. They produce incredibly beautiful naturescapes in fine line drawings.

I am personally fond of a series of 5 stamps produced by Sweden in 1977 called "In the Heart of the Roslagen District". These are absolutely bewitching images because besides capturing the spirit of the place by finding beautiful places, they also carry musical notations of the folk songs of the area.

Stamps reflect the spirit of the times by celebrating all kinds of events whether it is a victory in war or an accord of peace, a scientist's discovery or invention or an artist's achievement, an Olympic gold, a total solar eclipse, or a conference of neuro-surgeons, whatever.... stamps record history in the making.

Perhaps no other story has been as richly captured by stamps as that of the human adventure in space where every event in space exploration has been commemorated by almost all the countries in the world!

Governments around the world have realized that there is a huge market in stamps because today the Hobbyist is replaced by the Collector - usually a rich individual who can afford to buy stamps. Little wonder then, that Governments actively promote the so called "philatelic industry" in various ways. Consider this: In the last fifty years the number of stamps produced per annum has increased more than 4 folds in the leading western nations. In India it is a 6-fold increase from 1960. What is paradoxical is that while post mail has declined because of email & the courier service, the print run of stamps have not.

In fact, in 2010, a British citizen filed a Freedom of Information request to know what was the print run for stamps issued by the Royal Mail in 2007. In their response, the Royal Mail cited that although they have the information they are



Some of the authors favourites

exempt from disclosure under a particular section the Act. They believe that releasing the requested information would prejudice the commercial interests of the parties

that trade within this market, including the Royal Mail! In fact, for two consecutive years i.e. 2013 and 2014, Britain produced more than 400 stamps in a year i.e. more than one stamp every day! At this prodigious rate who can ever think of keeping up with a world wide collection of stamps! In face of such vast numbers of stamps produced annually, it is natural that people collect individual countries or themes.

Nihal Mathur is an avid stamp collector and runs an NGO, Ecopanions.com

Route crisis : A Jumbo concern

Mahananda-Kolabari | This corridor connects the jumbo population of Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary with Kolabari reserve forest on the Nepal border and finally with Jhapa district of the neighbouring country. Movement to Nepal is cut off due to power fencing along the Mechi river. The jumbos go up to Mechi river and return, which has increased man-elephant conflict.



INDIA STATS

- 101 No. of corridors identified
- 7 Corridors impaired in the last decade
- 21.8% Percentage of corridors free of human settlements
- 12.9% Percentage of corridors that are totally under forest cover

NORTH BENGAL IN NUMBERS

- 488 No. of elephants in north Bengal
- 14 No. of corridors
- 35.7% Percentage of corridors with rail lines passing through
- 58 No. of elephants killed in train accidents between 2004 and 2016
- 679 Human density per sq kilometre
- 0.25 Jumbo density per sq kilometre
- 3051 sq. km. Forest area
- 1933 sq. km. Elephant habitat
- About 5000 sq. km. Jumbo range
- 48 Average human lives lost per year due to elephants
- 34% Percentage of elephant range under forest cover
- All corridors in north Bengal have agricultural land



60 Years Looking Back

As I complete 60 years of my working career I look back with nostalgia on the time gone by.

My youthful aim, nurtured through my college years, had been to find a career in public life. With that goal in mind I had aspired to go to Nuffield College in Oxford, enter Lincon's Inn, become a barrister and pursue politics!

Perhaps I was overly influenced by Indian leaders of the Independence era, many of whom had followed this path to public life. Before I could go further, a chance meeting catapulted me to J Thomas & co the oldest and the largest tea-broking firm in the world where the pay and perks were probably in highest in India for a beginner. I was not yet 21 years old. I spent 15 months in their Gunny Department, before I was transferred to tea where I spent the next 12 years. I never became a particularly competent taster, but what I learnt in gunnies helped me in innovating the Boeing Bag 18 years later when I was working in Duncan Bros which controlled some 40 tea gardens.

It happened like this. While looking for an alternative to plywood packaging which involved the consumption of massive quantities of wood, we thought of trying to pack tea in jute. Unfortunately, however, there was a prejudice against jute because of its strong odour. But due to my stint in gunnies, I was able to overcome that problem and select a variety of jute cloth that would be odour free and also preserve the aroma of tea without the protection of a wooden chest.



Interacting with students at The Indian School



The enlarged family, New Delhi, 2002 Shyam, Gautam (back row) Selena, Prafull, Avanti, Nayana, Ahan, Brinda, Devaki and Madhavi



The growing family on a visit to Agra, 1983

Innovation remained my penchant and we succeeded in making the production of 40 gardens very similar, also across the seven flushes that a bush undergoes over the season. At the time, it seemed like a clash with nature. Although for establishing marketing brand equity, it was a winner. The price of a standard Dooars tea was Rs. 5 per kg, in 1973 in. By February 1977, it had hit the level of Rs. 23. The company's normal agents were reluctant to take the risk of paying such prices in advance.



Raising funds through a public auction for the Spastic Society of Calcutta

We had to innovate again. This time it was to start mini-auctions in eventually 24 centres. For example, in Hyderabad we appointed an agent to auction every fortnight tea sent from the company gardens. In the more popular centres like Surat, the auction was held every week. Faithfully supporting these mini-auctions, the company's brand equity, over a five year period, commanded a ten to 15 percent premium, occasionally going up to 20.

In 1970 I had left J Thomas and after a year's spell at James Warren & co joined an Indian family-owned agency in quest of financial independence. I felt such a company was more likely to award a business opportunity to an able employee for exceptional service unlike a British agency which had its fixed rules and hierarchies. Those well-wishers who had seen me grow up in this blue-blooded British company had looked askance at this unprovoked move from in 1971 to a family dominated concern.

But my judgment proved right. An opportunity had come when my new employers were faced with the



One of the 49 Shauchalays in Vadodara city built from my MPLADS funds

problem of reviving a sick cigarette company in the backdrop of Naxal violence. When the turnaround was achieved, the new employers lived up to their promise of the "insurance" that I had asked for when taking up the assignment namely, that they enable me establish my own tea broking company. Thus, "Contemporary" was established, with top-class professionals, and I felt it was time I could leave it to proxy management and comfortably relocate to Delhi and later Gujarat where the political opportunities lay.

My preoccupation with financial security probably stemmed from the problems faced by my two grandfathers. My paternal grandfather - a nationalist to the core - having been joint secretary with Sardar Patel at the open session of the Congress in 1915 - eventually



With Nayana at home in Delhi, 2010

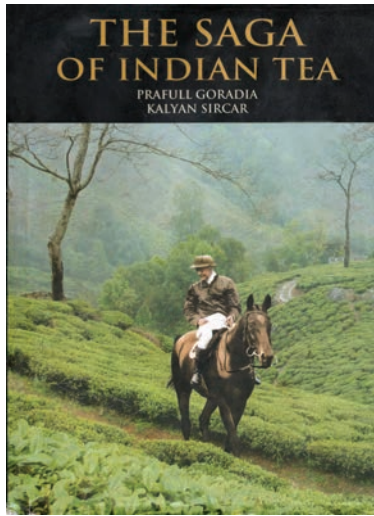
had to reconcile himself by taking up the post of a Divan to the Maharaja of Morbi, which was tantamount to serving the British! On the other hand, my maternal grandfather had inherited a tidy fortune of 30 lacs in 1920 but lost it all to preside over the sale of his properties in his lifetime. I was determined not to fall into their predicament and therefore the obsession of building a business base. No doubt business by proxy had its problems. Clients came and clients left. But thanks to loyal clients and my colleagues in our offices in Kolkata, Guwahati, Siliguri, Baroda and Delhi that the business has not merely survived, but expanded and

flourished and allowed me to pursue my passion.

The shift to Delhi, at age 45, had been a leap in the dark: from the pleasurable world of Calcutta's sahib logs to the political bedlam of Delhi and Gujarat. There was no political base and no godfather either in Delhi or my home state Gujarat to steer me through. The only politicians I knew were those I had met when they visited Calcutta and my only experience in the line was social service in drought relief camps in Gujarat. It was a traumatic experience for my family. My daughters in mid-school and also Nayana was quite shaken by the move.

But sixteen years later I was in Parliament.

In 2004 I bid goodbye to active politics. During my political apprenticeship I had opportunities of interacting with some of the stars on the political firmament. In parliament I had the privilege of being there at the same time at Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri L K Advani, Dr Manmohan Singh and Ms Mamata Banerjee among others. There were some notable communist leaders like Shri Gurudas Banerjee. Shri Gurudas Dasgupta who



The Prime Minister's exhortation in 1961 that a history of tea should be written finally came to fruition many years later as *Saga of Indian Tea*

came well prepared for the cut and trust of political debate and it was a pleasure to spar with them. I was happy to be able to make a contribution to what has now become the Swachh Bharat mission by building 49 Sauchalays in the city of Vadodara in Gujarat, from where I was elected.

Since having withdrawn from active politics, I have devoted myself to looking after my business and also writing and publishing books. Among them is the copious *Saga of Tea* which with the help of co-author Kalyan Banerjee took 10 years to put together. There has also been *Dear Editor*, a collection of letters in newspapers on issues of national concern. Then came *The Saffron Book*, *Hindu Masjids*, *Muslim League's*



In Parliament, 2000



A spokesperson for the BJP, 2000-2004

Unfinished Agenda, Anti-Hindus and the recent autobiographical *Fly me to the Moon* written at the behest of my publisher, Bloomsbury. Next on the agenda are two following books - *Krishna Rajya* and *A Trilogy of Schools*. Bloomsburys have taken rights for both of them.

I am happy to note that *Contemporary Tea Time* has survived 28 years and has been able to serve the industry and to provide a platform for it. My business has expanded beyond tea to toothbrushes which we manufacture in Vadodara. We also have *The Indian School* in Delhi and interacting with students is always a pleasure.

But Calcutta - I find it difficult to remember to call it Kolkata! - and Tea remain my first love. I came to Calcutta at the age of seven and both the city and the Tea industry provided a social, moral and economic foundation to my life. How can I ever forget? They will always have a special place in my heart.





Fly me to the moon
The Life & Aspirations of a Mission Watcher
by
Prafull Goradia



Services make for Smart Working at these Shared Offices

Neetish Sarma and Harash Binani dreaded having to drag themselves out of bed each morning to go to work. So they took it upon themselves to challenge workplace orthodoxy by offering buzzy co-working spaces with funky furnishings and a collegiate atmosphere.

“If you are working out from a Smart works office and looking for a legal services firm, all you have to do is go on our app, find a list of all companies that provide



Cofounders Harsh Binani and Neetish Sarma

legal services within the Smartworks universe, check their ratings and connect with them. This will not only allow our clients to increase their business but also makes it convenient for them to seek service,” said Binani.

Since its inception in April 2016, Kolkata-based Smartworks has opened more than 400,00 sq. ft of serviced office space in Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, Lakkata, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Pune. The team aims to lease at least 3.5 million sq. ft of co-working space across 15 centres in big cities and at least 15 more in smaller cities over the next three years.

Smartworks competes with US-based WeWork, Coworks of RMZ Group, BHIVE Workplace, Creator’s Gurukul that is backed by cricketer Yuvraj Singh and several others. “We offer premium office space and the charges vary depending on the location. On an average, our charges are between Rs. 12,000 and Rs. 13,000 per seat,” said Sarma.

These hooch brewers turn new leaf with organic tea

Mawlyngot in Meghalaya’s East Khasi Hills has switched from brewing arrack to growing tea ‘Brewing pyrsi was easy money. But you can’t escape addiction when you’re brewing alcohol all day,’ says Phroshon, who now manages the tea processing unit’

From an annual sale of Rs 2 lakh for 300 kg a decade ago, the turnover has increased to Rs 15 lakh for 3,000 kg of green, black and white tea in 2016.

Mawlyngot’s cultivation practices are organic and they received certification from the Control Union, which helps Uriong tap the international market.

“Mawlyngot is now on the tourist map;,” says Nongspung. “We’re hoping for more people to come find us.”



Jil Pyngrope and her daughter Stailin pick Urlong, which means dream come true in Khasi



Herbal teas and Flavoured Delights

Flavoured teas are associated with moods and feelings and flavouring was usually done with herbs to create a feeling of well being. Germans were particularly attracted to flavours. Camomile, for instance, is believed to induce sleep.

Today there are numerous varieties available. From a range of herbal concoctions, and herbal teas such as basil (tulsi), a gut relaxant, to fruits for their aromatic characteristics and flowers such as Marigold, Rosehip Hibiscus for visual appeal. These are now being packed used in pyramid tea bags for visual appeal. These bags allows whole leaf orthodox blends.

Most flavoured tea bags have an orthodox base as a blend, as orthodox teas take to flavour better.

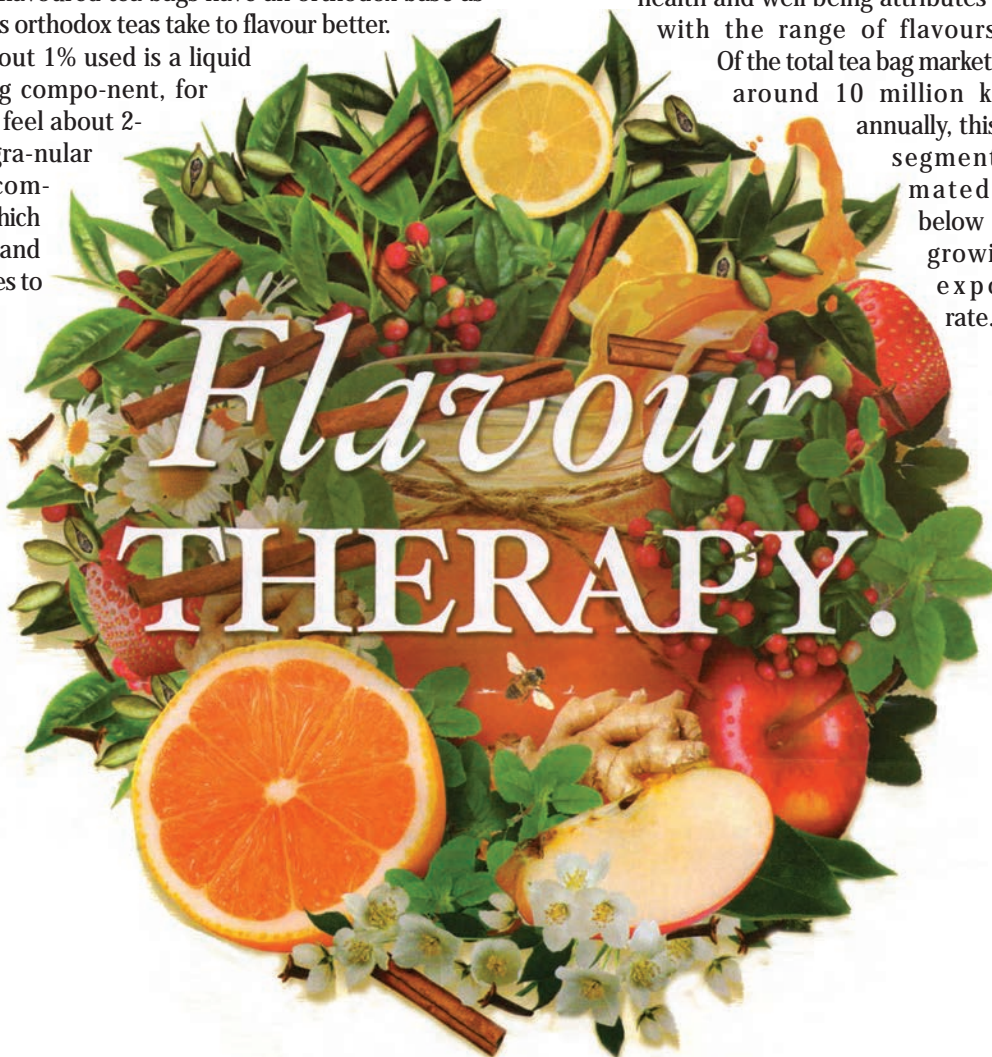
While about 1% used is a liquid flavouring component, for the nasal feel about 2-3% is a granular flavour component which dissolves and contributes to

taste. These selections are blended prior to packing in small batches of around 200kgs in special blending drums.

In India, flavoured teas are popular with housewives, and is synonyms with relaxation at home. The largest sales reported are in NCR and Pune. It is fashionable for in home consumption and more from the Bacardis 'Breezer' crowd - who drink alcohol for flavour and taste and not really to get high. They are not the traditional 'kadak chai' with milk drinkers, but new experimenting consumers or non-tea drinkers who are attracted to flavoured teas as a fashion statement or for the various

health and well being attributes associated with the range of flavours offered.

Of the total tea bag market estimated around 10 million kilo-grams annually, this flavoured segment is estimated at just below 1 mkg but growing at an exponential rate.



In our streets of Kolkata a "lembu cha" is popular. Typically a mildly sweetened Darjeeling liquor, with a squeeze of lemon and a pinch of black salt. Very refreshing.

Some of the large companies who offer a wide variety of flavours are

Twinnings

Earl Grey, Turkish apple, green tea with mint and rose, passion fruit, Mango and Orange Tea, bitter mint, superfruity, wild berry tea, Chinese Jasmine tea.



Typhoo



Newby



Tata Global Beverages -

Who flavor both black as well as green tea, have also brought out a range of flavored teas -under brand name of Tea veda, with Ayurveda ingredients.

They advertise it as :

Experience the goodness of everyday practical Ayurveda in a delicious cup of tea with Tata Tea Teaveda. A first of its kind product in the market, Teaveda integrates Ayurvedic wellness in a manner suited to the Indian palate.

Today's consumer has a busy lifestyle and seeks health & wellness products which do not compromise on taste. Tata Tea makes this a reality by providing the goodness of Ayurveda in a daily cup of tea. The time tested natural system of Ayurveda focuses on balancing the 3 doshas (bodily systems) - Vata, Pitta, Kapha to achieve wellness. The use of Ayurvedic ingredients combined with delicious Assam tea gives the consumer a unique product that provides a dose of every day practical Ayurveda, perfect for this day and age.

The range has three variants - Tata Tea Teaveda is regular loose leaf tea, Tata Tea Teaveda Pro Energy and Teaveda Pro Woman are available in tea bags. The loose leaf Tata Tea Teaveda provides overall wellness with the benefits of Brahmi and Tulsi. Teaveda Pro Energy has Amla and Vrikshamla (Garcinia) to keep you energized and Teaveda Pro Woman has been crafted for the hectic life of a woman. It is a powerful mix of tea and Ayurvedic ingredients Ashwagandha and Shatavari, both herbs noted for their rejuvenating and nourishing effects on women's health.



Hindustan Unilevers, who with their Taj brand have introduced flavors in both black tea and green Tea



Research : Science and Spirituality of flavours and taste

In his book, *The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World*, author Michael Pollan describes how some plants adapt their adaptability to humans. He cites the example of the apple, a tree that produces a bitter fruit in the wild.

"High in the hills of Kazakhstan, where the ancestors of *malus domestica* trees first began experimenting with the shape and color of their fruit, you can find an astounding variety of examples of what the apple could have been, from large purplish softballs to knobby green clusters. But through its countless journeys over the Silk Road many thousands of years ago, carried by generations of wayfarers, the apple adapted to meet the needs of its traveling companions, evolving to become a portable, durable conduit for sweetness," writes Pollan.

Pollan explains that mankind has a special relationship with psychoactive plants that affect our thoughts and perceptions like coffee, tobacco, and tea. These plants contain molecules that cause changes to the biochemical processes that go on deep inside our brains. The relationships between them and the people who use them has evolved over time, both influencing and reflecting the values of the societies in which they are used.



Bilberry leaf

Prof. Zeno Apostolides, at the University of Pretoria, writes that "understanding the tea genome will allow breeding of new cultivars with unique flavors, e.g. low or high caffeine for different market segments, slow fermenters for green tea, fast fermenters for black tea, high theanine for the umami taste or high catechins for health properties. The achievements will be made possible by classical breeding and selection, without any genetic modification the tea plant."



Cinnamon Pop, Orange Spice, Coco Berry

Genetic Harmony : Consumers Seek Flavours that Enhance their Well-being

Flavors do much more than alter the taste, today's flavors are formulated to enhance the experience whether wellness, beauty, or indulgence.



When flavouring tea, Data essential Buzz Coffee and Tea consumer tracker reports that fruit flavours dominate. Customers report peach (26%), raspberry (25%), and peach and strawberry (18%) as their top choices.

Chloe Simond, marketing assistant at Quebec-based Foodarom says customers want exotic, unusual ingredients, anything that reflects a luxurious experience. "Sophisticated flavours, like black tea with Mexican chocolate and mint, pink rose tea in Hong Kong and organic tea with vanilla orchid are examples of this trend," she says.

Exotic spices and other ingredients are not just flavourful, they also bring health benefits and meet the desire for indulgence. This is one reason luxurious packaging is trending, she said.

"We see a steady demand for spicier, 'red hot type' cinnamon flavours for tea, and caramel and butterscotch are very popular for coffee," says Colleen Roberts, director of sales, flavour Dynamics, in South Plainfield, New Jersey. Health and wellness continues to draw interest leading brands to introduce turmeric and blends with ginger. Consumers are paying attention to inner beauty, what they ingest. They are looking towards functional plants, super fruits, and other benefits that can be incorporated into their beverages, explains Roberts.

Peppermint, lemongrass, fennel, and rosehip are sought for their functional properties". "Blue orchid is one of the newer ingredients being added to tea as it helps with sleeping issues". Consumers continue to seek "all natural" flavours, reinforcing the fact that they are paying attention to what they are putting into their body.

This includes attention to how the product has been sweetened. Plant based low-calorie sweeteners like

stevia and agave remain popular. Brown rice syrup, coconut palm sugar, lucuma fruit, and yacon root are naturally low-glycemic.

Sweet and seasonal flavours are popular for all beverage types. With regions making their mark with the infusion of local ingredients into their beverages. "In Egypt, we have cardamom and nutmeg, green tea coffee in Japan, and maple in Canada," says Simond.

"These flavours foster connections with the consumers by connection with the origins of their beverages."

The flavour universe is very precise, a coconut flavour could vary from a toasted coconut to a pina coloda flavoured coconut, manufacturers need to make sure that the flavourist is speaking the same language," says Simond.

Will the flavour they want pair well with the requested base? Does the flavour respond to the interest of the current demographics. Do the ingredients meet the regulatory standards of the countries that they are working with?

"There are different regulations with all of the countries that we work with," says Simond. "Smoked flavours, for example, are currently not permitted in Europe."

Success is not just providing the right beverage, but the desired beverage experience.

Courtesy: STIR Coffee and Tea Annie-Marie Hardie

Tea On line sales

It would be incomplete, when we talk about specialties if no mention is made on line tea sales platforms such as those listed below:

T Box, TGL, Udayan, ETSY and their role in promoting specialties, flavors as well as herbal teas. visit their sites for visuals



Choco Black Tea



Vanilla Swirl Green Tea

Guidelines to Set Up Mini Tea Factories

In a gazette notification on January 3, 2017, the Union ministry had amended the Tea Marketing Control Order (TMCO), 2003 to introduce the concept of a mini tea factory. It enabled over one lakh small tea growers in Assam to set up own factories either individually or in groups. The mini tea factory would have to source the required green leaf from its own plantation for the manufacture of tea and could produce not more than 500 kg of made tea per day.



Blending Taste and Authenticity



Vikram Singh Gulia
Vice President, Goodricke Group Ltd.

You must have heard about the legend of Emperor Shen Nung, the so-called 'Divine Farmer', who is said to have 'discovered' tea by accident in 2737 BCE, when some tea leaves fell into his pot of boiling water. Renowned for his experimentation with plants and herbs, his majesty drank the brew and found it invigorating. Shen Nung used *Camellia sinensis* as a medicine, combining it with herbs to support good health. Thus, the history of flavoured tea is as old as the history of tea itself.

Tea, as we know, is the world's oldest and most popular beverage with immense economic, medicinal, and cultural importance, and is commonly consumed at social events and informal gatherings. One of the most prized and amazing characteristics of this tea is the array of natural flavours, that can be coaxed from a single leaf by variations in climate, geography and processing. Today, the markets are filled with different brands offering all possible concoctions - ranging from mint to mariegold! Some of the weirdest things added to tea include salt, butter, and even onion! And yet traditional Mongolian and Tibetan tea makers still use some of these ingredients. Other additions you may recognise in blends today include rice (genmaicha), citrus peel (Earl Grey), and spices (masala chai). Centuries later, until China started trading tea with its neighbours and Europe, pretty much all of the tea processed in the country was green. It was only when foreigners needed the leaf to last long distances, that producers began to fully oxidise the tea, resulting in what we now call 'black tea'.

Flavoured tea has supplementary extracts in it. It is done to satisfy diverse tastes and provide enticing

aromas, and maybe added from natural plants, or synthetic sources. Naturally flavoured tea's taste has been enhanced by using naturally occurring substances like essential oils, without any artificial additives to produce flavours like peppermint and orange. Artificially flavoured tea uses extracts manufactured from chemicals, to produce some popular fragrance like jasmine. Whereas, herbal tea flavours are derived from natural plants like roots, flowers and fruits, that have a pleasant smell.

Despite the traditional forms of flavouring, cross-breeding tea is carried out by many, to create new varieties, which are mostly duplicates of the authentic brands. The legal and unethical influx of these teas are cheaper, but is no match for the original label. Like me, members of the fraternity are traditionalists at heart and tired of the elaborate tea concoctions that have started to flood the market questing for the consumer dollar. But every now and again, I like to remind myself, that from the very beginning, tea has always featured in blends.

Goodricke as an organisation believes in processing single origin tea rather than hybrids. The company's tea blends are mostly self creations and a blend of innovation and authentic taste, to satisfy the connoisseurs of the world. After extensive research, the teas undergo long periods of testing before they are deemed adequate for trade. With a heritage of promising goodness and strong core values of sustainable business, we uphold our principles and believe in ethical trade. Though the hybrid practice is legal throughout the nation, we as a part of the tea fraternity, believe that endorsing it should be strictly refrained from. I, along with the fellow members of the tea community, look forward to virtuous trading in the upcoming years, and hope to add a touch of goodness in every sphere.



Chai Therapy : fix all your skin woes



One way of Hydrating well and getting the right skin-enhancing benefits is through teas

Jasmine Green Tea

Known as a facial in a teacup, this chinese blessing is a relaxing skin treatment.

Chamomile Tea

Drinking chamomile tea is excellent for reducing skin irritation and redness. If you have sensitive skin or rosacea, it's a good idea to consume chamomile tea regularly before bedtime.

White Tea

Prevent collagen breakdown and wrinkles. this gradually helps undo dullness.

Peppermint Tea

If you get acne due to stomach problems, the peppermint tea can treat the root of the problem.

Matcha Tea

It is powdered green tea, which is harvested using a technique different than the one used for regular teas, Matcha is great for detoxifying your skin.

Rooibos Tea

A caffeine-free red tea from Africa, Rooibos tea is an anti-ageing drink. It is antibacterial, hypoallergenic and contains more antioxidants than green tea.

Teacklers

What is chai for an Indian?

- ☺ Sleepy? Have tea.
- ☺ Headache? Have tea.
- ☺ Tired? Have tea.
- ☺ Mood off? Have tea.
- ☺ Feeling cold? Have tea.
- ☺ Want a samosa? Must have tea.
- ☺ Late night study? Have tea.
- ☺ Party after tuitions? With tea.
- ☺ Not well? Have adrakh wali tea.
- ☺ Zero figure? Have green tea.
- ☺ Pocket money? Make tea for your father.
- ☺ Guests? Make tea.
- ☺ Waiting for train? Have tea.
- ☺ Watching TV? Have tea.

Tea is like opium for Indians.
It's like "If you want success then have tea".



Lets Process QualiTEA Inteligently

NEX GEN AUTOMATION FOR TEA PROCESSING



Stesalit Towers
Our Corporate Headquarters at Kolkata

Stesalit Introduces Uniquely Designed Microcontroller Based Equipment for Quality Enhancement of Tea

Stesalit Systems Limited is a SEI-CMM-Level3; ISO 9001-2008 and ISO 27001 certified Group Company. Stesalit Systems energises Smart Cities, Internet of Things and Embedded Systems.

Automation division of Stesalit Systems, a pioneer in designing and manufacturing of state of the art of Process Automation Systems/Equipment, for over two decades, has developed a large number of Microcontroller-based Process Automation Systems for tea processing Industry. These systems are being used from Withering to Sorting processes in tea factories, resulting in better quality and higher price realization of 'Made Tea' with substantial saving in energy and manpower for the tea factories.

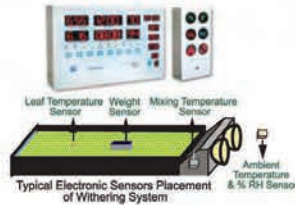
Over 1000 nos. of our these equipment are running satisfactorily in various tea factories in India and abroad.



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Coal Air Ratio Controller (CARC-04)



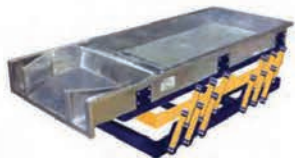
Monorail Flow Rate Monitoring System (FRMS)



Multichannel Temperature Scanner (MTS) for accurate monitoring of temperature



QUANTUM Auto Chasing Machine



SHIFTEA - Green Leaf Shifter



Humidity Management System (HMS) for monitoring the %RH & Controlling Humidifier

- Many more Electronic products for tea process Automation are under Development
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For your requirements please contact:



Stesalit Systems Limited (Automation Division)

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Works & Marketing Office: 1C - Tangra 2nd Lane, Kolkata - 700046, India

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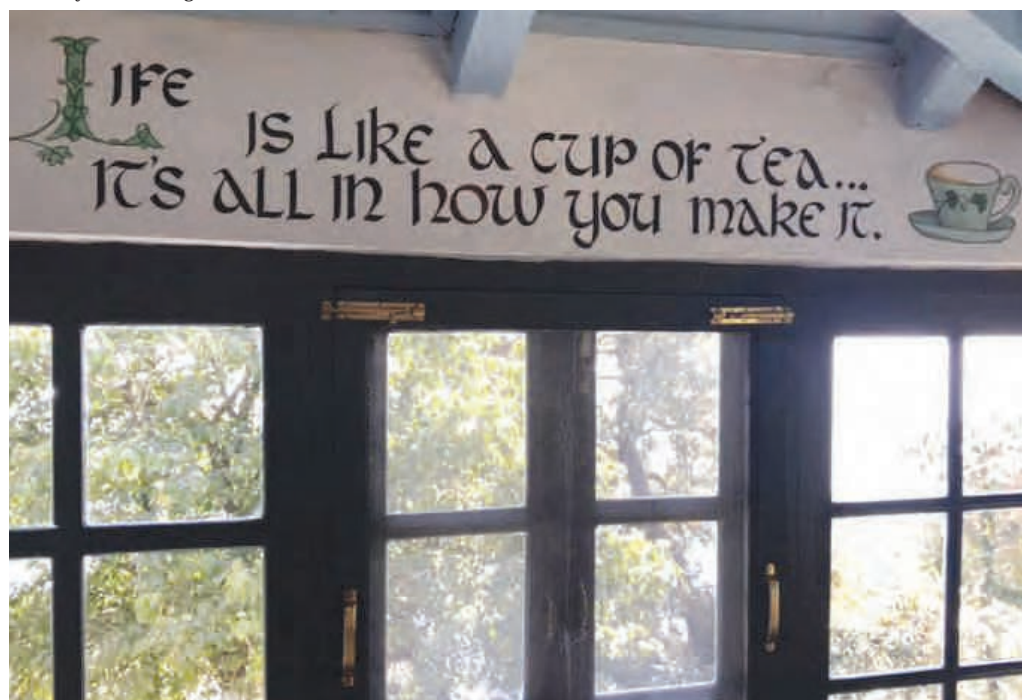
Courtesy : Lal Raisinghani

Optimistic Hawking Predicts Doomsday in 100 years



The eminent British physicist, Stephen Hawking, has predicted that the aggressive instincts of humans as well as the fast pace of growth in technology could destroy the species by nuclear or biological war. He suggested the formation of a 'world government' to prevent the calamity in a programme aired by the BBC.

In a new documentary, 'Expendition New Earth', Hawking along with his former student Galfard, will claim that Earth is running out of time. Within the next 100 years, humanity will need to colonise another planet in order to survive climate change, strikes by asteroids and overpopulation.



The Taste of India



MISCELLANEOUS



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We Help Make Better Tea ©

The Packet Segment

Eveready - MRIL to Team up in Packet Tea Venture

Eveready Industries India has plans to rope in McLeod Russel India Ltd. to enter into a joint venture for the development of the packet tea business through a separate entity. MRIL would be a strategic business partner. Both companies are owned by Khaitan-led Williamson Magor Group. The alliance would enable Eveready to access the Rs. 10,000 crore packet tea market directly.

Eveready Industries, which manufactures dry cell batteries and markets LED, CFL and other lighting products, packet tea and small home appliance, reported a consolidated net profit of Rs. 93.52 crore in 2016-17, a growth of 35.5% over the previous year.

MRIL, the largest tea producer in the world, registered a growth of 83.93% in consolidated net profit of Rs. 64.45 crore in 2016-2017 against the previous year.

APPL launches packet teas

The Packet Segment Hots up with Big Entities Looking in according to tea industry sources, Amalgamated Plantations (APPL) are keen to enter the packet tea business in order to improve profitability and de-risk portfolios. An entry into the packet tea segment is expected to give them better control over costs and realisation.

India's annual tea consumption is growing by 2.5 to 3 per cent and packet tea accounts for approximately 50 per cent of the total consumption.



TGB Plans to Corner More Market Share with Local Blends

Tata Global Beverages (TGB) decided to strengthen its presence in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat, where the company lacks adequate share of the market, by creating local blends. It is the frontrunner of tea majors with a 25% market share but has been found lagging in the three states. In order to right the balance, TGB will launch special blend and pack

under Tata Tea Gold Maharashtra. To fight off the threat from the Patanjali group, the company plans to add new ayurvedic variants under Tata Tea Teaveda.

TGB entered new categories like Ready to Drink (RTD) teas with a pilot project and created a new brand under Fruski with green tea with different fruit - based flavours. The company does not expect and disruption in tea prices with the introduction of GST.



Crowe launches his tea bags range

Actor Russel Crowe has reportedly launched his own range of tea bags. According to a source, the 53-year-old handed out free boxes of Crowe's Tea to fans while he was touring with his band Indoor Garden Party, reports a UK publication. "Russell is excited about his new venture. The tea bags are proving a real hit too. They've gone down a storm at his recent gigs. We're certain they'll be hitting the supermarkets in no time," the source said.



Contemporary TEA TRENDS

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Highlights : Auction average

India : April to November (in INR per Kg)

	ALL Sector			Organised			BLF		
	2017-18	2016-17	+/-	2017-18	2016-17	+/-	2017-18	2016-17	+/-
CTC + All Dust	160.18	152.12	8.06	171.08	159.36	11.72	125.48	124.08	1.40
Assam	127.47	123.48	3.99						
Cachar	142.80	141.79	1.01	161.00	154.53	6.47	104.36	111.75	-7.39
Dooars	112.37	119.94	-7.57	131.77	131.37	0.41	95.90	108.31	-12.41
Terai	146.32	143.43	2.89						
N.India	97.55	102.06	-4.52						
S.India									
Orthodox									
N.India	219.36	222.10	-2.74						
S.India	129.08	137.22	-8.14						

World Average Tea Auction Prices

January to October (per Kg)

CENTRE	In Countrywise Currency				In INR (Approx)			In US \$ (Approx)		
	Currency	2017	2016	+/-	2017	2016	+/-	2017	2016	+/-
Chittagong	BDT	190.59	207.06	-16.47	153.73	177.02	-23.29	2.36	2.64	-0.28
Mombasa (Kenya)	US Cents	299.00	237.00	62.00	195.04	158.93	36.11	2.99	2.37	0.62
Limbe	US Cents	183.56	155.36	28.20	119.74	104.18	15.56	1.84	1.55	0.29
"Colombo (Mainly Orthodox)"	SL Rs	618.30	449.13	169.17	264.83	206.90	57.93	4.06	3.09	0.97

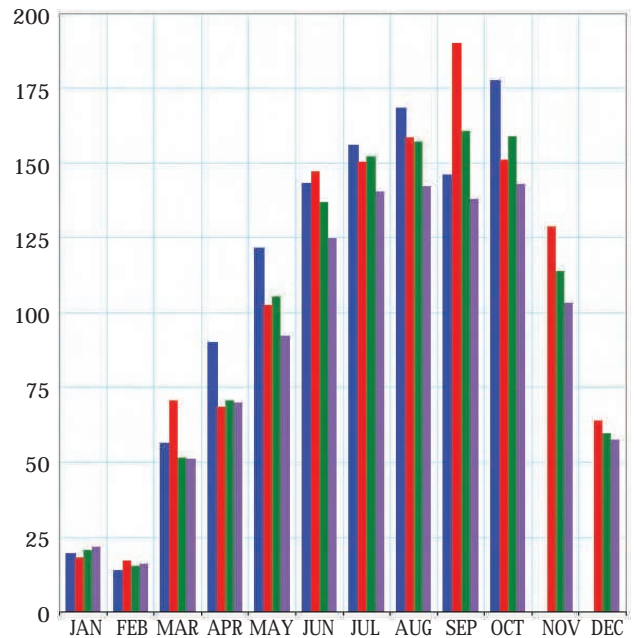
Exchange Rate:		India	Bangladesh	Sri Lanka	
January to October	US\$ 1=	2017	65.23	80.87	152.29
(Approximate)		2016	67.06	78.44	145.57

Source: ITA

Analysis of Indian Crop

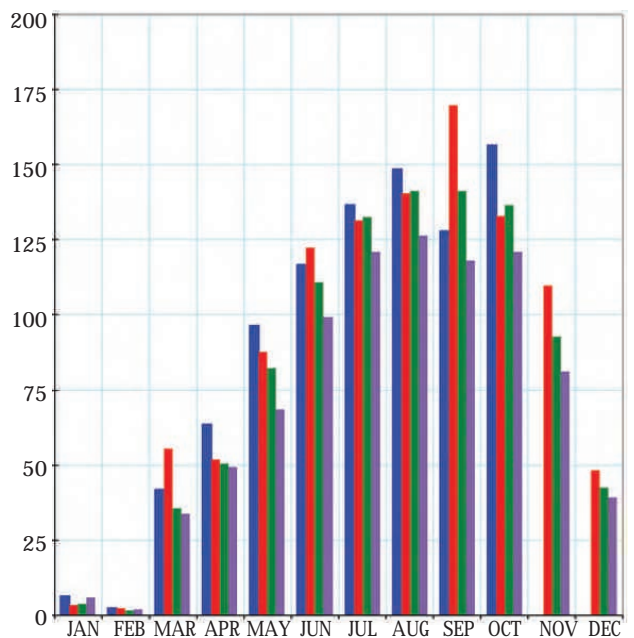
ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF TEA IN INDIA (M.Kg)

Months	2017	2016	+ / -	Last	Last
	M.Kg	M.Kg	M.Kg	5 Yr. Avg	10 Yr. Avg
JAN	19.16	17.95	1.21	20.44	21.65
FEB	13.59	17.13	-3.54	15.29	15.91
MAR	56.16	70.70	-14.54	51.45	51.01
APR	89.89	68.64	21.25	70.43	69.93
MAY	121.33	102.47	18.86	105.26	92.08
JUN	143.02	147.15	-4.13	136.87	124.71
JUL	155.59	150.53	5.06	152.16	140.54
AUG	167.98	158.70	9.28	157.26	142.20
SEP	145.83	190.00	-44.17	160.65	137.96
OCT	177.32	151.15	26.17	158.84	143.02
NOV		128.94		113.74	103.17
DEC		64.00		59.62	57.49
JAN to OCT	1089.87	1074.42	15.45	1028.65	939.01
JAN to DEC		1267.36		1202.01	1099.67



ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF TEA IN NORTH INDIA (M.Kg)

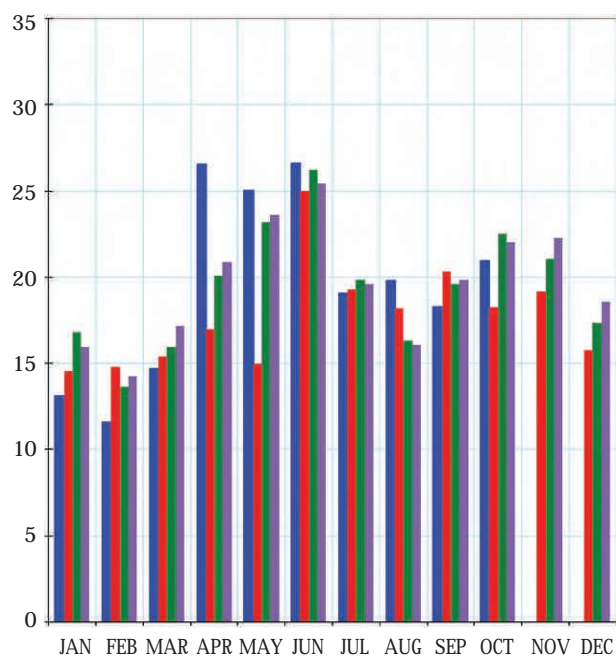
Months	2017	2016	+ / -	Last	Last
	M.Kg	M.Kg	M.Kg	5 Yr. Avg	10 Yr. Avg
JAN	6.05	3.37	2.68	3.61	5.68
FEB	2.03	2.29	-0.26	1.63	1.67
MAR	41.49	55.31	-13.82	35.51	33.82
APR	63.37	51.63	11.74	50.33	49.03
MAY	96.29	87.50	8.79	82.05	68.46
JUN	116.40	122.14	-5.74	110.61	99.29
JUL	136.54	131.23	5.31	132.32	120.93
AUG	148.16	140.51	7.65	140.95	126.10
SEP	127.54	169.68	-42.14	141.03	118.09
OCT	156.36	132.89	23.47	136.32	121.00
NOV		109.74		92.67	80.88
DEC		48.22		42.23	38.91
JAN to OCT	894.23	896.55	-2.32	834.37	744.06
JAN to DEC		1054.51		969.27	863.84



Analysis of Indian Crop

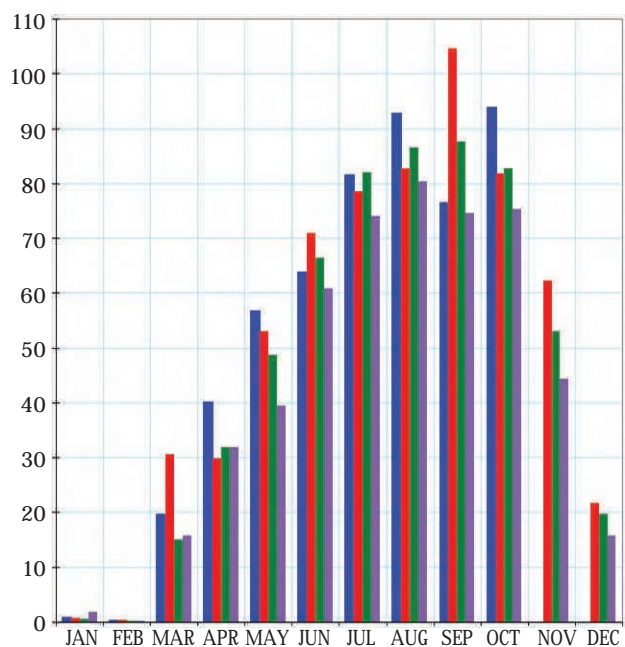
ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF TEA IN SOUTH INDIA (M.Kg)

Months	2017	2016	+ / -	Last	Last
	M.Kg	M.Kg	M.Kg	5 Yr. Avg	10 Yr. Avg
JAN	13.11	14.58	-1.47	16.83	15.97
FEB	11.56	14.84	-3.28	13.65	14.24
MAR	14.67	15.39	-0.72	15.94	17.19
APR	26.52	17.01	9.51	20.10	20.91
MAY	25.04	14.97	10.07	23.21	23.62
JUN	26.62	25.01	1.61	26.26	25.42
JUL	19.05	19.30	-0.25	19.83	19.61
AUG	19.82	18.19	1.63	16.31	16.11
SEP	18.29	20.32	-2.03	19.63	19.86
OCT	20.96	18.26	2.70	22.52	22.03
NOV		19.20		21.07	22.29
DEC		15.78		17.39	18.58
JAN to OCT	195.64	177.87	17.77	194.28	194.95
JAN to DEC		212.85		232.74	235.83



ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF TEA IN ASSAM VALLEY (M.Kg)

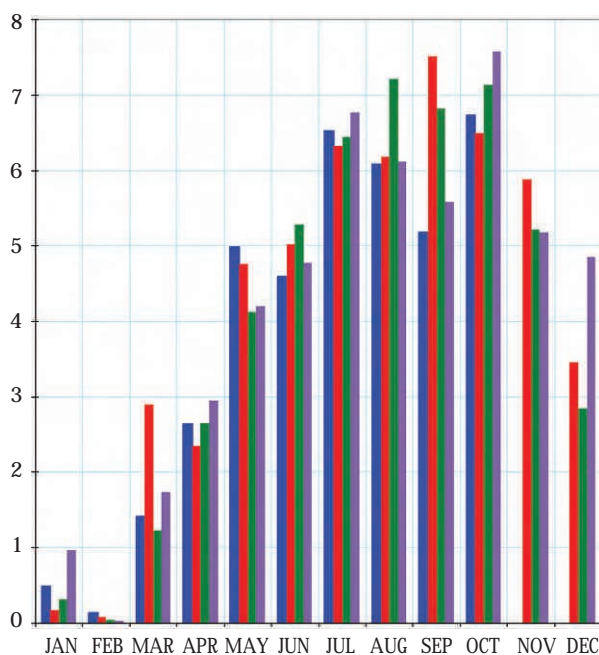
Months	2017	2016	+ / -	Last	Last
	M.Kg	M.Kg	M.Kg	5 Yr. Avg	10 Yr. Avg
JAN	0.82	0.74	0.08	0.64	1.79
FEB	0.24	0.49	-0.25	0.26	0.17
MAR	19.67	30.66	-10.99	15.18	15.88
APR	40.13	30.03	10.10	31.99	31.88
MAY	56.77	53.09	3.68	48.75	39.60
JUN	63.77	71.01	-7.24	66.49	60.96
JUL	81.58	78.66	2.92	82.12	74.17
AUG	92.71	82.90	9.81	86.57	80.49
SEP	76.57	104.70	-28.13	87.68	74.59
OCT	93.82	81.85	11.97	82.87	75.46
NOV		62.32		53.07	44.45
DEC		21.89		19.76	15.80
JAN to OCT	526.08	534.13	-8.05	502.56	454.98
JAN to DEC		618.34		575.39	515.23



Analysis of Indian Crop

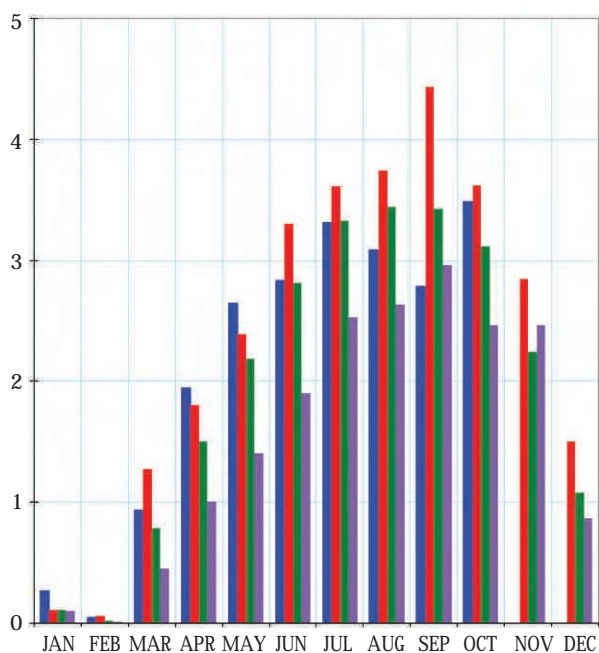
ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF TEA IN CACHAR (M.Kg)

Months	2017	2016	+ / -	Last 5 Yr. Avg	Last 10 Yr. Avg
	M.Kg	M.Kg	M.Kg	M.Kg	M.Kg
JAN	0.49	0.18	0.31	0.32	0.98
FEB	0.13	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.04
MAR	1.42	2.90	-1.48	1.23	1.74
APR	2.64	2.35	0.29	2.65	2.96
MAY	4.98	4.77	0.21	4.13	4.20
JUN	4.59	5.03	-0.44	5.28	4.78
JUL	6.52	6.33	0.19	6.44	6.77
AUG	6.08	6.18	-0.10	7.22	6.12
SEP	5.18	7.52	-2.34	6.82	5.59
OCT	6.73	6.50	0.23	7.14	7.58
NOV		5.88		5.22	5.18
DEC		3.46		2.84	4.85
JAN to OCT	38.76	41.84	-3.08	41.29	40.74
JAN to DEC		51.18		49.35	50.78



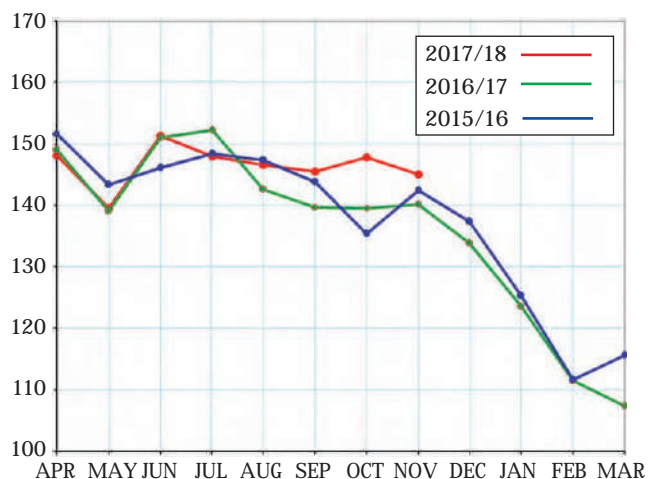
ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF TEA IN OTHER (M.Kg)

Months	2017	2016	+ / -	Last 5 Yr. Avg	Last 10 Yr. Avg
	M.Kg	M.Kg	M.Kg	M.Kg	M.Kg
JAN	0.26	0.11	0.15	0.11	0.10
FEB	0.04	0.06	-0.02	0.02	0.01
MAR	0.93	1.27	-0.34	0.79	0.45
APR	1.94	1.80	0.14	1.50	1.01
MAY	2.64	2.39	0.25	2.19	1.40
JUN	2.83	3.30	-0.47	2.81	1.90
JUL	3.31	3.61	-0.30	3.33	2.53
AUG	3.08	3.74	-0.66	3.44	2.63
SEP	2.78	4.44	-1.66	3.43	2.96
OCT	3.48	3.62	-0.14	3.12	2.47
NOV		2.85		2.24	2.46
DEC		1.50		1.07	0.87
JAN to OCT	21.29	24.34	-3.05	20.73	15.45
JAN to DEC		28.69		24.05	18.78



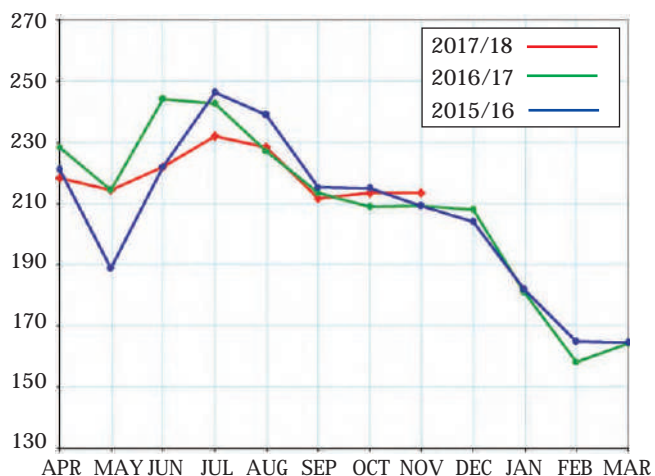
NORTH INDIA - CTC LEAF & ALL DUST AUCTION AVERAGES IN Rs.

Months	2017/18	2016/17	+/-	2015/16
APR	148.13	148.97	-0.84	151.67
MAY	139.42	138.97	0.45	143.27
JUN	151.33	150.95	0.38	146.10
JUL	147.95	152.19	-4.24	148.33
AUG	146.51	142.51	4.00	147.25
SEP	145.52	139.68	5.84	143.79
OCT	147.81	139.54	8.27	135.36
NOV	145.08	140.04	5.04	142.35
DEC		133.84		137.32
JAN		123.59		125.20
FEB		111.39		111.60
MAR		107.23		115.59
April to Nov	146.32	143.43	2.89	143.88



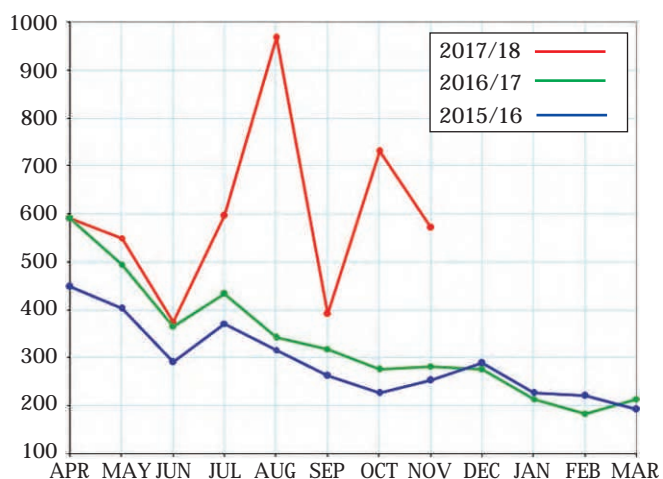
NORTH INDIA - ORTHODOX LEAF AUCTION AVERAGES IN Rs.

Months	2017/18	2016/17	+/-	2015/16
APR	218.30	228.44	-10.14	221.02
MAY	214.46	214.30	0.16	188.85
JUN	222.09	244.11	-22.02	222.05
JUL	231.87	242.49	-10.62	246.26
AUG	228.26	227.28	0.98	238.89
SEP	211.77	213.57	-1.80	215.42
OCT	213.32	208.88	4.44	214.98
NOV	213.55	209.18	4.36	209.21
DEC		207.88		204.01
JAN		180.89		181.89
FEB		158.28		164.81
MAR		164.26		164.47
April to Nov	219.36	222.10	-2.74	221.63



DARJEELING LEAF AUCTION AVERAGES IN Rs.

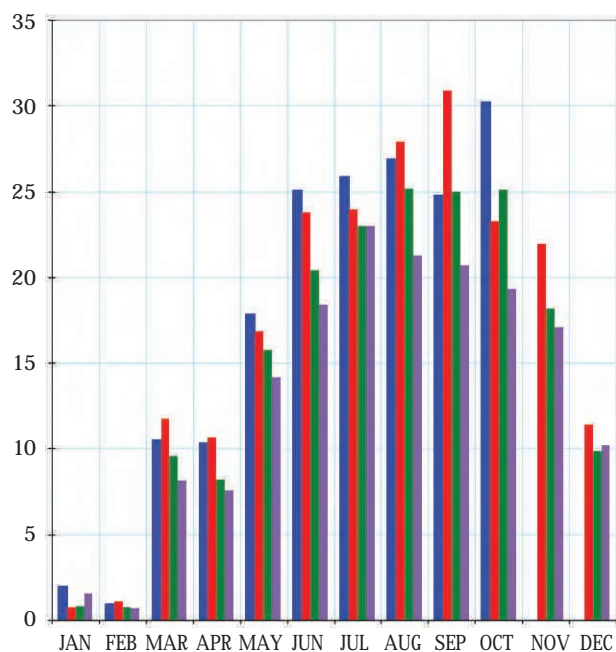
Months	2017/18	2016/17	+/-	2015/16
APR	589.92	590.86	-0.94	448.21
MAY	549.70	494.77	54.93	402.07
JUN	375.05	365.94	9.11	290.77
JUL	595.97	433.05	162.92	371.67
AUG	967.30	342.15	625.15	316.55
SEP	391.45	318.20	73.25	262.13
OCT	730.03	275.47	454.56	227.05
NOV	571.51	282.43	289.08	252.67
DEC		275.30		289.31
JAN		214.02		226.83
FEB		183.92		220.92
MAR		214.14		192.58
April to Nov	523.47	352.05	171.42	302.50



Analysis of Indian Crop

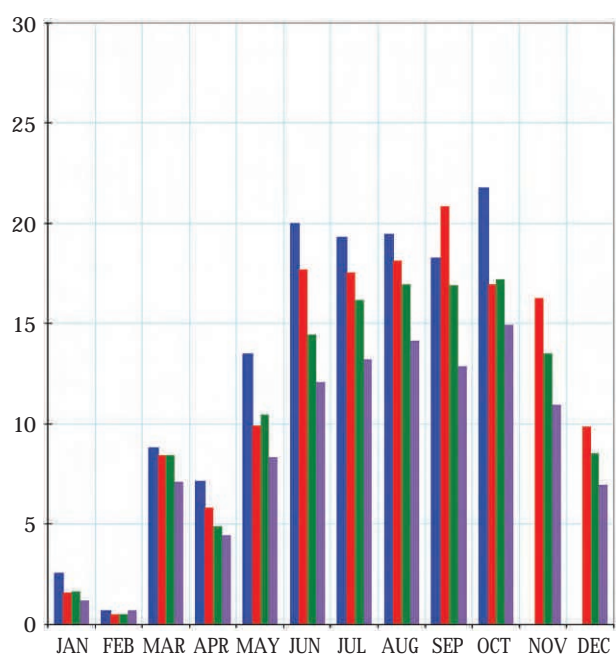
ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF TEA IN DOOARS (M.Kg)

Months	2017	2016	+ / -	Last 5 Yr. Avg	Last 10 Yr. Avg
	M.Kg	M.Kg	M.Kg	M.Kg	M.Kg
JAN	1.96	0.76	1.20	0.87	1.60
FEB	0.93	1.12	-0.19	0.76	0.75
MAR	10.53	11.75	-1.22	9.58	8.19
APR	10.35	10.67	-0.32	8.23	7.60
MAY	17.84	16.89	0.95	15.77	14.18
JUN	25.09	23.78	1.31	20.43	18.42
JUL	25.85	24.00	1.85	22.98	23.00
AUG	26.88	27.95	-1.07	25.19	21.26
SEP	24.78	30.91	-6.13	25.03	20.72
OCT	30.23	23.26	6.97	25.11	19.35
NOV		21.97		18.19	17.10
DEC		11.41		9.88	10.26
JAN to OCT	174.44	171.09	3.35	153.94	135.06
JAN to DEC		204.47		182.00	162.42



ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF TEA IN TERAJ (M.Kg)

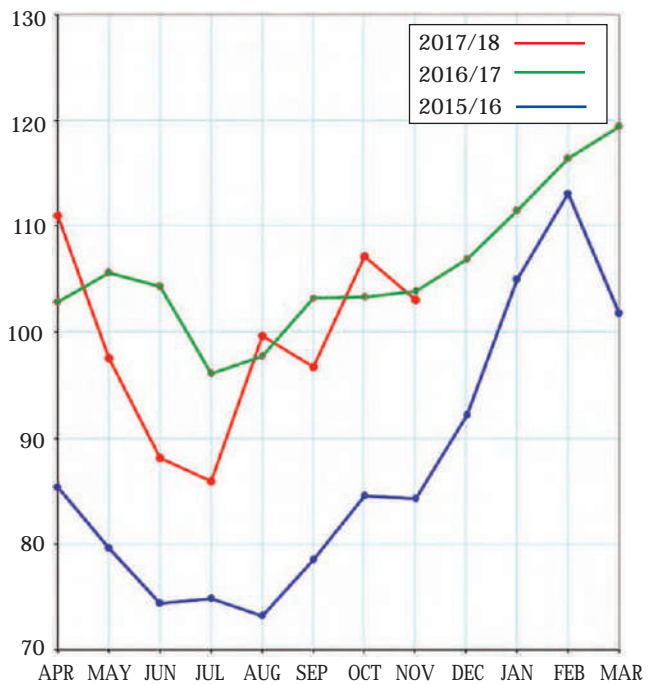
Months	2017	2016	+ / -	Last 5 Yr. Avg	Last 10 Yr. Avg
	M.Kg	M.Kg	M.Kg	M.Kg	M.Kg
JAN	2.52	1.58	0.94	1.67	1.21
FEB	0.69	0.53	0.16	0.54	0.70
MAR	8.80	8.43	0.37	8.44	7.12
APR	7.10	5.86	1.24	4.90	4.46
MAY	13.48	9.92	3.56	10.48	8.33
JUN	19.98	17.69	2.29	14.45	12.07
JUL	19.28	17.57	1.71	16.17	13.22
AUG	19.41	18.17	1.24	16.98	14.18
SEP	18.23	20.86	-2.63	16.91	12.86
OCT	21.74	16.94	4.80	17.20	14.97
NOV		16.28		13.51	10.98
DEC		9.87		8.55	6.99
JAN to OCT	131.23	117.55	13.68	107.74	89.11
JAN to DEC		143.70		129.79	107.08



SOUTH INDIA - CTC LEAF & ALL DUST AUCTION AVERAGE IN Rs.

Months	2017/18	2016/17	+/-	2015/16
APR	111.06	102.89	8.17	85.40
MAY	97.56	105.61	-8.05	79.59
JUN	88.16	104.33	-16.17	74.36
JUL	85.96	96.07	-10.12	74.82
AUG	99.68	97.74	1.93	73.16
SEP	96.74	103.27	-6.53	78.47
OCT	107.14	103.32	3.81	84.55
NOV	103.09	103.88	-0.79	84.28
DEC		106.87		92.14
JAN		111.46		104.99
FEB		116.40		113.17
MAR		119.46		101.77
April to Nov	97.55	102.06	-4.52	79.39

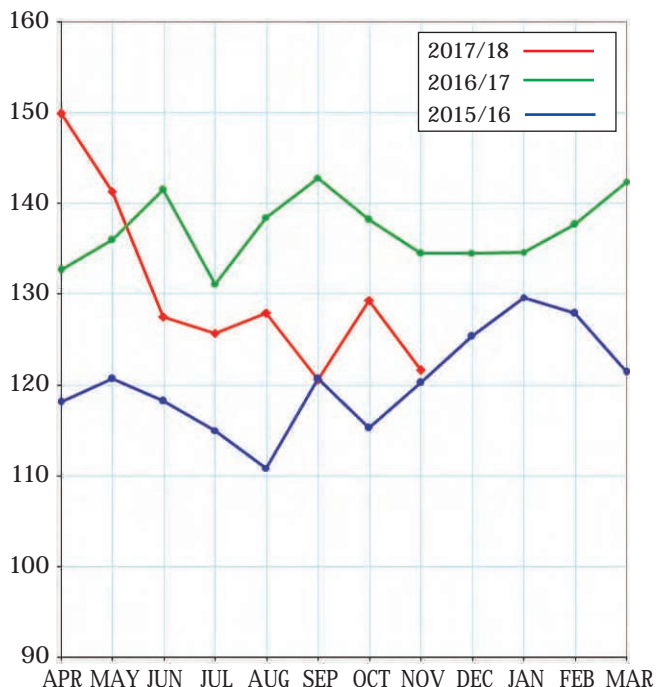
CTC LEAF & ALL DUST S.I. AUCTION AVERAGE



SOUTH INDIA - ORTHODOX LEAF AUCTION AVERAGE IN Rs.

Months	2017/18	2016/17	+/-	2015/16
APR	149.91	132.67	17.24	118.18
MAY	141.32	136.00	5.32	120.68
JUN	127.50	141.53	-14.03	118.26
JUL	125.74	131.16	-5.42	115.01
AUG	127.96	138.48	-10.52	110.87
SEP	120.57	142.84	-22.27	120.67
OCT	129.32	138.25	-8.94	115.28
NOV	121.64	134.53	-12.90	120.26
DEC		134.57		125.37
JAN		134.68		129.68
FEB		137.66		127.95
MAR		142.41		121.41
April to Nov	129.08	137.22	-8.14	120.18

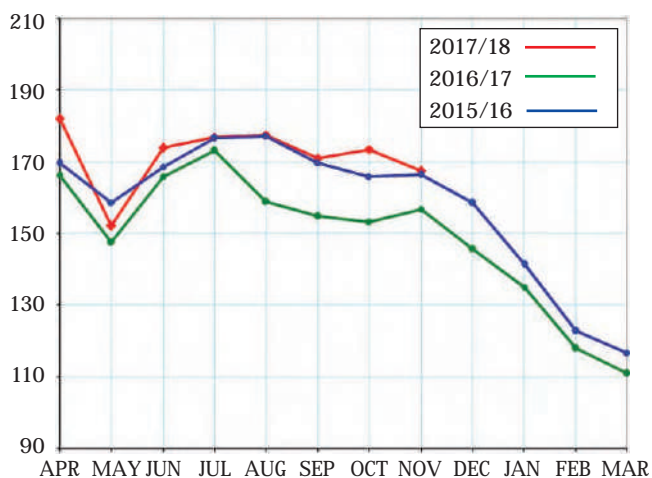
ORTHODOX LEAF S.I. AUCTION AVERAGE



NORTH INDIA - ASSAM VALLEY - CTC LEAF & ALL DUST AUCTION AVERAGES IN Rs.

Organised Sector

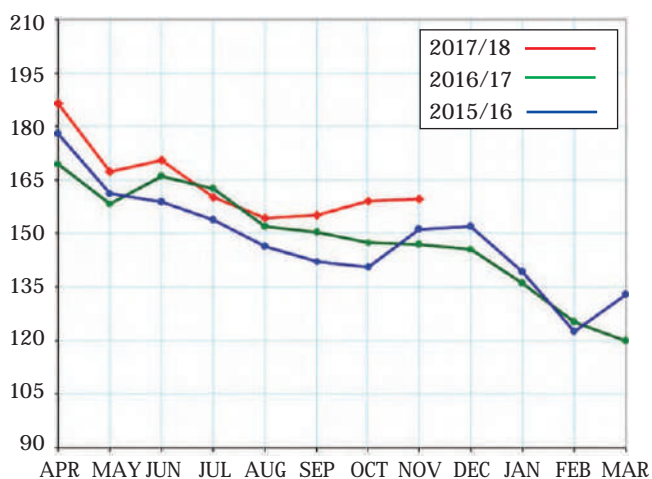
Months	2017/18	2016/17	+/-	2015/16
APR	181.97	166.08	15.89	169.55
MAY	152.07	147.59	4.48	158.74
JUN	173.92	166.00	7.92	168.72
JUL	177.08	173.09	3.98	176.64
AUG	177.47	158.89	18.58	177.33
SEP	171.03	154.79	16.24	169.74
OCT	173.49	153.33	20.16	166.02
NOV	167.43	156.81	10.61	166.47
DEC		145.75		158.53
JAN		135.07		141.30
FEB		117.97		122.77
MAR		110.89		116.77
April to Nov	171.08	159.36	11.72	170.04



NORTH INDIA - DOOARS - CTC LEAF & ALL DUST AUCTION AVERAGES IN Rs.

Organised Sector

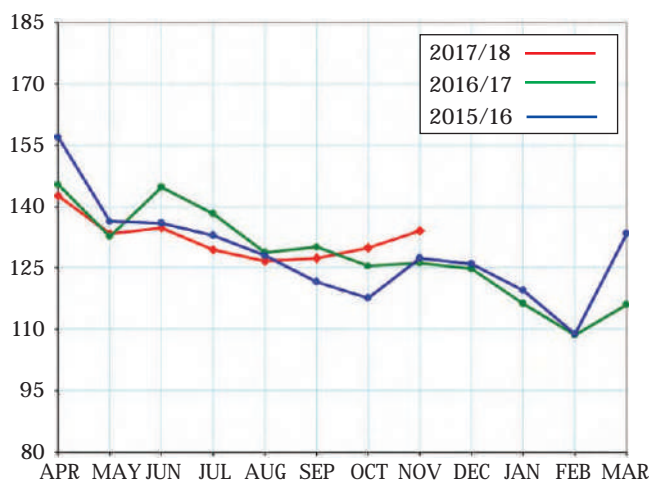
Months	2017/18	2016/17	+/-	2015/16
APR	186.32	169.59	16.73	177.97
MAY	167.36	158.45	8.91	161.40
JUN	170.54	165.95	4.59	158.89
JUL	160.21	162.51	-2.31	153.75
AUG	154.37	151.95	2.41	146.43
SEP	155.21	150.42	4.79	142.29
OCT	159.22	147.58	11.64	140.63
NOV	159.79	146.87	12.92	151.14
DEC		145.75		151.93
JAN		136.16		139.32
FEB		125.23		122.66
MAR		119.97		132.98
April to Nov	161.00	154.53	6.47	150.24



NORTH INDIA - TERAJ - CTC LEAF & ALL DUST AUCTION AVERAGES IN Rs.

Organised Sector

Months	2017/18	2016/17	+/-	2015/16
APR	142.67	145.54	-2.87	157.09
MAY	133.54	132.70	0.84	136.50
JUN	134.92	144.75	-9.83	135.93
JUL	129.61	138.24	-8.63	133.00
AUG	126.63	128.79	-2.16	128.21
SEP	127.34	130.25	-2.91	121.64
OCT	129.88	125.68	4.20	117.59
NOV	134.15	126.20	7.95	127.32
DEC		124.77		125.96
JAN		116.30		119.53
FEB		108.76		108.90
MAR		116.00		133.40
April to Nov	131.77	131.37	0.41	128.52

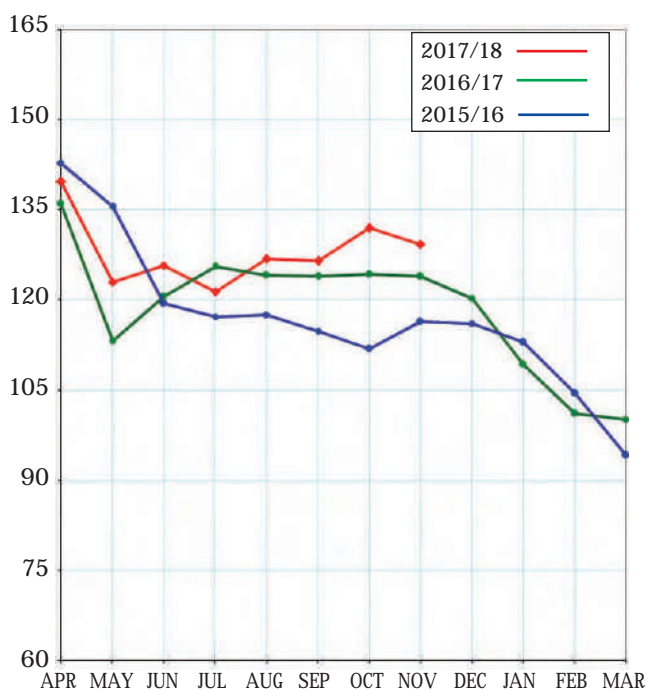


NORTH INDIA - CACHAR – CTC LEAF & ALL DUST AUCTION AVERAGES IN Rs.

Organised Sector

Months	2017/18	2016/17	+/-	2015/16
APR	139.71	135.95	3.76	142.79
MAY	122.94	113.14	9.80	135.41
JUN	125.72	120.46	5.26	119.42
JUL	121.34	125.50	-4.16	117.20
AUG	126.75	124.06	2.69	117.52
SEP	126.40	123.92	2.48	114.78
OCT	131.89	124.19	7.70	111.80
NOV	129.19	123.89	5.30	116.34
DEC		120.24		116.06
JAN		109.25		112.97
FEB		101.08		104.36
MAR		100.12		94.07
April-Nov	127.06	123.45	3.61	116.73

CACHAR ORGANISED SECTOR
CTC LEAF & ALL DUST

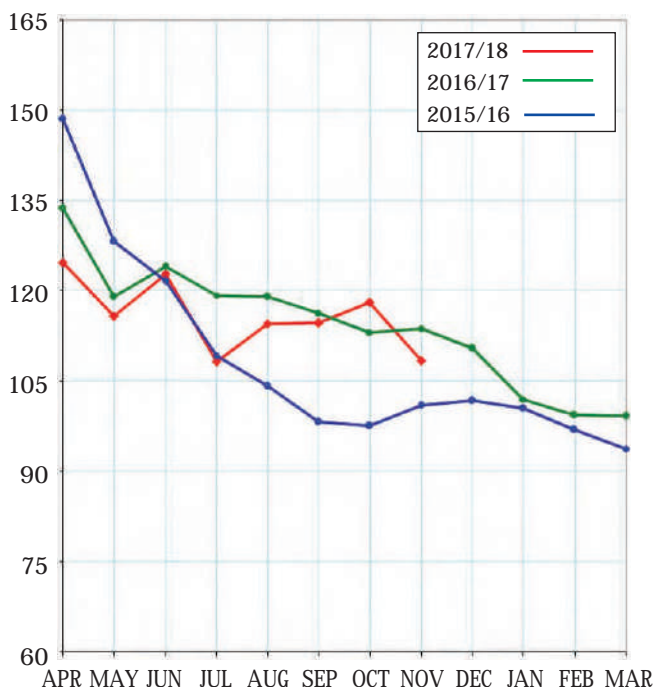


NORTH INDIA - TRIPURA – CTC LEAF & ALL DUST AUCTION AVERAGES IN Rs.

Organised Sector

Months	2017/18	2016/17	+/-	2015/16
APR	124.74	133.67	-8.93	148.51
MAY	115.90	119.05	-3.15	128.25
JUN	122.71	123.99	-1.28	121.65
JUL	108.27	119.28	-11.01	109.26
AUG	114.62	119.04	-4.43	104.21
SEP	114.66	116.38	-1.72	98.19
OCT	118.08	113.14	4.94	97.64
NOV	108.39	113.81	-5.42	100.99
DEC		110.47		101.82
JAN		102.00		100.45
FEB		99.40		96.89
MAR		99.25		93.78
April-Nov	114.07	117.51	-3.45	104.99

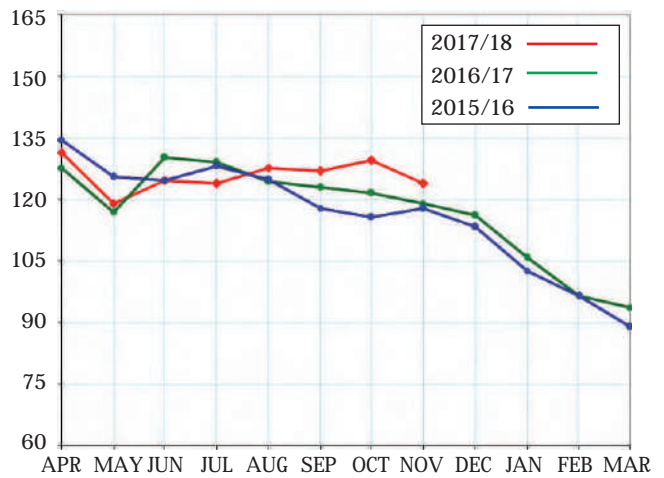
TRIPURA ORGANISED SECTOR
CTC LEAF & ALL DUST



NORTH INDIA - ASSAM VALLEY - CTC LEAF & ALL DUST AUCTION AVERAGES IN Rs.

BLF

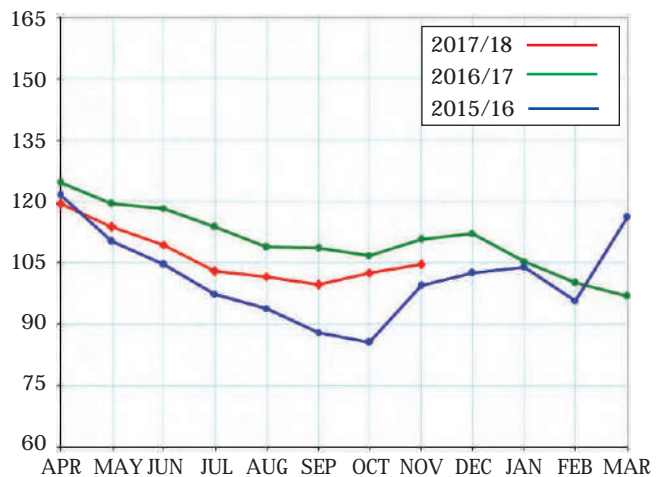
Months	2017/18	2016/17	+/-	2015/16
APR	131.53	127.82	3.71	134.61
MAY	119.05	116.91	2.14	125.58
JUN	124.83	130.33	-5.50	124.82
JUL	123.90	129.19	-5.29	128.14
AUG	127.85	124.51	3.34	124.85
SEP	127.01	122.98	4.03	118.03
OCT	129.54	121.58	7.97	115.83
NOV	123.93	119.15	4.78	117.92
DEC		116.22		113.46
JAN		105.97		102.75
FEB		96.50		96.46
MAR		93.81		89.04
April to Nov	125.48	124.08	1.40	121.86



NORTH INDIA - DOOARS - CTC LEAF & ALL DUST AUCTION AVERAGES IN Rs.

BLF

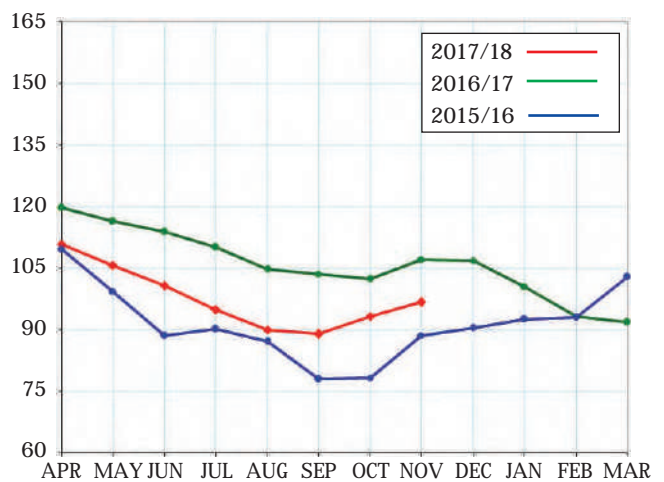
Months	2017/18	2016/17	+/-	2015/16
APR	119.43	124.59	-5.16	121.51
MAY	113.77	119.45	-5.68	110.36
JUN	109.41	118.43	-9.02	104.71
JUL	102.94	113.84	-10.90	97.45
AUG	101.61	108.91	-7.30	93.98
SEP	99.67	108.61	-8.94	88.13
OCT	102.65	106.88	-4.23	85.59
NOV	104.63	110.77	-6.14	99.44
DEC		112.28		102.61
JAN		105.50		104.05
FEB		100.27		95.86
MAR		96.84		116.11
April to Nov	104.36	111.75	-7.39	96.91



NORTH INDIA - TERAI - CTC LEAF & ALL DUST AUCTION AVERAGES IN Rs.

BLF

Months	2017/18	2016/17	+/-	2015/16
APR	110.89	119.65	-8.76	109.71
MAY	105.78	116.34	-10.56	99.46
JUN	100.73	113.77	-13.04	88.57
JUL	94.95	110.15	-15.19	90.20
AUG	90.00	104.68	-14.68	87.19
SEP	88.98	103.63	-14.65	78.01
OCT	93.27	102.30	-9.03	78.40
NOV	96.74	107.17	-10.43	88.68
DEC		106.90		90.45
JAN		100.60		92.49
FEB		93.34		93.01
MAR		91.78		102.79
April to Nov	95.90	108.31	-12.41	90.60



NI DISTRICT WISE AUCTION AVERAGE IN Rs.
PERIOD: APRIL TO NOVEMBER (New Season)

Sector: Organised (CTC + All Dust)

(for new season teas only)

DISTRICT	2017-18	2016-17	Difference
ARUNACHAL	161.72	155.83	5.89
MEGHALAYA	132.21	116.10	16.11
ASSAM	171.08	159.36	11.72
BARPETA	130.50	130.22	0.28
DARRANG	172.56	161.53	11.03
DIBRUGARH	163.86	154.57	9.29
GOALPARA	121.29	119.34	1.95
GOLAGHAT	177.74	163.81	13.93
JORHAT	186.24	164.49	21.75
KAMRUP	175.22	155.18	20.04
KARBI-ANGLON	137.82	130.91	6.91
KOKRAJHAR	149.39	145.86	3.52
LAKHIMPUR	206.41	185.91	20.50
NAGAON	170.61	158.04	12.57
NALBARI	216.93	191.14	25.79
SIBSAGAR	182.80	169.04	13.76
SONITPUR	172.41	161.34	11.07
TINSUKIA	149.73	145.48	4.25
CACHAR	127.06	123.45	3.61
DOOARS & TERAJ	152.11	147.43	4.67
DOOARS	161.00	154.53	6.47
TERAI	131.77	131.37	0.41
SIKKIM	227.00	208.18	18.82
TRIPURA	114.07	117.51	-3.45

Sector: Bought Leaf (CTC + All Dust)

(for new season teas only)

DISTRICT	2017-18	2016-17	Difference
ARUNACHAL	126.83	105.50	21.33
MEGHALAYA	139.64	115.38	24.26
BIHAR	87.81	100.12	-12.31
ASSAM	125.48	124.08	1.40
DARRANG	131.20	133.21	-2.00
DIBRUGARH	127.11	127.21	-0.10
GOALPARA	120.93	123.13	-2.20
GOLAGHAT	129.47	129.16	0.31
JORHAT	125.30	121.85	3.45
KARBI-ANGLON	125.25	124.08	1.16
NAGAON	166.45	133.85	32.59
SIBSAGAR	130.53	126.57	3.96
SONITPUR	133.02	123.54	9.48
TINSUKIA	118.09	118.14	-0.05
CACHAR	131.68	123.75	7.93
DOOARS & TERAJ	99.95	110.01	-10.06
DOOARS	104.36	111.75	-7.39
TERAI	95.90	108.31	-12.41

Price Slab analysis [April 2017 to November 2017]

NI - Assam Organised sector: CTC+ Dust : Auction Sales in Lac Kgs									
Grade	Below Rs.140	Rs. 140-150	Rs. 151-160	Rs. 161-170	Rs. 171-180	Rs. 181-190	Rs. 191-200	Rs. Above 200	Total
Larger Brokens	32	20	15	15	12	11	9	31	146
Medium Brokens	21	14	8	8	8	10	9	33	111
Smaller Brokens	34	32	21	23	21	19	17	64	232
Fannings	37	32	18	17	16	13	10	33	175
Dust	40	27	21	24	26	27	33	137	336
Primary Total	164	125	85	86	84	80	78	298	1000
%	16	13	8	9	8	8	8	30	100
Secondaries	130	22	14	11	7	5	3	4	197
G.Total	293	148	99	98	91	84	81	302	1197
% (2017)	25	12	8	8	8	7	7	25	100
% (2016)	32	15	10	9	8	7	6	13	100
NI - Dooars & Terai Organised sector: CTC+ Dust:Auction Sales in									
Grade	Below Rs.140	Rs. 140-150	Rs. 151-160	Rs. 161-170	Rs. 171-180	Rs. 181-190	Rs. 191-200	Rs. Above 200	Total
Larger Brokens	21	5	4	3	1	1	0	0	36
Medium Brokens	34	12	11	12	14	8	3	2	96
Smaller Brokens	47	18	18	21	26	15	6	5	156
Fannings	34	12	12	12	17	15	7	12	120
Dust	23	10	9	9	8	5	3	3	72
Primary Total	159	57	54	57	66	44	20	21	480
%	33	12	11	12	14	9	4	4	100
Secondaries	65	12	9	7	3	1	1	0	99
G.Total	224	69	64	63	70	45	21	22	578
% (2017)	39	12	11	11	12	8	4	4	100
% (2016)	43	12	9	10	10	7	5	4	100
NI - Assam BLF sector: CTC+ Dust :Auction									
Grade	Below Rs.110	Rs. 110-120	Rs. 121-130	Rs. 131-140	Rs. 141-150	Rs. 151-160	Rs. 161-170	Rs. Above 170	Total
Larger Brokens	14	14	10	5	2	1	0	1	48
Medium Brokens	11	14	15	13	8	5	2	2	70
Smaller Brokens	14	18	18	16	11	6	2	2	86
Fannings	9	13	9	9	5	2	1	1	49
Dust	6	12	16	17	12	6	3	5	77
Primary Total	53	70	67	61	39	19	9	11	329
%	16	21	21	18	12	6	3	3	100
Secondaries	26	12	6	2	0	0	0	0	47
G.Total	79	82	74	63	39	19	9	11	376
% (2017)	21	22	20	17	10	5	2	3	100
% (2016)	16	30	27	14	7	3	1	2	100
NI - Dooars & Terai BLF sector: CTC+ Dust :Auction Sale									
Grade	Below Rs.110	Rs. 110-120	Rs. 121-130	Rs. 131-140	Rs. 141-150	Rs. 151-160	Rs. 161-170	Rs. Above 170	Total
Larger Brokens	23	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
Medium Brokens	79	10	3	2	1	1	0	0	96
Smaller Brokens	140	28	9	5	3	2	2	2	191
Fannings	44	18	7	3	1	1	1	1	75
Dust	15	8	4	2	1	0	0	1	31
Primary Total	303	65	23	10	6	4	3	4	418
%	72	15	6	2	1	1	1	1	100
Secondaries	41	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	47
G.Total	343	68	25	11	7	4	3	4	465
% (2017)	74	15	5	2	1	1	1	1	100
% (2016)	58	25	9	4	2	1	1	1	100

Compiled by Soumen Bagchi



When Samurai Went To War And Drank Green Tea

Peter GW Keen tells an amazing tea story

These gentlemen are on their way to afternoon tea. They are samurai. Their armour, swords and fearsome helmets are legendary. So, too, is the centrality of the tea ceremony in the Samurai Way. An obituary of a famous general speaks in awe of his more than two hundred beheadings in a battle. It adds that he was also a great tea master.

It may seem incongruous that the most feared warriors since the Viking berserkers were the main proselytizers, developers and practitioners of the tea ceremony. It reflected their very identity that was built on Zen Buddhism: discipline, ritual, purification and selflessness. The samurai were terrifying. And they were cultured.

These two facets came together during the rule of Hideyoshi, around 1590, the middle of the three great Unifiers who ended the incessant and destructive civil wars of Japan.

He launched the largest military conflict before World War I, invading Korea and then taking on the might



of the giant Chinese Ming Empire. (This ended in a sort of tie.) He rigidified the social structures of Japan for 300 years by allowing only the samurai to carry arms (judo emerged as the peasant class only mode of self-protection) and also banned the "wandering" samurai who were mercenaries for sale. They were now tied to a lord for life. This system lasted till 1868, when the samurai were decommissioned. Around 20% were female and many came from the same peasant stock as Hideyoshi. He aimed at creating a warrior aristocracy.

He built a close relationship with one of the great tea masters of Japan who raised the informal tea ceremony to an art form. It had evolved as a social forum for the nobility. Master Rikyu eliminated the class boundaries and added

hundreds of steps and details, right down to hand movements, entry to the rooms of the special tea house, sipping, and sitting. He built portable tea

houses that moved with the ruler's court.

The tea ceremony became a mark of the samurais' special status and Hideyoshi's patronage. There's some evidence that it was also integral to their training, sharpening their acuity, focusing their concentration and patience. This prepared them for the explosive violence they could unleash.

The tea was as distinctive as the ceremony: matcha, a powder made from deveined leaves from shade-grown bushes. The plants are covered with blankets for three weeks before harvesting to block sunlight and increase chlorophyll. The leaf is slowly ground by stone mills; it may take an hour to produce a single ounce.

Whisking and brewing demand exact and expert handling. A few too many grams, seconds and degrees produce a truly awful, bitter foamed sludge. Well made from ceremonial (versus culinary) grade leaf, it is a subtle, grassy and slightly sweet tea that lingers on the palate – and priced accordingly.

The samurai are gone. The ceremony is mainly for tourists. The matcha remains – and is timeless.

Peter GW Keen is the author of over thirty books on the links between business innovation and technology. Peter loves tea. His books include Tea Tips: A Guide to Finding and Enjoying Tea





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