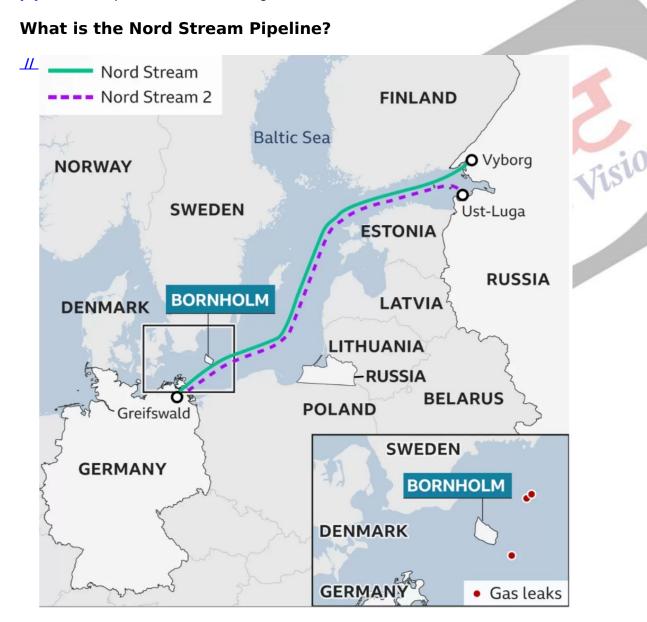


Nord Stream Pipeline

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.



- About:
 - The Nord Stream pipeline is a <u>natural gas</u> pipeline that runs under the <u>Baltic Sea</u>, 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 <u>Baltic Sea</u> 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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