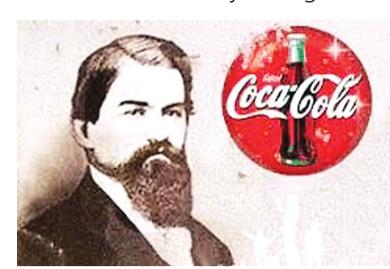
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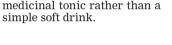
#ORIGINS

Coca-Cola

How Coca-Cola began as a Stimulant over 125 years ago!



the most iconic bev erages worldwide known today as a sweet, fizzy soda enjoyed by millions. But what many people don't realize is that when Coca-Cola was first created more than 125 years ago, it was originally marketed and consumed as a stimulant and



The Origins of Coca-Cola

he story of Coca-Cola begins in 1886, when a pharmacist named Dr. John Stith Pemberton in Atlanta, Georgia, concocted the first version of the drink. Pemberton's goal was to create a product that could help with ailments such as headaches, fatigue, and nervous disorders. At the time. extremely popular in the

n its early days, Coca-Cola was sold at soda fountains as a remedy for ailments such as fatigue, indigestion, and even as a nerve tonic. Advertisements described it as a 'valuable brain tonic' that could cure exhaustion and invigorate the mind and body. Unlike today's soft drinks, which are primarily enjoyed early Coca-Cola was pitched as a health product, capitalizing on the popularity of stim-

America. At the time, cocaine was legal and widely used in many products, including medicines, tonics, and even wines. It was not until the early 20th century that the negative effects of cocaine became better understood and the substance was removed from consumer products. Coca-Cola officially eliminated cocaine from its formula by 1904, switching to 'spent' coca leaves that had the cocaine alkaloids removed, but still ulants in late 19th-century retained flavor.

ing ingredients now known to

have medicinal or stimulating

effects. Pemberton's formula

combined coca leaf extract

and kola nut extract, two key

ingredients known for their

stimulating properties. The

coca leaf provided cocaine

alkaloids, which were com-

mon in many medicines of

the era, while kola nuts con-

tributed caffeine. This combi-

nation gave the beverage its

The Role of Caffeine from Kola Nuts

long with coca leaves. A the kola nut was another essential stimulant in the original recipe. The kola nut contains caffeine, a wellknown natural stimulant that

reduce fatigue. Combining the effects of cocaine and caffeine made Coca-Cola potent energizer when it first

Cola's early days as a stimu-

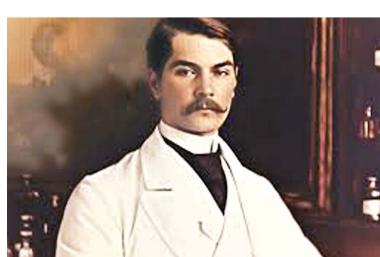
helps increase alertness and

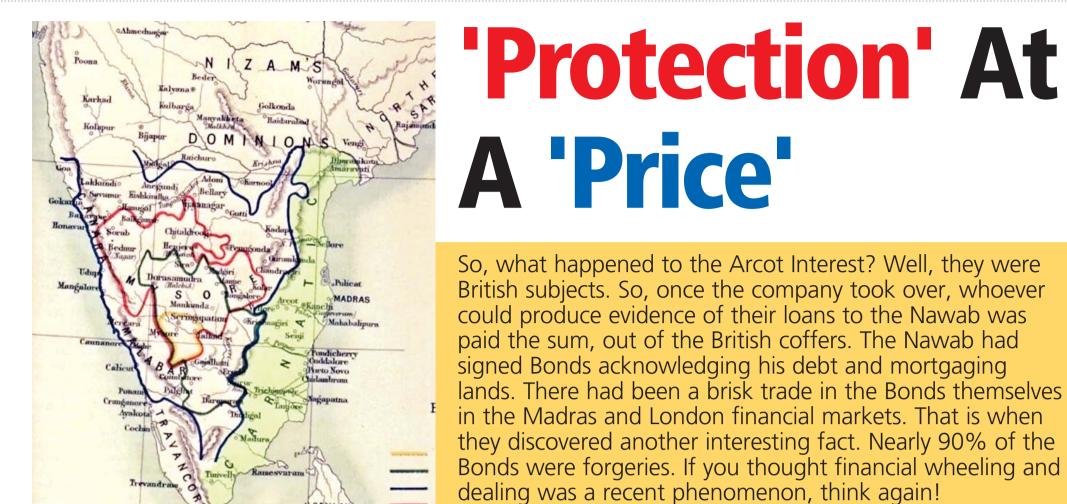
From Medicine to Refreshing Beverage

ver the decades, as regu-Ver the uccauce, lations around cocaine tightened and the heverage industry evolved. Coca-Cola gradually transformed from a medicinal tonic into a mainstream soft drink. The formula was altered, marketing shifted towards refreshment and enjoyment, and the drink became a symbol of American culture and lifestyle rather than a health cure.

Despite these changes, the stimulant origins of Coca-Cola remain an intriguing part of its history, a reminder of how consumer tastes and regulations evolve over time. Cocalant tonic reflect the social and scientific context of the late 19th century, when stimulants like cocaine and caffeine were common ingredients in medicines. The drink's original purpose was far from the simple soda we know today; it was designed Today, while the formula

has changed and caffeine remains the primary stimulant, Coca-Cola's legacy as a once medicinal tonic offers a fascinating glimpse into the history of beverages, medicine, and consumer culture over a century ago.





Carnatic region.



Senior Journalist &

Vildlife Enthusiast

ne of the many ways in which the British East India Company gained regions of India was by forging advantageous friendships with local rulers and getting involved in internal politics. And some conquests were made simply through financial wheeling and dealing.

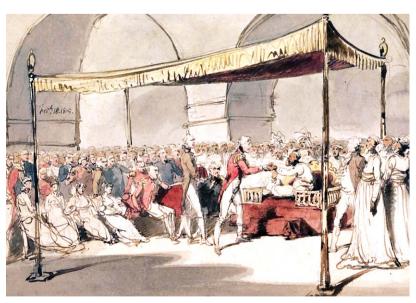
The British came to Madras (modern Chennai) in 1639. By the 18th century, they controlled large parts of the south-eastern coast of India. The Carnatic region, though, was ruled independently by the Nawab of Arcot, Muhammad Ali Khan Wallajah. He became great friends with the British in the 1750s, after they helped him acquire larger territories by defeating his rivals during the Siege of Arcot in 1751.

Indeed, Nawab Wallajah was not only a dignified gentleman but also a fascinating one. He descended from a long line of Mughal Governors. Although he was the legal heir of the seventh Nawab of Arcot, Anwaruddin Khan, he assumed power as the ninth Nawab. Before he could lay his claim to the throne, a relative of his, by the name of Chanda Sahib, usurped it and became the de facto eighth Nawab. Wallajah battled for three years (between 1749 and 1752) to dislodge the pretender; and the British

ut life was not easy for him. ■ He was frequently at war with the Mysore kings and the Tanjore Marathas. The British, his allies, agreed to supply him with both weapons and soldiers, but at a cost. Soon, Wallajah ended up owing them outrageous sums of money for the hardware and outsourced manpower! Yet, Wallajah did not let petty accounting interfere with his business of noblesse oblige. He generously contributed to public causes.

supported him in his efforts. At the end of the long-drawn-out war, Wallajah emerged victorious and Chanda Sahib ended up dead. And that's how Wallajah became the ninth Nawab. But life was not easy for him. He

was frequently at war with the Mysore kings and the Tanjore Marathas. The British, his allies, agreed to supply him with both weapons and soldiers, but at a cost, Soon. Wallajah ended up owing them outrageous sums of money for the hardware and outsourced manpower! Yet, Wallajah did not let petty accounting interfere with his business of noblesse oblige. He generously contributed to public causes. He built shelters in the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, sent Haj pilgrims on his private ships, contributed to mosques and even commissioned the famous Madrasa-E-Azam, an Islamic school. His munificence was not just restricted to Muslims. He donated heavily to



Siege of Arcot.

the Srirangam and Triplicane Parthasarathy Temples. He donated and to the Mylapore Kapali Temple for building a tank. Even today, during the annual Float Festival of that tank, his descendants are honoured first. He also donated land to Christian institutions such as the Bishop Heber School in Trichy. Indeed, in charity, he was truly secular. But by now. Wallajah was quite bankrupt. Secular charity needed secular funding. So, he borrowed

Wallajah lived like a king, gave like a king, and died like a king. Unfortunately, he left behind huge debts that made his descendants vulnerable. The British exploited this and took over his kingdom by fair and foul means. However, they could not completely ignore his friendship. Even today, his descendant sports the honorary title of 'Prince of Arcot' and receives a taxfree pension from the government of

The Siege of Arcot But everything has a price: the

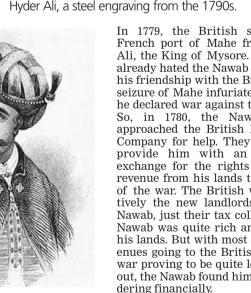


year to be exact. (At current rates, it enormous number!)

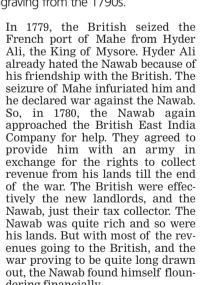
The Carnatic region

#CHEATERS





A realistic portrait of Haidar Ali was roughly the equivalent of GBP 45 million, or INR 482 million, an



The Nawab never compromised on his royal style despite the finan

Soon, he owed huge sums to the British East India Company. When he ran out of money to pay the British, he started taking loans from individual employees of the British East India Company. The



Muhammad Ali Khan Wallajah.

n 1784, the Arcot Interest pushed the British Parliament to liquidate the Nawabs' debts to the British East India Company and return revenue collection rights to him. The British government was quite unwilling. They also became suspicious as to why the Arcot Interest wanted to help the Nawab with his debt to the British East India Company. The group then declared that they were owed money by the Nawab and produced the most astronomical and unbelievable figures.

loans were given at sky-high interest rates and the only way to pay them back was to grant them rev enue collection rights to parcels of land. The deal was too good to be true and everybody wanted to become a creditor. These creditors became very, very rich and formed a powerful coterie, which would come to be known as the Arcot Interest. At least 13 members of Parliament were part of this group and their combined wealth gave them the power to sway all parliamentary decisions in their favour. Eventually, the war ended

In 1784, the Arcot Interest pushed the British Parliament to iquidate the Nawabs' debts to the British East India Company and return revenue collection rights to him. The British government was quite unwilling. They also became suspicious as to why the Arcot Interest wanted to help the Nawab with his debt to the British East India Company.

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

The group then declared that

nomical and unbelievable figures. Even today, we do not have an accurate estimate of the true figures, but one scholar estimated it at GBP 4.4 million (at today's rates, it was worth over GBP 1000 million)! They stressed that it was in the British nterest to return his lands to the Nawab so that his debts to British citizens could be paid. The Nawab, quite unable to pay back either party, colluded with the Arcot nterest and declared that the wacky figures were correct. At least he would be rid of the bigger evil, he probably thought The British didn't budge. It was

they were owed money by the

Nawab and produced the most astro-

all part of the takeover plan. The then Nawab of Arcot (Wallajah's grandson) too was forced by the agnitude of the trumped-up debt figures to sign over most of his kingdom to the British in 1801. In return, he would receive an annual pension, enough to live a comfortable life in a stately villa they had So, what happened to the Arcot Interest? Well, they were British

subjects. So, once the company took over, whoever could produce evidence of their loans to the Nawab was paid the sum, out of the British coffers. The Nawab had signed Bonds acknowledging his debt and mortgaging lands. There had been a brisk trade in the Bonds themselves in the Madras and London financia markets. That is when they discovered another interesting fact. Nearly 90% of the Bonds were forgeries. If you thought financial wheeling and dealing was a recent phenomenon, think again!

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com



#ETHNOLOGUE

Countries that Speak the Most Languages

Indonesian is one of the most popular languages in the world (according to blog.busuu.com), however, in its country are another 706 spoken tongues used by its civilians

diverse nations have come about due to multiculturalism and globalisation, leading to some countries hav ing a whopping 840 languages spoken in total. Many countries around the world have one or two languages translating mainly spoken by their people. There are, however, a handful of countries worldwide that speak more than one language. These linguistically diverse nations have come about due to multiculturalism

some countries having a whop-

ping 840 languages spoken in



total. In this article, we uncover the top 10 countries that speak

total of 228 in fact! The coun-

try's minority languages

include indigenous lan-

guages, such as Nheengatu,

Top Language and Internet

Penetration: Brazilian

Portuguese (59.1%)

ameroon is home to 280

languages. Some have

even gone as far to say that

the country actually has

around 600 languages. French

and English are official

tongues, however, other lan-

guages make up the country's

Bafia, Bafut and Bakoko.

linguistic diversity including

Top Languages and

Internet Penetration:

French (25.4%) and English

(77.5%)

recognizes 68 national lan-

guages, 63 of which are

German

the most languages as well as their internet penetration

> There is a countless number of African languages in the

world. Nigeria, in particular

though houses 527 languages

overall. The official one spoken

is English but Igbo is another

popular one used in the country,

spoken by more than 20 million

Top Language and Internet

Penetration: English (77.5%)

razil may have one of the D world's highest populations, but it does come last in the list of countries with the most languages spoken. Portuguese is the official and national language, however, aside from this, there are several other tongues used, a

ustralia has no official A language. However. English is considered the de facto national language. Collectively, Australia has 260 tongues, Mandarin being the biggest non-English dialect used. Other languages spoken in Australia include Punjabi, Filipino/Tagalog, and Arabic. Top Language and **Internet Penetration:**

Mandarin (59.1%) 7. Mexico

lthough Spanish is the A most widespread language of Mexico, the nation has a complete number of 290 languages country-wide. In fact, the Mexican government

6. China

I hina may have the highest population around the world, but it stands at 6th place in this list of countries with the most languages. Standard Chinese is the official language in mainland China, and another language that has official status is Cantonese. In total, however, China has a large 301 languages spoken. Top Language and

Internet Penetration Mandarin (59.1%)

4. India

ccording to Babbel, the 🔼 Indian language is 'actually 22 separate official lan-These include Bengali, Hindi, Maithili, Nepalese, Sanskrit, Tamil Urdu, Assamese, Kannada, Gujarati, Bodo,

Top Language and Spanish (70.4%) 5. United States

Internet Penetration:

Top Language and

English (77.5%)

Internet Penetration

Manipur, Oriya, Marathi

Santali, Telugu, Punjabi

Sindhi, Malayalam, Konkani

and Kashmiri. In total, howev

234 million Indian lan

guage internet users

(https://assets.kpmg/)

er, India has 453 languages.

ndonesian is one of the most

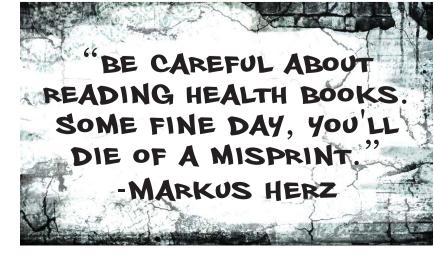
L popular languages in the (according Tou'd be surprised to know blog.busuu.com), however, in its that the USA actually has country are another 706 spoken no official language. Although tongues used by its civilians many assume that English is Indeed, Indonesia has 707 dis the official tongue in this tinct languages, most of which nation, it is actually one of are indigenous the 430 languages spoken Top Language and Spanish is included on that **Internet Penetration:** list, Chinese (and its vari-Indonesian (64.6%)

eties), French and Tagalog are just some of the common 1. Papua New Guinea tongues used in the USA.

nd so, the country with the A most spoken languages in the world is officially Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea has an extravagant 840 languages spoken in its country. This island in the southwestern Pacific may only have a small population of just 8 million, but its number of languages are more than double the languages spoken in the whole of Europe.

Top Languages: Tok Pisin,

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



ZITS

