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Chronic fatigue syndrome and euthanasia



- Recently, a petition has been filed in the Delhi High Court to prevent a person suffering from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome since 2014 from going to Europe for medical assisted euthanasia.

Chronic fatigue syndrome

- It is a serious and debilitating disease that affects the nervous system, the immune system and the body's energy production system.
- Also known as "myalgic encephalomyelitis".
- Possible consequences are viral or bacterial infections, hormonal imbalances and genetic defects.
- It can affect anyone from children to adults.

Symptoms:

- Illness causes a significant decrease in the ability to work.
- The condition becomes more severe if this type of fatigue or debilitating illness lasts more than 6 months.
- The most recognizable symptom is post-exercise malaise (PEM).
- Feeling “depleted” in physical/mental energy even after minor activities like simple petty shopping or brushing teeth.

Other symptoms:

- Trouble sleeping, difficulty thinking, memory or concentrating, dizziness/lightheadedness, headache, muscle aches, joint pain, flu-like symptoms, tender lymph nodes, and digestive problems.

Remedy:

- There is no specific type of test available for CFS disease, so it is diagnosed on the basis of symptoms, for this blood and urine tests may also have to be done.
- Doctors have described ways of dealing with disease symptoms such as “pacing” in which patients learn to balance rest and activity to prevent accidents caused by exertion.

Euthanasia:

- Euthanasia is the practice of ending the patient’s life in order to limit the suffering of the patient (the patient in question will usually be mentally ill or experiencing great pain and suffering).

Type:

Active Euthanasia:

- ‘Active euthanasia’ is a situation when a person (patient) seeking euthanasia is assisted in this act, such as injecting poison, etc. It is also sometimes called “invasive” euthanasia.

Passive Euthanasia:

- Willfully allowing the patient to die by stopping artificial life support.

Voluntary Euthanasia:

- With the consent of the patient.

Involuntary euthanasia:

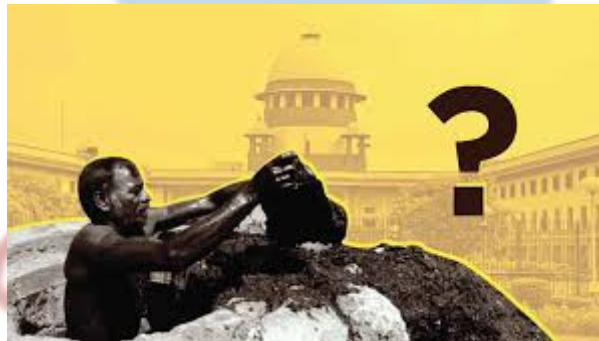
- Without the patient’s consent, for example if the patient is unconscious and his wishes are unknown.

Legal Provisions in India:

- In 1994, the Supreme Court of India in *Gyan Kaur v State of Punjab* held that both suicide and euthanasia were illegal.
- The 'right to life' does not include the right to death. It therefore set aside the decision of a two-judge bench in *P. Rathinam v. Union of India* which held section 309 (attempt to commit suicide) of the Indian Penal Code as unconstitutional.
- In 2011, in *Aruna Ramchandra Shanbaug v Union of India*, the Supreme Court held that passive euthanasia can be allowed in exceptional circumstances and under the strict supervision of the apex court.
- In the year 2018, the Supreme Court declared the right to die with dignity as a fundamental right, allowing passive euthanasia in the country.

Swadeep Kumar

Manual scavenging



- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E) is preparing to conduct a nationwide survey to enumerate all sanitation workers engaged in cleaning sewers and septic tanks.

Key points:

- This census is part of the National Action Plan for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (Namaste) scheme and will be conducted in 500 AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) cities
- It will replace the Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) introduced in 2007 with its merger.

- Program Monitoring Units (PMUs) will be set up for 500 AMRUT cities under the exercise.
- Once this exercise is completed in 500 cities, it will be expanded across the country to enable them to easily access government benefits such as upskilling and loans and capital subsidies.

Namaste scheme:

- It was launched in July 2022.
- Namaste scheme jointly launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and MoSJ&E, aims to eradicate unsafe sewer and septic tank cleaning practices.

Purpose:

- Zero deaths in sewage cleaning in India.
- All cleaning work should be done by skilled workers.
- No sanitation workers came in direct contact with human excreta.
- Safai Karyakartas are mobilized into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and empowered to run sanitation enterprises.
- Strong supervision and monitoring system at National, State and Urban Local Body (ULB) levels to ensure enforcement and monitoring of safe cleaning operations.
- Raising awareness among sanitation service seekers (individuals and institutions) to avail services from registered and skilled sanitation workers.

Calculation Required:

- A minimum of 351 deaths have occurred in manual scavenging since 2017.
- It aims to streamline the process of rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis.
- This will make it easier for them to access government benefits such as upskilling and loans and capital subsidies.
- To link the empaneled sanitation workers with the Swachh Udyami Yojana, through which the workers themselves will be the owners of the cleaning machines and the government will ensure that work is available at the municipal level.
- Swachh Udyami Yojana has twin objectives – to provide livelihood to sanitation and sanitation workers and to free manual scavengers to achieve the overall goal of “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan”.

Manual Scavenging:

- Manual Scavenging or manual scavenging is defined as “the removal of human excreta from public roads and dry latrines, cleaning of septic tanks, drains and sewers”.
- India banned the practice under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (PEMSR).
- The Act prohibits any person from manual scavenging, carrying, disposing of or otherwise disposing of human excreta in any manner.
- The Act recognizes manual scavenging as an “inhuman practice”.

Major reasons for manual scavenging currently in use:

Indifferent attitude:

- In many independent surveys, the lack of proactiveness on the part of the state governments in curbing this practice is seen and this practice is prevalent only under their supervision.

Issues arising due to outsourcing:

- At times, local bodies delegate sewer cleaning works to private contractors. However, many of those contractors do not provide proper equipment and sanitation resources for the sanitation workers.
- In case of death of workers due to suffocation, these contractors deny any relation with the deceased.

Social issue:

- This practice is inspired by the division of caste, class and income.
- It is linked to the caste system of India where the so called lower castes are expected to do this work.
- In 1993, India banned the employment of people as manual scavengers (The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993), however, the stigma and discrimination still associated with it has sustained.
- This makes it difficult for manual scavengers to secure alternative livelihoods.

Enforcement and shortage of unskilled workers:

- The lack of implementation of the Act and exploitation of unskilled laborers is still prevalent in India.

Steps taken to tackle the problem of manual scavenging:

The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (Amendment) Bill, 2020:

- It proposes to completely mechanize sewer cleaning, introduce 'on-site' protection methods and provide compensation to manual scavengers in case of sewer deaths.
- It will amend the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.
- However, it has not yet received the approval of the cabinet.

Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013:

- The 2013 Act, replacing the 1993 Act, outlaws all manual scavenging cleaning of insanitary latrines, open drains, or pits, in addition to a ban on dry latrines.

Construction and Maintenance of Insanitary Toilets Act 2013:

- It outlaws the construction or maintenance of insanitary latrines, and the hiring of anyone to do manual scavenging, as well as dangerous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.
- It also provides a constitutional obligation to provide alternative employment and other assistance to manual scavengers as compensation for historical injustice and humiliation.

Prevention of Atrocities Act

- In 1989, the Prevention of Atrocities Act became an integrated measure for sanitation workers, as more than 90% of the manual scavengers belonged to the Scheduled Castes. This has proved to be an important milestone in freeing manual scavengers from specified traditional occupations.

SafaiMitra Safety Challenge:

- It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in the year 2020 on World Toilet Day (November 19).
- Challenge for all was launched by the government in April 2021 to mechanize sewer-cleaning for all states. Along with this, if a person needs to enter the sewer line in case of unavoidable emergency, he should be provided with proper equipment/material and oxygen cylinder etc.

‘Swachhta Abhiyan App’:

- It has been developed to identify and geotag the data of insanitary latrines and manual scavengers so that insanitary latrines can be replaced with sanitary latrines and rehabilitated to provide dignity of life to all manual scavengers can go.

Supreme Court’s decision:

- A Supreme Court order in 2014 made it mandatory for the government to identify all those who died in sewage works since 1993 and to pay Rs 10 lakh as compensation to each person’s family.

Conclusion:

- Swachh Bharat Mission has been identified as a top priority area by the 15th Finance Commission and the funds available for smart cities and urban development provide a strong opportunity to address the problem of manual scavenging.
- To address the social sanction behind manual scavenging, it is necessary to first acknowledge and then understand how and why manual scavenging continues in the caste system.
- The state and society need to take active interest in this issue and make a proper assessment and look into all possible options to end this practice later.

Swadeep Kumar

**A Humble tribute to Atal Bihari
Vajpayee: An Architect of Suraj (Good
Governance)**

Context: On 16th Aug, the nation is paying its humble tribute to the great leader of Indian politics Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his fourth death anniversary

Introduction: Atal Bihari Vajpayee, ex-prime minister of India and a great leader of Indian politics who had set some values for Indian politics. He had

been the only leader of Indian politics who had never compromised with his political and ethical values on the coast of the political benefits. He always believed in the sanctity of political tools. Once he had to resign from the prime ministership and he could not manage only one vote in Loksabha because he did not accept unethical means of politics.

Biography of Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the first noncongress prime minister. Before being prime minister, he served as the foreign minister during Morar Ji Desai. He founded a new political party Bhartiya Janta Party in 1980 and challenged the political monopoly of the congress and finally, he succeeded to form a government in 1996 first time

Achievement of Atal Bihari Bajpai

However, he launched many projects for the well-being of this country. But among his all project, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and the National Highways Development Project were two significant projects.

During his period, the 86th constitutional amendment was brought through which the right to education was given to every child before 14 years (A new article 21 A was added). The Vajpayee government launched the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan campaign. He knew the importance of primary education for the development of any nation

The Golden Quadrilateral connected four meteors Delhi, Bombay, Kolkata, and Chennai through highways. For increasing the investment in the development of the country, he also prompted privatization. therefore he formed a department under the ministry of finance (De investment Department). For smooth public transport, he launched the Delhi metro. Nowadays, Delhi Metro has become the lifeline of the citizen of the Delhi

One of the most important achievements of Atal Bihari Vajpayee during his career was the nuclear testing in Pokhran. After that, India has been also declared nuclear power.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee gave the slogan for the country- Jai jawan, Jai Kishan, and Jai Vigyan. During his period the telecom sector also developed rapidly because he opened the door for foreign investment in the telecom sector also

Conclusion

As per the above discussion, Atal Bihar Vajpayee was one of the greatest prime ministers. Who lead the foundation of a new era of scientific

development in India. During his time a Kargil war was fought and he showed the world that India believes in nonviolence but India is not a coward and India's army threw the infiltrators out of the territory of India. He was the only prime minister who always maintained the dignity and purity of Indian politics. He followed the high values of the ethics of politics

Anshul

