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# CIVIL SERVICES ACHIEVERS' POINT

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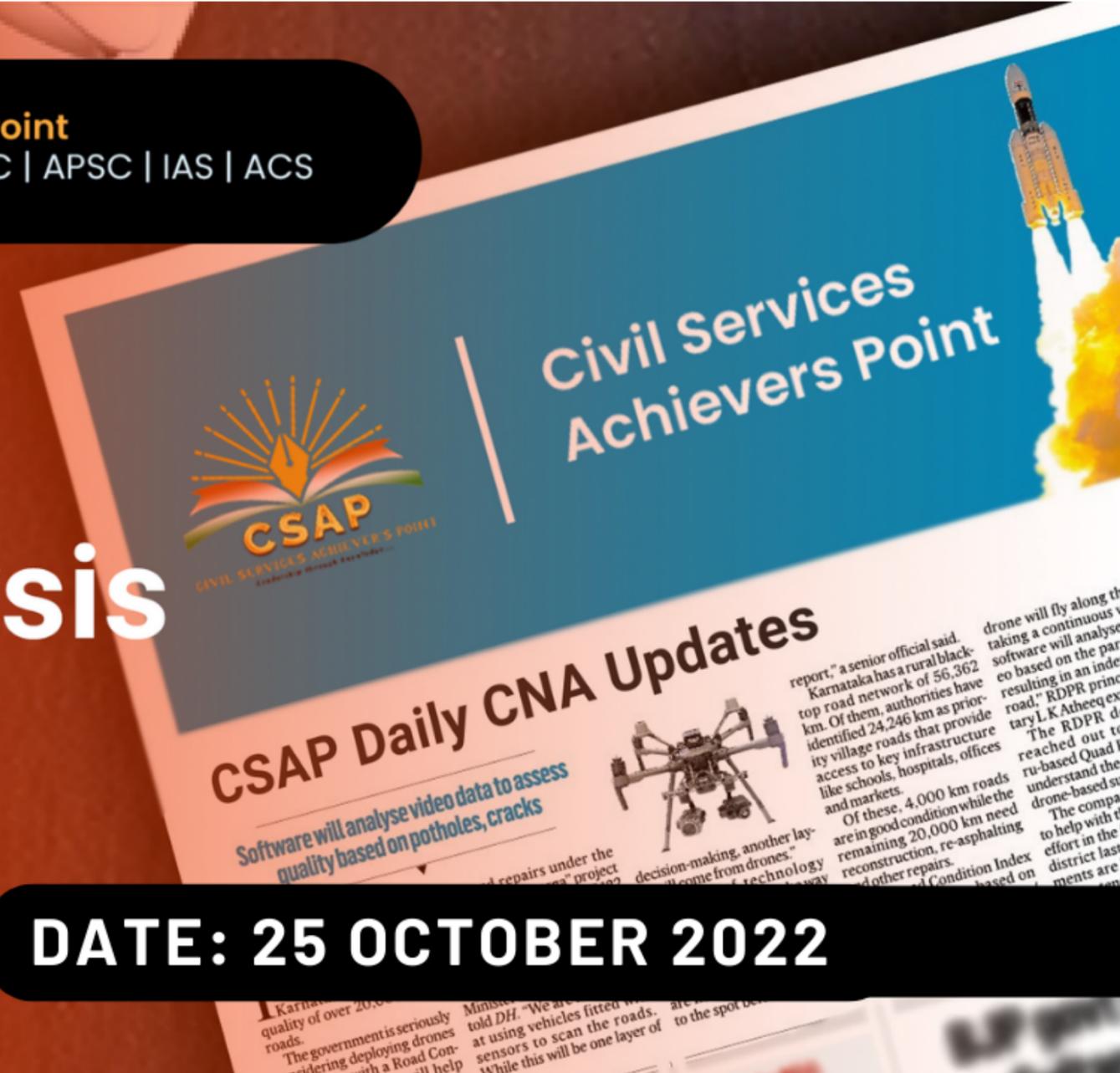


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## CSAP News Analysis CNA

IN-DEPTH NEWS ANALYSIS FOR  
UPSC & APSC

DATE: 25 OCTOBER 2022



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## CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

S. No	News Articles	Paper
1	ISRO's heaviest rocket	GS-3
2	Palliative care	GS-2
3	<u>Sukapaika</u> River in Odisha	GS-1
4	Teachers training key to NCF	GS-2
5	Five new varieties of Basmati	GS-3
6	Deciphering samba politics in Brazil	Editorial

# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

## ISRO's heaviest rocket with 36 satellites on board lifts off

**Sangeetha Kandavel**  
SRIHARIKOTA

The heaviest rocket of the Indian Space Research Organisation, the LVM3-M2/OneWeb India-1, with 36 satellites on board took off from the second launch pad (SLP) of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR at Sriharikota at 12.07 a.m. on Sunday.

LVM3-M2 is the dedicated commercial satellite mission of NewSpace India Ltd. (NSIL), a Central public sector enterprise under the Department of Space.

With this launch, LVM3 is making its entry into the "global commercial launch service market". This mission is being undertaken as part of the commercial ar-



ISRO's heaviest rocket lifting off from the second launchpad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

angement entered into between NSIL and Network Access Associates Limited (m/s OneWeb Ltd), a U.K.-based company.

As part of this mission 36 OneWeb Gen-1 satellites, meant for global con-

nectivity needs, will be launched into circular low earth orbit of 601 km altitude.

This mission is the fifth flight of LVM3. And this is the first Indian rocket with a six tonne payload.

### GS-3 ISRO's heaviest rocket

#### Context

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## CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS



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# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

THE HINDU

## Access to palliative care only for 1-2% of those in need: data

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**  
NEW DELHI

Only 1-2% of the population who need palliative care have access to it in India compared to the global average of 14%, according to Health Ministry data analysis released by the health unit of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).

The analysis shows that while India stands at number three in terms of cancer incidence in the world, most States in the country do not even have enabling legislation or policy to integrate palliative care with treatment offered to cancer patients. Currently only three States (Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra) have a palliative care policy. Kerala, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Punjab,

and Assam report the highest overall crude incidence rates of cancers which is greater than 130 cases per lakh population.

As per the report on the state of cancer incidence in the country, the financial burden for cancer treatment is highest among all diseases, making it unaffordable for over 80% of the population.

“The government needs to undertake efforts to include palliative care packages under reimbursement schemes of government as well as private insurance plans,” notes the study.

The Health Ministry in its response had noted that an initiative for prevention, control, and screening for non-communicable diseases has been rolled out under the National Health Mission (NHM).

GS-2  
Palliative care

### Context

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## CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS



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The government needs to undertake efforts to include palliative care packages under reimbursement schemes of government as well as private insurance plans.

# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

THE HINDU

## Breathing life into a dead river

Sukapaika river in Odisha stopped flowing in the 1950s following a canal work. A water crisis made the villagers sit up and think of rejuvenation

**Satyasundar Barik**  
BHUBANESWAR

**A** small river that stopped flowing 70 years ago in Odisha's Cuttack district is set to be rejuvenated. The State government has started working on its revival plan following a recent direction from the National Green Tribunal (NGT). This is probably the first serious attempt being made to restore a river to its original shape in Odisha.

The Sukapaika river originated from another river, the Mahanadi, near Ayatpur village. It flowed 27.5 km before meeting the Mahanadi again at Bankala.

In the 1950s, the State's water resource engineers had in their wisdom closed the Sukapaika river mouth enabling development of the Taladanda Canal System, a major canal of the State. This led to the river mostly drying up. The process was aggravated by agricultural encroachments that had sprung up on the riverbanks.

"Villagers realised the importance of the river when they faced a groundwater crisis a few years ago. The water table wasn't getting recharged by the Sukapaika



**Missing river:** Farming is done on some portions of the Sukapaika riverbed. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

river anymore. Agriculture was hit and the river channel turned into a garbage ground," said Swarup Rath, the main petitioner who moved the NGT in 2021 demanding rejuvenation of the river.

On September 28, the NGT's Eastern Bench directed the State government to make budgetary provision for the river's complete rejuvenation by March 2023.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 9

GS-1

Sukapaika River in Odisha

### Context

Sukapaika river in Odisha stopped flowing in the 1950s following a canal work. A water crisis made the villagers sit up and think of rejuvenation.

# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

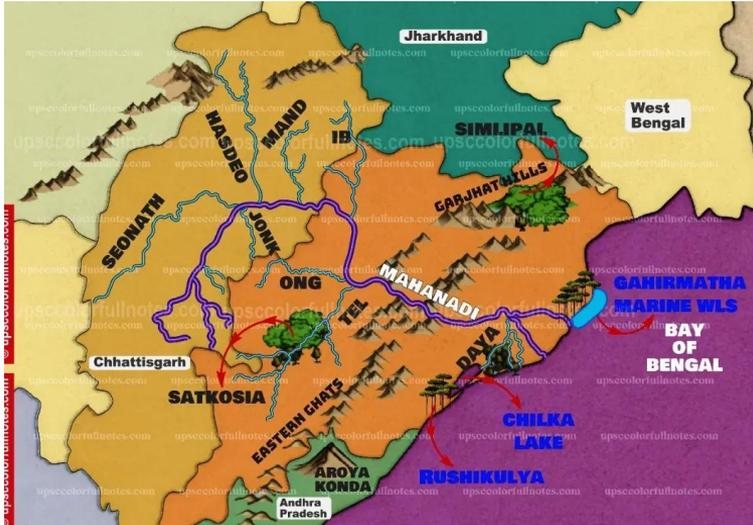
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## CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

Villagers realised the importance of the river when they faced a groundwater crisis a few years ago.

The water table wasn't getting recharged by the Sukapaika river anymore. Agriculture was hit and the river channel turned into a garbage ground.

The NGT's Eastern Bench directed the State government to make budgetary provision for the river's complete rejuvenation by March 2023.

# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

## GS-2

### Teachers training key to NCF

THE HINDU

## Teachers' training key to NCF implementation, say experts

Identifying gaps in pedagogy, acquainting teachers with new methods essential for implementing framework effectively, they say; curriculum recommends more than just learning from textbooks

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The National Curriculum Framework for foundational age children provides an "organic" and "well-framed" road map for teaching three- to eight-year-olds, but will be difficult to implement in the absence of proper teacher training and infrastructure support, experts say.

Educationalists who have done substantial work in elementary methods of teaching said that the NCERT or the State Boards and the SCERTs need to involve teachers as they are the primary stakeholders.

"It is good that this (NCF) got released. It is necessary, but far from sufficient. Leaving it here would make it incomplete," Shaveta Sharma-Kukreja, CEO of the Central Square Foundation, told *The Hindu*.

Ms. Kukreja said that the timing of the NCF was right and so was the focus on early education. Now it



**Novel ways:** The NCF favours an interactive curriculum using story-telling techniques. ISTOCKPHOTO/VIKRAM RAGHUJANSHI

was for the NCERT and SCERTs to identify the gaps in the current pedagogy so that the NCF could be implemented.

According to Vineet Nayar, founder and chairperson of Sampark Foundation, implementation would need "frugal" and "innovative" ideas that disrupt the resistance to change and resource constraints.

The guidelines should talk of how to implement rather than just stop at

what to implement, she said.

The NCF 2022 for foundational age groups favours developing an interactive curriculum for children at various levels using story-telling techniques and real-life experiences. It says board games and stories from the Panchatantra should be used to teach children in the 6-8 age group.

For the first three years of the foundational stage, that is three to six years,

there should not be any prescribed textbooks. Rather, simple worksheets are more than sufficient to meet the curricular goals, says the document.

It also recommends that the mother tongue should be the primary medium of instruction for children till eight years of age, in both public and private schools. English could be one of the second language options, it says, without giving any time-frame for introducing the language.

It is here, educationalists feel, that the real challenge lies. "It is an ideal document, but are we really ready for this?" asks Ameeta Mulla Watal, chairperson and executive director of education (innovations and training) at DLF Foundation Schools. "Teachers have to be trained, whether it is on using the mother tongue or thematic concepts in pedagogy. We need to activate public and private agencies and involve Corporate Social Responsibility in teacher training," she said.

## Context

Identifying gaps in pedagogy, acquainting teachers with new methods essential for implementing framework effectively, they say; curriculum recommends more than just learning from textbooks.



# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS



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## GS-3

### Five new varieties of Basmati

THE HINDU

## Five new varieties to expand India's Basmati platter

**SPECIAL**  
breeding programmes," Dr. Singh told *The Hindu*. "This will help in increasing farmers' income by reducing the cost of cultivation, by improving production and by realising price of their labour and input cost. The cost of cultivation will be reduced. It will reduce the use of pesticides and water. If the production is free from the disease, it will get better prices," he explained.



**Greener pastures:** Ashok Kumar Singh, Director, IARI, at a paddy field site in New Delhi. [www.thehindu.com](https://www.thehindu.com)

**A.M. Jyeshth**  
NEW DELHI

Five new Basmati varieties, developed by a group of scientists led by Ashok Kumar Singh, Director, Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), in 2020 and 2021 are all set to bring revolutionary changes in the way this type of paddy is cultivated in the country.

Three of the five varieties can resist two common diseases of paddy. The other two can save 35% of the water now required as the seeds can be directly sown, obviating the need for transplanting seedlings. These two seeds are resistant to herbicides too, helping the farmers control weeds more efficiently. In the next three years, all of the five seeds will have the combined qualities of disease and herbicide resistance, Dr. Singh says.

"This is a landmark achievement. We started the research in 2008. This is 100% indigenous revolution using indigenous

**Export in mind**  
India is known for its Basmati rice, with the produce from seven States - Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand - earmarked for Geographical Indication.

Basmati, known for its mouthfeel, aroma, length of the grain when cooked and taste, has a market abroad and brings about \$20,000 crore in foreign exchange every year. While 75% of the export is to West Asian countries, European Union countries also import Indian Basmati. However, recently, the export to EU countries faced certain hurdles due to the increase in the pesticide residue levels in the rice from India.

Dr. Singh says that over a period of time, as the area of cultivation increased, traditional varieties become susceptible to bacterial leaf blight (BLB) and blast (leaf and collar) diseases caused by the fungus *Magnaporthe oryzae*. Pesticides and fungicides used against these diseases increased the residue levels permitted in developed countries.

"Achieving the permitted levels is very difficult if

and most important, there is no question of pesticide residue and our consignments will not be rejected," Dr. Singh says.

**The response**  
The IARI provided one kilogram each of the seeds to about 10,000 farmers in these seven States in 2021. "They had grown these crops during this kharif season. In the last week of September, I travelled 1,500 kilometres to see for myself how the crop is doing and to hear the feedback from farmers. I stayed at the residences of farmers. There is phenomenal response for these varieties. I am hoping that from next year, these varieties will change the scenario of Basmati cultivation and it will directly help in terms of addressing the problem of pesticides residue," Dr. Singh says, sharing hopes of an increased coverage area in the next crop year. "I have asked farmers to keep this year's produce for next year as seeds," he adds.

The traditional way of paddy cultivation relied on

transplanting the plants into a water-filled field mid-way through the cycle.

"Around 3,000 litres of water is required for one kilogram of Basmati rice. This has impacted the water table of States such as Punjab and Haryana. We have to change the practice of cultivating transplanted variety of paddy to direct sowing of rice (DSR). Water saving is 35% in DSR and the requirement will be 2,000 litres for a kilogram of rice. The second advantage is that the green house gas emission is reduced by 35% as water is not stagnating in this process. Labour cost of transplantation, which is about ₹3,000, is also saved. Overall saving will be at least ₹4,000 per acre," he says.

However, one of the major problem in the DSR is weeds. Without the water acting as a herbicide, the DSR method allows for a lot of weeds to crop up in the field. "So, we transferred a gene that is resistant to a herbicide. So, when farmers spray herbicide, weeds will be killed, not paddy," he says.

## Context

Five new Basmati varieties, developed by a group of scientists led by Ashok Kumar Singh, Director, Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), in 2020 and 2021 are all set to bring revolutionary changes in the way this type of paddy is cultivated in the country.

## CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS



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This is 100% indigenous revolution using indigenous breeding programmes

This will help in increasing farmers' income by reducing the cost of cultivation, by improving production and by realising price of their labour and input cost. The cost of cultivation will be reduced. It will reduce the use of pesticides and water. If the production is free from residue, it will get better prices.

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Achieving the permitted levels is very difficult, so using pesticides for controlling pests is the only way to bring in genetic resistance so that we do not have to spray pesticides and fungicide.



## CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

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Editorial
Deciphering samba politics in Brazil

THE HINDU

Deciphering samba politics in Brazil



Peter Ronald deSouza

is the D. D. Kosambi Visiting Professor at IISc University, he has recently co-edited the book, 'Comparative Indian Democracy: Resilience, Fragility and Ambivalence'

We should be giving more attention to the presidential elections taking place in Brazil on October 30. This is not just because Brazil, like India, is part of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), a political grouping that seeks to challenge unipolarity. Here what happens to Brazil's democracy is of concern to us. Or not even because the future of the Amazon, the last magical natural forest providing huge ecosystem services to the world, is at stake, since the incumbent wants to destroy it and the challenger protect it. And also not because the question of whether Brazil will join forces with the growing leftward trend across Latin America as left-leaning governments have come to power committed to greater social welfare rejecting neo-liberal policies. These, in themselves, are good reasons for more attention. But there are others.

Brazil as a comparison As we, in our insularity, seek to understand what democracy is doing to India, there is the need to look, in 2022, at another democracy as a comparison. Brazil is a good candidate. Its land area is 2.59 times as big as India. It has a population of 213 million versus India's 1.34 billion. Its GDP is half of India's at \$2.1 T versus \$4.7 T. It has an average income of \$7,720 against India's \$2,170. And its unemployment rate of 14.4% compares with India's 6%. It is a multi-party democracy, has an active print and electronic media, a vibrant civil society, and a social media that plays a powerful role in driving, perhaps determining, election outcomes. Further, Brazil has a large middle class, a highly skilled elite, a huge number of poor people and, finally, a significant diaspora. These facts and features have democratic consequences.

I accidentally stumbled upon the import of the Brazilian elections when, on the morning of October 2, I stepped out of the building in New York where I was staying, and came upon thousands upon thousands of Brazilians, eagerly waiting their turn at the polling station in mid-town Manhattan. They were a raucous lot. They harried slogans at each other. A tense line of New York policemen stood between them. Two groups of Brazilians, one wearing the red of Lula and the other the yellow of Bolsonaro, were facing off. You could feel the rhythmic samba of their sloganeering. I was not that an inch taller. I have to look like about the Brazilian elections.

Since we in India are always wanting to reform

A highly political partisan nation, a threatened peace and succession, and a turn to the left or a return to the right are at stake on October 30

our electoral system through administrative and legislative innovations, here are some additional features of the Brazilian electoral system that we can consider. Brazil has compulsory voting and dual citizenship - which explains the noisy thousands in New York. Like India, Brazil uses a sophisticated electronic voting machine (EVM) and a biometric system of voter identification. By 2020, 105 million voters had their fingerprints registered. In the last six presidential elections, voter turnout was near 80%. Results are available on the same day. Based on media reports, Brazil, it appears, has an independent electoral management body - the electoral court - that conducts the election; it had publicly and courageously called out President Bolsonaro when during the campaign, he had suggested the likelihood of voter fraud and EVM tampering. An independent electoral management body willing to call out an interfering executive is the bedrock of a democracy. Brazil, it seems, has one.

Again something to note. The first round of elections takes place every four years on the first Sunday of October and, if no candidate gets 50% plus one vote, the run-off, between the top two, is held on October 30. Further, Brazil has a mixed electoral system where, at some levels, it adopts the First Past the Post (FPTP) system and at other levels, a Proportional Representation (PR) system. India, it seems, compares well with Brazil. Or is it the other way around?

Political polarisation Every commentary of the 2022 Brazilian election begins with the observation that this is a highly polarised election. But other than saying that the two manifestos of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Jair Bolsonaro are fundamentally different, students of democracy today need to recognise that in democracies across the world, such political polarisation is becoming both significant and threatening. Consensus is breaking down. It is as if in every democracy there are now two incommensurable nations with little chance of building an overlapping consensus between them. The divide has become rabidly ideological on not just what constitutes a desirable future but also on the means to get there. It is a choice between market forces versus state intervention; trickle-down versus safety net; growth with distribution versus growth resulting in a leveling up; and cultural rationalism versus communitarianism. Data comes to the aid of both sides of the argument.

In Brazil, the incumbent, Mr. Bolsonaro, has

even used the language of war. All social welfare schemes are dubbed communist and being communist is a terrible thing. The ideological triumphalism of Wall Street seems to have spread across the world. Latin America, however, is challenging this neo-liberal hegemony. In India too we must revisit these debates to decolonise our minds. In 1988, Brazil introduced us to the fascinating democratic innovation of 'participatory budgeting' through its experiment at Porto Alegre. Soon after the 1990s, we responded with our own innovation in Kerala of the 'People's Campaign for the 50th Plan'. On democratic innovations, with schemes such as Bolsa familia, Brazil is a good comparison.

Consequences for global democracy There is growing anxiety among democrats that the October 30 election results will be disputed and that the January 6 U.S. slogan of a 'stolen election' will be embraced by Mr. Bolsonaro. He has stated that he can be removed only by god, by death, or by a fraudulent election. This threat that 'peaceful succession', a given in any democracy, may be at risk is a frightening prospect.

Further, the middle class which, according to democratic theory is supposed to be a bulwark against democratic backsliding, now appears in Brazil to have become its facilitator. The middle class has split in its political partisanship. Sections of it live in discourse-silos of the left and right. From the centre of politics, they have now shifted to the extremes, letting public opinion get swamped by acute ideology. This can be seen in the results of the first round of elections on October 2 (Mr. Lula, 48.4% of the vote share and Mr. Bolsonaro, 43.2%). The two Ministers occupying the portfolios of Health and Environment respectively in the Bolsonaro government, one responsible for a tragically large number of COVID-19 deaths and the other for the destruction of the Amazon, were both re-elected. In contrast, LGBT activists and two members from the indigenous community, belonging to vulnerable groups targeted by the Bolsonaro regime, have also been elected. A highly political partisan Brazil, a threatened peaceful succession, an Amazon ecosystem at risk, a promise of a turn to the left or a return to the right are all at stake on October 30.

Which way will Brazil go? And what are the lessons for India?

The views expressed are personal

Its land area is 2.59 times as big as India. It has a population of 213 million versus India's 1.34 billion. Its GDP is half of India's at 1.61 T versus 3.17 T; it has an average income of \$7,720 against India's \$2,170. And its unemployment rate of 14.4% compares with India's 6%.

It is a multi-party democracy, has an active print and electronic media, a vibrant civil society, and a social media that plays a powerful role in driving, perhaps determining, election outcomes.

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# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS



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## CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

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The middle class has split in its political partisanship. Sections of it live in discourse silos of the left and right. From the centre of politics, they have now shifted to the extremes, letting public reason get swamped by acute ideology.

# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

1. Consider the following

- (1) Aarogya Setu
- (2) CoWIN
- (3) Digi Locker
- (4) DIKSHA

Which of the above are built on top of open-source digital platforms?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

2. Consider the following statements:

1. In tropical regions, Zika virus disease is transmitted by 'the same mosquito that transmits dengue.
2. Sexual transmission of Zika virus disease is possible

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2



## CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

3. What is the application of Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer Technology?

- (a) Production of biolarvicides
- (b) Manufacture of biodegradable plastics
- (c) Reproductive cloning of animals
- (d) Production of organisms free of diseases

4. Which one of the following is the best description of 'INS Astradharini', that was in the news recently?

- (a) Amphibious warfare ship
- (b) Nuclear-powered submarine
- (c) Torpedo launch and recovery vessel
- (d) Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier

# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

5. With reference to pre-packed items in India, it is mandatory to the manufacturer to put which of the following information on the main label, as per the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulation, 2011?

1. List of ingredients including additives
2. Nutrition information
3. Recommendations, if any, made by the medical profession about the possibility of any allergic reaction
4. Vegetarian/non-vegetarian

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1 and 4 only

1. "Policy Contradictions among various competing sectors and stakeholders have resulted in inadequate 'protection and prevention of degradation' to environment."  
Comment with relevant illustrations.



# CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

**Answer keys for 22-10-22 PYQs are:**

**1-b**

**2-b**

**3-c**

**4-d**

**5-c**



Civil Services  
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