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Indian Rupee Weakens Despite S&P Upgrade Ahead of Trump-Putin Summit

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The Indian rupee weakened on August 14, 2025, closing at 87.5500 against the U.S. dollar, down from the previous session's 87.4400. During the trading day, the currency fluctuated between 87.39 and 87.67, reflecting investor caution amid global market movements.

Amid the rupee's decline, Standard & Poor's (S&P) confirmed an upgrade of India's credit rating, citing a strong external position, manageable current account deficits, and the rupee's active role in global foreign exchange trading. S&P highlighted that the rupee accounts for more than one percent of global currency turnover, signaling its growing relevance in international markets. Analysts noted that this credit rating boost provided temporary relief to the rupee and affirmed confidence in India's economic fundamentals despite observed market fluctuations.

Reports of specific U.S. tariffs on Indian goods in August 2025 are unverified, and no official announcements have been made. Currency volatility during the session reflected broader market sensitivity to international developments, including trade and geopolitical considerations.

To stabilize the currency, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) intervened in the foreign exchange market, aiming to maintain support levels. Bankers indicated that the central bank remains committed to defending key thresholds, maintaining stability, and mitigating the risk of sudden depreciation. Analysts believe that continued intervention may help cushion the rupee from short-term shocks, while longer-term stability will depend on sound domestic economic management and trade negotiations.

The rupee's movement underscores the complex interplay between domestic economic fundamentals and global market factors. While the S&P upgrade reflects India's resilience and creditworthiness, external developments continue to influence trading patterns. Investors and businesses are monitoring the currency closely to assess potential effects on energy trade, imports, exports, and overall financial flows.

In summary, India's currency market reflects both strong economic fundamentals and ongoing sensitivity to international developments. The S&P upgrade provides a positive signal regarding the country's economic strength, while domestic monetary policy and market measures continue to play a key role in maintaining currency stability. Immediate challenges arise from market volatility and trade uncertainties, but the RBI's interventions and economic management aim to sustain stability.