

Daily Mains Practice Answer 04-08-2026

Q. The Bay of Bengal is emerging as the strategic fulcrum of India's Indo-Pacific vision. Examine the significance of the SHANTI framework in transforming the region from a zone of competition into one of cooperative maritime governance. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Directions: Intro---- Significance + Transforms Competition into Cooperation----- Conclusion.

Introduction:

Describe briefly about the Bay of Bengal & Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust and Integrity (SHANTI) framework.

Main Body

Significance of the SHANTI framework

- Shared Maritime Security - Enhances Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) coordinated patrols, anti-piracy operation.
- Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) - Enhance Joint disaster preparedness, early warning systems, and coordinated response.
- Advancement through Sustainable Development - Blue Economy, sustainable fisheries, marine biodiversity conservation, and ocean-based economic growth.
- Navigation & Connectivity - Integrates ports, shipping, multimodal transport, and digital connectivity through initiatives such as BIMSTEC, India's Act East Policy, and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).
- Technology and Capacity Building - Sharing of satellite data, hydrography, digital navigation, scientific research, etc.
- Inclusive & Institutional Cooperation - Encourages collaboration among all Bay of Bengal littoral states and supports BIMSTEC, IORA, ASEAN and rules-based maritime order.

How does SHANTI transform competition into cooperation?

- Builds trust through institutional dialogue.
- Balances strategic competition by prioritising issue-based cooperation.
- Strengthens regional resilience against climate change and non-traditional security threats.
- Promotes prosperity through trade, connectivity, and the Blue Economy.
- Supports a rules-based maritime order, peaceful dispute resolution, and freedom of

navigation.

- Complements India's SAGAR doctrine and enhances India's role as a net security provider.
- Places regional ownership over external power politics, giving littoral states greater action in maritime governance.

Conclusion:

Conclude in a positive way by linking bay of Bengal, the SHANTI framework and India's role.

