

Rupee spurts 43p to close at 70.49 against dollar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, March 5

THE RUPEE REBOUNDED by 43 paise to close at 70.49 against the dollar on Tuesday, largely driven by positive macro data and easing crude prices.

Forex traders said heavy buying in domestic equities and sustained foreign fund inflows also propped up the local unit.

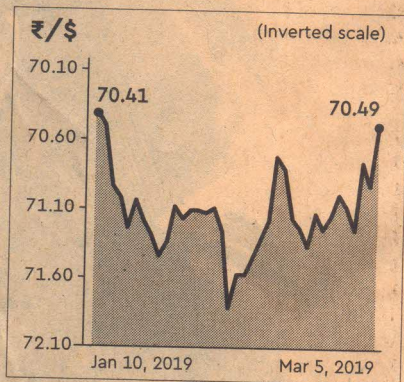
At the Interbank Foreign Exchange (forex) market, the domestic unit opened slightly down at 70.95.

During the day, the local unit, however, gathered momentum and rose to an intra-day high of 70.43 before finally ending at 70.49, showing a gain of 43 paise.

The local unit had weakened by 20 paise to close at 70.92 against the dollar on Friday.

The domestic forex market and equity market were closed on Monday on account of Mahashivratri.

Commenting on the appreciation in rupee, Sanctum Wealth Management chief investment officer Sunil Sharma said, "Over last one month the Indian rupee has appreciated 1.5% and is the best performing emerging



market currency."

Sentiments in the forex market also got a boost from the positive macro data. The country's services sector activity gathered momentum in February, and rose from 52.2 in January to 52.5 in February, indicating an upturn in output.

Foreign investors put in ₹751.92 crore on a net basis in capital markets on Tuesday, provisional exchange data showed.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.06% to 96.73.