TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

CCTV13

AUGUST 21, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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CHINA PROJECTS HIGH-TECH RESILIENCE AND LEGISLATIVE STABILITY AMID ESCALATING US-IRAN ECONOMIC WARFARE AND RECORD CLIMATE VOLATILITY

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

Beijing is signaling a dual-track strategy of internal legislative consolidation and external technological projection to insulate the domestic economy from global instability. Domestically, the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) is preparing to review a sweeping array of laws—covering healthcare, land quality, and enterprise bankruptcy—designed to stabilize the **social and economic order** as part of the "15th Five-Year Plan" rollout legislative agenda. This is paired with an aggressive push for tech sovereignty, highlighted by the 2026 World Robot Conference, where China claims to now hold **97% of the global humanoid robot shipment share**, signaling a transition from experimental prototypes to **scaled industrial applications** humanoid robot dominance.

Simultaneously, state media is crafting a narrative of Western geopolitical overextension and domestic decay. The rotation of the USS Abraham Lincoln out of the Middle East, replaced by the USS George Washington, is framed through reports of **crew exhaustion and mental health crises**, implying a "swinging help" to a "tottering" US maritime hegemony carrier fatigue. This is contrasted with Iran's defiant response to the Trump administration's "economic war," which Tehran characterizes as a **repeated failure** of US policy Iran's condemnation. The convergence of these reports suggests Beijing sees a strategic window to advance its "multilateral" and "ecological civilization" models while the US is bogged down in Middle Eastern and financial quagmires.

Environmentally, the day was dominated by warnings of a record-breaking El Niño event, predicted to be the **strongest since records began** extreme El Niño. This climate threat is being met with a narrative of state competence: China's early rice production remains stable at over **560 billion jin** despite extreme weather, a data point used to reinforce the success of "strong agricultural policies" stable rice yields. The broader strategy appears to be one of "internal strength as a shield against external chaos," emphasizing fiscal stability, food security, and high-tech self-reliance.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

NPC Legislative Push for "15th Five-Year Plan" Foundations

- The NPC Standing Committee will convene August 25-28 to deliberate on 10 critical bills, including the **Medical Insurance Law**, **Cultivated Land Protection Law**, and **Enterprise Bankruptcy Law** NPC agenda.

- Updates to the **Road Traffic Safety Law** and the **Anti-Cross-Border Corruption Law** indicate a focus on tightening regulatory loopholes and enhancing administrative efficiency legislative updates.

Humanoid Robotics and Tech Sovereignty Acceleration

- China reports holding **97% of the global market** for humanoid robot shipments in H1 2026, with an emphasis on localizing the entire supply chain from chips to actuators robot market share.
- The World Robot Conference featured "Bolt," a humanoid robot capable of **11 meters per second**, exceeding world sprinting records to test the limits of mechanical control Bolt robot.
- AI is being integrated into **scientific discovery**, with reports of fireproof materials developed in under a year using large-scale chemical models AI material science.

Escalating US-Iran "Economic War"

- The Trump administration's "destructive economic action" against Iran has triggered a wave of denunciations from Tehran, which labels the move "economic terrorism" Iran's response.
- The UAE has reportedly **suspended commercial transactions** with Iran, a move framed as "coerced alignment" with US sanctions UAE-Iran trade halt.

Strategic Resource and Financial Maneuvering

- China issued **6 billion RMB in sovereign bonds** in Macao, which was oversubscribed by 6.43 times, highlighting the use of Macao as a hub for RMB internationalization Macao bonds.
- The Ministry of Finance reported a **5.8% increase** in general public budget revenue (14.37 trillion RMB) for Jan-July 2026 fiscal revenue.

Record-Breaking El Niño and Food Security

- Meteorologists predict the current El Niño will reach its peak in December 2026, potentially becoming the **strongest in historical records** strongest El Niño.
- Despite floods and typhoons (No. 18 Sandel and No. 19 forming), China reported stable early rice harvests early rice stability.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- Reports emphasize US carrier readiness challenges, citing **sailors jumping overboard** and "mental breakdowns" on the USS Lincoln due to high-intensity deployments US sailor fatigue.
- Japan’s defense budget request for 2027 reached a record **8.9 trillion yen**, drawing sharp criticism from local analysts for diverting funds from social welfare Japan record budget.
- Russia conducted **missile strikes** in drills near the Northern Territories (Southern Kurils) to counter Japanese pressure following Putin’s visit to the disputed islands Russian drills.

Diplomacy & Statecraft

- China and Indonesia held their second "2+2" ministerial meeting, the **first of its kind** established by China globally at the ministerial level China-Indonesia 2+2.
- Completion of the **China-Switzerland FTA upgrade** negotiations signals Beijing's effort to maintain high-level trade access to Europe China-Swiss FTA.
- Jordan’s King Abdullah II met with top Chinese officials, praising China’s "leadership in global governance" Jordan-China relations.

Macroeconomics & Trade

- The Ministry of Finance is pushing for a **unified national market** by systematically clearing "fragmented" local tax incentives and subsidies unified market policy.
- US national debt has surpassed **$40 trillion**, a figure used to argue that US fiscal policy is unsustainable and a threat to global financial stability US debt crisis.
- Japan’s core CPI has risen for **59 consecutive months**, increasing the likelihood of a Bank of Japan interest rate hike in September Japan inflation.

Tech Sovereignty & AI

- New **National Standards for AI Customer Service** will take effect September 1, mandating clear manual service entry points to address "vicious cycles" of AI responses AI service standards.
- China’s "Sea Oil 292" deep-water vessel was delivered, featuring localized propulsion and engines, reducing reliance on **foreign maritime tech** Sea Oil 292.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Narrative of "Western Exhaustion"

- A consistent theme throughout the transcripts is the portrayal of Western military and economic systems as **brittle and overstretched**. The detailed coverage of the USS Lincoln’s "mental health crisis" and the USS Benfold’s power loss in the South China Sea serves as a proxy for a narrative of American decline US Navy failures.
- The US debt reaching $40 trillion is linked to potential global financial contagion, framing the US dollar as an increasingly **unreliable anchor** for world trade debt contagion risk.

State-Led Technological Leapfrogging

- China is positioning itself as the **arbiter of the robot economy**. By controlling 97% of humanoid shipments, Beijing is attempting to set the global standards for the next industrial revolution before Western competitors can catch up robot strategy.
- The use of "Cloud-Based Scientific Discovery" to create new materials (like fireproof fabrics) suggests a shift in R&D where **AI-driven simulation** replaces decade-long physical testing cycles accelerated R&D.

The "Ecological Civilization" Benchmark

- The UNCCD executive secretary's visit was used to validate China as a "benchmark" for land restoration, providing **moral and technical leadership** in the Global South UNCCD visit.

- This "ecological leadership" is contrasted with European drought and the US "ignoring" environmental impacts of its "economic warfare" European drought impact.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

China: Managing the Middle-Income Transition

China's internal focus is on "quality" over "quantity," with the NPC agenda emphasizing **Bankruptcy and Lawyer Laws** to refine the legal environment for market competition. However, reports on the "clearing of local tax incentives" hint at friction between the central government and local authorities, as Beijing attempts to **eliminate policy "hollows"** that distort the national market tax incentive cleanup. The state is also highly focused on demographic challenges, specifically the "old and young," with the Ministry of Finance allocating **12.4 trillion RMB** for social welfare and education to maintain social harmony amidst shifting demographics welfare spending.

Japan: Social Welfare vs. Remilitarization

The broadcasts highlighted a growing domestic rift in Japan, where record defense spending is reportedly **hollowing out social services**. Japanese analysts are quoted expressing fear that the country is losing its "vitality" by abandoning the **1% GDP defense cap**, which is viewed as a betrayal of its "Peace Constitution" Japanese social tension. This is framed as a self-inflicted instability driven by "militarist revival."

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

China: The "Multilateral Leader" and Stabilizer

China is actively positioning itself as the stable alternative to a chaotic Western order. This is evident in its **2+2 dialogue with Indonesia**, its upgraded FTA with Switzerland, and its role as a "South-South" technical donor in desertification control South-South cooperation. Beijing's global posture is one of "strategic patience," letting the US-Iran conflict and Western financial issues erode US influence while China builds a **technological and diplomatic "Great Wall"** through humanoid robot shipments and RMB bond issuance in Macao RMB bond demand.

United States: Defensive Power Projection

The US is framed as acting **reactively and punitively**. Its "economic war" on Iran and "coercion" of allies like the UAE to cut ties with Tehran are portrayed as signs of a declining power that can no longer achieve its goals through diplomacy or standard military force sanctions as failure. The US military's efforts to create a **"secret shipping corridor"** in the Strait of Hormuz are depicted as a desperate measure to bypass Iranian maritime dominance secret corridor.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The global economic environment is characterized by persistent inflationary pressure in Japan, a debt crisis in the US, and a state-led stimulus model in China. While Japan faces the risk of **"inputted inflation"** due to high energy costs and a weak yen, China is focusing on "new productive

forces"—specifically the humanoid robot industry—to drive future growth Japan input inflation.

Key Economic Vectors

- **Chinese Public Finance:** General budget revenue hit **14.37 trillion RMB**, expenditure **16.29 trillion RMB**; primary growth drivers are high-tech manufacturing and equipment manufacturing power consumption fiscal data.
- **US Sovereign Debt:** Surpassed **$40 trillion**; Treasury is expanding long-term bond buybacks to manage "unsettling" yields, which analysts warn could **accelerate inflation** US bond buybacks.
- **Commodities:** Oil prices saw a **122% increase** in some international markets this year, while Chinese domestic prices were controlled at **roughly half that rate** through intervention oil price control.
- **Macao RMB Market:** 6 billion RMB bond issuance saw **38.59 billion RMB** in subscription, a 6.43x cover ratio Macao bonds.
- **Global Robot Market:** China's H1 2026 humanoid robot shipments reached **40,000 units**, 97% of the global total humanoid shipments.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Leadership dynamics are characterized by continuity in China and shifting strategies in the Trump-led US government, with a notable focus on high-stakes judicial outcomes and personal health narratives used as geopolitical commentary.

- **Trump Administration:** Actively pushing for major **aircraft carrier design changes** (abandoning electromagnetic catapults for steam) and demanding the removal of E1 settlement bids by Israel in a show of erratic policy shifts carrier design pivot.
- **Yu Wenming (Former Director of State Administration of TCM):** Sentenced to **15 years** for bribery, signaling a continued "high-pressure" anti-corruption stance in the healthcare sector Yu Wenming sentencing.
- **Alamgir (Bangladesh):** Elected as the **23rd President of Bangladesh**, with Beijing immediately offering congratulations and seeking deepened "strategic partnership" Bangladesh election.
- **US Naval Leadership:** Criticized for "readiness challenges" as sailors on the USS Lincoln reportedly **refuse to reenlist** due to exhaustion Navy reenlistment crisis.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

CCTV's editorial hierarchy placed **China's internal legislative and technological stability** at the top, emphasizing the "15th Five-Year Plan" and World Robot Conference. The **Lead Stories** were overwhelmingly domestic and reassuring, focusing on stable rice harvests and "positive fiscal policies" CCTV lead stories. **Geopolitical stories** regarding the US and Iran were prioritized as secondary, used to contrast China's "competence" with American "chaos." **Buried Stories** included the ongoing friction in the South China Sea—specifically the Philippine

aircraft entering the airspace of the Huangyan Islands, which was mentioned only briefly toward the end of late-night segments SCS airspace friction.

The **emotional tone** was nationalistic yet calm, with an emphasis on scientific expertise (El Niño, AI development). **Conspicuous Omissions** include any mention of Chinese domestic unemployment figures or the specific local government debt levels that necessitated the "tax incentive cleanup" reported in passing by the Ministry of Finance unified market nuances.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

Beijing's framing portrays a world transitioning from unipolar US dominance to a Chinese-anchored stability, where Western powers are becoming irrational and physically exhausted while China remains methodical and technologically superior.

COUNTRIES

- **China:** Portrayed as **competent, stable, and leading**. Framing centers on its ability to control grain prices, dominate high-tech markets, and provide a "benchmark" for global environmental governance China as benchmark.
- **United States:** Characterized as **chaotic, aggressive, and inept**. The US is framed as trapped in "failed strategies" (Iran) and physically breaking under the weight of its own military hegemony US as chaotic.
- **Iran:** Portrayed as **principled and resilient**. Tehran is the "victim" of US "economic terrorism" but is strategically winning by outlasting US sanctions Iran framing.
- **Japan:** Framed as **hostile and revisionist**. Coverage focuses on its "militarist" budget and "historical amnesia" regarding WWII Japan revisionism.

LEADERS

- **Xi Jinping:** Always framed as the **visionary architect** of "Coordinate Development and Security," a principle that has "allowed China to hold the strategic initiative" Xi's vision.
- **Donald Trump:** Portrayed as **erratic and desperate**. His interventions in aircraft carrier design and "economic war" on Iran are depicted as destabilizing and likely to fail Trump's erratic policy.
- **Vladimir Putin:** Framed as **assertive and unyielding**, particularly in his "unprecedented" visit to the Northern Territories to challenge Japan Putin on islands.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

The day's broadcasts featured a significant push to **debunk AI-generated rumors**, specifically regarding weather modification in Inner Mongolia and a fake "Japanese-style" logo for Qingdao University. These reports serve to train the public to **mistrust AI content** unless it is state-verified, while simultaneously using AI to validate state narratives of material science breakthroughs debunking AI rumors.

- **Narrative Seeding:** The narrative of "US Carrier Fatigue" is being seeded to suggest that the US no longer has the **human capital** to maintain its global posture seeding US decline.

- **Domestic Propaganda:** The emphasis on "Humanoid Robots for Families" (e.g., robots that fry noodles) is used to distract from economic pressures and present a futuristic, **labor-free "modernized" lifestyle** cooking robots.
- **Delta from Reality:** While reports highlight the "oversubscription" of RMB bonds, they omit the **liquidity constraints** that drive Macao investors to seek safe-haven sovereign paper in a volatile market bond market subtext.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **US-Iran Escalation:** If the Trump administration proceeds with the UAE trade blockade, Tehran will likely pivot to a **shadow financial network**, potentially involving digital RMB, to bypass the dollar-based system, further fueling "cognitive warfare" in the Middle East cognitive war.
- **Japanese Monetary Shift:** The sustained core CPI increase and record military budget will likely force a **Bank of Japan rate hike in September**, causing a "re-pricing" of Japanese sovereign debt and potentially cooling the Yen carry trade BoJ rate hike.
- **Global Grain Crisis:** The record-strength El Niño projected for late 2026 will likely trigger **global food price shocks** in early 2027, which China is already positioning itself to weather through current inventory stabilization El Niño peak.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect severe flooding and agricultural loss in Southern China and the Yangtze basin as Typhoon No. 19 interacts with the monsoon; NPC passage of Medical and Bankruptcy laws will trigger a **re-valuation of healthcare and industrial assets** Typhoon 19 warning.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The US carrier rotation will likely face further "readiness delays" as the USS Washington encounters the same "maintenance gap" issues that plagued the Lincoln; Chinese firms will likely begin the first **industrial-scale deployment** of humanoid robots in logistics hubs to mitigate labor shortages robot deployment.

Long Term (1-5 Years): A structural shift in the Middle East balance of power as Iran and UAE deepen地下 (underground) trade links; the normalization of RMB sovereign bonds in Macao will create a **parallel financial architecture** to Hong Kong for Global South investors Macao RMB hub.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Global risks are increasingly characterized by the intersection of **sovereign debt instability** and **climate-driven resource scarcity**.

- **US Financial Contagion:** A breakdown in Treasury liquidity. **Triggers:** US debt surpassing $40 trillion alongside sustained high yields. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Critical/Global. **Mitigations:** Aggressive Treasury buybacks or Fed pivot US debt risk.
- **Extreme Climate Disruption:** Total failure of rice/maize crops in Asia/Africa. **Triggers:** Peak "super El Niño" in Q4 2026. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Critical (social unrest). **Mitigations:** Strategic grain reserves and AI-driven irrigation El Niño impact.

- **South China Sea Flashpoint:** Mid-air collision or shoot-down of aircraft. **Triggers:** Repeated "unauthorized entries" by Philippine C208/PA31 planes. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** High (localized conflict). **Mitigations:** 2+2 regional dialogues SCS airspace risk.
- **Middle East Maritime Blockade:** Closure of the Strait of Hormuz. **Triggers:** Collapse of US-Iran negotiations and implementation of the "secret shipping corridor." **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Extreme (global oil spike). **Mitigations:** Third-party mediation (Qatar/Egypt) maritime blockade risk.
- **Tech Supply Chain Fracture:** Sanctions on Chinese humanoid robot components. **Triggers:** China achieving 97% shipment dominance. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Moderate (industrial slowdown). **Mitigations:** Full vertical integration of the supply chain supply chain decoupling.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The transcripts fail to address **Chinese youth unemployment**, which is likely a significant factor driving the emphasis on "new occupations" in the tourism and robot sectors tourism new jobs.
- There is no mention of **Iranian domestic opposition** to the regime's handling of the "economic war," presenting a monolithic view of Tehran’s resilience Iran monolithic framing.
- Details on the **environmental cost** of the "humanoid robot shipment surge" (e.g., lithium and cobalt mining impacts) are entirely absent from the "ecological civilization" narrative robot supply chain gaps.
- The coverage of the US carrier "readiness crisis" relies heavily on **unverified social media reports** from individual investigate journalists, which may lack institutional verification US Navy reporting source.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

The "Brittle Robot" Hypothesis: While China holds 97% of shipments, these robots may be **low-complexity units** without true industrial utility. The current conference could be a "Potemkin village" meant to project tech dominance to attract FDI, while true high-end robotics remain in Western labs noodle-frying robot subtext.

US Carrier Deception: The public reports of "mental health crises" and "sailors jumping overboard" could be a **deliberate psychological operation** by the US Navy to project weakness and lure Iranian forces into a false sense of security before a kinetic strike carrier weakness framing.

Black Swan Event: A **massive solar flare** coinciding with the 2026 El Niño peak, which knocks out the "unified national market" digital tracking systems and the humanoid robot fleets simultaneously, plunging the world into a pre-digital logistics crisis digital infrastructure reliance.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Accelerate the "15th Five-Year Plan" military-civil fusion initiatives to ensure robot fleets can support logistics in extreme weather scenarios AI firefighting armor.

- **Economic:** Leverage the oversubscribed Macao RMB bond market to offer "green recovery" loans to Global South nations hit by El Niño Macao bonds utility.
- **Diplomatic:** Use the upcoming cop17 on desertification to sign bilateral technical exchange agreements that bypass US-led maritime shipping routes cop17 strategy.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain:** Move production and procurement of robotics components to **Mainland China or Macao hubs** to avoid US-Iran secondary sanctions and tariff spikes robot supply chain consolidation.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Audit all AI customer service tools for compliance with the September 1 **National Standards** to avoid punitive "vicious cycle" fines AI compliance risk.
- **Capital Allocation:** Shift portfolios toward **AI-driven material science** and "resilient agriculture" firms as climate volatility makes traditional yield methods obsolete fireproof fabric innovation.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The upcoming NPC Standing Committee meeting marks a critical regulatory pivot point for the second half of 2026, shifting focus from crisis management to **institutionalized market health** and medical sustainability NPC preview.

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **Medical Insurance Law (Draft):** Aims to standardize cross-region payment settlement and integrate **long-term care insurance** into the national framework healthcare law.
- **Cultivated Land Protection & Quality Improvement Law:** Prohibits the use of "lake and river management land" for compensation, ensuring food security foundations land law.
- **Enterprise Bankruptcy Law (Revision):** Focuses on **enterprise rescue** through restructuring rather than liquidation to maintain economic resilience bankruptcy revision.
- **China-Switzerland FTA Upgrade:** Formalizes new bilateral trade standards to maintain a "gateway to Europe" Swiss FTA upgrade.

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Ministry of Finance "Opening 15th Five-Year Plan" Presser:** Detailed a 12.4 trillion RMB commitment to public welfare and the elimination of local tax "hollows" MOF press conference.
- **NPC Standing Committee Legislative Affairs Commission:** Outlined the 24th meeting agenda and clarified the transition of AI customer service standards NPC presser.

KEY STORIES

- **World Robot Conference Beijing:** China claims 97% humanoid market share; "Bolt" humanoid breaks speed records; focus on domestic supply chains for high-end actuators robot key story.
- **US-Iran Escalation:** Trump administration threatens "destructive" action; UAE stops trade; Iran calls for an "urgent call" against "economic war" Iran escalation story.

- **Record El Niño Warning:** National Climate Center projects the strongest El Niño on record by year-end; global heatwaves in Europe hit 80 million people climate threat story.
- **NPC 24th Meeting Agenda:** Deliberations on healthcare, bankruptcy, and anti-corruption laws scheduled for late August NPC story.
- **USS Lincoln Crew Fatigue:** Reports of "mental breakdowns" and suicides on US carrier Lincoln as it leaves the Middle East; Washington takes over carrier fatigue story.
- **Early Rice Stability:** 2026 harvest reaches 565.8 billion jin despite Typhoon Sandel and floods; single-yield remains stable rice yield story.
- **Macao Sovereign Bonds:** 6 billion RMB issuance oversubscribed 6.4x; reflects Macao's role in RMB internationalization Macao bond story.
- **AI Customer Service Standards:** New national standards mandatory by Sept 1; requires clear human entry points to end "automated loops" AI service story.
- **China-Indonesia 2+2:** Wang Yi and Dong Jun lead strategic talks in Jakarta; focus on anti-terror and single-China policy Indonesia 2+2 story.
- **Russian Kurils Drills:** Missile tests near disputed islands follow Putin's visit; Tokyo protests, Moscow denounces "militarization" of Japan Russian Kurils story.
- **Sea Oil 292 Delivery:** Next-gen deep-water engineering ship delivered in Jiangsu; features 100% localized key components Sea Oil story.
- **Japanese Budget Record:** Defense request hits 8.9 trillion yen; public criticism over hollowing out of health and education Japan budget story.
- **Jordan King Visit:** King Abdullah II meets Xi Jinping's top deputies; praises China's governance and seeks infrastructure investment Jordan visit story.
- **AI Fireproof Materials:** China scientists use large models to cut material R&D from 10 years to 1 year; results in new fireproof gear for first responders fireproof AI story.
- **SCS Airspace Friction:** Philippine C208 and PA31 aircraft enter Huangyan Island airspace without authorization; Southern Theater Command issues warning SCS airspace story.
- **European Drought Impacts:** Natural gas storage in Germany falls to 49%; Danube river levels too low for navigation; Italy rice production down 40% European drought story.
- **TCM Official Sentenced:** Yu Wenming given 15 years for bribery; 6 million RMB fine; assets seized in anti-corruption sweep TCM sentencing story.
- **Macao Tourism Surge:** Summer consumption expected to exceed 1 trillion RMB; shift from "sightseeing" to "slow-traveling" and deep cultural experiences tourism story.
- **Bangladesh Presidential Election:** Alamgir elected as 23rd President; China moves to solidify belt and road ties Bangladesh election story.
- **Flight Token Scams:** "Internal mouth codes" on social media exposed as traffic-bait; actual ticket prices found to be identical to official rates flight scam story.

- **Youth Metabolic Health:** Surge in adolescent obesity and metabolic disorders attributed to "sitting too much" and "high sugar" diets; state calls for physical education reform youth health story.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Today's Media Trends is a public interest experiment in applying deep thematic trend analysis to television news coverage from around the world to explore how responsibly applied advanced AI can help journalists and scholars better understand the overarching trends, themes and patterns of our global world.

No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

Each morning, in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's coverage from each television news channel to tease out the overarching themes and trends of its news coverage into a richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-level insight is connected back to the original broadcast, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the dominate themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

By helping journalists and scholars see the broader trends and patterns of global news coverage, this analysis helps them identify relevant stories and coverage they might not otherwise have encountered and uncover connections, emphases and narrative shifts that enable more comprehensive reporting and deeper, evidence-based research.

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