

## 7 August 2019: PIB Summary & Analysis

### NHRC National Level Review Meeting on Mental Health

#### Context

- A day-long NHRC National Level Review Meeting on Mental Health concluded at India International centre, New Delhi, highlighting several issues to bridge the gap between the legislation and its implementation.
- It was necessary to evaluate the ground realities post implementation of Mental Healthcare Act, 2017.

#### Mental Healthcare Act, 2017.

- This ensures every person shall have a right to access mental health care and treatment from mental health services run or funded by the appropriate government.
  - The act assures free treatment for such persons if they are homeless or belong to Below Poverty Line, even if they do not possess a BPL card.
  - Every person with mental illness shall have a right to live with dignity and there shall be no discrimination on any basis including gender, sex, sexual orientation, religion, culture, caste, social or political beliefs, class or disability.
  - A person with mental illness shall have the right to confidentiality in respect of his mental health, mental healthcare, treatment and physical healthcare.
  - A person who attempts suicide shall be presumed to be suffering from mental illness at that time and will not be punished under the Indian Penal Code.
  - The government shall have a duty to provide care, treatment and rehabilitation to a person, having severe stress and who attempted to commit suicide, to reduce the risk of recurrence of attempt to commit suicide.
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### The First Session of Parliament after General Elections

#### Background

- This being the first Session after General Elections, the President addressed both Houses of Parliament assembled together in terms of Article 87(1) of the Constitution,
- The Union Budget for 2019- 20 was presented in this session

## Highlights

- The most important business transacted during this Session is the abrogation of certain provisions from Article 370 and Presidential Orders there under.
- This will ensure equal opportunities to all sections of Society in Jammu & Kashmir particularly with the restoration of applicability of the provisions of the Constitution of India and all socio-economic legislations thereby ensuring rule of law and equity.
- Further for ensuring better administration and for curbing terrorism, the State of Jammu & Kashmir has been reorganized with the formation of two Union Territories - Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh
- Health Sector Reforms - During this Session four Bills have been passed.
- Particularly the National Medical Commission Bill, 2019 is a revolutionary reform in medical field which provides for constitution of a National Medical Commission for development and regulation of all aspects relating to medical education, medical profession and medical institutions and a Medical Advisory Council to advise and make recommendations to the Commission.
- Social and Gender Justice - Certain Bills to further strengthen Social and Gender justice system in India were also passed during this Session.
- **Labour reform bill** which will facilitate the ease of compliance of labour laws thereby widening the scope of minimum wages to all workers - a big step for equity promotion and setting up of more enterprises thus catalyzing the creation of employment opportunities.
- **Transport Reforms bill** passed address the issues relating to road safety, citizen facilitation, automation and computerisation besides increasing the fines and penalties for violation of provisions of the Act and to make a provision for protection of good Samaritans.