

CIVIL SERVICE DIGEST (CSD-Daily)

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Study of drugs derived from marijuana



- Three major science administrators in India — the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Indian Council for Medical Research and the

Department of Biotechnology — are getting together to promote research in herbal drugs, some of which involve deriving new drugs from marijuana.

- The researchers will test whether strains of marijuana grown at the CSIR-IIIM campus in Jammu could be effective in the treatment of breast cancer, sickle-cell anaemia as well as be “bio-equivalent” (similar in make-up and effect) to marijuana-derived drugs already approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

What is Marijuana?

- Marijuana is a psychoactive drug from the Cannabis plant used for medical, recreational & religious purposes.
- Cannabis can be used by smoking, vaporization, within food, or as an extract.
- It creates mental and physical effects, such as a “high” or “stoned” feeling, a general change in perception, and an increase in appetite.
- Short term side effects may include a decrease in short-term memory, dry mouth, impaired motor skills, red eyes, and feelings of paranoia or anxiety.
- Long term side effects may include addiction, decreased mental ability and behavioural problems in children whose mothers used cannabis during pregnancy.

What is its historic significance in India?

- Cannabis has been used since ancient times in India, dating back to 2000 BCE.
- The cannabis plant has been mentioned as one of the five sacred plants in the Vedas.
- Bhang, an edible preparation of cannabis, which is ‘consumed either in the form of a drink or smoked’ is common during the Hindu festivals of Holi and Mahashivaratri.

What are its medicinal qualities?

- There has been no rigorous scientific testing of the medicinal properties of cannabis due to restrictive laws.
- There is considerable evidence though, supporting its use in the treatment of chemotherapy – induced nausea and vomiting, neuropathic pain, and multiple sclerosis.
- Lower levels of evidence support its use for AIDS, wasting syndrome, epilepsy, rheumatoid arthritis, and glaucoma.

What is its legal status?

- Marijuana (or hemp), more formally parts of the cannabis super-family, is illegal for commercial cultivation though it grows as weed in several parts of the country. Uttarakhand, Jammu and — as of this month Uttar Pradesh — have allowed restricted cultivation of the plant for medical research.
- The possession, use, and sale of cannabis are illegal in most countries as a result of an agreement in the ‘International Opium Convention’ (1925).
- Indian government banned the use of cannabis by passing the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act-1985.
- The rigour of restrictive laws & its implementation varies greatly across countries.
- Canada, Belgium, Australia, the Netherlands, Spain, and several U.S. states are some territories where medical use of cannabis is legal.
- Netherlands (1976) & some US states (recently) have allowed for the recreational use of marijuana.

What do the doctors say?

- The opinion among medical practitioners in India is divided.
- Some are of the opinion that, it is a better alternative to alcohol & tobacco consumption.

- While supporters claim that denying medical use of marijuana is a violation of ‘Right to life’, others believe it is not all that important a drug for Palliative Care.
- Most doctors advocate caution, as a wrongly worded policy could potentially aggravate substance abuse among youngsters.

3rd India-Singapore Defence Ministers’ Dialogue held in Visakhapatnam

On November 21, 2018, on concluding day of **3rd India-Singapore Defence Minister dialogue(DMD)** in **Visakhapatnam**, **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitaraman** reaffirmed deepening defence ties between India and Singapore.



- i. The meeting was co-chaired by the Defence ministers of the 2 countries.
- ii. Earlier to attending the DMD, the Singaporean minister attended the final phase of 25th Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise **SIMBEX** on board **INS Shakti**.

Key Points:

- i.** The significance of the meeting was the renewal of **Bilateral Agreement for Conduct of Joint Army Training** as well as exercises for Singapore Armed Forces in India.
- ii.** Further cooperation among the countries is anticipated and the disputes would be solved via international laws to promote stability in ASEAN region and tackle terrorism.
- iii.** As part of the mutual cooperation, Singapore Defence Minister and Indian Defence Minister Ms Sitaraman have agreed to step up intelligence and information sharing particularly in areas of maritime.
- iv.** **The 4th Defence Minister's dialogue** was announced to be held in **Singapore in 2019.**

Vice President of India || Jashn-E-Youngistan Awards

The Vice President of India Shri. M Venkaiah Naidu said 'Recognizing one's merit is part of Indian culture'.while addressing the gathering at the 'Jashn-E-Youngistan' event organized by the News 24 Channel in New Delhi .

About:

- This award is a unique initiative by News24 Channel to honour, appreciate and encourage the dynamic young power of the country as it is the youth in whose hands lie the future of a nation.
- Jashn-E-Youngistan honors those promising young stars who have made their mark in their respective fields of achievement.

- The Jashne-E-Youngistan Awards' aim is to lay the foundation of a New India, an India that is making a worldwide impression.

Mary Kom bags Gold

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has congratulated Mary Kom for winning a Gold in Women's World Boxing Championship.

Highlights:

- India's MC Mary Kom won a historic **sixth gold** in the **Women's World Boxing Championship**.
- Mary Kom emerged victorious against Hanna Okhota in an unanimous 5-0 decision in the 48 kg summit clash.
- This is Mary Kom's second title in front of home crowd after the 2006 win in New Delhi.

About:

- **Chungneijang Mary Kom Hmangte** (born 1 March 1983), better known as **Mary Kom** and **Magnificent Mary** is an Indian Olympic boxer hailing from Manipur.
- She is the only woman to become World Amateur Boxing Champion for a record six times, and the only woman boxer to have won a medal in each one of the seven world championships. Nicknamed *Magnificent Mary*, she is the only Indian woman boxer to have qualified for the 2012 Summer Olympics, competing in the flyweight (51 kg) category and winning the bronze medal.

- She has also been ranked as No. 4 AIBA World Women's Ranking Flyweight category. She became the first Indian woman boxer to get a Gold Medal in the Asian Games in 2014 in Incheon, South Korea. and is the first Indian Woman Boxer to win Gold at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.
- She is currently world champion in 48kg.
- On 26 April 2016, Kom was nominated by the President of India as a member of the Rajya Sabha the upper house of the Indian Parliament .In March 2017, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, appointed Mary Kom as national observers for boxing. Mary Kom won the Gold Medal In Asian Boxing Championship.

Retaliation that turns fatal a crime'

- The use of fatal force or causing disproportionate harm to overpower an aggressor in self-defence amounts to culpable homicide and not murder, the Supreme Court has held.
- In a recent judgment, a Bench of Justices N.V. Ramana and Mohan M. Shantanagoudar reiterated that the “law on the aspect of causing disproportionate harm and exceeding the right to private defence is amply clear. In the cases of disproportionate harm leading to death of the aggressor, sentence under Section 304 Part I [of the Indian Penal Code] is the appropriate sentence.” This provision deals with culpable homicide not amounting to murder.
- Self-defence is one of the exceptions to the offence of murder defined in Section 300 of the IPC. The court has described the right to self-defence as a “very valuable right” with a “social purpose.” However, retaliation that

overwhelms the imminent threat posed by the aggressor, though in self-defence, amounts to a crime in itself.

Background of the Case

- The judgment came in a 1991 case of a fatal quarrel between two Punjab Home Guard volunteers over the repayment of a loan of ₹100.
- Jangir Singh, who moved the Supreme Court, shot his colleague Jaswant Singh in the chest with his service rifle. Jaswant Singh died. He had asked Jangir to return him the money. Feeling humiliated as Jaswant had asked him for the money in front of others, the duo started an altercation which lasted over a quarter of an hour.
- Witnesses pointed out that it was a case of who would pull the trigger first. They said Jangir was under an “imminent threat” of being shot himself.
- The trial court acquitted Jangir in 1993 for acting in self-defence, while the Punjab and Haryana High Court found him guilty of murder and other offences under the Arms Act.
- Twenty-seven years after the incident, the Supreme Court closed the case by concluding that though Jangir’s act could be classified as that in self-defence.
- The court ordered the immediate release of Jangir, who has already spent over a decade in prison. The maximum prison term for culpable homicide is 10 years.

Statute in Braille to mark Constitution Day

- In a joint project undertaken by The Buddhist Association for the Blind along with Saavi Foundation and Swagat Thorat, who started India’s first Braille newsletter Sparshdnyan, the Constitution will be made available in five parts in Braille for the benefit of visually challenged individuals.

- “We had first published Buddhavandana in Braille script. While working among the blind population, we realised that they cannot read the Indian Constitution which gives equal right to every Indian. Since then we had decided to bring out the statute in Braille script,” said Satish Nikam, president, The Buddhist Association for the Blind, Nasik.
- Mr Nikam said the official copy of the Constitution, which has been translated into Braille, was taken from the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute (BARTI).