Terror State Bill

Why in news?

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Independent MP Rajeev Chandrasekhar had moved The Declaration of Countries as Sponsor of Terrorism Bill, 2016, to create sanctions for citizens of countries that promote terror.

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What are the provisions of the bill?

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- It states that Pakistan propagates and harbours agents of international terror who have repeatedly attacked the territory and people of our country... (It) poses a continual risk to the peace and security of the region.
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- The bill also provides for **imposing legal, economic and travel sanctions on citizens of the neighbouring country**.
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- The bill seeks to prohibit citizens of such country, which is declared a terror state, including its Head of the State, from travelling in India.
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- It also asks for prohibition on trade, receiving or making grants, financial remittances, investments and assets along with maritime activities and overflight over India.
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- The bill states that immunity of officials of such countries shall be revoked and they shall not be offered immunity from any legal case in India.
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What MHA says?

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- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is learnt to have conveyed its opposition to a Private Member's Bill recently moved in the Rajya Sabha to declare countries like Pakistan a "terror state."
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- The proposed Bill cannot be accepted as it **violates international relations under the Geneva Convention,** according to MHA officials.
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- Meanwhile, India and Pakistan recently extended their bilateral pact dealing with reducing the risk of nuclear weapon-related accidents, for a period of five years. The existing validity was up to February 20, 2017.
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- We have diplomatic relations with the neighbouring country which includes High Commissions as well as trade relations.
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- It will be not prudent to declare any country as a terror state as India is bound by international norms, said a senior government official.
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- Parliament adjourned for the recess and will resume on March 9; there is a probability that the Bill might again be taken up for discussion.
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Source: The Hindu, Indian Express

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