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Daily news summary**SHANTI Act Draft Civil Nuclear Rules**

UPSC Civil Services · 22 August 2026 · Prelims and Mains

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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

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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.

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