

**24– 11 – 2024**

**News:** Tea industry

- The Tea industry in India has experienced a boost in profits during the September quarter, driven by higher prices despite a decline in production caused by climate change.

## **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 1,350 million kgs, **only behind to China**, contributing 21% of the production.
- India stands **fourth in terms of tea export after Kenya** (including neighbouring African countries), **China and Sri Lanka** with around 12% share in exports.

### News: Coffee

- The Coffee Board of India has launched a 10-year roadmap with the goal of doubling the country's coffee production and exports by 2034.

## Coffee

- Coffee 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**.
- India ranks **6<sup>th</sup> among the world's 80 coffee producing countries in a list topped by Brazil**, with some of the finest robusta and some top-notch arabica cultivated.
- Brazil is followed by **Vietnam, Colombia, Indonesia, Ethiopia and Honduras**.
- India **cultivates 3.7% of entire coffee in the world**. Nearly **70% of India's coffee is exported**, largely to European and Asian markets.

- India produced around 3.6 lakh metric tonnes of green coffee in 2023–24 crop year.
- According to The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) statistics, India is the fifth largest exporter of coffee by volume.
- Coffee in India is traditionally grown in the rainforests of the Western Ghats in South India, covering Chikmagalur, Kodagu (Coorg), Wayanad, the Shevaroy Hills and the Nilgiris.
- Karnataka accounts to nearby 3/4<sup>th</sup> of coffee production in India followed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

### **Climatic Conditions**

- Coffee plant requires hot and humid climate with temperatures ranging between 15°C and 28 °C and rainfall from 150 to 250 cm.
- Frost, snowfall, high temperature above 30°C and strong sun shine is not good for coffee crop and is generally grown under shady trees.
- Dry weather is necessary at the time of ripening of the berries.
- Stagnant water is harmful and the crop is grown on hill slopes at elevations from 600 to 1,600 metres above sea level.
- Well drained, loams containing good deal of humus and minerals like iron and calcium are ideal for coffee cultivation.

- India is the only country in the world where the entire coffee cultivation is grown under shade, hand-picked and sun dried.
- Two types of coffee varieties are produced in India; Arabica and Robusta. Robusta variety of coffee is produced more than Arabica variety in India.
- Arabica variety is grown at higher altitudes and it has higher market value due to its aroma.
- Robusta variety is known for its strength and used in various blends.