

CANNABIS GLOBALIZATION AND STATUS IN INDIA

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Cannabis is one of the oldest plants on earth. It is evident that cannabis cultivation dated back at least 3000 years in Taiwan. In India, cannabis is evidenced from religious Vedas which were compiled as early as 2000 to 1400 B.C. Vedas coated cannabis as source of happiness as it is also associated with lord shiva and commonly known as “Bhang”. In middle ages, soldiers often use bhang before entering battle. In colonial India, British studied that Indians use cannabis so extensively and they suggested Indian government to set a commission for the regulation of hemp plant.



Cannabis have different medicinal purposes and used as medicines in many countries around the world. Cannabis contains CBD (cannabidiol) which impacts the brain as it helps in pain relief. It is evident that cannabis helps in relief of chronic pain, improves lung capacity, helps lose weight, regulates and prevent diabetes, fight cancer, helps treat depression, autism treatment, regulate seizures, mend bones, helps in attention-deficit disorder (ADD) and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), treats inflammatory bowel diseases, helps in tremors associated with Parkinson’s disease, treatment for glaucoma, alleviate anxiety, fight against Alzheimer’s disease, Alleviate anxiety, deals with pain linked with arthritis, helps with PTSD symptoms, relief from multiple sclerosis, reduces side effects linked to hepatitis C and many other benefits comes from different research.

Initially in many countries, cannabis considered as a drug. Under federal law it was illegal to possess, use, buy, sell, or cultivate cannabis in all United States jurisdictions until the passage of the 2018 United States farm bill. But in 2020, United Nations commission on narcotic drugs (CND) removed all forms for cannabis from schedule IV of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs which recognized cannabis for its medical value by the United Nations commission. In year 2020, the US cannabis industry is worth 61 billion dollar and Canadian about 5 billion dollars. In Europe, medical cannabis market worth 230 to 280 million euros, of which between 150 to 175 million euros in Germany which is third largest industry of cannabis after USA and Canada.

In India, there is strict ban on cannabis production, and anyone found guilty will face up to 20 years of imprisonment. States have rights to grant license to cultivate cannabis for research and medical purposes, but only Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand regions have received hemp cultivation license. In 2019, Madhya Pradesh the second largest state in India decides to legalize the cultivation of cannabis for medical and industrial purposes. Veda wellness center Bangalore opened in 2020 established itself as India’s first medical cannabis clinic. Many NGO’s filed petitions in courts for the legalization of cannabis in India which enhance farmers income and create jobs in cannabis industry as reports by Grand View Research Inc. stated that legal marijuana (Cannabis) market is predicted to reach 146.4 billion USD by the end of 2025, this shows great opportunity of production, marketing and export of cannabis.