Parliament Passes the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019

Context:

The Rajya Sabha passed the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

Details:

- The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 was enacted to provide for the constitution of a National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) and the Human Rights Courts for protection of human rights.
- The current Amendment had been prepared based on the challenges faced in the last thirteen years, and will increase the efficiency of the Commission.

Provisions of the Bill:

- Person who has been a Judge of the Supreme Court is also made eligible to be appointed as Chairperson of the Commission in addition to the person who has been the Chief Justice of India.
- To increase the Members of the Commission from two to three of which, one shall be a woman.
- To include Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes, Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities as deemed Members of the Commission.
- To reduce the term of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission and the State Commissions from five to three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.
- To provide that a person who has been a Judge of a High Court is also made eligible to be appointed as Chairperson of the State Commission in addition to the person who has been the Chief Justice of the High Court.
- To confer upon State Commissions, the functions relating to human rights being discharged by the Union territories, other than the Union territory of Delhi, which will be dealt with by the Commission.