

KEY HEADLINES:

The Indian rupee spot against the US dollar end 3rd straight day at life time closing low on Wednesday, after strong dollar demand from foreign bank on behalf of importers added by widening trade deficit of India, sell off in equity might turn into outflow and rise in US Bond Yield pressure domestic currency. However, likely RBI intervention at lower level support rupee from sharp fall.

The rupee at NSE Future 27 Dec. ended fall by 2 paise at 85.01 against previous close of 84.99 and after make low of 84.99 and high of 85.81. Weakness in regional currencies ahead of the Federal Reserve's policy decision due in U.S. trading hours also hurt the rupee alongside speculative dollar bids amid a lingering bearish bias on the local unit.

Fed cut interest rates straight 3rd time by 25 bps to 4.25-4.50% range on Wednesday. Fed projection shows 4.3% unemployment rate at end of 2025 versus 4.4% in September projections and End-2025 the Personal Consumption Expenditures inflation at 2.5% versus 2.1% in September; core inflation seen at 2.5% versus 2.2%. While 2.1% GDP growth in 2025 versus 2.0% in September, see longer-run growth at 1.8%, unchanged from September. The FED has issued fresh projections calling for two quarter-point interest-rate cuts next year amid rising inflation. The projections show policymakers see the benchmark lending rate ending 2025 in the 3.75%-4.00% range. By the end of 2026, the policy rate will be another 50 basis points lower, at 3.4%, according to the median of policymaker projections, still above the median Fed policymaker's revised 3% estimate of a neutral rate.

U.S. rate futures price in a more than 90% chance that the Fed will hold rates at its January meeting

The dollar index has risen over 3% since the Nov. 5 election. Measures from the U.S. President-elect -- including tariffs and tax cuts -- should put upward pressure on inflation and bond yields while limiting the Fed's scope to ease policy and supporting the greenback. Despite the pressures, the rupee has fared better than most of its regional peers since then, on the back of routine interventions by the Reserve Bank of India. The local unit is down 0.9%, while its peers have weakened between 1.8% and 4.4%.

India's merchandise trade rose to \$37.84 billion in November, according to a Reuters calculation based on export and import data released by the government. Economists had expected the deficit to be \$23.9 billion, according to a Reuters poll. In October, the

merchandise trade deficit stood at \$27.14 billion.

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 U.S. dollar advanced against its peers on Wednesday ahead of the Federal Reserve's monetary policy decision later in the session, with markets expecting the central bank to deliver its third consecutive interest rate cut.

The dollar strengthened 0.04% to 0.89285 against the Swiss franc in choppy trading. The euro was down 0.16% at \$1.0474. The U.S. dollar index , which measures the greenback against six rivals, was up 0.19% at 107.13, after hovering near a three-week high. The dollar strengthened 0.39% to 154.055 against the Japanese yen. The offshore yuan traded at 7.296 per dollar on Tuesday, holding steady near a 13-month low against the dollar.

The Canadian dollar weakened to nearly a 5-year low against its U.S. counterpart on Tuesday, hurt by domestic political unrest as well as a wider gap between Canadian and U.S. bond yields after data showed a surprise easing of Canadian inflation.

Bitcoin retreated from recent highs. The world's largest cryptocurrency fell 2.06% to \$104,227.

Indicator	Currency	Forecast	Previous	Impact
BOJ Policy Rate	JPY	0.25%	0.25%	HIGH
Official Bank Rate	GBP	4.75%	4.75%	HIGH
Final GDP q/q	USD	2.8%	2.8%	HIGH
Existing Home Sales	USD	4.09M	3.96M	HIGH

Economic Indicators to be released.

Support Resistance Levels - Currency Future: (NSE CUR - 27 Dec 24)

Currency	LTP	S1	S2	R1	R2	Trend
USDINR FUTURE	85.01	84. 70	84.30	85.10	85.50	BULLISH
EURINR FUTURE	89.30	88.75	88.30	89.90	90.50	BEARISH
GBPINR FUTURE	108.05	107.10	106.10	108.75	109.50	BULLISH
JPYINR FUTURE	56.31	55.80	54.80	56.60	57.30	BEARISH

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