

WEEKLY REPORT



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POLITICS

WHITE HOUSE SAYS IT AIMS TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH BRAZIL, BUT WILL SPEAK OUT ON CONCERNS

The Biden administration is closely following developments in Brazil with regard to human rights and climate but intends to continue strengthening U.S. economic ties and trade with the South American country, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said on Monday. The administration of Democratic President Joe Biden on Feb. 5 had announced an additional \$300,000 (1.5 million reais) in funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development to bolster Brazil's emergency COVID-19 response, Psaki told a White House briefing. "We are by far the largest investor in Brazil, including in many of Brazil's most innovative and growth-focused companies, and will continue to strengthen our economic ties and increase our large and growing trade relationship in the months ahead," she said. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL CALLS ON US FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO FIGHT AMAZON DEFORESTATION

The first meeting between the Brazilian and the United States governments to discuss the environment was marked by a clear message from President Jair Bolsonaro: Brazil will commit to deforestation and fire reduction targets if there is a direct injection of foreign money in the country. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S INDUSTRY CONFEDERATION SAYS 82% OF LARGE COMPANIES INTEND TO INVEST IN 2021

A survey conducted by the National Confederation of Industry (CNI) shows that 82% of large companies intend to invest this year. It is expected that 35% of these investments will be directed to improvements in the production process and 33% to increase production capacity, through the purchase of new machinery and technology. [Read more.](#)

ECONOMIC CLIMATE IMPROVES IN BRAZIL IN FIRST QUARTER, SAYS FGV

Brazil's Economic Climate Indicator climbed 5.1 points from the last quarter of 2020 to the first quarter this year and reached 72.3 points, on a scale of 0 to 200 points. The data, which reflects the opinion of experts in the country's economy, was released today, February 26th, by Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV). [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO SAYS EMERGENCY AID SHOULD BE R\$250 FOR FOUR MONTHS STARTING IN MARCH

President Jair Bolsonaro said on Thursday, February 25th, that the government should settle the value of the emergency aid at R\$250, to be paid from March for a maximum period of four months. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FALLS TO 13.9% IN QUARTER THROUGH DECEMBER

Brazil's unemployment rate ended last year at 13.9%, figures showed on Friday, February 26th, extending a recent dip as workers returning to the labor market found jobs, but the average jobless rate in 2020 was the highest since comparable records began in 2012. [Read more.](#)

WITH GENERAL AT PETROBRAS, MILITARY COMMANDS ONE-THIRD OF STATE COMPANIES IN BRAZIL

General Joaquim Silva e Luna, appointed to Petrobras, will be the 17th military in charge of Brazil's state-owned companies. Luna was Defense Minister in the last year of President Michel Temer's administration and has been general director of Itaipu Binacional since early 2019, the first year of the Bolsonaro administration. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO PERSONALLY DELIVERS CORREIOS PRIVATIZATION BILL TO BRAZIL'S CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

In another move to show that the liberal agenda sponsored by Economy Minister Paulo Guedes is still standing, President Jair Bolsonaro visited the Chamber of Deputies to deliver the bill that paves the way for privatizing the Correios (Postal Service). [Read more.](#)

BRAZILIAN MARKETS RATTLED BY BOLSONARO'S REMOVAL OF PETROBRAS CHIEF

Shares in Petrobras tumbled, and Brazil's currency slid against the dollar after President Jair Bolsonaro moved to replace the oil producer's chief executive following a dispute over fuel prices. [Read more.](#)

GM TO FURLOUGH WORKERS IN BRAZIL PLANT FOR 20 DAYS, SUSPENDING PRODUCTION

General Motors Co said on Friday it would furlough all workers at one of its Brazil plants for 20 days in March for maintenance and updating of factory lines, leading to a suspension in production. The plant, in Gravataí in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, produces the Chevrolet Onix compact car, which has been Brazil's best-selling car for several years in a row. [Read more.](#)

ANALYSIS: PRESIDENTIAL SILENCE ENDORSES ACTION BY BOLSONARIST GROUPS

While working on good relation agreements with leaders of the Judiciary and Congress, President Jair Bolsonaro remains silent about the actions of extremists from his political base. Last week, he kept his distance from Daniel Silveira, a PSL deputy from Rio de Janeiro who attacked Federal Supreme Court (STF) justices and failed to halt the anti-democratic behavior of his loyal supporters. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ASKS SUPREME COURT URGENT PRECAUTIONARY IN 2016 ADI AGAINST PATENT LAW ARTICLE

The Attorney General of the Republic, Augusto Aras, requested the rapporteur-minister Dias Toffoli, of the Supreme Federal Court (STF), to grant "provisional emergency relief", in the case of direct action of unconstitutionality, so that the effects are suspended of article 40, sole paragraph of the Industrial Property Law (LPI), 1996. [Read more.](#)

AS BRAZIL FACES RECORD COVID DEATHS, A VARIANT-FUELED SURGE AND LAGGING VACCINATIONS, BOLSONARO DISPARAGES MASKS

The daily death toll of Covid-19 in Brazil hit a record high of 1,582 on Thursday, according to a news consortium's survey of local health departments. The painful milestone came as President Jair Bolsonaro railed against face masks, despite compelling scientific evidence that they are effective at preventing infections. [Read more.](#)

COVID DEATHS IN BRAZIL REACH 250 THOUSAND IN WORST STAGE OF THE PANDEMIC

In daily deaths, the country is now experiencing the worst moment of the pandemic. This has been deepened by increased circulation of the coronavirus variants - the most transmissible - already found in 17 states of the country and by a complicated management of immunization, with reports of the lack of vaccine doses by the states. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL SEES 204 CASES OF CORONAVIRUS VARIANTS

Brazil has confirmed 204 cases of infection with variants of the coronavirus, including the variants first detected in Brazil and the United Kingdom, the Health Ministry's Health Surveillance Secretariat (SVS) reported on Tuesday, February 24th. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S CAPITAL GOES INTO LOCKDOWN TO QUELL COVID-19 SURGE

The governor of Brazil's capital city, Brasilia, decreed a 24-hour lockdown for all but essential services on Friday to curb a worsening COVID-19 outbreak that has filled its intensive care wards to the brim. The drastic step came as right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro, who has repeatedly downplayed the gravity of the pandemic that has killed 250,000 Brazilians, renewed his attacks on state governors for destroying jobs with lockdowns. "The lockdown will start today and be total, it will be 24-hours a day," said a press aide for the federal district's Governor Ibaneis Rocha. A decree published at the end of the day said the lockdown would start right after midnight Saturday. [Read more.](#)

THERE IS A HIGH CHANCE OF A NATIONAL COLLAPSE OF BRAZIL'S HOSPITAL SYSTEM, SAYS SCIENTIST

In an interview to the O Globo newspaper, Miguel Nicolelis, MD, neuroscientist, and professor at Duke University, in the United States, advocated the need for a 21-day national lockdown. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S SENATE MAY PROPOSE FREEING VACCINE PURCHASE BY STATES, MUNICIPALITIES AND COMPANIES

Senate president Rodrigo Pacheco (DEM-MG), said that he expected to submit a bill on Monday, February 22nd, releasing the purchase of covid-19 vaccines by states, municipalities, and private companies. In return, he said that all must comply with the priorities set out in the National Immunization Plan (NIP). The text should also allow the federal government to bear the risks in the purchase of imported vaccines, he said. [Read more.](#)

COVID-19: BRAZIL RANKS 7TH IN THE WORLD IN TERMS OF ADMINISTERED DOSES

Brazil ranks 7th in the world in terms of the number of Covid-19 vaccines administered. According to a Bloomberg survey with data collected up to 3 PM Monday, February 22nd, the United States leads with 64,177,474 doses administered. Among its South American neighbors, Brazil leads in absolute numbers of doses administered. However, in terms of proportions, Chile tops the list, with 15.13 doses per 100 inhabitants. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL GRANTS DEFINITIVE REGISTRATION TO PFIZER VACCINE

Brazil's national sanitary regulator Anvisa today (Feb. 23) granted definitive registration to the vaccine against COVID-19 developed by US pharmaceutical company Pfizer in partnership with German biotech firm BioNTech. The decision was announced by Anvisa Director-President Antônio Barra Torres, who mentioned that the assessment for the approval lasted 17 days. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL LOOKS TO IMPORT MORE ASTRAZENECA VACCINE TO HEAD OFF LOCAL PRODUCTION SNAGS

Brazil's biomedical institute Fiocruz has begun talks with AstraZeneca Plc over alternative COVID-19 vaccine sources in case of possible issues surrounding the local production of the shot, a director told Reuters on Friday. Maurício Zuma, who heads the Fiocruz unit that produces vaccines, said it was still aiming to produce 110 million doses in the second half of the year, but that the complexity of the production and regulatory process in Brazil could stifle those

plans. As a result, he said it was exploring alternatives such as importing more active ingredients or ready doses. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL TO BUY 20 MILLION COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES FROM INDIA'S BHARAT BIOTECH

Brazil's Health Ministry on Thursday, February 25th, signed a contract to purchase 20 million doses of Covaxin, the Covid-19 vaccine made by India's Bharat Biotech, for delivery between March and May. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL SEEKS CLOSER TIES WITH INDIA IN SCIENCE, HEALTH, SPACE – SCIENCE MINISTER PONTES

Brazil wants matchmaking between scientists from Brazil and India. The use of artificial intelligence and nanotechnology in medicine is a priority for Brazil, which is keen to collaborate with India in the space sector. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL PROSECUTORS SEEK TO STOP PURCHASES OF INDIAN VACCINE

Brazilian prosecutors are seeking the immediate suspension of purchases of India's COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin, according to a document seen by Reuters on Friday, one day after the Health Ministry signed a contract to purchase 20 million doses. The vaccine made by private Indian company Bharat Biotech has yet to be backed up with Phase III clinical trial results, the prosecutors at the Federal Audit Court, known as the TCU, argued in seeking an injunction. [Read more.](#)

FLIGHT WITH 2 MILLION OXFORD/ASTRAZENECA VACCINE DOSES LANDS IN BRAZIL

The aircraft carrying the vaccine departed the Indian city of Mumbai at around 10:30 AM (local time) on Monday, February 22nd. The plane made a stopover in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, then took off to São Paulo at 10:40 PM (local time) – 3:40 PM on Monday (Brasília time). [Read more.](#)

ANTIDEPRESSANTS SALES HIKE 17% DURING PANDEMIC YEAR IN BRAZIL

The sale of antidepressants and mood stabilizers had a significant increase over the past year. A survey from the National Council of Pharmacies shows that nearly 100 million boxes of prescription drugs were sold in all of 2020 – a 17% hike compared to the preceding 12 months. [Read more.](#)