

KEY HEADLINES:

The Indian rupee edged higher against the U.S. currency on Wednesday, tracking recovery in wider Asian markets, but gave up opening gains on importer-led dollar buying. The currency gave up initial gains as state-run banks were seen buying dollars, likely on behalf of oil marketing companies and importers.

The rupee at NSE Future fall by 33 paise to end at 82.93 against previous close of 82.60 and after make low of 82.44 and high of 82.96.

India's merchandise and services exports rose in February despite global headwinds, as merchandise trade deficit in February stood at \$17.43 billion, its lowest in over a year. That was below the \$17.75 billion recorded in the previous month, as well as the \$19 billion forecast in a Reuters poll.

The historical seasonality of March month favors rupee bulls as it has gained in 7 out of the last 10 years, the average gains pegged at 0.54%.

The dollar rose on Wednesday on safe-haven buying after Credit Suisse's stock tumbled following the disclosure of "weaknesses" in its financial reporting that renewed investor concerns that a full-blown global banking crisis may be brewing. The dollar index , which measures the U.S. currency against six others, rose 0.868% and the euro fell 1.36% to \$1.0586.

European currencies fell sharply against the dollar, with Credit Suisse shares plummeting 24.2% after its biggest investor, citing regulatory issues about the size of its holding, said it was unable to increase its stake.

Futures are now pricing in a 25 bps hike at the U.S. central bank's March 21-22 meeting, after the probability of a 50 bps hike had jumped last week on Fed chair Jerome Powell's hawkish comments. Fed rate is seen peaking at just under 5%. As the banking crisis unfolds, Goldman Sachs analysts predicted the Fed would not raise rates next week.

The key for the rupee and other emerging market currencies this year will be contingent on how the U.S. inflation and growth data shape up and how they affect the U.S. Federal Reserve rate expectations.

Economic Indicators to be released.

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Indicator	Currency	Forecast	Previous	Impact
Philly Fed Manufacturing Index	USD	-14.7	-24.3	HIGH
Main Refinancing Rate	EUR	3.50%	3.0%	HIGH

Support Resistance Levels – Currency Future:

Currency	LTP	S1	S2	R1	R2	Trend
USDINR FUTURE	82.93	82.35	81.80	83.0	83.45	BULLISH
EURINR FUTURE	88.0	87.90	87.25	88.80	89.50	SIDEWAYS
GBPINR FUTURE	100.08	99.45	98.75	100.60	101.30	BULLISH
JPYINR FUTURE	62.17	61.30	60.60	62.35	63	BULLISH

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Disclosure:

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