

'INDO' DROP

LOADED SIGNALS FOR INDIA, THE QUAD, U.S. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

SOMETIMES, the disappearance of a single word can reveal more than a major policy announcement. The growing preference within the Trump administration for "Asia" over "Indo-Pacific" may seem semantic, but in geopolitics, language often signals strategic intent. The shift has sparked a debate over whether Washington is recalibrating its regional priorities, and what that could mean for India, the Quad, and the balance of power in Asia.

The debate intensified after the US Defense Department renamed the Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) as Pacific Command (PACOM), restoring its original title. Combined with the November 2025 US National Security Strategy's use of "Asia" rather than "Indo-Pacific", the move was read by policy experts as a retreat from a concept that has shaped regional diplomacy for nearly a decade. For India, its implications could extend well beyond terminology.

Why Indo-Pacific matters

The concept of the Indo-Pacific emerged from the growing recognition that the Indian and Pacific oceans had become a single interconnected strategic theatre. Trade routes, energy flows, military deployments, and geopolitical competition increasingly linked East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the western reaches of the Indian Ocean. The idea gained prominence during the late 2010s, particularly under the first Trump administration. It reflected a growing concern in Washington, Tokyo, Canberra and New Delhi about China's expanding economic influence, military modernisation and increasingly assertive regional posture.

By replacing the older framework of "Asia-Pacific" with "Indo-Pacific", policymakers were making a deliberate statement. The change in terminology explicitly recognised India as a central strategic actor rather than a peripheral one. It broadened the geographic map of regional security and signaled that the future balance of power would depend not only on developments in East Asia but also on the Indian Ocean.

The phrase quickly became embedded in official documents, defence strategies, diplomatic dialogues, and alliance structures across several countries.

The Quad and the Indo-Pacific vision

Perhaps no institution embodies the Indo-Pacific concept more clearly than the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or Quad. The grouping brings together Australia, India, Japan and the United States. First proposed in 2007, it remained dormant for several years before being revived during Trump's first term. Its revival coincided with growing concerns about China's regional influence and a shared desire among the four countries to preserve a rules-based order in the region.

Although Quad members have consistently rejected descriptions of the grouping as an anti-China alliance, its emergence has often been understood as a response to Beijing's growing geopolitical weight. The Quad has expanded beyond traditional security concerns to include cooperation on maritime awareness, critical technologies, supply chains, infrastructure, cyber security, climate resilience et al.

The Indo-Pacific framework provided the conceptual glue that held this agenda together. It gave the four countries a shared strategic geography and a common vocabulary for discussing regional challenges.

That is why any apparent retreat from the term "Indo-Pacific" immediately raises questions about the Quad's future trajectory. If the organising concept loses prominence in Washington, observers naturally wonder whether the institution built around it could lose momentum as well.

Early signals of change

The debate intensified after the publication of the US National Security Strategy in November 2025. The document continued to view India as an important partner and expected New Delhi to contribute to regional

security. But unlike the 2017 NSS, which repeatedly emphasised the "Indo-Pacific", the 2025 document referred instead to "Asia".

Security documents are carefully crafted texts. Every phrase reflects internal debates, bureaucratic compromises, and policy preferences. When a term disappears, analysts wonder whether it reflects a broader rethinking of strategy.

The key question is whether the new terminology represents a genuine strategic shift or simply a rhetorical adjustment.

The shift away from the term "Indo-Pacific" may reflect more than a change in diplomatic vocabulary. It could signal a broader

reassessment of how the Trump administration views America's role in Asia and, crucially, its relationship with China.

The Indo-Pacific framework emerged during a period when Washington increasingly viewed China as a strategic challenger and sought to strengthen partnerships with countries such as India, Japan and Australia. The Quad's revival under Trump's first term was widely seen as part of that effort to build a network of like-minded powers capable of balancing Beijing's growing influence.

The current administration, however, appears less interested in organising regional strategy around explicit competition with China. Rather than constructing coalitions aimed at balancing Beijing, it has signaled a preference for reducing geopolitical commitments and avoiding new antagonistic blocs. In this context, the shift from "Indo-Pacific" to the more neutral "Asia" may be an attempt to move away from a framework that had become closely associated with strategic rivalry and containment.

This also gains significance amid recurring discussions in Washington's strategic circles about a possible "G-2" approach — the idea that the world's two largest economies, the United States and China, have a unique responsibility to manage global stability through engagement rather than confrontation. While the administration has not formally embraced such a framework yet, its reluctance to foreground China-centric alliances has fuelled speculation that it prefers selective cooperation with Beijing.

The change may also reflect the administration's longstanding emphasis on burden-sharing. The 2025 National Security Strategy continues to expect regional powers, including India, to contribute more actively to their own security and regional stability. Rather than positioning the US as the primary guarantor of order, the document suggests a model in which local actors shoulder greater responsibility.

At the same time, Washington faces competing demands in Europe, West Asia, and Asia. Economic pressures, domestic priorities and concerns about the costs of overseas commitments have strengthened arguments for a more restrained foreign policy. A narrower regional framing may therefore be part of a broader effort to reduce strategic obligations while preserving American influence.

Taken together, these shifts suggest a departure from the expansive Indo-Pacific vision that defined much of the past decade. The question is no longer whether the United States will remain engaged in the region, but whether it still sees balancing China as the organising principle of that engagement.

MANISH KUMAR @ Chennai

ON June 3 this year, Justice G Jayachandran of the Madras High Court penned one of the most strident indictments of India's justice delivery system in recent memory. The reason: an election petition filed by DMK neta M Appavu in 2016 shortly after losing to AIADMK's I S Inbadurai by a slim margin of 49 votes from the Radhapuram assembly constituency in Tirunelveli district, got decided 10 years later, by which time the outcome was academic. It was not just that two assembly elections happened in between. It was that the Supreme Court ordered a stay on announcing the outcome of a recount of postal ballots in the case in 2019. It then sat on it for six long years before vacating the stay and remanding the matter back to the Madras high court. Curiously, the SC also let the question that was at the heart of the litigation go undecided: Do middle school headmasters qualify as gazetted officers to attest postal ballots?

Significantly, an SC bench extensively heard the matter on March 23, 2021 but inexplicably failed to wrap it up. One plausible explanation for leaving the core legal question on headmasters open could be that the bench that heard the arguments in 2021 had changed. As Chief Justice of India Surya Kant observed in a recent case, "The interval between the hearing and the pronouncement also affects the quality of the adjudication, as a judgment bears the imprint of the arguments that preceded it, and it reflects them most faithfully when it follows them closely."

The Appavu verdict is not just a story about a disputed election, but a mirror held up to a system in which justice grinds so slowly that it often defeats its purpose. As per the National Judicial Data Grid,

As CJJ Surya Kant recently said, people's confidence in the justice delivery system rests on quick verdicts



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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ವಕಾಲಿಕ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ವಕಾಲಿಕ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION & MARKETING SECTION, CIRCLE OFFICE, KOZHIKODE

TENDER NOTICE

Offers are invited from the eligible firms for Empanelment to carry out Maintenance/Installation of CCTV, Fire & Burglar Alarm & Fire Extinguishers in various branches, ATMs and Administrative Buildings coming under Circle Office Kozhikode. The details are available in our Bank's Website: <https://www.canarabank.bank.in/tenders>. Interested firms may download the application and submit with all supporting documents, duly filled to the Circle Office Kozhikode address. Last date for submission is 13.07.2026 upto 3.00 P.M. Further, communications, corrigendum, amendments, if any, will be hosted in Bank's website only. (Sd/-)

Place: Kozhikode Assistant General Manager, General Administration & Marketing Section, Circle Office, Kozhikode
Date: 22.06.2026

INTERNATIONAL FLOWER AUCTION BANGALORE LIMITED
#24, BELLARY ROAD, HEBBAL, Bengaluru-560024
Phone:- 9980303339/ 8431235867
E-Mail:- ifablimited@gmail.com, Website :-www.ifabindia.org

IFAB/2025-26/PM/WORK_INDENT3/CALL-5 Date: 15.06.2026

TENDER For Supply and Installation of Technological Equipment's Including Double Deep Racking System, Pallets, Conveyor Belt System, Etc., and Construction of Flower Storage Cold Rooms for Strengthening of International Flower Auction Bangalore Limited Under RIDF Project.

Two bid system online tenders are invited through Karnataka e-procurement portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>, by IFAB Ltd., on 15.06.2026 for Supply and Installation of Technological Equipment's Including Double Deep Racking System, Pallets, Conveyor Belt System, Etc., and Construction of Flower Storage Cold Rooms (IFAB/2025-26/PM/WORK_INDENT3/CALL-5) Under RIDF at International Flower Auction Bangalore Limited from the interested parties. The documents are available in the Karnataka Procurement Portal only from 15.06.2026 and last date for bid submission is on 23.06.2026 till 4.00 PM.

Sd/- Managing Director
DIPR/CP/1277/SHIRDI SAI/2026-27

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
(Appendix-IV-A) (See Proviso to Rule 9 (1))

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Kottarakkara Branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 08.07.2026 for recovery of Rs.1,55,97,290/- (Rupees One Crore Fifty-Five Lakhs ninety-seven thousand two hundred and ninety only) as on 18.06.2026 due to the Indian Bank, Kottarakkara Branch, Secured Creditor, from 1. M/s Phoenix Publications, High School Junction, Near Indian Bank Pallikolai Branch, KP Road, Adoor 691523, 2. Mr. Ramesh Ramachandran, Proprietor, M/s Phoenix Publications, 3. Mrs. Reja Ramesh, both residing at Indira Bhavan, Neelawarum PO, Kottarakkara, Kollam 691505. The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY
Property at 6.60 Acres of land and building in Re Sy. No. 5838-1, Block No. 8, Adoor Village, Adoor Taluk, Palthamthitta district as given in the schedule hereunder belonging to Mr. Ramesh Ramachandran and Mrs. Reja Ramesh. BOUNDARIES: East - Municipal Road, West Property of Kunjunon, South - Vazhy (3 feet), North - Property of Rajan

Encumbrances on property: Nil Property ID No. IDIB6381683545
Reserve Price: Rs. 40,00,000/- EMD: Rs. 4,00,000/- Bid Increment: Rs. 10,00,00/-

Date & time of e-Auction: 08.07.2026, 11.00 am to 04.00 pm

Bidders are advised to visit the website (<https://www.banknet.com>) of our e-auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to support.banknet@psballiance.com. For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: <https://www.banknet.com> and for clarifications related to this portal please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. Contact No. 8291220220. Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website <https://www.banknet.com>

DETAILS CONTACT: MANAGER, KOTTARAKKARA PH: 9446003868
Date: 19.06.2026, Place: Kottarakkara (Sd/-) (Authorised Officer)

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
(Appendix-IV-A)

Date of E-Auction: 06-07-2026 between 11.00 AM to 3.00 PM
with Auto extension of 5 minutes in case Bid is placed with in last 5 minutes

Last date & time for submission of Bid/Deposit of EMD and Proof: 06-07-2026 upto 11.00 AM

Date & Time of inspection of property on: 22-06-2026 to 06-07-2026 between 11.00 AM and 05.00 PM with prior appointment

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Bank of Maharashtra, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Maharashtra, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the dates mentioned above, for recovery due to the Bank of Maharashtra from the Borrower(s) and Guarantor (s) as mentioned in the table. Details of the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s), Amount Due, Short description of immovable properties and Encumbrances known thereon, Possession type, Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also given as under:

Branch: Pala, Name & Address of the Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s): Mrs. Alphonsa Cyrus, 331, Kunsingal, Ottamassery Thakkal P.O, Cherthala South, Arthungal, Alappuzha-688530.
Mr. Rahul S, Flat No 1404/D Cedar Park, Apartments Perumbakkadu Village, Kumananallor P.O, Ettumanoor, Kottayam-686016
Outstanding Amount: Rs. 40,35,869/- (Rupees Forty Lakhs thirty five thousand eight hundred and sixty nine only) plus prevailing rate of interest with effect from 12.11.2024 (C/s: 39.28.037/- + accrued interest Rs.1,07,618/- + penal interest Rs. 37/- + Discharge charge Rs. 177)

Description of Immovable property with known Encumbrances: All that pieces and parcel of the property consisting of 02.02 Acres of land comprised in Re 55/6-3, Block No 36, of Pampady Village, Kottayam Taluk and the building bearing no. 02/482, Pampady Gramapanchayath totally admeasuring 166.18 sq. M within the limit of Pampady Grama Panchayath, and registered in the name of Mrs. Alphonsa Cyrus and Mr. Rahul S in the Registration Sub - District Pampady and Registration District - Kottayam. Boundary as per Site Plan: North: Property of Copalakrishnan Kootunkal; East: Road; South: Property of Manoj Pushpamangalam; West: Pathway. CERSAI ID: 200073827918

Reserve Price: Rs.26,00,000/- EMD: Rs.2,60,000/- Bid Increment: Rs.10,000/-

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link <https://www.bankofmaharashtra.in/gid> in the Bank's website and also on E-bikray portal (www.bikray.in).
Place: Ernakulam, Date: 20-06-2026. Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Bank of Maharashtra

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Trivandrum Division

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction/Thiruvananthapuram acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-tenders for the following works:

E-TENDER NOTICE NO:	VITRD-OT/03/2026-27 Item 1 Dated 19.06.2026	VITRD-OT/03/2026-27 Item 2 Dated 19.06.2026
Name of work:	Provision of AT in order to facilitate interlocking arrangements including EDLB with SLB at Non Interlocked LCs in TVC Division - TRD portion of work.	Modification of existing tramway type OHE into conventional type in section between Punnuram (PNG) and Guruvayur (GUVN) to increase the section speed.
Tender Value	₹ 49,90,211.11	₹ 11,22,59,306.54
Tender document cost	NIL	NIL
Period of completion	180 days	12 months
Earnest Money Deposit	₹ 99,600/-	₹ 22,45,200/-

Date and Time of Tender closing: 13.07.2026 @ 14.00 Hrs
Complete Details and Tender document will be available at <http://www.irps.gov.in>
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)/ Thiruvananthapuram

LOST NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that an extent of undivided shares in Re Sy. No. 122/2, Block No. 7 of Kakkand Village, having apartment No 8-D bearing Door No. VII/555-D60 on the eighth floor of the multi-storied building thereon called DULCET constructed by M/s. Olive Builders was owned and purchased by Mrs. Sheeba Thomas as per Sale Deed No. 2393/12011 of SRO Thiruvananthapuram, Original Sale Deed No. 2593/12011 has been irretrievably lost. If anyone finds the said Deed kindly inform at the under mentioned address within 7 days from the date of issue of this notice. Else a certified copy of the said Deed will be used as if the original. If any person has any claim or objection over the conveyance/ mortgage of the said property by using the Certified Copy of the said Deed kindly inform at the under mentioned address.

Sd/- Advocate Kurian Joseph,
Cellar Floor, CVP Parliament Square, Cross Jn, Thiruvalla, Kerala State.
Mob: 9447263046, 859067800
Date: 17-06-2026

UJJIVAN SMALL FINANCE BANK

Registered Office: Grape Garden, No.27, 3rd "A" Cross, 18th Main, 6th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560095, Karnataka.
Branch Office: No.67/2926(1), Ground Floor,Vithayathil Building, Old Railway Station Road, Ernakulam North, Kerala-682 018

E-AUCTION NOTICE

E-Auction Notice for Sale under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SARFAESI Act) 2002, Read with Proviso Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

The undersigned as Authorised Officer of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd, has taken possession of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that E-Auction of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realization of dues of the Bank will be held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" on the date as prescribed as here under:

Loan Account Number / Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Guarantor	(i) Date of 13-2 Notice & Demand Amount as on (ii) Date of Possession	Present Outstanding Balance	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR
1193210090000001	(i) 12.02.2025, ₹82,57,641/- (Rupees Eighty-Two Lakh Fifty-Seven Thousand Six Hundred and Forty-One Only) as on 29.01.2025	₹ 99,69,610.6 (Rupees Ninety Nine Lakhs Sixty Nine Thousand Six Hundred and Ten and paise Six Only) as on 16.06.2026	₹ 95,00,000/- (Rupees Ninety-Five Lakhs Only)	₹ 9,50,000/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only)
2.Mr.A.M Surendran	ii) Symbolic Possession 10.07.2025 & Physical Possession 15.01.2026			
3. Mrs.Shobha K C				

Property Description/Schedule: All that Part & Parcel of property having 1/60th Undivided Share in 28.35 Ares in Re-Survey No.377/5, Old Survey No. 572, Block No.13, in Maradu Village, Together with Apartment No.3 B in Third Floor having a Super Built-up area of 213.58 Square Meter together with a covered car parking space in the ground floor and common facilities and amenities in the building named "Grand Meadows" at Kanayannur Taluk, Ernakulam District and the boundaries as per location sketch (No.795/2022-23) for 28.35 Ares in Re-Survey No.377/5 are: East: Road, South: property of Thomas Vayalal, West: Canal, North: Property of Nagpal Builders.

DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION : 15.07.2026, from 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon

Last Date for submission of Bid on or before 14.07.2026, Between 10.00 a.m and 5.00 p.m
Date & Time of Inspection of the property 13.07.2026 Between 10.00 a.m and 5.00 p.m

For More Details Contact Bank Authorized Officer
Mr.Adithya - 95435 91627- & Mr.Tijo Sajan - 78451 92961

The e-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".
The E-Auction will be conducted through Ujjivan Small Finance Bank approved E-auction service provider - M/s.C1 India PVT LTD. Contact person - Mr. Prabhakaran (Mob: 74182 81709). The intending bidders are advised to visit <https://www.bankauctions.com> or <https://www.ujjivansfb.in/e-auctions> for the details of the property in the website and for taking part in the bid they should register their names at <https://www.bankauctions.com> and get their user-id and password free of cost. Prospective bidders may avail online training on E-Auction from the service provider M/s. C1 India PVT LTD. Helpline Number's- 72919 18824, 25, 26 support email id:- support@bankauctions.com, Auction portal - <https://www.bankauctions.com>.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in our Bank's / Secured Creditor's website i.e., <https://www.ujjivansfb.in/e-auctions/> / <https://www.bankauctions.com>

Date: 21.06.2026 Sd/- Authorized Officer, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank