

1621

Dutch West India Company receives charter for the West Indies (the Americas, Caribbean and West Africa)

1943

A mob of 60 from the Los Angeles Naval Reserve Armory beats up everyone perceived to be Hispanic, starting the week-long Zoot Suit Riots



1979

Ixtoc I rig in the Gulf of Mexico blows out, spilling 3 million barrels of oil in one of the worst oil spills in history

1989

Start of the Tiananmen Square crackdown as Chinese troops open fire on pro-democracy supporters in Beijing



TOP  
3  
TWEETS

01



More than 500 personnel of the State Emergency Service have been involved in dealing with the aftermath of Russia's overnight attack on our cities and communities. The main strike was on Kyiv, where dozens of residential buildings and other purely civilian infrastructure were damaged again. Tragically, four people have been reported killed. My condolences to all their families and loved ones. At this moment, 38 people are in hospitals in the capital, and all of them are receiving the necessary care.

@ZelenskyyUa

02



I'd like to express my deep appreciation to @cindymccain for her dedicated service as she steps down from her role as @WFPChief. I'm grateful for her steadfast commitment to the fight against global hunger & malnutrition, and I wish her all the very best in the future.

@antonioguterres

03



Ending #DRC's Ebola outbreak will require sustained and close collaboration and coordination among all health and humanitarian partners to help the government and community overcome the health emergency.

@DrTedros

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stance)

# India-Oman CEPA comes into force

Trade between two countries expected to rise

ANI | New Delhi

The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) comes into force from today, marking a significant milestone in bilateral economic relations and providing Indian exporters with duty-free access across 98.08 per cent of Oman's tariff lines, covering 99.38 per cent of India's export value.

The trade pact is expected to boost merchandise exports from India by improving market access for key sectors including engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and processed food products, marine products, textiles, chemicals, electronics, plastics, gems and jewellery.

Under the agreement, several Indian products will enjoy immediate duty-free access to the Omani market. These include natural honey, cashew, boneless meat, bakery products, chocolate and sugar confectionery, mineral water, cheese, curd, milk, cream, frozen fish and butter.

The CEPA is also expected to benefit India's exports of animal and vegetable fats and oils, which currently attract import duties ranging between 5 and 100 per cent in Oman. The agreement will further consolidate India's position in the Omani market, including in sectors such as egg exports, where duty-free access will strengthen competitiveness.



Beyond trade in goods, the agreement contains substantial commitments in services and mobility. It provides enhanced mobility provisions for Indian professionals, including temporary stay commitments for intra-corporate transferees, contractual service suppliers, business visitors and independent professionals.

The pact also liberalises entry and stay norms for professionals in sectors such as accountancy, taxation, architecture and healthcare. In a major investment-related commitment, Oman has agreed to provide 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) access for Indian companies in key services sectors.

According to the provisions of the agreement, Oman has also made its first-ever commitment on traditional medicine in any trade pact. The deal further provides for faster marketing authorisations for pharmaceutical products already approved by major international regulators such as the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA), the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the UK Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

The CEPA is expected to generate gains for consumers and businesses in both countries. India has agreed to provide duty-free access for up to 2,000 tonnes of Omani dates annually, while concessions have also

been extended to products such as Gum Arabic, used in food and medicines, frankincense used in the perfume industry, petrochemicals and marble blocks.

India and Oman have witnessed steady growth in bilateral trade over recent years. India imported USD 7.2 billion worth of goods from Oman in fiscal 2026, dominated by crude oil (USD 1.6 billion), liquefied natural gas (USD 1.2 billion), and fertilizers (USD 843 million).

The implementation of the CEPA is expected to further deepen economic engagement, enhance supply chain integration and create new opportunities for trade, investment and services cooperation between

the two countries.

Nearly 7 lakh Indian nationals reside in Oman, including Indian merchant families with a presence of over 200-300 years, with annual remittances of around \$2 billion. Over 6,000 Indian establishments operate across sectors in the West Asian country. The agreement is part of India's strategy to sign trade agreements with developed economies that don't compete with its labour-intensive interests as well as provide opportunities for businesses.

With India's export share in Oman's global imports basket at 5.31 per cent of the latter's global services imports of \$12.52 billion, India's Commerce Ministry has projected significant untapped potential for Indian service providers in sectors like Computer Related Services, Business and Professional Services, Audio-visual Services, Research and Development, Education and Health Services to promote high-value job creation and support commercial engagement between both countries.

For the first time, Oman has offered wide-ranging commitments like an increase in quota for Intra-Corporate Transferees from 20% to 50%, with a longer permitted duration of stay for Contractual Service Suppliers extended from the existing 90 days to two years, and the possibility of a further two-year extension.

# UN warns world to prepare for El Nino extreme weather

● The WMO says that even a moderate El Nino makes some weather and climate extremes more likely.

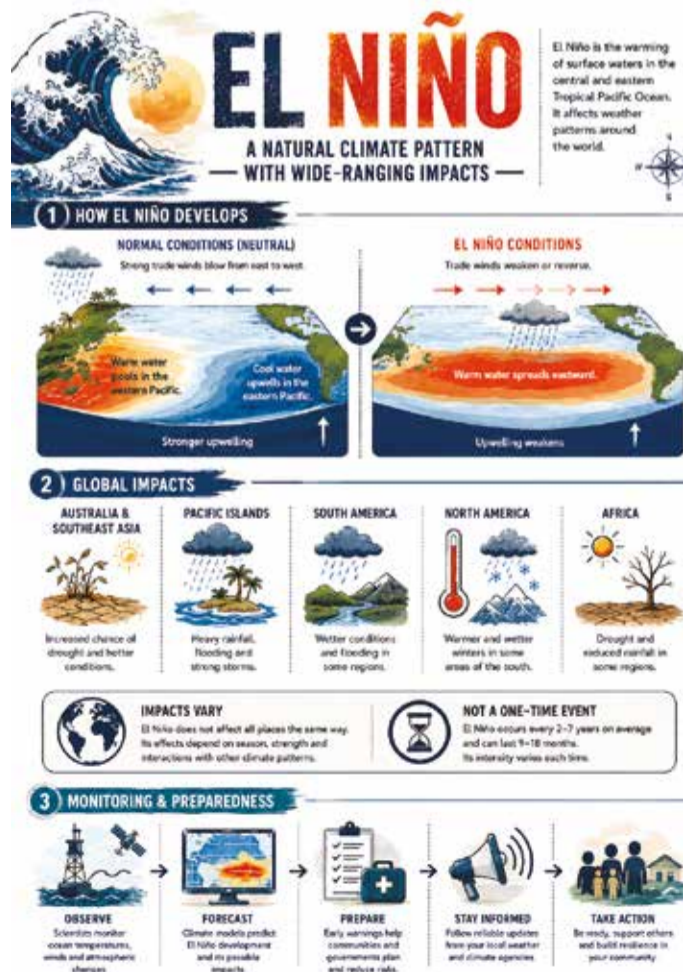
AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

There is an 80-percent chance of the warming El Nino phenomenon developing between June and August, increasing the risk of extreme weather events, the World Meteorological Organization said Tuesday.

"Fuelled by unusually warm ocean waters in the tropical Pacific, El Nino conditions are developing and are set to influence global temperature and rainfall patterns," the United Nations' WMO weather and climate agency said.

Forecasts from the WMO global network "indicate a pronounced shift toward El Nino conditions, with probabilities reaching 80 percent for June-August", the Geneva-based organisation said.

El Nino is a natural climate phenomenon that warms sur-



face temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, bringing worldwide changes in winds, pressure and rainfall patterns.

It typically takes place every two to seven years and lasts around nine to 12 months.

Conditions oscillate between El Nino and its opposite La Nina, with neutral conditions in between.

The likelihood of El Nino developing by November is "near or above 90 percent", and most forecast models suggest it will be "at least moderate -- and possibly strong", the WMO said in its quarterly El Nino/La Nina update.

WMO chief Celeste Saulo said the world needed to get ready for an El Nino which could "exacerbate drought and heavy rainfall and increase the risk of heatwaves both on land and in the ocean".

The WMO says that even a moderate El Nino makes some weather and climate extremes more likely. The last El Nino contributed to making 2023 the second-hottest year on record and 2024 the all-time high at around 1.55C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average.

# WHO reports sharp drop in suspected Ebola cases from 906 to 116

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

The WHO yesterday dramatically scaled back the number of suspected Ebola cases in central Africa to 116, down from more than 900 previously, with 330 cases now confirmed.

As of May 31, the World Health Organization said 116 suspected cases of the deadly virus had been registered in the Democratic Republic of Congo -- down from 906 late last week.

Some 321 cases have now been confirmed in the DR Congo, including 48 deaths, while nine confirmed cases have been registered in neighbouring Uganda, including one fatality.

While some suspected cases have been confirmed, many more "have been cleared out" from the data after having been shown to have other diseases with similar early symptoms or an unlinked fever, said WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier.