

Draft SHANTI Rules 2026

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Governance

Why in News?

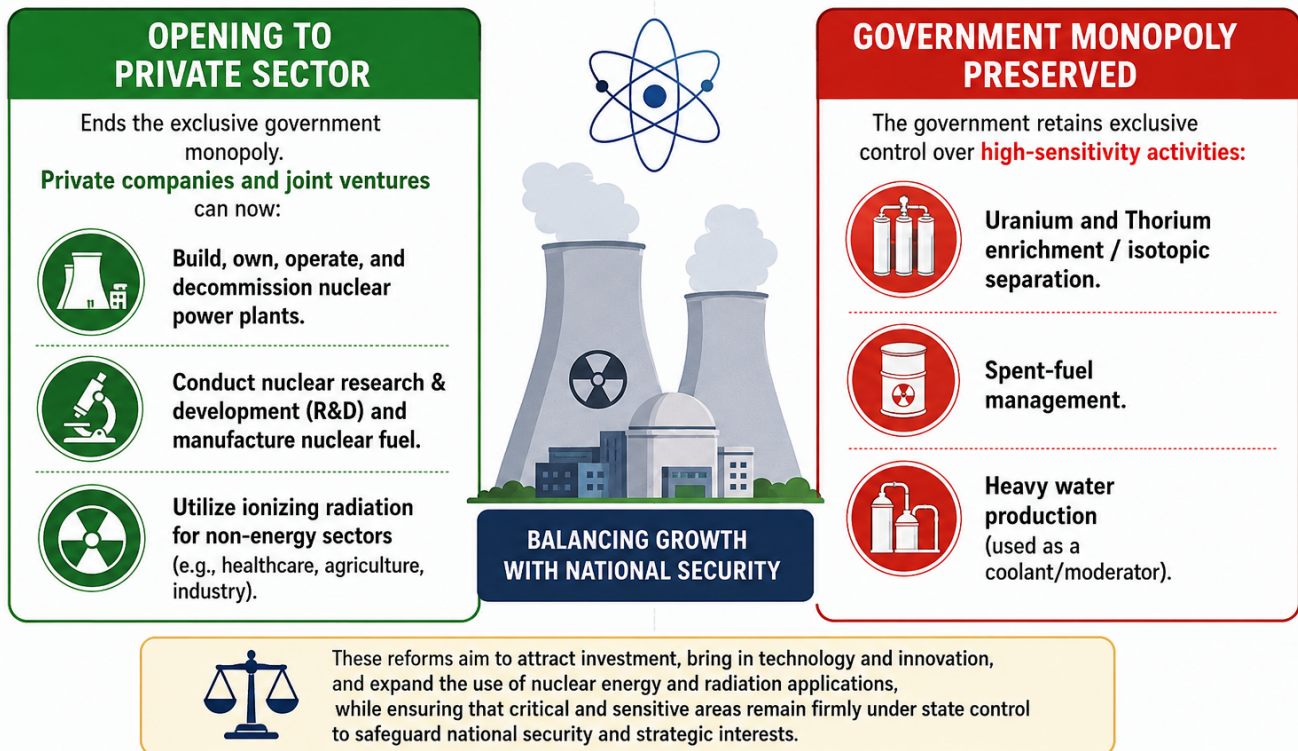
- The SHANTI Act, 2025 replaces the **Atomic Energy Act, 1962**, and the **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (CLND) Act, 2010**.
- The Department of Atomic Energy released the new draft SHANTI Rules and Regulations for public feedback.
- **Core Objective** - Dramatically scale up India's nuclear energy capacity, aiming for **100 GW by 2047** and setting up at least 5 indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs, up to 300 MW each) by **2033**.

Opening to Private Sector & Retained State Control

- **Private Role**- Ends the exclusive government monopoly. Private companies and joint ventures can now:
 - Build, own, operate, and decommission nuclear power plants.
 - Conduct nuclear research & development (R&D) and manufacture nuclear fuel.
 - Utilise ionising radiation for non-energy sectors (e.g., healthcare, agriculture, industry).
- **Government Monopoly Preserved** - The government retains exclusive control over high-sensitivity activities:
 - Uranium and thorium enrichment / isotopic separation.
 - Spent-fuel management.
 - Heavy water production (used as a coolant/moderator).

NUCLEAR SECTOR REFORMS

OPENING TO PRIVATE SECTOR & RETAINED STATE CONTROL



Civil Liability & Insurance Structure

- **Sliding Liability Scale-** Replaces the previous flat Rs.1,500 crore liability limit with a capacity-linked structure:
 - **Large reactors (>3,600 MW thermal):** Operator liability capped at **Rs.3,000 crore**.
 - **Small reactors (up to 150 MW thermal):** Operator liability tapers down to **Rs.100 crore**.
- **State Backstop & Liability Fund-** If damages exceed the operator liability limit, the government will step in.
- A Nuclear Liability Fund funded through electricity tariffs will be set up and reviewed every 5 years to account for inflation, technology shifts, and market scale.
- **Liability Scope-** Covers risks through the entire lifecycle, including active operations, spent fuel, radioactive waste, and decommissioning.

Foreign Technology & Investment

- **Certification Filters-** Foreign technology and foreign investment are permitted, provided the reactor design is:
 - Certified by the nuclear regulatory authority in its country of origin.
 - Already operational in that country or elsewhere globally.

Streamlined Licensing & Regulatory Framework

- **Single Composite License-** Merges permissions for building, owning, operating, and decommissioning plants into a single process to prevent regulatory delays.
- **In-Principle Approvals-** Allows investors to secure early regulatory confirmation before finalizing all project details, providing investment certainty.

- **Licensing Hold Points-** Mandates regulatory check-ins at critical milestones (e.g., prior to construction start and prior to initial fuel loading).
- **Regulatory Body-** The **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)** serves as the primary enforcement and regulatory agency.

Reference

[The Print | SHANTI Act](#)

