

Rupee closes 1 paisa higher at 86.36 against dollar

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The rupee stayed firm and appreciated 1 paisa to close at 86.36 (provisional) against the dollar on Thursday, supported by positive domestic equities.

Forex traders said the rupee staged a counter-attack against external pressures, gaining support from strong foreign inflows into debt markets.

However, risks remain due to unabated foreign institutional investor sell-off, and uncertainty surrounding Trump's tariff stance could pose challenges to the rupee's upward momentum.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 86.39, then touched an intraday high of 86.20 and a low of 86.41 against the greenback. The unit ended the session at 86.36 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a gain of 1 paisa from its previous closing level.

On Wednesday, the rupee appreciated 19 paise to close at 86.37 against the dollar.

This is the fifth straight session of gain for the rupee, during which it has added 87 paise. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the

greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.46 per cent higher at 103.90.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.10 per cent to \$70.85 per barrel in futures trade.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex surged 899.01 points, or 1.19 per cent, to settle at 76,348.06, while the Nifty advanced 283.05 points, or 1.24 per cent, to close at 23,190.65 points.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹1,096.50 crore on a net basis on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the RBI March Bulletin released on Wednesday said sound fiscal policies, a well-calibrated monetary framework, and digital transformation initiatives are expected to provide a strong foundation for long-term sustainable economic growth.

It also said that macroeconomic fundamentals remain strong, and economic growth is poised to sustain momentum driven by robust domestic demand, steady investment activity, and ongoing policy-driven infrastructure development, along with a pick-up in government spending.