

KEY HEADLINES:

The Indian rupee against the US dollar ended little change on Wednesday after trading in small range since last 3-4 session tracking subdued Asian peers and after opening weak on overnight rally in dollar index while firm equity market offer support in later part of trading.

The rupee at NSE Future 27 Feb. ended down by 3 paise at 83.07 against previous close of 83.04 and after make low of 83.06 and high of 83.16.

India's wholesale price index in January rose at a slower pace than in the previous month, mainly due to an easing of food prices and a sharper fall in prices of manufactured products, government data showed on Wednesday. In January, wholesale price rose 0.27% year-on-year, compared with a 0.73% gain in December. The latest figures were also slower than economists' expectation of a 0.53% rise, according to a Reuters poll.

Overseas investors sold \$2.8 billion worth of Indian equities in January, but the outflow was partially offset by \$2 billion of debt-related inflows, as per the latest share repository data.

The dollar slipped from a fresh three-month high on Wednesday as investors consolidated gains following the previous session's hotter-than-expected U.S. inflation report that pushed back bets on a first Federal Reserve rate cut to some time in the middle of the year.

The dollar index , which measures the U.S. currency against six other majors, eased 0.1% to 104.97, having touched a fresh three-month high of 104.97. The greenback eased 0.1% to 150.585 yen , not too far from a three-month high reached against the Japanese currency on Tuesday. Elsewhere, the euro inched up 0.1% to \$1.0720 amid a slew of euro zone economic data. It earlier touched a fresh three-month low of \$1.0695.

Sterling was down 0.4% at \$1.2541, after briefly touching an eight-day low as data showed UK inflation did not accelerate in January as expected. This may relieve some of the pressure on the Bank of England (BoE) to keep rates where they are for longer. UK inflation stood at an annual rate of 4.0% in January, unchanged from December. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast an increase to 4.2%.

In cryptocurrencies, bitcoin rose 4.1% to \$51,578, hitting its highest since December

2021 above \$52,000.

Traders are currently pricing in a 1% chance of a cut in March, the CME Group's FedWatch Tool shows, compared with a 68.1% chance at the start of the year. Also, Investors are currently pricing in a 50% chance of the Fed keeping rates unchanged in May, up from 6% last week, according to CME's FedWatch tool. Investors now reckon that a Fed rate cut is likely only in June and that the U.S. central bank will deliver less than 3-4 rate cuts in 2024. At the beginning of the year, investors had priced in more than 6 rate cuts.

Money markets see a 51% chance of a BoE rate cut in June and a 75% chance of one in August, according to LSEG's Refinitiv app.

Economic Indicators to be released.

Indicator	Currency	Forecast	Previous	Impact
GDP m/m	GBP	-0.2%	0.3%	HIGH

USD	-0.2%	0.6%	HIGH
	USD	USD -0.2%	USD -0.2% 0.6% Image: Constraint of the second se

Support Resistance Levels – Currency Future:

Currency	LTP	S1	S2	R1	R2	Trend
USDINR FUTURE	83.07	82.85	82.20	83.55	83.80	BEARISH
EURINR FUTURE	88.99	88.90	88.0	89.40	89.85	BEARISH
GBPINR FUTURE	104.27	104.15	103.20	104.85	105.50	BEARISH
JPYINR FUTURE	55.33	55.30	54.95	56.0	56.50	BEARISH

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