

Daily Forex Insight

Date: 16 Jan 2025

KEY HEADLINES:

The Indian rupee spot against the US dollar rebound sharply from all time low to mark best daily gain over 7-months on Wednesday, thanks to fall in dollar index as well stable US Bond yield while dollar sales from foreign bank and rebound in equity market buyout rupee from previous day life time lower level. However rupee likely to remain under pressure on outflow concern after FII sell off added by trade deficit and strong greenback ahead of new elected US president take charge next week.

Domestic currency has declined over 2% since December & 3% since Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. Presidential elections in November, on worries over slowing growth and expectations that central bank may cut rates as soon as February added by wider trade deficit. Rupee drop to 86 from 85 in less than 1-month.

With US elected president set to step back into the White House next week, the focus has been on his policies that analysts expect will boost growth and price pressures.

The rupee at NSE Future 29 Jan-25. ended gain by 19 paise at 86.50 against previous close of 86.69 and after make low of 86.41 and high of 86.66. Asian currencies were mostly rangebound ahead of a closely watched U.S. consumer inflation report.

India posted a narrower-than-expected merchandise trade deficit in December at \$21.94 billion on Wednesday, while lowering its import figures for April-November following an unprecedented miscalculation in gold shipments. Merchandise exports stood at \$38.01 billion in December, while imports stood at \$59.95 billion, government data showed. The trade ministry has yet to release the revised figures for November, which had overcounted gold imports by \$5 billion, boosting the trade deficit to a record high. According to a Reuters calculation, the April-November trade deficit was revised down by \$13.59 billion to \$188.83 billion. In December, India imported \$4.7 billion worth of gold and \$15.2 billion worth of oil.

Foreign investors are exiting their Indian investments and have sold over \$4 billion of domestic stocks and bonds in January so far.

In 2025, traders will keep an eye on potential U.S. trade tariffs which may dampen the outlook for emerging market currencies, especially the Chinese Yuan. India's growth trajectory and FPI funds flow will be the other key variable alongside any potential changes in RBI's forex strategies under the new governor.

For India, between now and the next rate meeting in February, the new Governor's views on liquidity, currency management and macro-prudential measures will be watched closely.

The dollar weakened against major peers on Wednesday after cooler-than-expected data eased fears that inflation was accelerating and increased the chances the Federal Reserve could cut interest rates twice this year.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics showed consumer prices rose 2.9% in the 12 months through December, in line with economists' expectations. Core inflation, which excludes food and energy prices, came in as expected, but lower than the previous month.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback against six other units, fell 0.2% to 109.02, pulling it further away from the 26-month high of 110.17 it reached on Monday. Meanwhile the dollar was last down 1% on the Japanese yen at 156.41 yen. The British pound was up 0.3% at \$1.2247 against the dollar in the U.S. morning session. Elsewhere, the euro slipped 0.1% to \$1.0299.

The U.S. rate futures market has priced in a 93% chance of a pause in rate cuts this month, and a 6.9% probability of easing, according to LSEG estimates. Rate futures have also implied just one rate cut this year of 25 basis points. Traders anticipate deep interest rate cuts from the European Central Bank in 2025, with markets pricing in at least four 25-basis-point cuts, while not being certain of even two such moves from the Fed.

Economic Indicators to be released.

Indicator	Currency	Forecast	Previous	Impact
GDP m/m	GBP	0.2%	-0.1%	HIGH
Retail Sales m/m	USD	0.6%	0.7%	HIGH

<u>Support Resistance Levels - Currency Future: (NSE CUR - 29 Jan 25)</u>

Currency	LTP	S1	S2	R1	R2	Trend
USDINR FUTURE	86.50	86.30	85.80	86.90	87.50	BULLISH
EURINR FUTURE	89.16	88.30	87.50	89.30	90.0	BEARISH
GBPINR FUTURE	105.73	105.0	104.10	106.20	106.80	BEARISH
JPYINR FUTURE	55.52	54.75	54.0	55.70	56.40	BULLISH

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