



HIMACHAL PRADESH MOVES TOWARDS REGULATED CANNABIS CULTIVATION






Context : Detail strategies like digital marketing, social media, SEO, and content marketing to reach your audience

Cannabis/Marijuana

- It is a generic term used to denote the several psychoactive preparations of the plant **Cannabis sativa**. 
- The major psychoactive constituent in cannabis is **tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)**. 

Side-effects Cannabis use

- Its immediate effects include **impairments in memory and in mental processes, including ones that are critical for driving**. 
- Persistent cognitive deficits, and mental health problems like **schizophrenia, depression and anxiety**. 
- Exposure to cannabis in adolescence can alter brain development**. 

Legal Status in India

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act) of 1985:

Classifies cannabis as a Schedule I drug, meaning it has high potential for abuse.

Possession and consumption:

Punishable with imprisonment for up to 6 months or a fine of ₹10,000 or both.

Cultivation and sale:

More severe penalties, including imprisonment for up to 10 years and fines.

Exclusions:

Bhang, which is made with the leaves of the plant, is not mentioned in the NDPS Act.

Recent changes

2020:

CBD (cannabidiol) extracted from hemp plants legalized for medical purposes. 

2023:

Uttarakhand High Court ruled that the NDPS Act does not prohibit the cultivation of cannabis for research purposes. 