

The Second Flush

Dear Friends,

DIt's the most imbibed drink in the world after water. The elixir of life, with a tradition that dates back thousands of years, it is synonymous to waking up to countless millions around the world. Yes, tea is what we are talking about. It's roots in China, its subsequent planting by the British in different parts of the Empire, its nurturing in the early days by the tender loving pioneers, how it slowly became the center around which local economies flourished, the cultures and practices it gave rise to, the wars that it gave rise to (including the Boston Tea Party and the American war of Independence) accords *Camellia Sinensis*, or tea as the world knows it, gives it a special position in our lives.

In India, it is even more pronounced, considering the facts that we are the largest drinkers of the brew in the world and because we are one of the major producers of the commodity.

Yet, not everything is hunky dory in the world of teas. Indiscriminate use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, wrong methods of plantation, an abject apathy towards scientific garden planning and management and absentee ownership focused on milching have combined to push the industry to the brink. Add to this the havoc being played by climate change and the situation is fast taking an ominous portend.

We have tried to showcase the industry – its problems, its ills, its shortcomings et al – and have

sought the answers from some of the leading exponents. Career planters, garden owners, experts, academicians – and have tried to painstakingly make the different pieces of the jigsaw puzzle fall into place so that the readers may have a bird's eye view of the larger picture.

It is exactly a year since we dedicated our 1st issue to Tea and it gives me great pleasure to state that it is still retained as a reference point by many connoisseurs. But alas, some of the shortcomings of the industry that we had pointed out therein, continues to haunt the industry, some even attaining critical status over the year. As we go ahead with the sequel, we are hopeful of attaining the level of your expectation and that the industry will regain the regal status that it had once attained and enjoyed.

All the regular features too are there and we ardently hope that you enjoy going through the issue as much as we did in creating it. Do feel free to shower us with your brickbats if we falter in any way – it is the valuable suggestions of critics that help us to strive harder in search of excellence.

Happy Reading



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suvabrata Ganguly'.

Suvabrata Ganguly
Editor