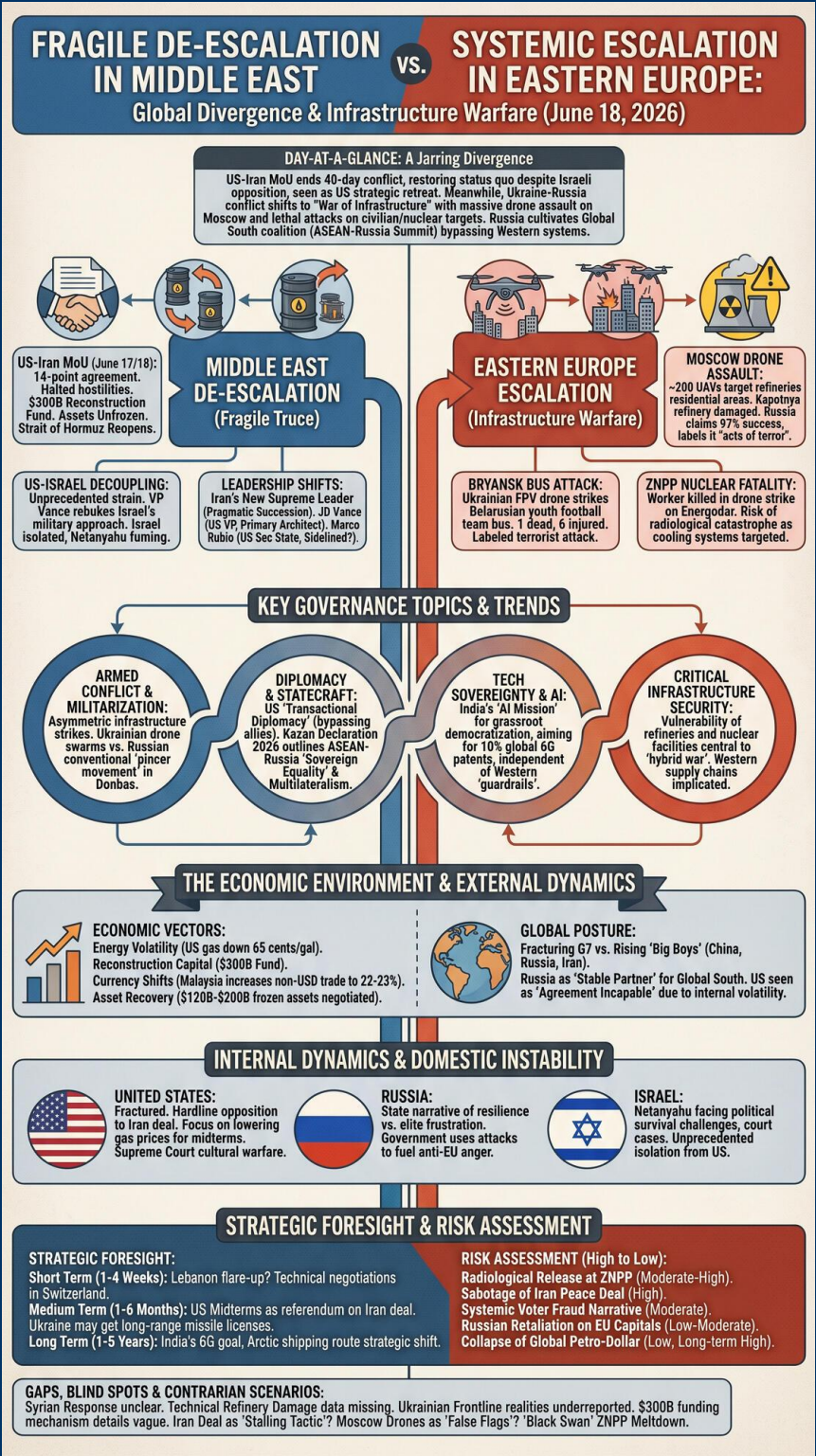


TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

RT

JUNE 18, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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FRAGILE DE-ESCALATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND SYSTEMIC ESCALATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE WARFARE IN EASTERN EUROPE

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The global security environment on June 18, 2026, is defined by a jarring divergence: a sudden, high-stakes diplomatic pivot in the Middle East contrasted with a hardening of infrastructure and civilian-targeted warfare in Eastern Europe. The Trump administration has formalized a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the Islamic Republic of Iran to end a 40-day conflict, a move characterized by the Vice President as a "fundamental transformation" of regional relations, despite fierce opposition from Israeli leadership and domestic hawks. This deal effectively restores the pre-war status quo, lifting the maritime blockade on the Strait of Hormuz in exchange for Iranian commitments to halt further nuclear enrichment and funding of regional proxies. Analysts perceive this as a strategic retreat by the U.S., necessitated by an imploding domestic economy and depleted energy reserves.

Simultaneously, the conflict in Ukraine has transitioned into a "war of infrastructure," with Kiev launching an **unprecedented drone assault** on Moscow, involving approximately 200 UAVs targeting oil refineries and residential districts. Russia has characterized these strikes, alongside a lethal drone attack on a Belarusian children's football team in Bryansk, as "acts of terror" intended to compensate for Ukrainian territorial losses on the front lines, particularly in Konstantinovka. The killing of a second employee at the **Zaporozhye (ZNPP) Nuclear Power Plant** in recent months underscores the persistent risk of a radiological catastrophe as combat operations increasingly intersect with critical civilian energy nodes.

On the broader geopolitical stage, Russia is successfully cultivating a "Global South" coalition, evidenced by the **ASEAN-Russia summit** in Kazan. Key regional players like Malaysia and Thailand are actively seeking to bypass Western-dominated financial systems through local currency trade and BRICS membership, citing Western "hypocrisy" and "unreliable" contractual behavior. This signals a deepening of the multipolar arena where tech sovereignty, specifically AI democratization, is viewed by states like India as the primary vehicle for future national power, independent of Western "guardrails."

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):** A 14-point agreement signed on June 17/18 to terminate hostilities. Key terms include a 60-day window for a final deal, the unfreezing of billions in Iranian assets, and the establishment of a \$300 billion reconstruction fund for Iran, reportedly to be funded by Gulf states. [Win-win situation](#) for both sides but puts the US-Israel alliance under **unprecedented strain**.
- **Massive Drone Assault on Moscow:** Approximately 200 Ukrainian drones targeted the Russian capital. While Russian air defenses claimed a 97% success rate, the Kapotnya oil refinery sustained damage. [194 shut down](#) per Moscow's mayor.
- **Bryansk Bus Attack:** A Ukrainian FPV drone struck a bus carrying a Belarusian youth football team in the Bryansk region, killing one woman and injuring six children. Russia and Belarus have labeled this a **deliberate terrorist attack** using anti-personnel munitions. [targeted by anti-personnel munition](#).
- **Zaporozhye Nuclear Plant Fatality:** A maintenance worker was killed in a drone strike on Energodar. Russian officials are warning of "nuclear disaster" as Ukrainian forces allegedly target the personnel required to keep the plant's **cooling systems** and reactors operational. [Zapadogia power plant worker killed](#).

- **ASEAN-Russia Summit in Kazan:** Russia commemorated 35 years of dialogue with ASEAN. Malaysia and Thailand signaled intentions to join BRICS and diversify trade away from the US dollar, citing Norway's cancellation of missile contracts as a sign of **Western unreliability**. [35 years of diplomatic ties](#).

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization The nature of the Ukraine-Russia conflict has shifted toward **asymmetric infrastructure strikes**. Ukrainian strategy appears focused on disrupting Russian domestic stability and energy exports through mass drone swarms, while Russia leverages its conventional superiority to secure the Donbas "pincer movement." [Patch up forces on the front line with drones](#) is viewed as impossible by some military analysts.

Diplomacy & Statecraft The U.S. is practicing a "transactional" diplomacy, with Vice President Vance and President Trump bypassing traditional allies (Israel) to secure a rapid exit from the Iran war. In the East, the **Kazan Declaration 2026** outlines a 5-year comprehensive plan for ASEAN-Russia relations, emphasizing **sovereign equality** and "multilateralism" as alternatives to a Western-led rules-based order. [Kazan Declaration 2026](#).

Tech Sovereignty & AI India is positioning its "AI Mission" as a tool for **grassroot democratization** rather than profit, aiming to contribute 10% of global 6G patents. This "tech-driven nation" model seeks to skip the PC revolution and move directly to a mobile-first, AI-powered governance system, utilizing sovereign platforms like UPI. [skipped the pc revolution](#).

Critical Infrastructure Security The vulnerability of oil refineries (Moscow, Kapotnya) and nuclear facilities (ZNPP) is now a central feature of the "hybrid war." Russia claims Western-supplied parts are being used in these strikes, suggesting that **European supply chains** are directly enabling attacks on the Russian interior. [paid for and manufactured in EU](#).

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Decoupling of the US-Israel Strategic Alignment For the first time in decades, the U.S. executive branch is publicly and profanely rebuking the Israeli government. Vice President Vance's suggestion that Israel "cannot kill its way out" of national security problems and the explicit condemnation of Israeli strikes on Beirut marks a **seismic shift** in U.S. policy. The administration appears to view the Netanyahu government as a "spoiler" of a regional peace process required for U.S. economic recovery. [unhappy with the Israeli critics](#).

Infrastructure as the Primary Combat Objective The conflict has evolved into a "war of the grids." Ukrainian drone strikes on refineries and Russian strikes on fuel depots in the Kiev region indicate that both sides view the **economic and logistical backbone** of the opponent as the center of gravity. The psychological impact on Moscow's elite—who previously felt insulated from the war—is a specific objective of the latest drone swarms. [Capital's main oil refinery](#).

The Rise of Local-Currency Trade Zones A recurring theme across ASEAN and Russian summits is the "weaponization of the dollar." Countries like Malaysia are reporting that up to **23% of trade with China** is now in local

currencies, with plans to expand this to Russia. This trend is driven by a perception that Western sanctions are an "ideological trip" that ignores the economic needs of the global population. [immunity to dollar dominance](#).

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

- **United States:** The Trump administration faces a "fractured" internal environment. Hardline Republicans (Cruz, Rubio) and pro-Israel lobbyists are attacking the Iran MoU as "humiliating," while the administration prioritizes lowering gas prices (down 65 cents/gallon) to appease a restless electorate ahead of **midterm elections**. The Supreme Court is currently a focal point of cultural warfare, with birthright citizenship and gender identity rulings expected to "fundamentally reshape" the country's direction. [expect to see gas reach that \\$3 threshold](#).
- **Russia:** Despite external drone strikes, the state narrative emphasizes **resilience and "mathematical" decision-making**. However, there are undercurrents of frustration from the "golf buddies" and elites in Moscow who are seeing their residential neighborhoods targeted. The government is successfully leveraging these attacks to fuel a "visceral anger" against the European Union. [visceral anger against the European](#).
- **Israel:** Prime Minister Netanyahu is described as "fuming" and facing **political survival challenges** including court cases and an upcoming election. The US administration's lack of support is creating an unprecedented sense of isolation within the Israeli cabinet. [Netanyahu will not surrender like that](#).

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

The international system is characterized by a **rapidly fracturing G7**. RT framing portrays the G7 as an "untouchable billionaire class" whose global influence is being surpassed by the "big boys" (China, Russia, Iran) in GDP growth and energy production. Russia is successfully projecting itself as a **stable, consistent partner** for the Global South, contrasting its "honored commitments" with Norway's recent contractual defaults. The U.S., while still a military superpower, is seen as "agreement incapable" due to its internal partisan volatility, leading nations like Iran to "manage Trump" rather than engage in traditional diplomacy. [Russia basically recognized this and said... we're going to manage Trump.](#)

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Geopolitical risk is heavily weighing on global markets, though the Iran ceasefire has provided **significant relief at the pump** and a stock market surge. The "economic chokehold" on Iran is being partially released to allow energy flow, while Russia reports near-record volumes of crude exports (3.83 million BPD) despite 21 Western sanction packages. [3.83 BPD figure exceeds daily averages.](#)

Key Economic Vectors

- **Energy Volatility:** US gas prices have dropped **65 cents/gallon** following the Hormuz reopening; Iran seeks to return to pre-war oil export levels within 60 days. [65 cents a gallon on the national average.](#)

- **Reconstruction Capital:** A **\$300 billion fund** for Iran is under discussion, with the UAE and other Gulf states identified as primary investors to build "leverage" over the Iranian economy. [who exactly is funding that \\$300 billion.](#)
- **Currency Shifts:** Malaysia has increased trade in non-USD currencies to **22-23%**, specifically targeting Russia and China to gain "immunity" to dollar volatility. [more than 22 to 23% the total trade.](#)
- **Asset Recovery:** Iran estimates \$120 billion to \$200 billion in frozen assets are being negotiated for release, though the US maintains "not a single dollar" will be released without verified conduct. [numbers north of \\$200 billion.](#)

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Personnel shifts reflect the high-stakes negotiations and the aftermath of the 40-day war.

- **Iran's New Supreme Leader:** The son of the late Ali Sied Kamenet (assassinated Feb 28) has taken power. While skeptical of the US MoU, he has granted "permission" to proceed, signaling a **pragmatic succession** intended to preserve the Islamic Republic's survival. [son of supreme leader Ali Sied Kamenet.](#)
- **J.D. Vance (US Vice President):** Emerging as the **primary architect** of the Iran deal. He is leading the US negotiating team in Switzerland and taking an aggressive public stance against the Israeli cabinet. [lead the US negotiating team.](#)

- **Marco Rubio (US Secretary of State):** Identified as the "person on point" for managing the **Lebanon ceasefire**, though critics suggest he is being sidelined by the Trump-Vance direct-line diplomacy. [Secretary Rubio has been sort the person on point.](#)
- **Lawrence Wong (Singapore Prime Minister):** Met with Putin in Kazan, signaling Singapore's willingness to maintain **bilateral ties** despite Western pressure as it prepares to take over the ASEAN chair. [Singapore was reliable partner of Moscow.](#)

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

RT's editorial posture is **highly nationalistic and polemical**, centered on a narrative of "Western Hypocrisy." The **Lead Stories** focus heavily on the "terrorist" nature of Ukrainian strikes on civilians and the "success" of the Iran-US peace deal, which is framed as an Iranian victory and a sign of US desperation. **Buried Stories** include any detailed reporting on Russian casualties in Ukraine or the technical failures of the Kapnotya refinery's defenses. The network **conspicuously omits** the perspective of the Syrian leadership (who rejected Trump's proposal to police Hezbollah) and any internal Iranian dissent regarding the MoU. The emotional tone is designed to be **righteous and defiant**, using historical documentaries on Fiji and Africa to cast Western powers as perpetually predatory. [war isn't heroism, war is mathematic.](#)

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The geopolitical landscape is framed as a struggle between a declining, "hypocritical"

Western empire and a rising, pragmatic multipolar order.

COUNTRIES

- **United States:** Portrayed as a "punch-drunk empire" forced into a deal by economic desperation. **"Trump basically had him cornered, there was no way out for him... technically you can drop nuclear weapon on Iran, but that would mean the end of all the regional allies."** [Trump was desperate for deal.](#)
- **Iran:** Characterized as a "victorious" sovereign power that withstood a U.S. onslaught and dictated the terms of the truce. **"Iran is not a rogue terror state. Iran is a sovereign nation, in fact a great power because it's negotiating with the world's greatest power."** [Iran is sovereign nation.](#)
- **Ukraine:** Consistently labeled a "Nazi/Terrorist regime" that has resorted to "inhumane acts" because it is "failing to win on the battlefield." **"Kiev of is increasingly resorting to terror... hunting down nuclear power plant workers is inhumane act."** [increasingly resorting to terror.](#)

LEADERS

- **Donald Trump:** Framed as an attention-seeking but ultimately pragmatic leader who is "kicking himself" for listening to Netanyahu. **"Trump alongside Iranian president had e-signed the deal which has already been I think that Donald Trump must have seen in this a great opportunity to grab more attention."** [grab more attention.](#)

- **Benjamin Netanyahu:** Portrayed as an isolated, "fuming" figure whose political survival depends on sabotaging regional peace. **"Israel's fight is not just against Caspala... they assassinated one the senior leaders, the field general the southern forces the the the Lebanese army."** [Netanyahu is fuming.](#)
- **Anwar Ibrahim (Malaysia):** Framed as a principled champion of the Global South who refuses to be "subdued" by Western hypocrisies. **"I told my colleagues and and look, Russia is an important player... it has proven itself, the capacity to be to excel in many new technology."** [take a very independent view.](#)

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** RT is aggressively seeding the term **"Epstein Riots"** to describe G7 protests, attempting to link Western leadership permanently to scandal and moral decay. [what do you say we call it from now on, Epstein riots.](#)
- **The "Double Standard" Operative:** Significant airtime is dedicated to comparing the coverage of a single drone landing in Romania (viewed as a world-ending event by Western media) with the "silence" over a busload of children being hit in Bryansk. [barely gets a mention.](#)

- **Selective De-contextualization:** RT reports that U.S. intelligence suggests 70% of Iran's missiles remain intact to frame the U.S. "mission accomplished" claim as a lie, while simultaneously reporting that Iran's capabilities "held firm" to emphasize Iranian strength. [retains roughly 70% of its pre-war ballistic and cruise missile stock pile.](#)

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Finalization of the Iran Deal:** Despite the 60-day truce, a final agreement remains highly improbable. Hypotheses: Israel will engage in a "spoiler" action (potentially bombing Beirut or assassinating a high-level IRGC official) to force an Iranian retaliation that violates the MoU and pulls the U.S. back into the conflict. [Israel could play a role of a spoiler sabotage.](#)
- **The Donbas Conclusion:** Russian advances in Konstantinovka and Liman suggest the "Pincer movement" around Ukrainian remnants in the Donetsk oblast is nearing completion, which may lead to a **forced evacuation** of Kramatorsk. [Russian troops are already inside Liman.](#)
- **Economic Blocs:** Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia will likely formalize an alternative payment gateway with Russia and China within 12 months, effectively creating a **sanction-proof economic corridor** in Southeast Asia. [alternative payment as malaysia is a standard policy.](#)

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect a "flare-up" in Lebanon as the IDF and Hezbollah test the limits of the U.S.-led ceasefire. Technical negotiations in **Burgenstock/Switzerland**

will likely face delays due to farcy translation "meaning" disputes and Iranian demands for immediate asset unfreezing. [technical negotiations are going to start sometime this weekend.](#)

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The U.S. **midterm elections** will serve as a referendum on the Iran deal. If oil prices do not drop below the \$3 threshold, the "America First" coalition may face a legislative purge, leading to a harder line on Iran. Ukraine will likely receive "licenses" from Western backers to begin domestic production of **long-range missiles**, further escalating deep-strike capabilities. [considering giving Ukraine licenses.](#)

Long Term (1-5 Years): India will likely achieve its goal of a 10% patent share in 6G, establishing a new "digital first" pole that is neither U.S. nor China-dependent. The **Arctic shipping route** will become a primary strategic interest for India (via Andhra Pradesh), shifting the center of global logistics toward the Russian-controlled North. [Arctic shipping route not only connects Andhra Pradesh better.](#)

RISK ASSESSMENT

The current global risk profile is concentrated in the intersection of critical infrastructure

vulnerability and the breakdown of traditional alliances.

- **Radiological Release at ZNPP:** Triggers: A drone strike hitting a critical cooling pump or the targeting of key maintenance personnel. Likelihood: **Moderate-High**. Impact: Massive radioactive contamination across Eastern Europe. Mitigations: Immediate de-escalation zones around Energodar and international guarantees for plant personnel. [stands between nuclear disaster, humanity, nuclear of disaster, it is the employees.](#)
- **Sabotage of the Iran Peace Deal:** Triggers: An Israeli strike on Beirut causing mass civilian casualties. Likelihood: **High**. Impact: Resumption of total war, closure of the Strait of Hormuz, and global economic crash. Mitigations: Direct U.S. enforcement of the Beirut "red line" and potential suspension of defensive aid to Israel. [sabotage this deal and uh probably consider doing something like bombing Beirut.](#)
- **Systemic Voter Fraud Narrative:** Triggers: The failure of the "Save America Act" and the "Real ID" voter system. Likelihood: **Moderate**. Impact: Domestic civil unrest in the US during midterms and the delegates of "Save America" challenging election results. Mitigations: Bipartisan agreement on federal voter ID standards. [this is what the democrats did.](#)

- **Russian Retaliation on EU Capitals:** Triggers: A Ukrainian strike on a high-value Russian target (e.g., the Kremlin or a major dam) using EU-supplied components. Likelihood: **Low-Moderate**. Impact: Direct Russia-NATO conflict. Mitigations: Restriction of deep-strike target lists for Western-supplied weaponry. [paid for and manufactured, the details, the parts supplied from the European Union.](#)
- **Collapse of the Global Petro-Dollar:** Triggers: Formalization of BRICS-wide local currency trade. Likelihood: **Low (Long-term High)**. Impact: Devaluation of the USD and loss of U.S. financial leverage. Mitigations: Re-engagement of ASEAN partners with competitive US financial incentives. [immunity to dollar dominance around the world.](#)

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- **The Syrian Response:** While RT discusses Trump's plan for Syria to police Lebanon, it fails to explain Syria's actual military capacity or its willingness to act against an Iranian-backed proxy (Hezbollah). [call being rejected by Damascus.](#)
- **Technical Damage to Refineries:** RT minimizes the impact of strikes on Moscow refineries, but provides no data on the **long-term loss of refining capacity** or the availability of replacement parts under sanctions. [spectacular smoke and fires, but it's often something that can be repaired.](#)
- **Ukrainian Frontline Realities:** Transcripts focus on Russian advances in Konstantinovka but omit any reporting on **Russian logistics failures** or troop fatigue mentioned in other non-RT outlets. [Russian troops are already inside Liman.](#)
- **The \$300 Billion Funding Mechanism:** No concrete details are provided on how a private/Gulf state reconstruction fund for Iran would be managed without violating remaining US anti-terrorism laws. [will shell out at least \\$300 billion dollars.](#)

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

- **The Iran Deal as a "Stalling Tactic":** Instead of a genuine peace, the US and Iran may be using the 60-day window to **rearm and reposition** assets. Russia's advisors suggest they are already "strengthening military forces" during the ceasefire. The deal might be a "Red Herring" to lower oil prices temporarily while the US prepares for a pivot toward the Asia-Pacific (Taiwan). [we immediately start rebuilding and strengthening our military forces.](#)
- **Moscow Drones as "Russian False Flags":** A contrarian view suggests Russia might be allowing some drones to penetrate to Kapotnya to justify a **preemptive nuclear strike** policy, which is currently being debated in the Kremlin according to RT. [alliance is debating the right to a preemptive strike on Russia.](#)
- **The "Black Swan": ZNPP Meltdown:** An accidental strike (possibly Ukrainian, but attributed to Russia) leads to a total station blackout. The ensuing fallout would likely cause the **collapse of the NATO alliance** as European members (Germany, France) demand an immediate end to the war to facilitate disaster response, while the US/UK push for escalation. [huge hole left behind after a drone hit uh the machine hall.](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Prepare for an immediate shift in Lebanon's power dynamics as Hezbollah's funding is officially "cut off" by the U.S.-Iran deal, potentially leading to a civil-war environment. [cut off the money to Hezbollah](#).
- **Economic:** Accelerate the "Real ID" implementation to secure the 2026 midterm results from delegitimization campaigns. [real id hasn't been implemented in every state](#).
- **Diplomatic:** Use the Kazan summit outcomes to re-evaluate ASEAN engagement; failure to provide tech alternatives to Russia/China will lead to a total loss of influence in the Indonesian/Malaysian energy markets. [working with Indonesia and the and thailand on this](#).

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Energy Supply Chains:** Short-term hedging on oil is recommended given the \$3/gallon target, but long-term exposure to Middle East energy remains high due to Israeli "spoiler" risk. [seeing gas come down about 65 cents a gallon](#).
- **Infrastructure Protection:** Companies with assets in Western Russia or Eastern Ukraine must implement **anti-drone electronic warfare suites** immediately, as civilian targets are now prioritized by both sides. [spectacular smoke and fires, but it's often something that can be repaired](#).

- **Emerging Tech:** India's "AI Mission" presents a massive capital allocation opportunity for semiconductor firms willing to indigenize manufacturing in Gujarat/Assam. [made now in Gujarat in Assam](#).

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative activity is centered on securing election integrity in the U.S. and formalizing the diplomatic framework in the Middle East and Kazan.

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **Save America Act:** Proposed legislation to mandate voter ID and real ID systems for all federal elections. Strategic intent: To counter allegations of voter fraud and consolidate the Trump administration's electoral base. [believe in voter id](#).
- **US-Iran MOU (14 Points):** An executive agreement currently awaiting UN Security Council endorsement and congressional briefing. Strategic intent: Immediate termination of regional hostilities and restoration of global oil flows. [14 different points](#).
- **John Lewis Voting Rights Act:** Discussed in the context of conservative opposition; criticized as federal overreach on state-level election registration. [John Lewis voting rights act](#).

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **White House Press Briefing (J.D. Vance):** Defense of the Iran MoU and public rebuke of the Israeli cabinet. [Vance, the US vice president, has been defending the deal](#).

- **ASEAN-Russia Business Forum:** Meeting in Kazan between Putin and ASEAN leaders focused on bypassing the USD and digital tech collaboration. [ASEAN, Russia business forum](#).
- **AI Summit (India):** Review of the \$200 billion in commitments for AI democratization. [one the biggest AI summits in the world](#).

KEY STORIES

- **The Iran Ceasefire Agreement:** US and Iran sign an MoU to end 40 days of war. Includes unfreezing \$120B-\$200B in Iranian assets, reopening the Strait of Hormuz, and a 60-day window for a final nuclear/missile deal. Israeli officials are fuming. [termination of all hostilities](#).
- **Moscow Under Drone Assault:** 200 Ukrainian drones target Moscow. One refinery hit; others shot down over residential areas. Russia claims these are "PR stunts" to hide Ukrainian front-line collapse. [Moscow on fire](#).
- **The Bryansk Bus Tragedy:** A Ukrainian drone strikes a bus of children from Belarus. Russia denounces it as a "brazen lie" that Ukraine was not involved. One fatality (woman), six children hospitalized. [child who has severe injuries](#).
- **ZNPP Worker Killed:** A worker at Europe's largest nuclear plant is killed in a drone strike on Energodar. Rosatom warns that without maintenance staff, a nuclear catastrophe is inevitable. [Hunting down nuclear power plant workers](#).
- **The Kazan ASEAN Summit:** Malaysia, Thailand, and Russia coordinate to create an alternative to Western financial dominance. Focus on energy sovereignty and joining BRICS. [35 years of diplomatic ties](#).
- **India's AI Democratization:** Minister Nara Lokesh outlines India's model of AI as a public utility rather than a corporate tool, aiming for 10% global 6G patents. [democratize AI](#).
- **US Supreme Court "Consequences":** Upcoming rulings on birthright citizenship, gender in sports, and the 14th amendment expected to trigger major domestic political shifts. [Supreme Court's summer of consequences](#).
- **Historical Doc: The Fiji Racial Time Bomb:** RT revisits the history of Fiji (1987-1990 coups) to highlight Western colonial "land theft" and ongoing indigenous struggles. [remote outposts of the British Empire](#).
- **Historical Doc: The Lumumba Legacy:** Commemorating the 100th birth anniversary of Patrice Lumumba; focusing on French "crimes" against Senegalese riflemen in 1944. [1200 soldiers to come and fight](#).

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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