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News: Tea Board of India

- Recently, a tea growers and manufacturers association reported that tea production in Assam and West Bengal may decrease by 50% in the coming months due to inadequate and uneven rainfall.

Tea Board of India

- The Tea Board of India is set up **under the Tea Act 1953**.
- It has succeeded the Central Tea Board and the Indian Tea Licensing Committee which functioned respectively under the Central Tea Board Act, 1949 and the Indian Tea Control Act, 1938 which were repealed.
- The **Tea Board is functioning as a statutory body of the Central Government under the Ministry of Commerce**.
- The members are **appointed for a period of 3 years**.
- It is headquartered in **Kolkata**.

Tea

- Tea is a **high-land plantation crop which is cultivated in regions having moderate temperature with heavy rainfall**.

- It thrives well in **Monsoon type of climate**.
- The tea plant is **highly adaptable and can grow in a broad range of conditions**.
- The tea plant **can handle a light frost and even snow, but not heavy freezes or prolonged cold winters**, and, unlike some plants, it does not require a period of cold dormancy.
- It can thus grow from **subtropical climates to tropical climates**, but **generally requires a fair amount of humidity and rainfall during the growing season**.
- Although it can grow in hot tropical climates if they are sufficiently humid, the highest-quality teas mostly come from subtropical climates with some seasonality.
- The seasonality of precipitation is important in influencing the quality of tea, and **tea leaves harvested at different times will produce a finished product with vastly different characteristics**.
- **Seasonality can include a simple wet-dry pattern** like the Asian Monsoon, or a bimodal precipitation pattern, with two distinct wet seasons and two distinct dry seasons in each year, like occurs in parts of Sri Lanka and Kenya.
- Tea, a water-loving plant, tends to be grown on the **windward sides of mountain ranges**.
- The tea plant can often only be grown within a certain range of altitudes.

- The highest commercial tea operations are around 8000 feet (about 2400m) in elevation.
- Indian tea is among the finest in the world owing to strong geographical indications, heavy investment in tea processing units, continuous innovation, augmented product mix and strategic market expansion.
- The main tea-growing regions are in the Northeast (including Assam) and in north Bengal (Darjeeling district and the Dooars region).
- Tea is also grown on a large scale in the Nilgiris in South India.
- India is one of the world's largest consumers of tea, with about three-fourths of the country's total produce consumed locally.
- As of 2019, India is the second-largest tea producer in the world with a production of 1,339.70 million kgs, only behind to China.
- India stands fourth in terms of tea export after Kenya (including neighbouring African countries), China and Sri Lanka.