# Daily Mains Practice Question 25 -06-2026

**GS-II – International Relations**

Q. The U.S. decision to revert INDOPACOM to PACOM has been described as more than symbolic. Critically examine the implications of this change for India's strategic calculus in the Indo-Pacific.

IAS Parliament | The Hindu

**Answer**

## Introduction:

The U.S. reversion from INDOPACOM to PACOM reflects a recalibration of regional priorities, reducing India's symbolic prominence in U.S. strategy. Though the operational scope remains unchanged, it suggests greater U.S.–China accommodation and diminished emphasis on the Quad and India's Indo-Pacific role.

## Main Body

• The US Pacific Command (USPACOM) is the *premier unified combatant command* responsible for American military operations across the Pacific region.
• In 2018, the U.S. renamed PACOM to INDOPACOM to reflect India's growing strategic role in balancing China.
• The 2026 reversion to PACOM, despite retaining the same operational scope, suggests a reduced emphasis on India in U.S. regional strategy.

**What are the key implications for India's Strategic Calculus in the Indo-Pacific?**

• **Reduced Centrality of India** – Dropping "Indo" may diminish India's role in U.S. regional strategy, also challenges India's vision of being a key Indo-Pacific stakeholder.
• **Weakening of the Quad** – The Quad's effectiveness is weakening as U.S. emphasis declines, narrowing cooperation mainly to maritime security, critical minerals, prosperity, and disaster response.
• **Greater Strategic Uncertainty** – Softer U.S. engagement with China raises concerns over a possible G-2 style accommodation, undermining India's objective of a multipolar Indo-Pacific.
• **Strategic Autonomy Challenge** – India must avoid overdependence on U.S. security guarantees & reinforces India's long-standing policy of multi-alignment.
• **Maritime Security Challenges** – A reduced U.S. focus could weaken deterrence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), increasing China's strategic space.
• **Regional Leadership Vacuum** – With SAARC and BIMSTEC facing challenges, India must prevent external powers from filling the regional vacuum.
• **Recalibration of West Asia Policy** – The evolving U.S.–Iran approach requires India to revisit its policies on Chabahar Port, energy security, and regional balancing.

**What India should do to overcome these impacts?**

• **Diversify Maritime Coalitions** – Strengthen the Australia–India–Japan Trilateral, IORA, ASEAN partnerships, and France-led initiatives.
• **Revive Regional Institutions** – Reinvigorate BIMSTEC, IORA, and SAARC, to reinforce India's regional leadership.
• **Strengthen Indigenous Capabilities** – Enhance naval modernization, domestic defence manufacturing, and maritime domain awareness.
• **Deepen Act East Policy** – Expand economic, connectivity, and security cooperation with ASEAN.
• **Maintain Strategic Autonomy** – Diversify partnerships with multi-alignment by balancing relations with the U.S., ASEAN, Japan, Australia, Europe, and West Asian partners.

## Conclusion:

The reversion to PACOM underscores the fluidity of great-power priorities. India should respond by strengthening strategic autonomy, regional leadership, diversified partnerships, and maritime capabilities to advance a free, open, and multipolar Indo-Pacific.



SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT
*Information is Empowering*