



# Nord Stream Pipeline

## Why in News?

The recent claims made by investigative journalists regarding the [bombing of the Nord Stream gas pipelines](#) (September 2022) have ignited intense discussions and controversies.

## What is the Nord Stream Pipeline?



### ▪ About:

- The **Nord Stream pipeline** is a [natural gas pipeline](#) that runs under the [Baltic Sea](#), **connecting Russia and Germany**.
  - The pipeline was built with the **aim of transporting natural gas from Russia to**

**Europe**, bypassing traditional transit countries such as Ukraine.

- The **first line of the Nord Stream pipeline** was completed in **2011 and the second in 2012**, and it has since become a major source of natural gas for Europe.
  - **Nord Stream 1** is a **1,224 km underwater gas pipeline** running from Vyborg in northwest Russia to Lubmin in northeastern Germany via the Baltic Sea.
  - **Nord Stream 2**, which runs from **Ust-Luga in Leningrad (Russia) to Lubmin**, has the capacity to handle **55 billion cubic metres** of gas per year **once it becomes fully operational**.
- **Recent Issue:**
  - A series of **underwater explosions in the Baltic Sea** ruptured the **Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines** in September 2022.
    - Seismologists **detected the cause for the leak to be explosions** under the sea in the same area.
- **Significance:**
  - The Nord Stream pipeline has significant **economic and political implications** for both Europe and Russia.
  - **For Europe:**
    - The Nord Stream pipeline provides a **reliable and cost-effective source of natural gas**, which is a crucial energy source for many countries in the region.
    - Many European businesses have large investments in Nord Stream 2 and there is pressure on governments from these businesses.
    - Finally, a **reduction in gas from Russia would increase already high gas prices** and that would not be popular domestically.
  - **For Russia:**
    - As for Russia, which has the largest natural gas reserves in the world, around **40% of its budget comes from sales of gas and oil**.
    - Furthermore, the **Nord Stream pipeline provides Russia with a way to increase its influence over Europe's energy markets**, as it becomes a major supplier of natural gas to the region.

**[Source: IE](#)**

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