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Trump gives go-ahead to major new Canada–US oil pipeline

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Why in News??

Former U.S. President Donald Trump has supported and approved a new cross-border oil pipeline project between Canada and the United States, reviving debates around fossil fuels, energy security, and environmental protection in North America.

What is the Project?

A major crude oil pipeline expansion project between Canada and the U.S.

Designed to transport Canadian oil sands crude to American refineries

Expected capacity: ~550,000 barrels per day

Route spans parts of the U.S. Midwest (including Montana and Wyoming)

Will integrate with existing U.S. pipeline infrastructure

It is seen as a reworked version of the earlier Keystone XL pipeline idea, which was cancelled.

Background:

The original Keystone XL pipeline (TC Energy project) was:

Proposed in 2008

Intended to carry oil from Alberta (Canada) to Nebraska (USA)

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It was cancelled in 2021 by the Biden administration

Reasons for cancellation:

Environmental concerns

Climate change commitments

Indigenous land rights issues

Key Features of the New Push:

Focus on increasing North American energy independence

Strengthens U.S.–Canada energy trade relations

Aims to ensure stable crude oil supply for U.S. refineries

Expected to create jobs in construction and energy sectors

Supports traditional fossil fuel infrastructure development

Economic Significance:

Canada is one of the largest exporters of crude oil to the U.S.

Pipeline reduces reliance on costly rail transport

Ensures cheaper and faster oil transportation

Strengthens energy security during global price volatility

Supports refining hubs in the U.S. Midwest and Gulf Coast

Environmental & Political Concerns

Environmental Issues:

Risk of oil spills and groundwater contamination

Increase in greenhouse gas emissions

Contradicts global shift toward clean energy transition

Political Debate:

Divides U.S. politics:

Pro-development vs pro-environment camps

Indigenous groups oppose pipeline routes through their lands

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Environmental activists demand renewable energy alternatives

Regulatory Challenges:

Needs approvals from:

U.S. federal agencies

State governments

Environmental regulatory bodies

Geopolitical Angle:

Strengthens North American energy alliance (US–Canada)

Reduces dependency on Middle East oil imports

Reflects U.S. strategic focus on energy dominance policy

Broader Context:

Global energy debate:

Fossil fuels vs renewable energy transition

Countries balancing:

Energy security

Climate commitments

Similar debates seen in:

Europe (gas pipelines)

Asia (coal dependence reduction)

Final Takeaway:

The Trump-supported Canada–US pipeline reflects a strong push toward fossil fuel-based energy security and economic gains, but it also revives major environmental and climate-related debates, highlighting the global tension between energy needs and sustainability goals.