



Planters Welfare Association

(AN ASSOCIATION OF MUTUAL BENEFITS)

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Mrs. Dipika Nanjappa

Vice - President: V.Lall

Ex- Officio: A.K.Saxena

Secretary : R.K.Patney

Treasurer: B.Chhabra

Members : H.N.Chopra ,
Capt. V.K.Mehra , Mrs. Geeta Narsingh

Members Meeting (Socials):

Mrs Nirmla Lall, Mrs. Rani Patney, Mrs Sunanda Chhabra

Member Mailing: Mrs Rani Patney

EDITORS: R.K. Patney/ A. Batra

Period 2 - October 2020

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello again. It is indeed a long time since we met. Our last get together was the Golf "Do" in February this year. Nonetheless the PWA Executive Committee has been having it's regular meetings via Zoom conferencing. Hope everyone is keeping well and keeping safe. Looking forward to meeting everyone in a couple of months time ... God willing.

Best wishes. Stay safe. Stay well.

- Dipika Nanjappa



CHAMPAGNE & ROSES

BIRTHS: Nothing to report

WEDDINGS: Nothing to report

Note: Members are once again requested to inform us by email or by post regarding Births, & Marriages. This helps us to include the announcements in the Newsletter.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Sanjay Batra
C- 61 South Extension, (FF) Part 1,
New - Delhi - 110049
Mobile: 09435052111
E- mail - bats111@gmail.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESS / E MAIL/ MOBILE NO

Nothing to report

COMMUNICATION

We are happy to report that **242 out of 283 NCR & out Station members** have very kindly extended their consent by e-mail messages to receive all our Association matters by e-mail. Thus we will be saving paper, photostat and envelope expenses, postal and courier expenses, which are increasing day by day. Moreover, it saves a lot of time and office work required for mailing.

We earnestly request those members who have not yet sent in their e mail ID, to kindly send the same. It is our fervent hope that more and more members will opt for communication by e-mail, to be received on PCs / smart phones.

Our sincere thanks to Mr. Patney for undertaking the job of communication by email.



Important: Members Circulars by SMS to those not on Email:

Kindly note that intimation from November, 2014 onwards for **Members' Meeting & Socials** are being sent by SMS/ text messages/ Whatsapp & e-mails instead of by courier/post. This method has been very successful and the response received from members is very heartening.

From now onwards, AGM Documents / News Letters etc. will be sent on e mail only and NOT by courier. Members who do not have computers are requested to make an e mail ID to receive communication on your smart phones. Kindly forward your e mail ID when formed to the Hony Secretary at rkpatney@gmail.com. through your mobile phone to enable us to update our records and forward all documents by e mail. We thank Mr. V . Lall / Mr. A.K.Saxena & Mr. R.Patney for taking on this task with commendable alacrity.

MEMBERS MEETING (SOCIAL)

The tentative dates for the Members Meeting from October, 2020 to March, 2021 are as under:

- October, 2020 - Cancelled Due to the Pandemic
- 17th November, 2020 - Cancelled Due to the Pandemic
- **Annual General Meeting** : Sunday, 20th December, 2020
 - Venue: Golf Links Community Centre, New Delhi (Lunch) Depending upon the situation of the Pandemic
- January, 2021: IN ABEYANCE
- February, 2021
- March, 2021

The circulars/Text Messages/Email will be forwarded at the appropriate time & also be posted on our website



WEBSITE

The website is updated regularly to make it more informative and have a new look.

We wish to thank Mr. Lall & Mr. Patney for handling and regularly updating the website so efficiently.



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Subscription Lists NCR & Outstation as on 30.09.2020 are attached to enable members to verify and make payments. **(Attached)

Please note that Annual Subscription of NCR members is @Rs.500/- per annum and for Out Station members is @Rs.200/-per annum . **Annual Subscription is payable by all members who have attained the age of 80 years w.e.f . 01.01.2019 as passed in the AGM – 2018 held in December 2018.**

Payment of subscription may be made by Cheque favouring **Planters Welfare Association** and forwarded to our Registered office address at New Delhi as indicated on our New letter or by bank Transfer as under:-

For Bank transfer the required information is as under -

1. **Name of Beneficiary – Planters Welfare Association**
2. **Saving Bank Account – A/C no 004601050068**
3. **IFSC Code – ICIC00000046**
4. **Bank & Branch – ICICI Bank , New Friends Colony , New – Delhi - 110065**

OBITUARY

We regret to inform passing away of:

Our Members: Mr. R.S Rautela , Mr. Kuldip Singh Bawa, Mr. J.K.Khosla, Mr. S. K. Bhasin

Near & Dear ones of our members: Father of Mr. V.S Chimni., Mrs Veera Singh w/o Mr. C.S Karan, Mother in law of Mr. B.B.Medhi

Our friends: Mr. N.Tankariwala, Mr. Amir Khan, Mrs S.Sharma (Former First Lady of India) & Mother of Mr.A.D.Sharma (Patron of Our Association), Mr. Abir Goel

OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- A donation of Rs 12000/- has been received from Mr. N.Salkan . The Association is very grateful for his unstinted support.
- "Me and my team was selected as the top performing team nationally for the financial year 2020 in sales and customer service David Jones Homewares Department Malvern, Melbourne

The above message from my daughter Kavita Sontakay" – Mohan Sontakay

ARTICLE & ANECDOTES

Article A

Gentlemen Only, Ladies Forbidden is a widely used phrase with reference to golf. They say that ladies talk too much, they play too slowly, they can barely hit the ball out of their own shadows. But these sayings are history now. The shero of this inspirational story had proved it wrong. Not only in golf but in her personal life too, she had set an example of true modern and empowered woman.

When the going gets tough, the tough get going maybe a cliché for some, but for a lot of women facing struggles on a daily basis, there's no option but to face them and move on.

Listening to their struggles is getting an insight into what they faced at every step to become the people they are now – a beacon of hope for others. We can mouth all the platitudes we want – 'every cloud has a silver lining', 'there is light at the end of the tunnel', etc – but we can understand struggle only if we live through it and understand what the other person is going through.

Ritu Lumba is the woman who exemplify the truth that no matter the struggle or the challenge in your path, the brickbats hurled at you, or the number of situations that pull you down, a sense of optimism and the will to keep going is what make you an achiever, in every sense. I was met this dynamic golfer via common friend of us Dr. Indu Singh and while writing this story I am feeling myself fortunate and proud to meet and know Ritu.

"There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish, whether that's in politics or other fields."- Michelle Obama

As the Lady Captain of the prestigious Army Golf Club in Delhi, this resonates with Ritu a lot.

Having taken up the game of golf at the not-so-young-age of 50, she realized very soon that she enjoyed the sport tremendously. More so because she found golf very similar to life and especially her's, with its highs and lows. It teaches us to withstand our own and cope with the challenges thrown at us, despite the failures and setbacks. Within a few years of playing golf, she got an offer to head the marketing of a renowned golf course in Kathmandu, the Gokarna Golf Resort. She quit her post as the Headmistress of Chandbagh School in Kathmandu and took up new role with great passion. She successfully brought many groups to Gokarna.

Over the last 20 years, she had also participated and won in numerous Amateur Golf Tournaments all over India in the North, South, East & West zones, and many in the Seniors category as well. With great pride, she also mentioned that she have had a Hole in One twice in the recent past, a rare accomplishment for most golfers. Golf has become an integral part of her life and as the Lady captain she have had the opportunity to organize many tournaments at an all India level involving over 90 participants, and also hosted a special tournament on Women's International Golf Day on 4 June.

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "Women are like tea bags. We don't know our true strength until we are in hot water."

Married at the tender age of 19, she became a young mother within a year, had her second one 3 years later and was leading a blissful life of domesticity raising both her boys in the tea gardens. However, this peaceful existence was short-lived, as her late husband Anil was diagnosed with cancer when she was just about 29 and he was a mere 36 years old. He survived it for many years with the sheer force of his will power and an indomitable spirit, combined with the best of medical resources they could arrange given their financial situation, but eventually he succumbed to it after 15 years.

Looking after her ailing husband, while bringing up her 2 boys with limited resources, was definitely a daunting task. More so because she had to ensure that she does not let her internal trauma/stress pass on to the boys and maintain a healthy happy atmosphere in the house.

She gives credit to her husband's doctor. She vividly recalled that day when she was told that her husband had been diagnosed with cancer and she was going to meet him in the hospital looking deathly pale and totally devastated. At that moment the doctor remarked, "Stop and take a look at your face, your husband will think it's the end for him. Please go back, put on your make up and walk in with a cheerful countenance as you don't want to make your husband feel worse. As the care-giver, on your shoulders lies the responsibility of your husband's progress and the future of your sons. You have to ensure that you do not falter." Listening to his advice, Ritu realized that she had a big task ahead of her. She had to build on her inner strength to remain positive and face this most adverse period of her life, with hope, determination and a smile!

During his illness, she continued to work, not just to supplement her finances, but also to keep herself focused and positive. Work was the best form of meditation for her. She was an announcer with All India Radio in the External Services in the year 1973. Soon she joined the education field and became a teacher. After a few years, with the support of her husband, she decided to further go for studies and completed Masters in History, as that was a pre-requisite degree to become the Headmistress of the esteemed Birla High School in Kolkata. She was also awarded the Bharat Nirman Award for Education in March 1995, recognizing ladies for their notable contribution in different fields.

After her husband passed away, she moved to Delhi and joined the CISCE and worked in the Research Development and Consultancy Division and Examination Wing for about 2 years. Subsequently, she was invited to head the Chandbagh School in Kathmandu. Undoubtedly it was a prestigious post, but it came with a multitude of problems from the locals as well as Maoists.

During her 4 year stint with them, the biggest challenge she faced was threats from the Maoists. She was threatened by them via phone and letters and they demanded extortion money. She refused to accede to their threats, so they followed it up by placing explosive devices in 10 private schools. She felt that she and others with her were being targeted because they were Indians, since many of the prime coveted jobs were held by them and not the locals. Upon being threatened, she approached the Indian Embassy and sought the help of the Ambassador, who suggested her move to the embassy till such time the furore died down. However, it seemed like a temporary solution and she felt, the situation demanded being looked at from another angle. She decided to have an open confrontation in her office with the promise and understanding that no weapons or guards, from either side would be permitted in the room. At the meeting, she had a tough time explaining to them that her mission in Kathmandu was with the sole aim of educating the children and that the school had no money to pay their demands. After much deliberation, they understood her commitment but then in return asked us to write their speeches, as English was not their forte. Feeling a little cornered, she came up with an alternative solution and offered to form a committee to edit their speeches, convincing them that they would be able to express themselves better as they knew and felt the pulse better. Thus never one to turn her back on adversities, after the Maoists issue was resolved, and despite it, she continued to work with them for another 3 years.

As Sheryl Sandberg famously quotes, "The seeds of resilience are planted in the way we process the negative event in our lives."

Over the last few years, she had started feeling the emptiness and she realized it was not easy being on one's own. She has had the good fortune of finding a companion and they both solemnised their relationship about 3 years back. It was a bold step, considering her age and the fact that they had grown up grandchildren

But they did not let the society pressures affect them and went ahead with the marriage, a rather unusual, daring and rare step. They draw comfort from each other's company without encroaching into their independence.

These last 25 years, life's vicissitudes has made her sad, happy and proud. Despite the upheavals of the earlier years, she is grateful for all that she had achieved. Her two sons are very successful in their respective fields, despite the hardships they encountered in their childhood, and are well settled in Dubai. Both her daughters-in law are more than daughters to her. She has two affectionate promising young grandsons too. A companion to spend her days with, she is truly content. Faith and belief in oneself can achieve wonders. She realized, "You can do anything as long as you have the passion, the drive, the focus, and the support."

Hari Bal Ki Jai Ho **by Ranu Taragi Monday, April 6, 2020**

The night chowkidar assigned to our bungalow struck the gong five times, sending out ripples of sound to break the quiet of the misty and damp winter morning. I kept count and a smile broke out on my face as I snuggled in deeper in my quilt. Ah! Another hour before time to wake up and tackle a brand new day of kamjari. A chorus of chirping birds from the garden seemed to share my happiness. They were early risers and very joyful about it too.

These were all regular sounds ...the watchman announcing the hour was reliable, - well, there was the odd occasion after payment and weekly bazaar when he lost count, confusing you as well! Later in the day the factory siren would blow at fixed timings, alerting you. The garden activities ran smoothly, structured around soothing sounds which were familiar.

It was mostly quiet. An occasional tractor loaded with tea leaves chugging past. Perhaps the sprinklers swishing rhythmically. Then a motorbike racing past...alright...that would be the factory assistant returning home for lunch! A group of pluckers chattering as they moved in and out of the tea sections. No matter which tea garden you moved to, there were sounds you recognized and these helped you settle in.

Inside the bungalow the sounds were gentle. A musical tinkling bell to summon the bearer to Memsahib's side, at the dining table! Discreet murmurings from the kitchen and pantry, as the cook instructed the gardeners regarding which fresh vegetables to fetch, for that day's menu. The harshest sound could be the cry of the huge wall lizard, as it called " tockay....tockay."

The weekly holiday would make us head for the nearest township and the cacophony would be deafening. Very attractive, but only in small doses. It was a pleasure to retreat to the comfort of the plantation, laden with the shopping. Annual holidays to the hometown meant a couple of weeks of frantic socializing and purchasing as there was the struggle to fit in maximum activity. At times it left you exhausted and it was a relief to reach the bungalow and be greeted and pampered by a well trained staff.

Once again there was plenty of time and space to connect with nature and its treasures. The cinema halls and shopping malls got delegated to back seat, and indulging in board games or croquet rounds brought in a satisfying sense of companionship, amongst family and friends. Going on picnics and gearing up for various pujas were the highlight for the workers. Their communities follow traditional guidelines quite strictly and joyously.



Today, faced with serious health issues, the world is being forced to step back and retreat indoors. That frenzied lifestyle and crazy pace is off the platter. Roads are empty of honking traffic and pollution levels in the air is low. No desperate need to move about with one eye on the clock. But the environment reeks of stress and fear. Time to reflect, connect and focus our way to a safer and happier world. Each one of us is looking forward to stability as we hope and pray for the good health of all.

The word 'stability' brings to my mind an experience from when we were posted on a tea estate in a remote area of Assam. Just behind our bungalow lay a river bed and then a workers' settlement on the other bank. The belt is prone to frequent earthquakes. One afternoon the tremor was severe and very noticeable, but what made us jump out of our skins was altogether different.

A deafening noise spiraled up from the village settlement. It was disorienting till one figured out the cause. Men, women and children had all emerged into the open. Armed with ladles and spoons they were enthusiastically beating them against household utensils and metal cooking pots. Loud cries rent the air....Hari Bal Ki Jai Ho !! It was a traditional way to acknowledge, appreciate the majestic strength of Lord Krishna. Also, a way to ring in positive energy and ward off negativity.

On the 22nd of March, India emerged out on the balconies and terraces of its homes in the evening, and appreciated the services of all the people who were attending to essential services at the risk of their own health. Bells, kitchen thalis, gongs and claps rang out to express gratitude. A wave of positive energy swept across the land uniting all of us, for those few moments.

Amazing that this practice is followed naturally, without any prompting, in our far flung rural areas! Many countries around the world have followed similar practices in the last few weeks. So much to still explore and learn and relearn from age old wisdom. The coming days will be a busy time for us as we face this unexpected and sudden twist to our lives!

Definitely, many occasions for us to cry out , Hari Bal Ki Jai Ho !

Glossary

Bal---strength

Chowkidar---watchman

Hari----Lord Krishna

Jai ho----expression of applause
and appreciation

Kamjari---work

Thalis-metal plates



A tea estate in Cachar. Pic by Gowri

Interesting Indian Tea Statistics and Trivia – Courtesy – “Tea Time “ BY



Estimated Statewise Daily Consumption of Tea in India – Year 2019

TEA TIME

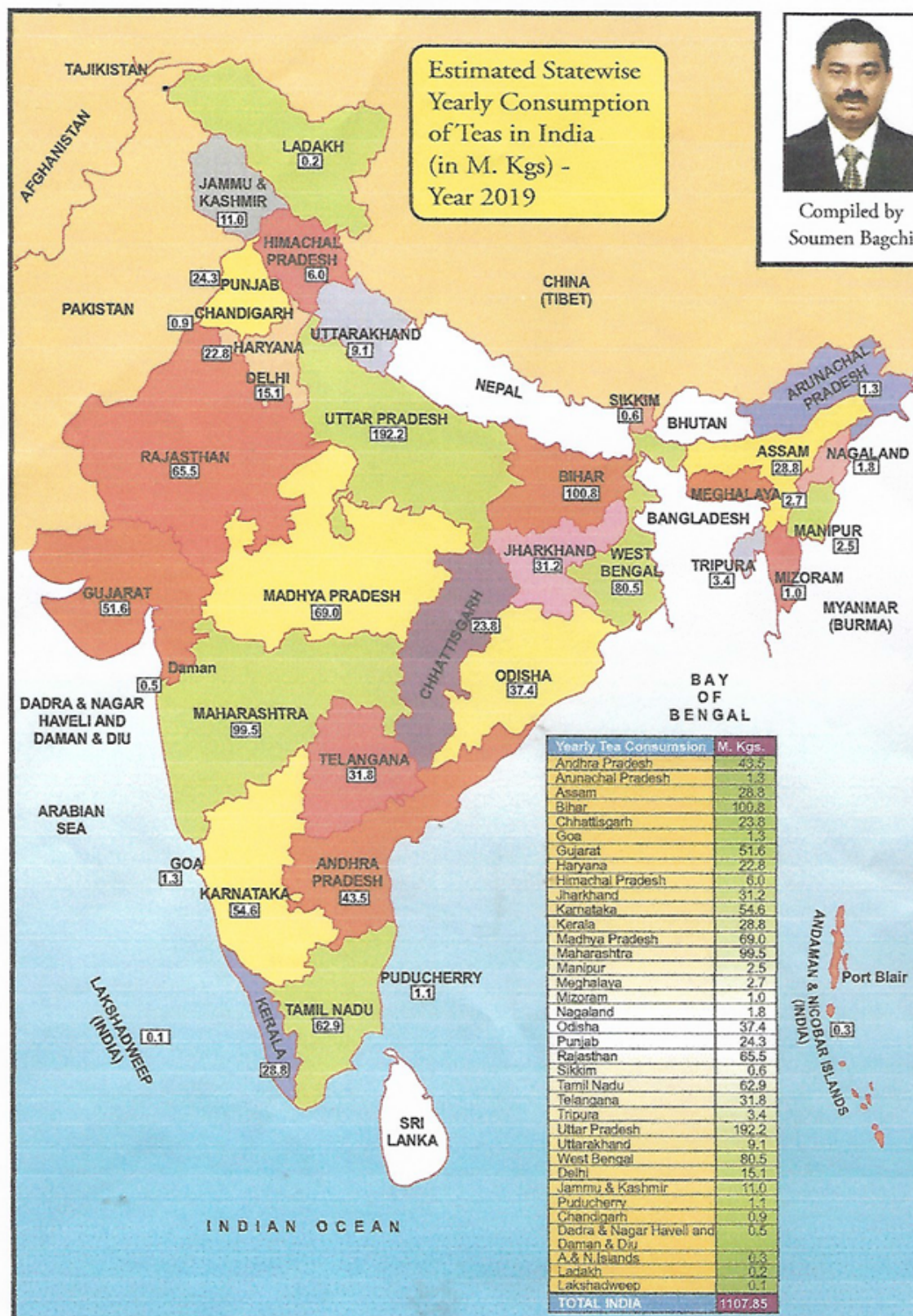
Estimated Statewise Daily Consumption of Tea in India - Year 2019

Sl No.	STATE	Tonnes
1	Andhra Pradesh	119.3
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3.5
3	Assam	78.8
4	Bihar	276.2
5	Chhattisgarh	65.2
6	Goa	3.5
7	Gujarat	141.4
8	Haryana	62.4
9	Himachal Pradesh	16.5
10	Jharkhand	85.4
11	Karnataka	149.5
12	Kerala	79.0
13	Madhya Pradesh	188.9
14	Maharashtra	272.6
15	Manipur	6.8
16	Meghalaya	7.5
17	Mizoram	2.7
18	Nagaland	5.0
19	Odisha	102.6
20	Punjab	66.7
21	Rajasthan	179.3
22	Sikkim	1.5
23	Tamil Nadu	172.3
24	Telangana	87.1
25	Tripura	9.2
26	Uttar Pradesh	526.5
27	Uttarakhand	24.9
28	West Bengal	220.5
NCT	Delhi	41.4
UT1	Jammu & Kashmir	30.1
UT2	Puducherry	3.1
UT3	Chandigarh	2.6
UT4	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	1.4
UT5	A.& N.Islands	0.9
UT6	Ladakh	0.6
UT7	Lakshadweep	0.2
TOTAL	INDIA	3035.2

Estimated Statewise Yearly Consumption & Availability of Tea in India - Year 2019

STATISTICS 

ESTIMATED CONSUMPTION & AVAILABILITY OF TEA IN INDIA



Compiled by
Soumen Bagchi