

# Rupee Slips 10 Paise to 82.8/Dollar

PTI

**Mumbai:** The rupee declined 10 paise to settle at 82.80 against the US dollar on Wednesday as a massive sell-off in domestic equities and risk aversion in global markets dented investor sentiment.

However, a weak greenback against major rivals overseas and fresh foreign fund inflows supported the domestic unit and capped the losses, forex traders said.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened weak at 82.76 against the greenback and witnessed an intraday high of 82.66 and a low of 82.83. It finally ended at 82.80, a decline of 10 paise over its previous close of 82.70.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 635.05 points or 1.03% lower at 61,067.24, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 186.20 points or 1.01% to 18,199.10. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.90% to

USD 80.71 per barrel.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.09 per cent to 104.06.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) turned net buyers in the capital markets on Tuesday as they purchased shares worth ₹455.94 crore, ac-



**The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.09 per cent to 104.06**

ording to exchange data. Rupee continues to trade in a narrow range despite weakness in domestic equities. The currency opened on a flat note despite marginal weakness in the dollar in the overnight session. Earlier in the week, BoJ surprised with its announcement to increase the upper band limit to 0.5 per cent. Yen has strengthened sharply after the release of the policy sta-

tement.

"This week's focus will be on the final GDP and core PCE index number from the US. We expect the USD/INR (Spot) to trade sideways and quote in the range of 82.40 and 83.05," said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Meanwhile, gold price rose ₹192 to ₹55,261 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday amid gains in precious metal prices internationally, according to HDFC Securities.

Fitch Ratings on Tuesday affirmed India's sovereign credit rating at 'BBB-' with a stable outlook, saying the rating derives strengths from a robust growth outlook and still-resilient external finances.

The agency, however, expects a modest fiscal slippage in the current financial year with central government fiscal deficit at 6.6% of GDP, against 6.4% pegged in the Budget, due to higher food and fertiliser subsidies.