

1 Depreciation of Currency (Source: The Hindu)

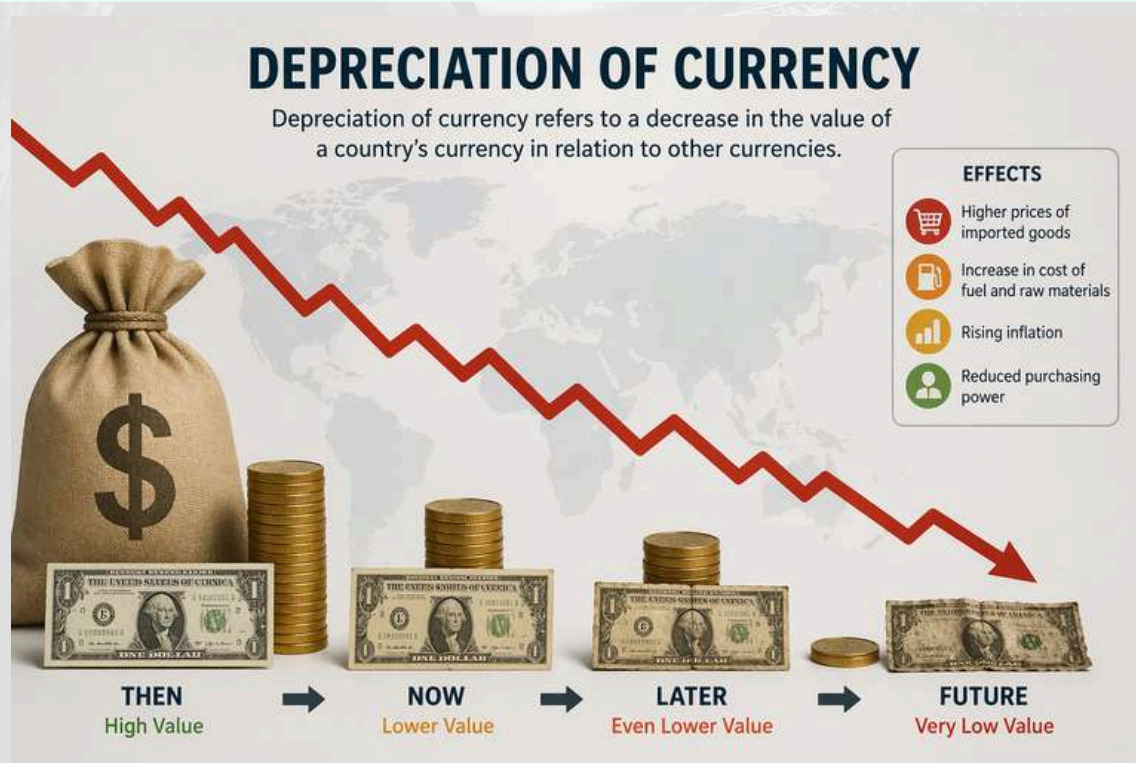
Currency depreciation is the decline in a nation's currency value relative to others. The opposite of currency depreciation is currency appreciation, where a currency becomes stronger.

Facts to know

- Easy monetary policy and high inflation can lead to currency depreciation, affecting a country's trade and investment.
- Controlled depreciation might benefit a country's export competitiveness.
- Political actions and rhetoric, such as trade disputes and tariffs, can also influence currency value.

Effects

- Exports will become cheaper and export will be more competitive in foreign markets.
- Imports will become more expensive from the country.



2 Druzhba Pipeline System (Source: The Hindu)

- The Druzhba (meaning Friendship) pipeline is one of the world's longest and largest crude oil pipeline networks connecting Russia and Central and Eastern Europe.
- It originates in the Almetyevsk region of central Russia and runs through Belarus and then splits into two major branches:
 - Northern Branch: Continues through Poland to Germany.
 - Southern Branch: Runs through Ukraine to Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic.





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3 Groundwater Contamination Reasons (Source: The Indian Express)

- **Natural Reasons:** High levels of arsenic, fluoride, iron, and uranium exist naturally in geological formations, contaminating groundwater.
- **Agriculture:** Excessive use of fertilisers, pesticides, and herbicides leaches harmful chemicals into the water table.
- **Industrial Waste:** Release of untreated industrial effluents leads to seepage of heavy metals (lead, cadmium, mercury).
- **Urbanisation:** Leaky sewage systems and improper waste disposal in urban areas contribute to groundwater pollution.
- **Saltwater Intrusion:** In coastal areas, over-pumping of groundwater can cause saltwater from the ocean to infiltrate freshwater aquifers.
- **Excessive Groundwater Extraction:** In the Gangetic region, excessive extraction leads to Arsenic contamination.