

# ₹ gains on corporate inflows, oil prices

**BHASKAR DUTTA**

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The rupee strengthened sharply on Thursday due to corporate investments, a decline in global crude oil prices and as some traders bet on the currency to reverse a recent spell of underperformance, dealers said.

The rupee settled at 82.55 per US dollar on Thursday as against 82.81 at previous close. The rupee depreciated around 10 per cent against the greenback in 2022.

Dealers said that while the US Federal Reserve's decision to opt for a lower quantum of rate increase in December had led to hope of the American central bank slowing down on monetary tightening, the minutes of the Fed's latest meeting had

not provided firm cues.

"The Indian rupee gained for a second day; supported by stronger regional peers. The December FOMC minutes barely affected the FX market," said Dilip Parmar, research analyst at HDFC Securities.

"Now, the focus will be on the December ADP jobs data. A firm ADP number could also deliver a little support to US yields and the dollar. The rupee continues in a narrow range of 82.50 to 83," he said. With

the fall in global crude oil prices helping ease fears about India's current account deficit, the rupee on Thursday strengthened past 82.65/\$1 as well as 82.55/\$1—both key technical levels, said a dealer with a state-owned bank.

Over the last two days, Brent crude prices fell over 9 per cent, *Reuters* reported.

