

With the market focus slowly starting to turn towards 1 Feb FOMC - yes you read it right - Fed indeed matters even now - there is an air of apprehension that they might not tone down aggressiveness.

Remarkably low claims at 190k last week - lowest since Sept even as massive tech layoffs continue .Add to this mix, liquidity sucking from replenishing the TGA through bill issuance - FCI pressure buildup - Toxic mix for risk- lid on optimism preferred.

U.S. hit \$31.4 trillion debt ceiling - Treasury began "extraordinary measures" to prevent a default. Congress has until sometime this summer to raise the debt limit before those measures run out.

Total housing starts fell 1.4% to a 1.330 million-unit pace in Dec -permits declined

for eighth time in 12 months, pointing to future weakness. Number of permits issued – clue as where home construction is heading – fell 1.6%, or 30% from a year .In 2007 bust, starts fell 37%.

Straightlined dollar depreciation and expected Goldilocks in the first quarter is far from assured. So far in this year, weaker fundamentals result in stronger currencies - won't sustain for long - 102.40 plus weekly close to confirm that .

Mirror image of ECB until 2019- clear from ECB minutes that they are far from being done with rate hikes. German economy appears to have avoided a Q4 contraction and 'only' stagnated. Not falling off the cliff is one thing, staging a strong rebound, however, is a different matter. 1.0775
1.0850 range holds

Weaker macros and a stronger currency - however bias to the downside as 1.2330 breaks and a test of 1.2105 ensues.

Japanese core inflation rose its fastest since 1981. But BoJ' not deterred - comes up with unplanned purchases of JGBs ¥1.85 trillion- logically currency has to take a knock - a macro purist would not believe what's happening -USD/JPY shorts helped by rejected rebound at 131.58. Monday's 127.215 held just above 50% of 2020-22 uptrend @126.56. Now **firming & further grinding towards north. 130.00 plus close today ?**

USDINR treading it's own path - even with a scarce and expensive global liquidity landscape - does not sound rational - conflicting views on 'safe passage' .Better

to let noise subside - Gutfeel is that it should stay with 81.25 pivot .