

CATMOCK DAILY

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GAS FROM NEW SOURCES WILL END SHORTAGE, SAY OFFICIALS

- The Hindu

There may be light at the end of the tunnel for stressed Indian consumers of natural gas, with plans to import it from producers in the United States and Norway. With India's usual suppliers in the Persian Gulf cut off due to the continuing war in West Asia, prices have spiked, making imports from more distant sources economically viable, government sources said on Tuesday.

However, these shipments will take longer to arrive, meaning that the country could still face a shortage in the interim, they warned.

"Indian consumers of LPG and LNG have already started to feel the pinch of higher prices and shortages, especially in home kitchens and restaurants, so any moves to alleviate their pain is a top priority for our front page," says Suresh Nambath, Editor, The Hindu. "The wider economy, however, will continue to come under stress if the war continues, as we have pointed out in today's editorial calling for an end to the bombing."

Natural gas is used for cooking in homes and restaurants through LPG cylinders and piped gas, to run CNG vehicles, to produce fertilizer and power, and other industrial uses. The majority of LPG and LNG supplies are imported, much of it from Qatar and Saudi Arabia. The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz has largely choked off these sources.

India's domestic LPG output has gone up by 10% after the decision to prioritise supplies to households over industry users, a government official said. On March 5, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry had asked all oil refining companies to maximise production, directing that all propane and butane produced, recovered, or otherwise available to be utilised for LPG output.

Another government official said LPG and LNG supplies had been diversified, with cargoes "already arriving". "Some geographies are distant and therefore take time, but supplies are coming," the official said. Shipping industry estimates suggest it takes about two months for vessels to travel to the U.S. or Norway and return to India with gas cargo.

"We were getting Qatar gas at \$6-8 per MMBtu (metric million British thermal unit), and now the price is \$15 per MMBtu," he said. "But, the economics of it is that, once the price crosses even \$10 per MMBtu, then gas from Norway and the U.S. becomes viable despite the long distance," he said. "There will, of course, be a lead time between placing orders and receiving deliveries from those countries," the official said. "Gas will not be a long-term problem, but there will be some short-term pain."

India's Natural Gas Crisis: Key Points

India is facing a natural gas shortage after the Strait of Hormuz blockade cut off its main suppliers (Qatar and Saudi Arabia). To compensate, it is turning to the US and Norway, which became economically viable once prices crossed \$10/MMBtu (up from \$6-8 to \$15). However, shipments take ~2 months, so short-term shortages and high prices will persist. Domestically, LPG output has been boosted by 10% by prioritising household supply. The bottom line: short-term pain, but the situation should stabilise once alternative supplies arrive.

NUCLEAR FAMILIES

- Bloomberg



As the teenage daughter of Kim Jong Un, Kim Ju Ae has experienced what may be the most intense “bring-your-kid-to-work day” on the planet, featuring North Korea’s finest selection of sniper rifles and missile tests. While some have framed the dictator as a proud “girl dad,” the 50 nuclear warheads in Kim’s arsenal are not just for performative photo ops with a potential successor.

Watching Israel’s strikes on Iran, **Karishma Vaswani** says that North Korea’s leader will draw a dangerous conclusion: “Nuclear weapons are the ultimate guarantor of regime survival.” Given the turmoil in the Middle East, she adds, his daughter is now all the more certain to inherit the nukes if she becomes the face of North Korea’s dynasty.

Which brings us to Iran’s new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, the second-eldest son of Ali Khamenei. **Marc Champion** says “it is hard to imagine a scenario” in which the Khamenei heir’s “ascent turns out to be a good outcome for America’s latest war of choice in the Middle East, or for Iranians. Far from regime change, his selection as supreme leader represents regime consolidation. It makes any transition to a less confrontational Iran — let alone a secular democracy — still less likely than it was before.”

According to Bloomberg News’ **Golnar Motevalli**, Khamenei, a seminarian-turned-real estate mogul with limited political experience, is set to continue his father’s hardline approach to rule: “Prioritizing Islam and an anti-US foreign policy above all else. He could also use his leadership to avenge the killing of his father, mother and wife in the Feb. 28 strikes.”

He’s also in deep with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps — more so than even his dad. “The nexus of ideological glue, military muscle and financial control that has been the secret to this otherwise incompetent regime’s ruthless durability remains intact,” Marc warns. “Only a fortune teller can say whether the IRGC and other institutions of the Islamic Republic can endure the extraordinary levels of punishment that US and Israeli jets and missiles are meting

out,” Marc writes, “but what’s clear is that Trump has failed to understand their rules for the game.”

Khamenei’s father spent decades preparing for a fight. Iran, Marc says, “expected to be outclassed in the air. It expected decapitation strikes and had succession and decentralization plans in place.” Even with the patriarch gone, he argues, “such a regime is unlikely to collapse or split. It is ready for a long war.

Nuclear Families: Key Points

The piece draws parallels between two nuclear-adjacent dynastic successions. Kim Jong Un’s daughter, Kim Ju Ae, is being groomed as a potential successor, and Israel’s strikes on Iran have only reinforced Kim’s belief that nuclear weapons are essential for regime survival — making her inheritance of the arsenal more likely.

In Iran, Ali Khamenei’s son Mojtaba is set to take over as Supreme Leader. A hardliner with deep IRGC ties and personal grievances (his parents and wife were killed in strikes), he is expected to double down on anti-US policy and ideological rigidity rather than moderate. The regime, having long anticipated military confrontation, has succession and decentralisation plans in place — making collapse unlikely despite heavy bombardment.

The overarching warning: Trump has misread the situation. Rather than achieving regime change, US and Israeli strikes have accelerated regime *consolidation* in both countries, leaving the world with more entrenched, nuclear-minded adversaries.

NVIDIA, Thinking Machines form alliance for gigawatt-scale AI

- *Your Story*

Tech giant NVIDIA and Thinking Machines Lab have announced a long-term strategic partnership to deploy a massive computing infrastructure focused on the next generation of artificial intelligence (AI).



The collaboration centres on the delivery of at least one gigawatt of NVIDIA Vera Rubin systems, which represent the latest rack-scale hardware designed for high-performance data centres.

This gigawatt-scale project, which is roughly equivalent to the power consumption of a major data centre campus, is intended to support the development of frontier AI models, which are highly sophisticated systems that push the boundaries of current technological capabilities in areas such as reasoning and multimodal interaction.

Thinking Machines Lab was established in 2025 by Mira Murati who previously served as the chief technology officer at OpenAI. Based in San Francisco, the startup consists of a team drawn from leading organisations like Meta and OpenAI with a mission to build advanced tools that make AI more accessible.

The company has already introduced an initial product called Tinker which is an application programming interface, or API, that allows researchers to fine-tune and customise existing AI models. To support this vision, NVIDIA has provided significant financial investment alongside the hardware agreement.

“AI is the most powerful knowledge discovery instrument in human history. Thinking Machines has brought together a world-class team to advance the frontier of AI. We are thrilled to partner with Thinking Machines to realize their exciting vision for the future of AI,” said Jensen Huang, Founder and CEO of NVIDIA.

This endorsement highlights NVIDIA’s broader strategy of building what Huang describes as AI factories. These factories are large-scale installations where massive clusters of graphics processing units (GPUs) work together to process the enormous amounts of data required for modern machine learning.

The deployment of the Vera Rubin platform is currently targeted for early next year. This timeline aligns with NVIDIA’s objective to provide hyperscale AI deployments to cloud providers and strategic partners throughout 2026 and 2027.

The partnership also includes a joint effort to design training and serving systems specifically for NVIDIA architectures. This ensures that the frontier AI and open models developed by Thinking Machines Lab are optimised for the most powerful hardware available.

Mira Murati believes that this collaboration will significantly expand what is possible for individuals and researchers.

“NVIDIA’s technology is the foundation on which the entire field is built. This partnership accelerates our capacity to build AI that people can shape and make their own, as it shapes human potential in turn,” she noted.

Her perspective reflects a growing trend in the industry where researchers aim to create collaborative AI that is understandable and customisable rather than just powerful.

This deal sits within a broader context of an intense global race for AI computing power.

NVIDIA has recently formed partnerships with other major players such as Meta and Lenovo to expand the infrastructure needed for the largest AI labs. Earlier this month, NVIDIA committed \$4 billion to advance optical technology for AI infrastructure through two multiyear strategic partnerships.

As the industry moves into the era of megaclusters, the ability to access multi-gigawatt capacity is becoming a defining factor for companies trying to build the next generation of AI. By securing

this level of compute, Thinking Machines Lab aims to position itself as a major competitor in the field of foundational model development.

NVIDIA, Thinking Machines form alliance for gigawatt-scale AI: Key Points

Ex-OpenAI CTO Mira Murati's startup, Thinking Machines Lab, has partnered with NVIDIA to deploy at least 1 gigawatt of next-gen Vera Rubin AI hardware, backed by NVIDIA investment. The goal: build cutting-edge frontier AI models and compete at the highest level of the global AI race.