



Planters Welfare Association

(AN ASSOCIATION OF MUTUAL BENEFITS)

Regd.Office:D247(GF), Defence Colony, New Delhi. 110024

email: pwa.in2008@gmail.com website: www.pwa.in

mobile: 09818025579

(Kindly cc your mails to Mr R.K. Patney - rkpatney@gmail.com,

Text/Whatsapp - 09810020533)



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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, A. Batra

Members Meeting (Socials): Mrs Nirmla Lall, Mrs. Rani Patney, Mrs Sunanda Chhabra

Member Mailing: Mrs Rani Patney

Editor: A. Batra

Period 2 - September 2021



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear fellow PWA members,

I would like to start with a prayer for everybody's welfare and good health. The pandemic has taught us many lessons mainly of gratitude and of empathy with our fellow human beings.

I would like to make a special appeal to help in enrolling new members. It is the need of the hour.

Meetings of the executive committee have been held regularly over zoom. These meetings have kept us bonded

and in close touch with each other. Mr. Patney keeps us updated on all the activities undertaken by him and by our fellow committee members e.g. the monthly accounts etc.

Wishing everyone all the best once again.

- 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

Mrs. Chandralekh Mathur
C/o Mr. Chetan Mathur
212 B, Hamilton Court,
DLF City, Phase 4, Gurgaon - 122002
Mobile - 9829013262
Email: Mathur.chandralekha@gmail.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESS / E MAIL/ MOBILE NO

- **Mr. Sanjeev Seth**, E M – Mayo College General Council, Mayo College, Ajmer – 305008, Mobile – 08420146570/ 9599194313, e- mail : sanjeevseth1958@gmail.com
- **Mr. Kartik Bhatia**, 9 – 11, Vikram Block, E – 3 Arera Colony, Bhopal – 462016 Mobile – 9926901216, e – mail: bhatia9in@yahoo.com
- **Mr. Rajveer Bali**, 8033, Prestige Shantiniketan, Whitefields Main Road, (Opp Manipal Hospital), Hoodi, Bangalore – 560066, Landline – 080 41912642. Mobile: 9810080227, e – mail: rajveer.bali@gmail.com
- **Mr Deepak Ohlyan**, Harmony Unitech Apartments, 1702/ Tower 3, Nirvana Country, Sector 50, Gurgaon, Land line: 0124 4041146, Mobile: 9910077773 e- mail: dohlyan@gmail.com
- **Anuradha Sawhney** – anuradhasawhney10@gmail.com
- **Mr. Ashish Bhatia** - ashish14462@gmail.com
- **Mr R.P Gupta** – sulochangupta@gmail.com
- **Mrs Sudershan Madhok** – s.madhok@fabindia.net

COMMUNICATION

We are happy to report that we have 285 members which includes NCR / Out Station / Hony Members.

E-mail - Communication is forwarded to 262 members by e-mail, all of whom have given their consent .

We earnestly request those members who have not yet forwarded their e-mail ID , to kindly forward the same ,if being used or if it has changed, to the Secretary at rkpatney@gmail.com , to enable us to update our records and forward all documents by e-mail. It is our fervent hope that all our members will opt for communication by e-mail.

Kindly note that we are compelled to stop communication to any member by post/ Courier service.

We save on the costs incurred on paper, Photostats , printing, envelopes and courier, which is increasing to high levels . More over, it saves time and office work.

WhatsApp Messages - As conveyed, a fresh WhatsApp group (PWA – NCR) has been formed recently, whereby all the NCR members, (except for 21 ,who have not been able to join the group, since they do not use WhatsApp. We would request all members to join the group .

It was necessary to make this group since the Bulk SMS facility has been withdrawn, which was in use earlier. Please note that this WhatsApp group is meant for forwarding urgent messages from the Association to our members , as such members will not be able to communicate on this .

Our Sincere thanks to Roopy Patney for undertaking the job of communication by e- Mail/ WhatsApp messages and taking this task with commendable dedication.



MEMBERS MEETING (SOCIAL)

No event was held during this period due to the on going Pandemic. We look forward to commence our activities later in the year ,as and when favourable conditions prevail.



WEBSITE

We are pleased to inform that our fresh PWA website (www.pwa.in) has been set up and loaded in its new Avatar . The website is in high definition format and has been redesigned by adding new features, such as details of first Executive Committee – year 1988 – 89, Aims and Objective of Association, Milestone – 1988 – 2020, Executive Committee 2020 – 2021, Gallery, which has the photographs of Golf Tournaments , Social lunches, AGM's , Members Directory, Status of Subscription of NCR/ Out station Members, Membership form, , News Letter April 2021, Past Presidents 1989 – 2020 , Blog & Contact details .

The website is viewer friendly . Members are requested visit the same and give their inputs so that we may improve further.

Thanks to our Secretary, Roopy Patney, who had undertaken this assignment and has executed the same with perfection.

SUBSCRIPTION:

1. It is indeed matter of great concern, that many NCR/ Out station members have still not paid their subscription for the year 2019/2020/2021. They are requested to clear their dues ASAP. **The rules under Societies Act are very strict, and as per rules of the Association, names of defaulting members (3 years and above) have to be removed from the membership of the Association.** Kindly note that Status of Subscription is forwarded to all members along with the News -letter twice a year . The status is also available on our website and can be checked easily . **Annual subscription for the year 2021 (01.01.21 to 31.12.2021) is due now , and all members who have not paid, may kindly do so.**
2. It may also be kindly noted, that Annual subscription for NCR / Out station members is Rs 500/- & Rs 200/- respectively. Since the amount is small , to save you time and effort, members are requested to forward additional yearly amounts, which will remain as credits under their names. It will also save admin time. Acknowledgement is forwarded by our Treasurer on receipt of payments
3. **It is important to note that prescribed Annual Subscription is payable by all members irrespective of their age . This was passed in the Annual General Meeting in the year 2017 – 2018.**
4. **Mode of Payment of Subscription**
 - a. **Cheque** - Cheque favouring **PLANTERS WELFARE ASSOCIATION**, may please be forwarded by Courier/SpeedPost to our Registered Office (Residence Of Mr. B.Chhabra). Addressed to Mr. B.Chhabra , D- 247 (GF) , Defence Colony , New – Delhi 110024. Mobile no – 9818025579.
 - b. **Bank Transfer – The required details are as under –**
 - i. **Name of Beneficiary – Planters Welfare Association**
 - ii. **Saving bank account - A/C no 004601050068**
 - iii. **IFSC Code - ICIC0000046**
 - iv. **Bank & Branch- ICICI Bank, New Friends Colony , New – Delhi – 110065**

We would endeavour to improve this facility by adding UPI payments in due course, for further ease

IMPORTANT NOTE - Many members have been paying their subscription in cash, on the day of the Events (Held 7 in the year preceding the initial lockdown) . As these events are not taking place since February 2020, members could be finding the settlement process a bit cumbersome, but our request to them to please try the cheque or bank transfer method to settle dues.



PLANTERS WELFARE ASSOCIATION

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The Planters Welfare Association is a NON PROFIT Organization whose members comprise people who have served or are presently serving in the TEA or COPEE Plantations in India or abroad.
Members are advised that Planters Welfare Association is now

UPCOMING EVENTS

S.No.	Venue	Host	Date	Status
1			Aug	Await

OBITUARY

We regret to inform passing away of:

Our Members: Mr. Mohan Krishna Sontokay, Mr. Jitendra Singh, Mr S.S Sheikhawat

Near & Dear ones of our members: Mother of Mr. Sanjeet Singh Chadha, Mrs Kusum Sahni (w/ o late Mr Vijay Dev Sahni , founder member of our Association)

Our friends: Mr. Mahadeo Jalan (Chairman M/s Jalan Investments Ltd) , Mr Y.S Rautela (Speedy) Ex Goodricke , Mrs Priyanka Prasad w/o Mr. Partho Prasad (Ex Goodricke).

OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. **Oxygen Concentrator** - We wish to convey our thanks and gratitude to **Miss Malvika Talukdar** to have procured a Oxygen Concentrator for the use of any member of the Association. **Her gesture at the time of Pandemic is greatly appreciated.**
2. We are glad to inform that our member Mrs Priya Dewan Mehra D/o Capt V.K.Mehra was awarded the women in house lawyer of the year in India by Asian Legal Business , at the Virtual Award ceremony held during the month of August 2021. **Heartiest congratulation on your achievement. You have made us proud.**

DONATIONS

We wish to record our thanks and sincere apprecation to **Mr. Satish Dhall & Mr C.S Karan** , who have donated Rs 5000/- each to the Association

ARTICLE & ANECDOTES

THE TEA BROKER SO – HELP HIM

If he is pleasant, he is too familiar.
If he is serious, he is stuck-up.
If he is young, he doesn't know anything.
If he is old, he is over the hill.
If he is religious, he is a hypocrite.
If he isn't, he is frivolous.
If he drinks, he is a tippler.
If he doesn't, he is no fun.
If he talks to everybody, he is a gossip.
If he doesn't, he is snooty.
If he insists that the rules be followed, he is too fastidious.
If he does'nt, he is unscrupulous.
If he looks around and ask questions, he is snooping.
If he doesn't, he is unobservant.
If he tries to settle all complaints, would need the wisdom of Solomon.
And if he worries about them, he'll just go crazy.

THEREFORE: He should have the patience of Job,
the skin of a Rhinoceros,
the cunning of a Fox,
the courage of a Lion,
be as blind as a Bat,
and as silent as a Sphinx.

If not,
God help him!

- Author: UNKNOWN

THE PLANTERS LAMENT

The Assistant

I wish I were a manager
With umpteen quid a year,
With a glorious life with a handsome wife
And never a boss to fear.

With Unlimited powers and no fixed hours
And never a care about muster
(To go out at night and come back when it's light
Is an old managerial dastur)

With a bungalow like an old chateau
And a most expensive car.
A blooming toff with all day off
For that is what managers are.

The Manager

I wish they would say 'you can be the V.A.
And keep the whole gang up to scratch',
I've been so long in tea, they couldn't do me,
But would find I was more than their mentor.

I'd make them obey and grow tea my way,
Especially old so-and-so,
He can't argue the toss, if I am the boss.
Which is one thing I'd soon let him know.

To come out in October and talk about 'gobar'
And compost and pruning and such
And fine out their dodgings (such with free board
and lodgings)
Would suit this tired soul very much.

The visiting agent

If I could afford to get on the board
And smoke my cigar at the table.
With a nice dividend at every year's end
And get forty percent, if I am able.

I'm tired of Sylhet, but I'm not too old yet,
And I want a nice house by the sea.
But I must have the cash, for the wife cuts a dash
To make up for the years spent in tea.

If I am a director (a profits collector)
I'll see they're kept short in Assam,
I'll live in good style and I'll die worth a pile,
That's the kind of man that I am.

The Director

I wish I could be-an-Assistant in tea
And start my life over again.
You've only two-fifty but needn't be thrifty,
For that's not the way with young men.

The ladies adore you, your life is before you.
You've the nerve and the legs for a horse.
And dance till the dawn and set to with a yawn.
And take life as a matter of course.

But I spend my life playing bridge with my wife
And discussing the past with old cronies.
I've got money and gout, and I long to come out
And be young with my debts and my ponies.

(Author unknown c.1900)

A cup of tea
is an excuse to **share**



great thoughts with
great minds.



THE SADHU'S CURSE

BY BUTCH DATTA

In your mid-80s, memories of things past acquire a somewhat misty, sepia tint. But during a visit to the tea estates of Amgoorie India in Assam after a gap of almost four decades, since the time I had retired from the company, the drive through the tea sections planted all those years ago offered not only a delightful reprieve for my jaded urban eyes, but also helped revive many memories to their original vibrancy in my mind's eye. There's nothing like a bout of nostalgia to enliven your mood and stir the depths of your soul.

The story I am going to relate here is just one of those colourful anecdotes that have become part of Amgoorie folklore.

In the early 1980s, we had embarked on a massive planting extension programme that entailed clearing the forested parts of Amgoorie Tea Estate that extended up to the foothills on the Assam-Nagaland border. This area comes under the estate's picturesque Tiphook out-division, characterized by undulating topography and breathtaking views. Back then, however, the task of clearing dense, virgin forest, infested with leeches and snakes, was both daunting and challenging. To make matters worse, a large tract of the land comprised a tilla or steep hillock, which rose a good 800 feet from the base. But for the manager of the garden, known for his exemplary vision, grit and determination, such seemingly insurmountable challenges were no deterrent. He could visualize that once cleared, the tilla would command a majestic panoramic view of all the surrounding tea areas planted earlier. He was sure that the hilltop could be reached and be made suitable for planting. The onerous project was assigned to the young, energetic assistant manager.

As you can imagine, the going was slow. The terrain precluded mechanical clearing, and elephants had to be hired for removing the bamboo, which grew with wild abandon. Weeks and months passed, even while pressure mounted with the receipt of every missive from the head office urging that work be expedited. Finally the day dawned when the relieved workers got to the crest of the tilla. But the scene they stumbled upon left them bewildered. There, under a large tree stood a thatched hut, with a red triangular flag fluttering in the wind, beside which sat a semi-naked sadhu in deep meditation. His body was smeared with ash and he had a silver beard reaching down to his navel. On hearing the commotion, he was stirred from his trance. He opened his large bloodshot eyes and was enraged at the intrusion. What followed was almost theatrical, with the sadhu advancing menacingly towards the workers brandishing a trishul, shouting at them to stop their activities and warning them of dire consequences for having dared to trespass onto the domain bequeathed to him by Lord Shiva. The terrified workers ran helter-skelter down the hillside and duly reported the episode to the jamadar babu. The unenviable task of informing the Burra Sahib about this unforeseen obstacle in the clearing of the tilla fell to the hapless assistant manager. The boss heard him out, but was furious. Mouthing a few invectives, he said in a tone that meant business, "Look, no sadhu, naked or clothed, is going to delay the project. Get him out!"

The confused assistant was in a quandary. Brahmin emissaries from the local temple were sent up the hill to cajole the angry sadhu, as instructed by the Burra Sahib. They offered him monetary compensation, they offered to relocate him to a similar but even better site. But the sadhu was adamant – nothing was acceptable and he wouldn't budge. The stalemate resulted in the clearing work coming to a grinding halt, leading to a serious disruption in the planting schedule.

However, a dramatic twist in the tale was provided one day when the section chowkidar brought news that the sadhu was missing and all that remained on the tilla was his hut, burnt and abandoned. The whereabouts of the vanishing mendicant has remained a mystery till date. Following a quickly performed bhoomi puja by the local priests to rid the site of evil spirits, work recommenced with full vigour. Within weeks the area was made ready for planting and VP clonal saplings that arrived in trolley loads from the central nursery. Tractors could not make the way up the steep slopes so plants were carried up manually in basket loads on the head.

The drama around the project, however, was soon to be resurrected. One day the tractor returning for a fresh supply of plants suddenly stopped. A closer inspection revealed that the rear tyres were deflated. A second tractor arrived with plants, but that vehicle, too, met with the same fate. Chaos reigned as the drivers and workers, all steeped in superstitious beliefs, tried to come up with explanations for what was happening. A rational explanation eluded the managers too, who were then forced to conclude that these strange occurrences befalling the project could only be attributed to the sadhu's curse!

In fact, planting around the tilla was delayed for almost a year. Meanwhile, in partial deference to the sadhu's presumed sensibilities, work on the tilla was conducted without vehicular support. Vehicles in the area were strictly taboo!

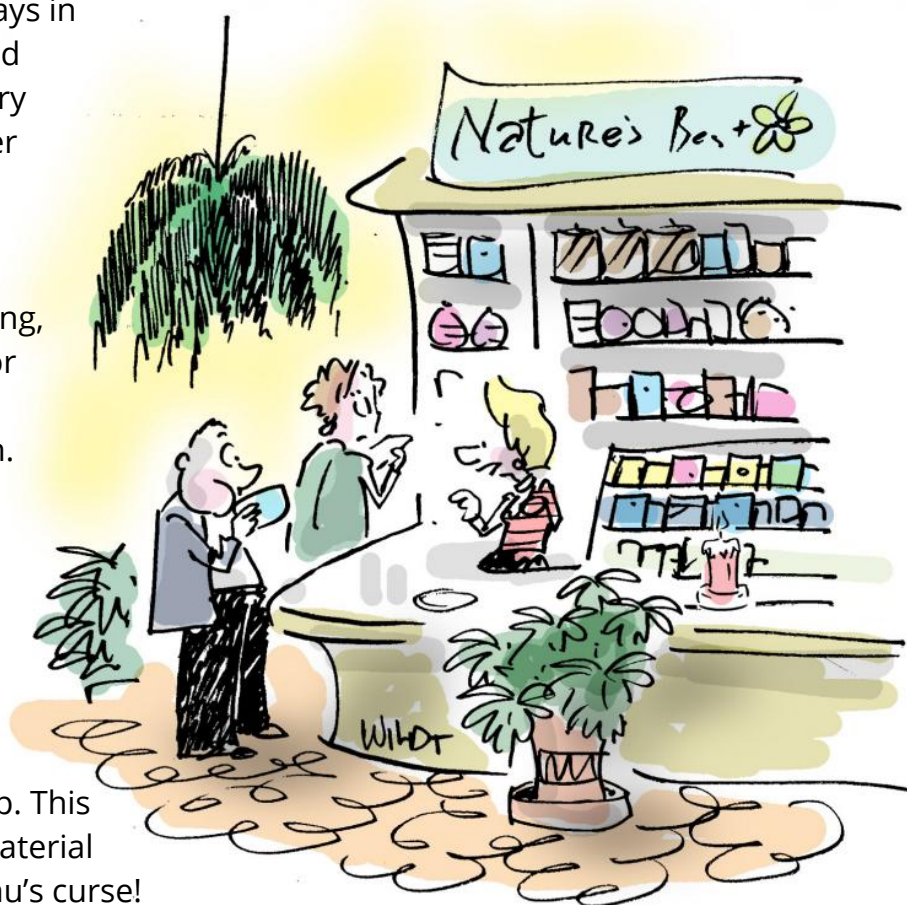
Life on the estate returned to even tenor until the visit of the company's London director the following winter. Bemused at the explanation for the delay in the project, he decided to personally assess the veracity of the intriguing story. He desired to be taken to the accursed site to see for himself. The manager obliged him and drove him in his Gypsy over a hastily constructed track to the top of the tilla. Seemingly impressed by what he surveyed from the hilltop, he congratulated the manager heartily for a project well accomplished. Looking at him quizzically, though, the director asked, "All is well, where is the catch?"

Chuffed with the proceedings, the manager was in a euphoric mood as he walked back to the Gypsy. But, lo and behold, what did he find? The tyres were deflated! What's more, when he tried to start the vehicle, it just sputtered and refused to budge! Cursing under their breath, the duo had no alternative but to make the long trudge down the hill. The director was now willing to

accede that the reasons given for the delays in the project were not as specious as he had thought. What added credence to the story was the sight of the company Range Rover waiting at a safe distance from the hill to take them to their bungalows.

That evening, with much single malt flowing, the story of the sadhu's curse provided for much mirth and merriment. And it was when the sobriquet 'Sadho tilla' was born.

Fortuitously, I was never affected by the sadhu's curse when visiting the estate during my tenure at Amgoorie India. For that matter, the garden returned to complete normalcy, even flourished — given the fact that today Amgoorie India Limited is the flagship of Goodricke Group. This leads one to reflect that nothing in this material world endures forever — not even a sadhu's curse!



"Sir, we have plenty of fine herbal tea for you to sample...but you're drinking the potpourri."

LETTERS TO/ FROM THE EDITOR (A new feature, where we encourage our members to express their thoughts – these would appear in the next issue after being vetted by the EC)

Dear Mr Chaurasia

Mr Patney did forward me the extract from your recent mail to him, to commend the PWA newsletter

My sincere Thanks for your generous, kind and thoughtful words on this publication, as well as on the previous issues that have been done in the new pdf format

I truly appreciate your sentiments and also thank you for the recent suggestion of adding the sub heading of -Letters to the Editor

In the next issue I would put your extract and suggestion as our first letter to editor , that is , if I may

The compilation of the matter is a team effort and all EC members contributed to the final version

I would also like to thank you for the periodical articles that you send me , which are most interesting

My thanks again and with warm personal regards

Ashok

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Dear Ashok,

I am taking liberty of addressing you as Ashok, you being so much younger than me, hope you will not mind. I would prefer if you call me Kailash.

The accolades you have received are well deserved as you have taken the NL to a much higher level.

Of course you are welcome to include what I have written in the Letters to the Editor column in the next NL.

Although I have met you only on a very few occasions it occurred to me you with your disposition might like the type of articles I like to read hence the forwards, I am glad I was right in my presumption.

All good wishes.

Kailash.