

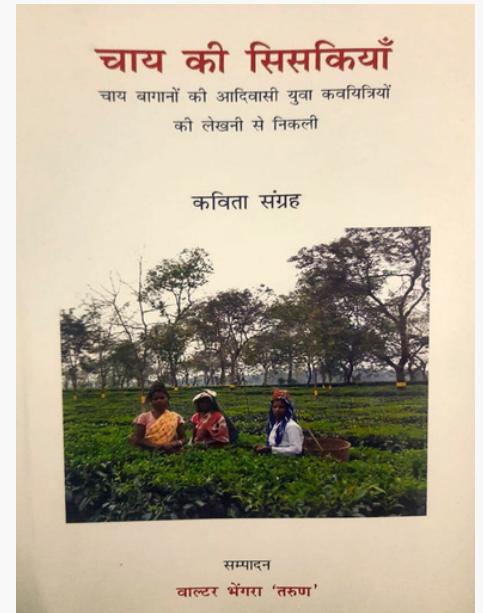


## Tears that waters the Tea Gardens - Odes from the Periphery

*Chai ki Sishkiya (The Sighs of Tea)* is edited by Hindi literary stalwart Mr Walter Bhengra 'Tarun'. Mr. Bhengra is well known for his work on tribal and indigenous communities in India. He is also a senior journalist and editor of Jharkhand Express. Mr. Bhengra has edited the works of seven budding but talented Poetesses. What is significant about this collection of poems is that it is not just voices from the fringes, particularly the tea gardens of the Dooars Terai, where the indigenous and tribal communities find themselves Othered and Marginalised, but also given that the book is a collection of poems composed by young female poetesses from the region adds to another dimension of marginalization and othering that of being 'tribal' and then being 'female'.

Mr Bhengra has deftly woven together and set to pace the poems of Ms Amlen Bodra, Ms Prafulla Minj, Ms Marina Ekka, Ms Sikha Minj, Ms Christina Topno, Ms Jyotshna Minj and Ms Jereldina Muchwar. Of the seven poetesses, five hail from the University of North Bengal and have completed their Post Graduate Degree from the Department of Hindi. These include Ms Sikha Minj, Ms Emlen Bodra, Ms Prafulla Minj, Ms Christina Topno and Ms Jereldina Muchwar. Ms Jereldina is a PhD scholar at the Department of Hindi, University of North Bengal, working under the supervision of Dr. Manoj Biswakarma. She did her PG and MPhil from NBU.

The young Poetesses have deftly intertwined the very fabric of the tribal society in the Tea Gardens in the Dooars Terai, reflecting on diverse themes ranging from the people awaiting for 'Bonuses' to the fruitification of what seem to be impossible dreams, their being trapped in the unending maze of bonded labour, and their incessant tears that waters the soils of the tea gardens. Indeed, this leads to every tea leaf, branch or bush sighing deeply, resonating the anguish of the people who nurture them, the tea garden labourers. The book is masterly crafted, a must-read for all those who want to understand the reality behind Tea Labour and societies in the Tea Gardens.



**Title:** Chai Ki Sishkiya

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### **By Carpe Diem Book Club**

*Carpe Diem Book Club is a group of students, scholars and faculty members from the Department of Mass Communication, NBU, who loves reading books and meets regularly at the Departmental Library to organize discussions on books.*