

TOTAL EXPORTS

Quantity (million kg)				Value (\$ million)			
2017	2018	Rise	% rise	2017	2018	Rise	% rise
227.6	256.5	28.9	12.7	690.7	785.9	95.2	13.7

Calcutta: India's tea export during the last fiscal had hit a historic peak in volume terms despite a near no-show from the hills of Darjeeling that faced long closure due to political strife.

Total export during the period reached 256.57 million kg, surpassing the previous best recorded more than four decades back.

The previous best was in 1976-77 when India had exported 242.42 million kg, a release from the Tea Board of India said on Tuesday.

Export buoyancy was driven by global market dynamics as production from two competing countries Kenya and Sri Lanka were down. As a result, India could sell more CTC teas to Pakistan and Egypt and more orthodox teas to Iran.

"There has been a concerted effort from the industry and the government to drive export and this is the result. However, the industry is not happy with this. We want to touch 300 million kg in export," Azam Monem, chairman of the Indian Tea Association, the largest body of organised tea planters, said.

On a year-on-year basis, export, in volume terms, was up by 12.71 per cent from 227.63 million kg in 2016-17.

In terms of value, tea exports fetched \$785.92 million, registering a growth of 13.78 per cent.

While Egypt, Iran and Pakistan led the pack in growth, China, which is a predominantly green tea market, sprang a surprise.

Monem said the country has been buying Indian tea, especially from Assam because of extraction of polyphenol.

The stellar show came despite the production of second flush, the most expensive tea exported from India, being hampered in the Darjeeling gardens due to the closure.

Production leap

The annual output of tea was 1325.05 million kg, up 5.96 per cent from the year before. Industry observers attributed the rise to the rollout of the GST that forced more producers to file returns and disclose production.

sixlose , resulting in the data being recorded captured on the official data. The growth in plantation has been happening with the small tea growers as opposed to large corporate organised plantation sector.

Source: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/business/record-tea-export-229111>