

# Rupee snaps 3-day fall; spurts 17 paise to 68.80 vs USD

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
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The rupee snapped its three-day losing streak to close 17 paise higher at 68.80 against the US dollar today as market participants pinned their hopes on an aggressive rate cut by the US Federal Reserve later this month.

Forex traders said the rupee along with most Asian currencies strengthened following dovish comments from New York Fed officials, offsetting the impact of soaring crude oil prices amid fresh geopolitical tensions in West Asia.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened on a firm footing at 68.78, and shuttled between a high of 68.74 and a low of 68.95 during the day. The rupee finally closed at 68.80, up 17 paise over its previous close. The rupee had settled at 68.97 against the US dollar yesterday.

"Rupee snapped the 3-day losing streak and settled 17 paise higher against the US dollar Friday, with traders expecting a more aggressive

policy easing by the US Federal Reserve," said Mr VK Sharma, head PCG and capital markets strategy, HDFC Securities.

Mr Sharma further said the "rupee opened strong but witnessed selling throughout the day on the back of weak domestic equity markets".

On a weekly basis, the local currency lost 11 paise.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.21 per cent to 96.99.

The 10-year government bond yield was at 6.36 per cent today.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, surged 1.63 per cent to \$62.94 per barrel after the US said it had destroyed an Iranian drone in the Strait of Hormuz, stoking fears of supply disruptions.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex plunged 560 points today after the government thwarted hopes of tax relief for FPIs.

The Financial Benchmark India Private Ltd (FBIL) set the reference rate for the rupee/dollar at 68.8758.