

# Apeejay Tea gives Assam its first woman tea garden manager

GUWAHATI, DEC 10: Nazira born Manju Baruah is now the garden manager of Apeejay Tea's Hilika Tea Estate in Tinsukia. An employee with Apeejay Tea since 2000, Manju becomes the first woman tea garden manager in the 200 year history of Assam Tea.

Sharing her thoughts on her promotion, Manju Baruah said, "Chairman, Karan Paul called me to convey the news. I was so astonished that I congratulated Karan sir on my promotion instead of thanking him! I remember Karan sir laughed heartily at my slip of tongue, told me it was my achievement and charted the course of what performance he expects out of me! The way Karan sir spoke about my work while informing me of my promotion, I felt validated that I had worked honestly and sincerely and even if I did not know it at the time but something was waiting and someone was watching my sincerity. It is my hard work and our company's forward thinking vision that has



brought me to this position as the First woman Garden Manager in the tea industry in Assam. I took charge at Apeejay Tea's Hilika Tea Estate here in Doomdooma as garden manager on 1st August after wrapping up my responsibilities in our Estate in Tezpur."

Baruah said that Assam Tea industry needs committed people who do everything possible to retain the glory of Assam's heritage drink despite severe challenges, Baruah said adding, "At Apeejay we know and want to have in our teams people who love tea, people who love the work which leads to the perfect cup of Assam Chai and appreciate that the perfect Assam Chai is made by coming together

of thousands of people pitching in sincerely with their hard work and skills. We are working in our company knowing that only this kind of team work can bring our beloved Assam Chai back to its glory." Manju first joined as a Trainee Welfare officer in Apeejay Tea's Hokonguri tea Estate near Dibrugarh. This was the era when Apeejay Tea had taken a unique decision to hire women to the Welfare Officers posts and Manju was part of the first batch of women Welfare Officers. She has grown through the ranks, worked in many Apeejay gardens at many different levels and achieved the garden manager position, no woman ever has in the tea industry.