Tea Industry in India

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About

- After China, India is the world's second-largest producer of black tea and the fourth-largest exporter of tea.
- India consumes 18% of all tea consumed worldwide, making it the largest consumer of black tea.
- 1.16 million people are employed directly by the Indian tea industry, and an equal number are indirectly associated with it.
- The Tea Board of India oversees tea cultivation in India.
- Tea is one of the industries that falls under the jurisdiction of the Union Government thanks to an Act of Parliament.
- The Darjeeling district and the Dooars region in north Bengal and the Northeast, which includes Assam, are the primary tea-growing regions.
- In addition, tea is grown extensively in the Nilgiris in southern India.

Tea cultivation

- originate in climates that are subtropical or tropical. Asia, Africa, and South America are the primary concentrations of major tea-growing regions.
- Tea requires temperatures between cool and warm and at least five hours of sunlight per day. Tea plants can grow well at temperatures between 15 and 23 degrees Celsius on average per year. The required amount of precipitation is 150-200 cm.
- Similar to tea plantations, coffee plantations require 150-200 cm of precipitation and a moderately high temperature between 25°C and 30°C. Only one difference exists: coffee is grown in shade because it requires protection from direct sunlight.

Challenges

- In addition to other issues, the owners are reeling from rising production costs.
- Tea is produced at a lower cost in Nepal, which shares similar climate and terrain, due to lower input costs, particularly labor, and fewer quality checks.
- Nepalese tea of subpar quality is being imported, sold, and then re-exported as premium Darjeeling Tea.
- Darjeeling's hilly terrain means there is no more space for tea gardens to grow.
- The issue has been made worse by a number of global factors, such as the drop in demand from European markets following the war between Russia and Ukraine.