

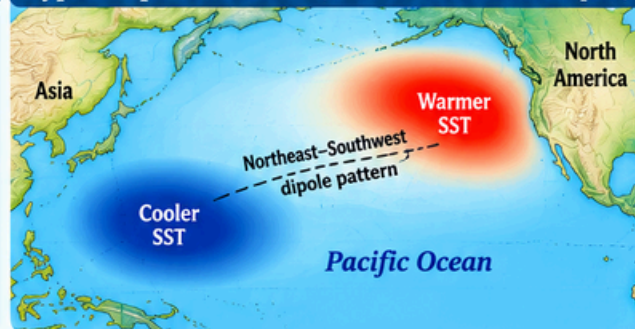
1 Victoria Mode (Source: The Hindu)

Victoria Mode (Pacific Ocean)

What is Victoria Mode?

- A major climate and oceanographic phenomenon characterized by a recurring pattern of sea surface temperature (SST) variations in the extratropical North Pacific Ocean.
- Though originating in the high latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere, it has gained attention due to its powerful teleconnections that influence tropical weather systems, global precipitation patterns and regional monsoons.
- Occurs on interannual to decadal timescales.

Typical Spatial Pattern (Northeast-Southwest Dipole)



Core Characteristics



Spatial Pattern

Distinct northeast-to-southwest dipole pattern of SST anomalies across the extratropical North Pacific.



Location

Occurs in the extratropical North Pacific Ocean.



Timescale

Interannual to decadal variability (about 3–5 years and longer).

Distinction from PDO

- The Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) represents the leading EOF (EOF1) of North Pacific SSTs and is tied to Aleutian Low variability.
- The Victoria Mode operates independently as the second dominant mode of climate variability in the region.

Mechanism and Atmospheric Linkages

1

Forcing Mechanism

Primarily forced by the atmosphere through the North Pacific Oscillation (NPO). Fluctuations in North Pacific sea level pressure alter surface wind fields, which drive changes in upper-ocean heat content and temperature gradients.

North Pacific Oscillation (NPO)

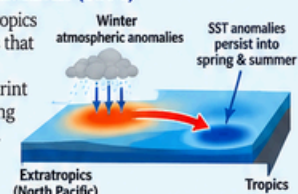
Changes in surface winds

Alteration in upper-ocean heat content and SST gradients

2

Seasonal Footprinting Mechanism (SFM)

Atmospheric anomalies in the extratropics during winter imprint SST anomalies that persist into the spring and summer. The subtropical portion of this footprint acts as an oceanic bridge, transmitting extratropical signals into the tropics.



3

Connection to ENSO

The Victoria Mode serves as a critical precursor and driver for the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO). A strong Victoria Mode event in the late winter or early spring often precedes shifts in tropical Pacific SSTs, effectively helping trigger conventional El Niño or El Niño Modoki events roughly 12 to 18 months later.



Relevance to Regional Climate and Indian Monsoons



Decadal Rainfall Trends

While short-term monsoon variability is largely driven by tropical phenomena like ENSO and IOD, long-term climate mapping shows that multi-decadal oscillations in the North Pacific, such as the Victoria Mode, modulate moisture transport pathways.



Shifting Climate Zones

Studies using long-term data (e.g., 1951–2020) indicate that persistent North Pacific thermal patterns are linked to declining long-term rainfall trends across the plains of Gangetic West Bengal, Bihar and parts of Northeast India.



Climate Change Implications

This has contributed to a contraction of tropical savannah climates and a localized shift toward drier, more temperate baseline conditions over prolonged historical spans.

Impact on India



Influence through atmospheric and oceanic teleconnections

• Can influence the Indian summer monsoon through atmospheric teleconnections (e.g., via the Walker circulation).

• Persistent Victoria Mode patterns are associated with declining long-term rainfall trends over Gangetic West Bengal, Bihar and parts of Northeast India.

• Linked to higher risk of drought conditions in these regions over multi-decadal periods.



DATE: 25 OCTOBER 2026

2 Foreign Exchange Reserves (Forex Reserves) (Source: The Indian Express)

Forex reserves are assets held on reserve by a central bank (RBI) in foreign currencies like the dollar, which can include bonds, treasury bills and other government securities.

Need To Know

- They are an important component of the **Balance of Payments (BoP)**
- **Components of India's Forex Reserves**
 - Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) (largest contributor)
 - Gold reserves (second largest contributor)
 - Special Drawing Rights: It is not a currency, but its value is determined by a basket of 5 major currencies: the US dollar, euro, Chinese renminbi, Japanese yen, and British pound sterling.
 - Reserve Tranche Position (RTP) with the IMF: RTP is a country's quota-based access to IMF resources, available for borrowing without strict conditions, used for BoPs or financial stability.

How much forex reserve does India have?

- Foreign Currency Assets: about US\$564.68 billion
- Gold reserves: about US\$104.74 billion
- Special Drawing Rights (SDRs): approximately US\$18.65 billion
- Reserve position with the IMF: approximately US\$4.80 billion



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3 Removal of the Election Commission (Source: The Hindu)

- Grounds for Removal of CEC: The CEC can be removed only on two grounds under Article 124(4) (applicable via Article 324(5)):
 - Proved misbehaviour – Includes corrupt practices, abuse of office, or actions incompatible with the office of CEC; courts have interpreted this to cover failure to discharge official duties.
 - Incapacity – Refers to situations where the officer is unable to perform their duties.
- Procedure for Removal of CEC
 - Members of Parliament must bring a notice of motion explicitly alleging misbehaviour or incapacity. Minimum signatures required: Lok Sabha (at least 100 MPs) and Rajya Sabha (at least 50 MPs)
 - The Speaker/Chairman may consult people and materials to decide whether to admit or refuse the motion.
 - If admitted, a committee is formed to investigate evidence of misbehaviour or incapacity.
 - The motion must be passed by a special majority in both Houses
 - Once both Houses pass the motion, the President orders the removal of the CEC.