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Q55

In India, why are some nuclear reactors kept under "IAEA Safeguards" while others are not? (a) Some use uranium and others use thorium (b) Some use imported uranium and others use domestic supplies. (c) Some are operated by foreign enterprises and others are operated by domestic enterprises (d) Some are State-owned and others are privately-owned Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2020 · General Studies · 2 marks · Current Affairs and GK
Current events, government schemes, miscellaneous GK - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

Uranium vs thorium. PHWRs use natural U; thorium is not the IAEA split.

(b) Official key

Imported uranium vs domestic. Civil reactors on foreign fuel are under IAEA safeguards; military/unsafeguarded plants use domestic fuel.

(c)

Foreign vs domestic operators. NPCIL runs both kinds.

(d)

State vs private. Nuclear generation is not a private-operator split here.

Summary

Official key is (b). After the Indo-US civil nuclear deal, imported-fuel civil reactors are placed under IAEA safeguards. Reactors on the military/unsafeguarded list use domestic uranium and are not.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Separation plan

2006; civil vs strategic list.

IAEA INFCIRC

Item-specific safeguards on designated reactors.

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