

WEEKLY REPORT



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POLITICS

BOLSONARO'S IMPEACHMENT SUPPORTED BY 53%, ACCORDING TO ATLAS SURVEY

The figure is the result of an Atlas survey released on Sunday, January 24th, when motorcades emerged in capitals such as São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro calling for the President's removal from office.. Meanwhile, the issue is once again gaining attention in Brasília amid the surge in the pandemic and the oxygen crisis in Manaus. [Read more.](#)

THOUSANDS OF BRAZILIANS TAKE TO STREETS OVER WEEKEND PROTESTING PRESIDENT BOLSONARO

Thousands of Brazilians took to the streets for a second day on Sunday, January 24th, to call for the impeachment of President Jair Bolsonaro, who is under fire for his government's mishandling of COVID-19, which has raged through the country and claimed more than 216,000 lives. [Read more.](#)

CONTINUED EMERGENCY AID WOULD BANKRUPT BRAZIL, SAYS BOLSONARO

President Jair Bolsonaro said on Thursday, January 28th, that the extension of emergency aid would bankrupt Brazil and lead to a series of other disastrous consequences, at a time when the main candidates for the Chamber and Senate presidencies are calling for a debate on some kind of assistance for people left without income during the novel coronavirus pandemic. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL GOVT DEBT ENDS 2020 AT RECORD HIGH 89.3% OF GDP

Brazil's national debt and public sector deficit ended last year at record highs, central bank figures showed on Friday, while a steep decline in official borrowing costs pushed interest payments as a share of the economy to historic lows. As the COVID-19 pandemic decimated Brazil's public finances over the course of the year, government debt in December reached 89.3% of gross domestic product, more than economists had expected and the highest level on record. [Read more.](#)

"I'M SORRY, BUT DEBT IS AT ITS LIMIT," SAYS BOLSONARO ON BRAZIL'S EMERGENCY AID

President Jair Bolsonaro conceded to supporters on Monday, January 25th, that there are people "in need" because of the end of emergency aid, but reiterated that the government's debt capacity "is at its limit" and extending the benefit is difficult. [Read more.](#)

ATTACKS ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN BRAZIL BREAK RECORDS IN 2020

The number of attacks on freedom of the press in Brazil broke records in 2020. The report by the National Federation of Journalists (FENAJ) shows that "there were 428 cases of violence, more than double (105.77%) the already alarming number of 208 registered in 2019". This was the highest number of attacks against the press since FENAJ began this survey over 20 years ago. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL TO BE U.S. 'KEY PARTNER' IN FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE – WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said on Thursday, January 28th, that Brazil will be a “key player” in the United States’ efforts to fight climate change. “This is a big priority for President Biden and that’s why he asked his good friend, former Secretary (John) Kerry, to lead our climate international effort, and certainly Brazil will be a key partner in that,” said Psaki. [Read more.](#)

AMAZON BIOME HURTLES TOWARD DEATH SPIRAL AS DEFORESTATION JUMPS IN 2020

An area the size of Israel was deforested in the Amazon biome last year as destruction surged 21% in the region spanning nine countries that is home to the world’s largest rainforest, according to the Amazon Conservation organization. [Read more.](#)

MOURÃO SAYS THAT, IN A POST-PANDEMIC SCENARIO, GOVERNMENTS WILL NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO INVEST IN THE AMAZON

Vice President Hamilton Mourão (PRTB) said on Wednesday (27) at the virtual version of the World Economic Forum in Davos that the private sector must lead investments in the Amazon because the government will not have the resources to do so in a post-pandemic scenario. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL’S GOVERNMENT PLANS 5G NETWORK SEPARATE FROM PRIVATE MARKET

Brazil’s federal government is planning to commission a fifth-generation (5G) wireless network exclusively for its own use with security requirements for equipment suppliers separate from nationwide networks, according to a document seen by Reuters. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL STILL PLANS TO PRIVATIZE STATE UTILITY ELETROBRAS, SOURCES SAY

Brazil’s government still plans to privatize state-run electricity company Eletrobras, two sources said on Thursday, despite the high-profile departure of its chief executive who said he did not see the political will required to sell the asset. Wilson Ferreira Jr. resigned on Monday as CEO of Centrais Elétricas Brasileiras, as Eletrobras is formally known, to take the helm of recently-privatized fuel distributor Petrobras Distribuidora SA. His departure battered Eletrobras’ share price and raised questions about President Jair Bolsonaro’s goal to sell off billions of dollars of state assets. [Read more.](#)

ANALYSIS: NEW LOST DECADE? PANDEMIC EXPOSES BRAZIL’S OLD SHORTCOMINGS

How to picture the post-Pandemic world, not in terms of the damage done, but with an eye to the future? And what would be Brazil’s position in this scenario? With this challenge in mind, Columbia University in New York convened more than a dozen panelists at the “Changing Role of the State: Brazil in Global Perspective” online event on Thursday and Friday, January 28th and 29th. Renowned economists analyzed the shock of Covid-19, which produced uncertainties and had a distinct impact among countries and even regions. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH

BOLSONARO, WHO WON'T TAKE A COVID-19 SHOT, VOWS TO INOCULATE BRAZIL FAST

Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro, who says he won’t take any COVID-19 shot, on Thursday vowed to quickly inoculate all Brazilians, tempering his tone after his support fell due to a patchy vaccine rollout and a brutal second wave of infections. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO GIVES NOD TO PRIVATE SECTOR BUYING COVID-19 SHOTS, ASTRAZENECA BALKS

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro on Tuesday said he has approved a group of private sector companies to buy 33 million vaccine doses from AstraZeneca Plc, something the British drugmaker firm said cannot happen "at this moment." [Read more.](#)

ASTRAZENECA COVID-19 VACCINE APPLIES FOR FULL REGULATORY APPROVAL IN BRAZIL

Brazilian health regulator Anvisa said on Friday that a COVID-19 vaccine developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca Plc had applied for full regulatory approval, in a positive development for the country's beleaguered vaccine rollout. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH MINISTER EXPECTS 100 DAILY DEATHS IN MANAUS UNLESS PATIENTS TRANSFERRED

The health crisis in Manaus remains very severe. Brazil's Health Minister Eduardo Pazuello, in a dramatic statement on Friday, January 29th, alerted that unless radical measures are taken it will be impossible to control the situation. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL IS THE WORST COUNTRY IN MANAGING THE PANDEMIC, ACCORDING TO ANALYSIS BY 98 GOVERNMENTS

Brazil was the country that has had the worst public health management during the pandemic, according to a report by the Lowy Institute, a study center based in Sydney, Australia. The country is in last place among 98 evaluated governments. Mexico, Colombia, Iran and the United States also scored very low. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL RESEARCHERS FIND PEOPLE INFECTED WITH TWO DIFFERENT CORONAVIRUS STRAINS

Researchers in southern Brazil said they have discovered patients infected with two different strains of the new coronavirus simultaneously, reflecting concerns about the growing number of variants in the country. The researchers, who posted their findings Wednesday on medical website medRxiv, said their study would be the first in the world to confirm co-infection with two strains of the coronavirus. The study has yet to be published in a scientific journal and has not been peer reviewed. The patients, both in their 30s, were infected in late November with the P.2 variant of coronavirus identified in Rio, also known as the B.1.1.28 lineage, and simultaneously tested positive for a second variant of the virus. Their symptoms were reportedly mild, with a dry cough in one case, and coughing, sore throat and headache in the second. They did not require hospitalization. [Read more.](#)

TECHNOLOGY AND CONNECTIVITY COULD REVOLUTIONIZE HEALTH IN BRAZIL

Although it is quite efficient, the Brazilian National Health System (SUS) is overwhelmed, and unable to quickly meet all the demands. For instance, in the city of São Paulo alone there are over 150,000 elective surgeries on waiting lists. [Read more.](#)