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Headlines:

- Gaza Peace Plan: Netanyahu Rejects Trump-Backed 15-Point Proposal
- Wayanad Landslide: Climate-Geology Interplay Behind the Disaster
- Makkah Pact: A New Dimension in West Asian Security Architecture
- FCRA Amendment Bill 2026: Balancing National Security and Civil Society
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1. Gaza Peace Plan: Netanyahu Rejects Trump-Backed 15-Point Proposal

GS-II: International Relations

Why in News?

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected the US-backed 15-point Gaza roadmap, despite Hamas having agreed to the proposal.
- Netanyahu stated that Israeli forces would not withdraw from Gaza until Hamas is genuinely disarmed, signalling a significant divergence with US President Donald Trump.

What is the 15-Point Roadmap?

- The roadmap, advanced through the US-led Board of Peace, seeks to implement the next phase of the Gaza peace framework.
- Its central elements include:
 - Progressive disarmament of Hamas and removal of its military capabilities.
 - Phased Israeli military withdrawal from Gaza linked to progress on disarmament.
 - Transition towards independent Palestinian civilian administration.
 - International involvement in stabilisation and reconstruction.
 - The core challenge is therefore not merely whether disarmament will occur, but when and in what sequence it will occur relative to Israeli withdrawal.

Why Has Israel Rejected It?

- **Security concerns:** Israel demands genuine and comprehensive Hamas disarmament before withdrawal.
- **Sequencing dispute:** The proposal envisages a phased process, whereas Netanyahu insists that withdrawal cannot precede effective disarmament.
- **Domestic political pressure:** Netanyahu faces pressure from right-wing elements opposed to concessions on Gaza.
- **Strategic autonomy:** The episode demonstrates Israel's willingness to challenge even Washington when its leadership considers core security interests at stake.

Significance

- **US-Israel relations:** Exposes differences between two close strategic partners over the end-state of the Gaza conflict.
- **Peace process:** Israeli rejection could complicate efforts towards disarmament, withdrawal and post-war governance.
- **Regional stability:** Prolonged conflict risks affecting energy markets, Red Sea security and international trade.
- **Post-conflict governance:** Raises the difficult question of who will administer and provide security in Gaza after the conflict.

India's Perspective

- India supports a negotiated two-State solution, dialogue and diplomacy.
- Stability in West Asia is vital for India's energy security, diaspora, trade and connectivity interests.
- India faces the diplomatic challenge of maintaining its strategic partnerships with Israel and the US while continuing support for Palestinian statehood and humanitarian assistance.

2. Wayanad Landslide: Climate–Geology Interplay Behind the Disaster

GS-I: Physical Geography, GS-III: Disaster Management

Why in News?

- A new study published in the peer-reviewed journal Landslides finds that the 2024 Wayanad landslide resulted from the interaction of extreme rainfall with geological and geomorphological conditions.
- The study shows that rainfall was the immediate trigger, while underlying terrain and geological factors influenced the location, movement and destructiveness of the landslide.

Key Findings: Trigger vs Conditioning Factors

- **Trigger:** Intense monsoon rainfall saturated the slopes and increased slope instability.
- **Conditioning factors:** Geological structure, slope characteristics, geomorphology and drainage determined the vulnerability of the terrain.
- **Geology:** Pre-existing geological conditions influenced where slope failure initiated.
- **Geomorphology:** Terrain configuration affected the direction and spread of debris, amplifying the destructive impact.
- **Key Concept:** A landslide is often the result of multiple interacting factors, rather than a single trigger.

Scientific Investigation

- Researchers from the University of Kerala, IISER Mohali and Savitribai Phule Pune University conducted field investigations in 2025.
- Geological mapping was undertaken across the affected Chooralmala–Punchirimattam valley.
- Drone-mounted LiDAR and high-resolution aerial imagery were used to examine the unsafe landslide crown and map terrain characteristics.

Disaster Management Significance

- Landslide risk assessment should integrate rainfall, geology, slope, drainage, geomorphology and land-use patterns.
- Promote GIS-based landslide susceptibility mapping, remote sensing and location-specific early-warning systems.

- Risk-sensitive land-use planning: Development in fragile mountain ecosystems should consider carrying capacity and landslide susceptibility assessments.
- Strengthen multi-hazard and ecosystem-based disaster management in vulnerable regions such as the Western Ghats.

3. Makkah Pact: A New Dimension in West Asian Security Architecture

GS-II: International Relations

Why in News?

- Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan signed the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA) on 7 August 2026.
- It states that an armed attack against any one of the three countries would be regarded as an attack against all, resembling the collective-defence principle under NATO's Article 5.

Key Features

- Establishes a framework for mutual defence, military cooperation and strategic coordination.
- Represents an emerging form of regional security cooperation among three major Muslim-majority states.
- Forms part of Saudi Arabia's efforts to diversify its security partnerships.
- Saudi Arabia has clarified that the pact is not intended to create a military axis or sectarian bloc.

Strategic Significance

- **Regional Security:** Indicates a possible shift towards more diversified and regional security arrangements in West Asia.
- **Saudi Arabia:** Seeks additional security partnerships to address threats to energy infrastructure, territory and maritime routes.
- **Türkiye:** Could expand its regional influence and leverage its growing defence-industrial capabilities.
- **Pakistan:** Gains greater strategic relevance and diplomatic space in the Gulf.
- **US Role:** Reflects Gulf states' interest in diversifying security partnerships amid uncertainties surrounding long-term US regional commitments.

Limitations

- **Divergent Interests:** Different strategic priorities may constrain deeper military integration.
- **Iran Factor:** The pact's effectiveness could be affected by the partners' differing interests and relationships with Iran, particularly during regional escalation.
- **Historical Differences:** Competing leadership aspirations and past political differences may limit long-term cohesion.

- **Institutional Uncertainty:** It remains unclear whether the MJDA will develop into a formal collective-security organisation or remain a limited strategic arrangement.

Implications for India

- **Energy Security:** Instability around the Strait of Hormuz and Bab-el-Mandeb could disrupt India's energy supplies and maritime trade.
- **Pakistan Factor:** India needs to monitor whether Pakistan attempts to use the grouping to enhance its strategic leverage against India.
- **Strategic Opportunity:** India's strong ties with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf offer scope for deeper cooperation in energy, investment, connectivity and maritime security.
- **Strategic Autonomy:** India should maintain constructive relations with Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Iran and the wider Gulf, avoiding alignment with any emerging bloc.

4. FCRA Amendment Bill 2026: Balancing National Security and Civil Society

GS-II: Polity & Governance

Why in News?

- The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 is under Parliamentary consideration amid Opposition and civil-society demands for wider consultation, including referral to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC).
- The Bill seeks to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, which regulates the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contributions in India.

About FCRA

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- **Core Objective:** Regulate foreign contributions to ensure they do not adversely affect India's sovereignty, integrity, security, public interest or democratic institutions.
- **Eligibility:** Organisations can receive foreign contributions through registration or prior permission, subject to statutory compliance.
- **Prohibited Recipients:** The Act restricts specified categories, including political parties, election candidates, public servants and certain other entities, from accepting foreign contributions.

Key Provisions of the 2026 Bill

- **Asset Management:** Provides for provisional and permanent vesting of foreign-funded assets in a designated authority when an organisation's registration ceases.
- **Registration:** Provides for cessation of registration following expiry, non-renewal or refusal of renewal.
- **Penalties:** Proposes changes to the existing punishment framework, including reducing the maximum imprisonment term from five years to one year.

- **Investigations:** Requires prior Central Government approval for initiating investigations under the FCRA.

Key Concerns

- **Civil Society:** Greater regulatory requirements could affect legitimate NGOs involved in healthcare, education and humanitarian activities.
- **Parliamentary Scrutiny:** Stakeholders have sought JPC examination and wider consultation before finalisation.
- **Due Process:** Prior-approval requirements and asset-vesting provisions raise concerns regarding administrative discretion, procedural safeguards and proportionality.
- **Accountability vs Autonomy:** Regulation must prevent misuse of foreign funds without unduly restricting legitimate civil-society activity.

Significance

- Can strengthen financial transparency, accountability and national security by improving oversight of foreign contributions.
- At the same time, excessive or disproportionate regulation could affect the capacity of NGOs to deliver social and humanitarian services.

Way Forward

- Adopt transparent, proportionate and risk-based regulation.
- Strengthen digital disclosure, auditing and financial monitoring while minimising unnecessary compliance burdens.
- Ensure Parliamentary scrutiny and stakeholder consultation, particularly where provisions affect civil-society functioning.
- Balance national security with constitutional values of democratic participation, association and due process.

5. NRTS: Bridging Gaps in India's National Nursing Workforce Registry

GS-II: Social Justice

Why in News?

- Government data show that only 14.24 lakh of 46.02 lakh registered nursing personnel are enrolled on the Nurses Registration and Tracking System (NRTS).
- Around 31.78 lakh personnel therefore remain outside the national digital registry, despite NRTS being introduced more than seven years ago.

About NRTS

- Launched by the Indian Nursing Council (INC) in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- Aims to create a live national registry and common digital platform for:
 - Primary registration and renewal

- Reciprocal/inter-State registration
- Higher-qualification registration
- Professional credential verification
- Nursing personnel covered: Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), Registered Nurses & Registered Midwives (RN & RM), and Lady Health Visitors (LHVs).
- Provides for National Unique Identity (NUID) cards for nursing personnel.

Implementation Gaps

- Uneven State adoption: Enrolment varies sharply across States.
- Implementation disparity: While Bihar has enrolled nearly its entire registered nursing workforce, several larger States have substantially lower enrolment, highlighting uneven adoption.
- Continued use of parallel State-level systems can lead to duplication, fragmented databases and administrative delays.

Impact on Nursing Workforce

- Delays in obtaining No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for employment changes.
- Difficulties in inter-State registration and credential verification.
- Delays in overseas employment and professional mobility.
- Fragmented databases can hamper efficient health workforce management.

Governance Significance

- Demonstrates the importance of interoperable digital governance in the health sector.
- Highlights the need for stronger Centre–State coordination and standardisation.
- Health-system planning: A reliable national registry can help estimate nurse availability, geographical shortages, workforce mobility and deployment needs.

Way Forward

- Complete nationwide NRTS enrolment within a time-bound framework.
- Integrate State Nursing Councils through a single interoperable digital platform.
- Ensure timely issuance of NUID cards and verifiable digital credentials.
- Simplify registration procedures and establish institutional accountability for implementation.

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