

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · **+91 85951 84903** · wrapexams.com

Daily news summary**UPSC daily news summary - 22 August 2026**

UPSC Civil Services · 22 August 2026 · Prelims and Mains

[Open on wrapexams.com](https://wrapexams.com)

Key legal developments in labour law and mining taxation mark today's policy landscape along with space and urban infrastructure updates.

COMBINED SUMMARY

- **Supreme Court 9-judge Bench Ruling on 'Industry' Definition:** Severed the Industrial Relations Code, 2020 from the expansive 1978 Bangalore Water Supply precedent.
- **MMDR Amendment Act Fiscal Framework:** Enhances mineral exploration incentives and aims for tax uniformity across mining leases.
- **SHANTI Act Private Atomic Energy Rules:** U.S. nuclear industry prepares submissions on draft civil nuclear participation regulations.
- **China Chang'e-7 Lunar Mission:** Aims to search for water ice at the lunar south pole to support future research outposts.
- **ADB \$230 Million Loan for Chennai Water Infrastructure:** Funding to build a city-wide ring-main system and resilient sanitation networks.
- **Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme:** Government notifies new incentive framework offering extra support for domestic electronics brands.

1. SUPREME COURT RULING ON INDUSTRY DEFINITION UNDER IRC 2020**WHY IN NEWS**

- A nine-judge Constitution Bench held that the 1978 Bangalore Water Supply precedent will not automatically apply to the Industrial Relations Code, 2020.

WHAT WAS THE PREVIOUS REGIME?

- **Under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947**, the Supreme Court's 1978 Bangalore Water Supply judgment established an expansive definition of 'industry'.
- The wide triple-test included hospitals, educational institutions, and statutory bodies under labour dispute resolution mechanisms.

KEY HELD IN THE JUDGMENT

- **Before:** Legacy precedent automatically pulled diverse non-profit and public entities into statutory industrial dispute rules.
- **After:** The Court severed the Industrial Relations Code, 2020 (in force since November 2025) from the 1978 ruling, giving the new code a fresh statutory baseline.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Establishes legal clarity for modern service sectors and statutory bodies under consolidated labour codes.
- Reduces regulatory litigation by preventing automatic application of legacy worker-definition precedents.

KEY TERMS

- **Industrial Relations Code 2020:** A consolidated federal law replacing the **Industrial Disputes Act 1947**, **Trade Unions Act 1926**, and **Industrial Employment Standing Orders Act 1946**.

PAPERS

GS2

PRELIMS FACTS

Industrial Relations Code 2020 consolidates three legacy labor statutes including the **Industrial Disputes Act, 1947**.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Impact of judicial severance of legacy precedents on labor market flexibility and worker protection.

KEY DATA

- **Parent Statute replaced:** **Industrial Disputes Act, 1947** - Replaced by the Industrial Relations Code 2020 to streamline dispute resolution.
- **Landmark Precedent:** Bangalore Water Supply case (1978) - Set the historical expansive triple-test definition for an 'industry' in Indian law.

[Official source](#)

2. MMDR AMENDMENT ACT MINERAL INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK

WHY IN NEWS

- The amended MMDR framework aims to unlock private capital investment and bring tax uniformity to the mining sector.

WHAT IS THE MMDR ACT, 1957?

- Central governing legislation that regulates the allocation of prospecting licences and mining leases in India.
- Administered by the Ministry of Mines, managing major minerals and royalty frameworks.

KEY CHANGES

- Introduces provisions to streamline exploration licensing and standardize royalty and levy structures.
- **Before:** Fragmented tax regimes and long exploration approval cycles discouraged deep-seated mineral exploration.
- **After:** Standardized fiscal terms incentivize private capital inflow for critical and deep-seated mineral extraction.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Enhances global competitiveness of domestic mineral production and secures raw materials for energy transition.

KEY TERMS

- **Prospecting Licence:** A authorization granted to explore and locate mineral deposits in a specified area.

PAPERS

GS3

PRELIMS FACTS

- MMDR Act 1957 provides the statutory mechanism for auctioning mineral blocks in India.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Role of mining sector reforms in securing critical minerals for domestic manufacturing.

KEY DATA

- **Parent Statute:** Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 - Core statute governing mining regulation and mineral concessions across India.

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Mines - Central authority executing national mineral policy and concession rules.

[Official source](#)

3. SHANTI ACT DRAFT CIVIL NUCLEAR RULES

WHY IN NEWS

- Department of Atomic Energy released draft rules under the SHANTI Act to open civil nuclear energy to private participation.

WHAT IS THE SHANTI ACT FRAMEWORK?

- Statutory initiative designed to enable private sector entry and foreign collaboration in atomic energy production.
- Managed under the Department of Atomic Energy to expand clean energy capacity.

KEY CHANGES IN DRAFT RULES

- Sets out operational and liability rules allowing non-government entities to build and operate civil nuclear power plants.
- **Before:** State monopoly under the **Atomic Energy Act** restricted private operational participation.
- **After:** Regulated private investment and technology transfers are permitted under defined nuclear safety rules.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Crucial for India-US civil nuclear cooperation and scaling base-load low-carbon energy infrastructure.

KEY TERMS

- **Civil Nuclear Liability:** Legal framework defining financial liability and recourse in the event of a nuclear incident.

PAPERS

GS3

PRELIMS FACTS

- Department of Atomic Energy functions directly under the Prime Minister's Office.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Strategic and economic implications of private sector entry into civil nuclear energy.

KEY DATA

- **Nodal Department:** Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) - Directly under the Prime Minister, responsible for atomic energy legislation.
- **Act Name:** SHANTI Act - Statutory framework governing private participation in India's nuclear sector.

[Official source](#)

4. CHANGE 7 LUNAR MISSION WATER EXPLORATION**WHY IN NEWS**

- China announced details of its Chang'e-7 mission targeted at detecting water ice at the Moon's south pole.

WHAT IS THE MISSION?

- A robotic lunar exploration mission aimed at exploring the physical environment of the lunar south pole.
- Includes an orbiter, lander, rover, and a mini-flying detector to sample shadowed polar craters.

CORE OBJECTIVE AND TECHNOLOGIES

- Designed to confirm the presence and distribution of subsurface water ice in permanently shadowed regions.
- Tests autonomous robotic maneuvering to pave the way for an International Lunar Research Station (ILRS).

WHY IT MATTERS

- Water ice is essential for in-situ resource utilization, supplying oxygen and rocket propellant for deep space exploration.

KEY TERMS

- **Permanently Shadowed Regions:** Craters at lunar poles that never receive direct sunlight, preserving volatile compounds like water ice.

PAPERS

GS3

PRELIMS FACTS

- Lunar south pole craters contain **permanently shadowed regions** harboring volatile water ice.

KEY DATA

- **Target Region:** Lunar South Pole - High-priority space target due to expected reserves of subsurface water ice.
- **Space Agency:** CNSA (China National Space Administration) - Executes China's Chang'e lunar exploration program.

[Official source](#)

5. ADB LOAN CHENNAI URBAN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

WHY IN NEWS

- India signed a \$230 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank to upgrade Chennai's water and sanitation services.

WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

- An urban resilience initiative to modernize water supply and climate-proof sanitation infrastructure in Chennai.
- Jointly funded by the Asian Development Bank and the Government of India.

KEY EXECUTION TARGETS

- Construction of a comprehensive ring-main water delivery network to maintain uniform water pressure across municipal zones.
- Upgrading existing sewage pumping stations and expanding piped supply connections to unserved urban households.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Enhances urban climate resilience against extreme weather, severe droughts, and coastal flooding.

KEY TERMS

- **Ring-Main System:** A continuous loop water distribution pipe network that allows supply from multiple directions to maintain constant pressure.

PAPERS

GS3

PRELIMS FACTS

- Asian Development Bank headquarters are located in Manila, Philippines.

KEY DATA

- **Funding Agency:** Asian Development Bank (ADB) - Multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines.
- **Loan Amount:** \$230 million - Specific multilateral financing agreement for climate-resilient urban infrastructure.

[Official source](#)

6. GOVERNMENT NOTIFIES MOBILE PHONE MANUFACTURING SCHEME INCENTIVES

WHY IN NEWS

- Union Government notified a dedicated mobile phone manufacturing scheme offering targeted incentives for domestic brands.

WHAT IS THE SCHEME?

- A successor framework building on the earlier Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing (2020-2025).
- Administered by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

KEY PROVISIONS

- Offers graded financial incentives tied to incremental sales and local value addition.
- **Before:** Legacy PLI focus was broadly split between global contract manufacturers and domestic firms.
- **After:** Higher incentive slabs are earmarked for domestic Indian brands to strengthen local IP and supply chain depth.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Promotes backward integration, sub-assembly manufacturing, and creation of domestic champion enterprises.

KEY TERMS

- **Value Addition:** The increased percentage of component procurement and manufacturing done locally relative to total product cost.

PAPERS

GS3

PRELIMS FACTS

- MeitY implements production-linked incentive schemes for hardware and electronics manufacturing.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Challenges in moving from electronics assembly to local **value addition** and domestic component manufacturing.

KEY DATA

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) - Formulates national policies for electronics system design and manufacturing.
- **Predecessor Scheme:** **PLI for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing (2020)** - Initial incentive scheme that established India's mobile assembly ecosystem.

[Official source](#)

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice.

[Open on wrapexams.com](https://www.wrapexams.com)

ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com · Revision brief. Confirm figures against the linked official source.