Stock markets erase early losses on buying in Infosys, ITC

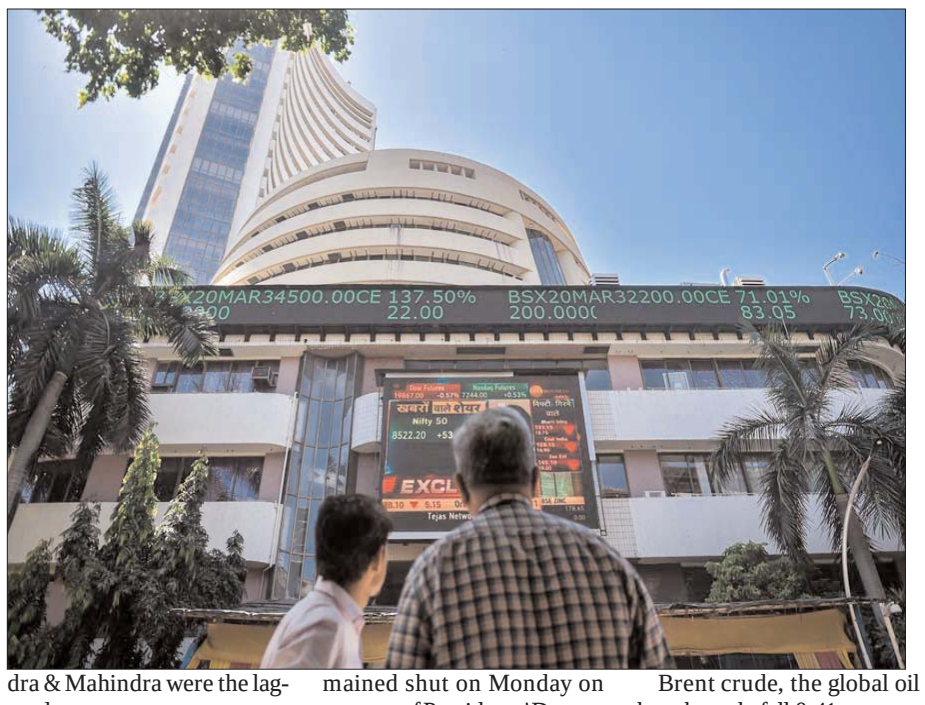
MUMBAI, FEB 17: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty dropped in early trade on Tuesday, but buying in blue-chip stocks Infosys and ITC helped the markets recover the lost ground.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 289.72 points to 82,987.43 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 112.45 points to 25,570.30.

Later, both benchmark indices bounced back and were trading in the green. The BSE benchmark quoted 116.08 points higher at 83,393.23, and the Nifty traded 12.90 points up at 25,695.65.

Among the Sensex constituents, Infosys, ITC, HCL Technologies, Asian Paints, Tech Mahindra, Bharat Electronics Ltd, Tata Consultancy Services, IndiGo, Sun Pharmaceuticals, and Larsen & Toubro were the major gainers.

On the other hand, Eternal, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Reliance Industries, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, and Mahindra & Mahindra were the laggards.



In Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 index traded nearly 1 per cent lower. Markets in China, Hong Kong and South Korea are remained closed for the Lunar New Year holidays.

US equities market also remained shut on Monday on account of Presidents' Day.

Foreign institutional investors sold equities worth Rs 972.13 crore on Monday, while domestic institutional investors purchased stocks worth Rs 1,666.98 crore, according to the exchange data.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.41 per cent to USD 68.37 per barrel.

On Monday, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 650.39 points to close at 83,277.15, while the NSE Nifty advanced 211.65 points to settle at 25,682.75.

Australian delegation of 12 businesses and research bodies joins BioAsia 2026 to forge India partnerships

HYDERABAD, FEB 17: Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ) brought an 18-member delegation representing 12 businesses, universities, and research institutions to BioAsia 2026 at the HITEX Exhibition Centre to forge partnerships with Indian companies. The delegation, marking one of the largest groups from Australia, aims to showcase capabilities in health tech, biotech, and clinical trials while seeking collaborative opportunities within the Indian pharmaceutical and healthcare ecosystem.

Munish Kaushal, Senior Director at TIQ, in an interview with ANI, stated that the mission serves as a platform for Queensland's innovation to meet the requirements of the Indian market. "The message is very clear: the Queensland innovation and the quality of our products and services is ready to match India's scale," Kaushal said.

He noted that this marks the Queensland government's third consecutive year of participation, supported by the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade). Kaushal added that the engagement is expected to provide long-term benefits for both regions by improving the affordability and quality of the healthcare ecosystem.

The delegation includes academic and research leaders focused on translating Australian innovations into the Indian manufacturing landscape. Nagaraj Gopisetty, Business Development Manager at the Griffith University Institute for Biomedicine and Glycomics, highlighted the intent to collaborate in the vaccines, drug discovery, and diagnostics sectors. "We are looking at how to take innovations from the university and collaborating with the Indian ecosystem over here in the vaccines and drug discovery space and diagnostics," Gopisetty said, adding that Australian entities are looking to partner for "scale up and manufacturability with the Indian partners."

Discussions during the event have already progressed toward specific medical challenges. Professor Andreas Kupz from James Cook University's Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine mentioned productive talks with Hyderabad-based vaccine companies regarding tuberculosis research. "I had some really good discussions with some of the vaccine companies located here in Hyderabad about taking some of the platforms and vaccine candidates that we are developing for various diseases to potentially co-develop them," Kupz said.

The financial scale of the bilateral partnership has seen significant growth, moving from a sub-ten-million-dollar engagement to a projected range of two hundred to three hundred million dollars. Prasad KDV Yarlagadda, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Digital Technologies at the University of Southern Queensland, noted that the integration of artificial intelligence in clinical trials is a key emerging area. He stated that AI-generated data could potentially make phase three clinical trials optional, reducing the cost of the entire life cycle and accelerating the development of new molecules and vaccines.

Yarlagadda emphasised that Australia's high-quality research and discovery knowledge complement India's market scale and patient diversity. He pointed out that the Australian government has allocated six billion dollars to the Australian Economic Accelerator program to support small companies through joint innovation programs and grants. "This partnership will definitely improve the reduction of the cost of the production and the accessibility of the medicines and vaccines for everyone in the society," Yarlagadda said.

Developers key architect of AI; India stands at the centre: OpenUK CEO Brock

NEW DELHI, FEB 17 : When you open an AI chatbot, generate an image, or use a smart app, it feels seamless, polished and effortless. But beneath that sleek interface lies something most users never see — a vast global web of developers quietly building the digital foundations that make it all work.

Software developers are the invisible architects of the AI age, and India stands at the centre of this all, OpenUK CEO Amanda Brock said in an interview with PTI Videos on Monday.

"Everybody goes to a pizza restaurant and talks about the toppings. They don't talk about the base because the base is standard. But when you take that base away, what you've got is a sloppy mess," she said.

The toppings are the flashy AI and technology products. The base is the open source, which is the shared code, data sets, tools, and infrastructure that developers around the world build together. The technology powers cloud platforms, mobile apps, cybersecurity tools, and increasingly artificial intelligence systems. It is rarely glamorous, but without it, the digital economy would wobble. And this base, to a large extent, is built collaboratively, she explained.

Across time zones, developers contribute to shared repositories, fix bugs, review code, and improve models. Platforms like GitHub act as the digital workshop where this collaboration happens. Updates are tracked, contributions are logged, and improvements become reusable for the next innovator. Open source doesn't just build software; it lowers barriers. It allows a student in New Delhi to contribute to the same ecosystem as an engineer in London or San Francisco. That is what makes it powerful.

According to GitHub's Octoverse 2025 report, India now has over 21.9 million developers on the platform. It is the fastest-growing developer community in the world and currently the largest contributor base to open source globally. In 2025 alone, more than 5 million new developers joined from India.

This scale matters; it means a massive pool of talented students, engineers, researchers, and freelancers contributing to global projects that power AI systems and digital services worldwide. India is no longer just consuming technology. It is helping build the foundation, Brock said, adding that there's an important nuance.

"We are your (India's) second biggest collaborator in the UK, but you are one of, if not the biggest, in terms of the number of individuals and their skills. What we see is this dramatic increase in the number of people contributing from India. The concern is that you don't have as many projects or companies coming out of India," she pointed out.

So, while India leads in sheer numbers of contributors, the number of globally dominant open-source projects and large-scale tech companies emerging from that base is still evolving. Experts like Amanda believe that the country has depth of talent, but the next leap is about institutional leadership and support, she added.

As AI systems grow more powerful, the conversation shifts from just building to governing, Brock said, adding that regulation must be smart and targeted, especially in sensitive sectors like healthcare and finance, without suffocating innovation.

"AI should be a tool that serves humanity...humanity should not serve AI," she said, adding that the challenge for policymakers is to protect citizens while ensuring innovation remains dynamic and open.

The world may celebrate the AI 'toppings', but it is India's growing community of developers and millions like them worldwide who are quietly baking the base. And without the base, everything else could just be shaky.

'India-Singapore AI synergy poised to transform healthcare through data and innovation'

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17: India's vast healthcare data and Singapore's advanced artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities are opening new avenues for collaboration that could accelerate innovation and make healthcare technologies more affordable and globally competitive, Karen Priyadarshini, Vice President and Head of Healthcare - Asia at AWS (Amazon Web Services Singapore Pvt Ltd) told ANI today.

"Singapore is a small country with a very big AI push, and they have the models that they are building, but they need data to train those models and that's where India comes in," Priyadarshini told ANI in an interview on the sidelines of the "Democratizing AI Resources for Economic Growth and Social Good" event at the India AI Impact Summit.

"India has a population of 1.4 billion, and that means that many data points that you have. And I think that scale nobody on planet Earth has," she said.

Priyadarshini said discussions at the summit and at the AWS Public Sector Summit earlier in the day focused on how technology can help India scale healthcare delivery affordably and enable startups to expand globally. "India is a bed of startups, so how do we enable them to really go global? How can we scale with these technologies? How can we make it affordable?" she said.

She highlighted the potential for research partnerships, particularly in rare diseases. Referring to remarks by the Chief Executive Officer of the National Health Authority (NHA), she said India's expanding health data ecosystem could be opened to researchers worldwide.

"We're going to have the scale of data -- what are we going to do with it? We're going to invite researchers," she said, noting that certain rare disease data sets are difficult to assemble outside India.

Priyadarshini described AI as a "technology leveler" in healthcare. "It's not that the U.S. is ahead, it's not that China is ahead. We have amazing startups in India because of the scale of population," she said, adding that markets such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan and South Korea are also developing strong solutions.

She said hyperscalers such as AWS can help regional innovators scale securely and responsibly. "AI has lots of bandwidth, and it comes with a package of risk as well," she said, stressing the need for safeguards as adoption accelerates. (ANI)

AI set to make medical scan reports twice as easy to understand for patients

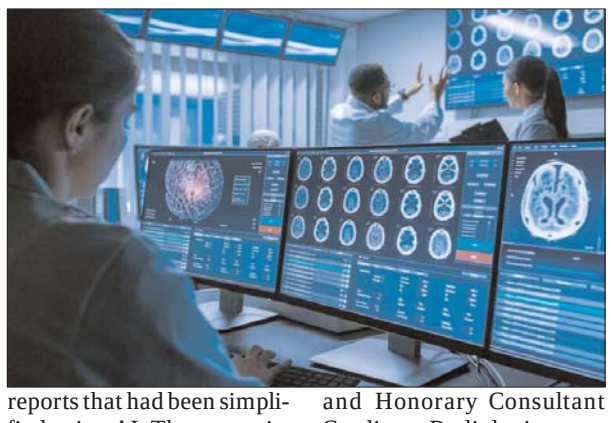
LONDON, Feb 17: Artificial intelligence could soon help patients make sense of complex medical scan results, making them far easier to understand without losing clinical accuracy, a major new study by the University of Sheffield suggests.Â

The research found that when radiology reports for X-Rays, CT and MRI scans were rewritten using advanced AI systems such as ChatGPT, patients found them almost twice as easy to understand compared with the original versions.

Analysis showed that the reading level dropped from "university level" to one more closely aligned with the comprehension of a school pupil aged 11-13.

The findings suggest that AI-assisted explanations could become a standard companion to medical reports, helping to improve transparency and trust across healthcare systems, including the National Health Service (NHS.)Â

Researchers reviewed 38 studies published between 2022 and 2025, covering more than 12,000 radiology reports that had been simplified using AI. These rewritten reports were evaluated by patients, members of the public and clinicians, to assess both patient understanding and clinical accuracy.Â



Radiology reports are traditionally written for doctors rather than patients. However, initiatives promoting patient-centred care, such as the NHS App, alongside new policies mandating greater transparency of medical records, mean patient access to these reports has expanded rapidly.

Lead author of the study, Dr Samer Alabed, Senior Clinical Research Fellow at the University of Sheffield and Honorary Consultant Cardio Radiologist at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: "The fundamental issue with these reports is they're not written with patients in mind. They are often filled with technical jargon and abbreviations that can easily be misunderstood, leading to unnecessary anxiety, false reassurance and confusion.

"Patients with lower health literacy or English as a second language are particularly disadvantaged. Clinicians frequently have to use valuable appointment time explaining report terminology instead of focusing on care and treatment. Even small time savings per patient could add up to significant benefits across the NHS."

While doctors reviewing these AI-simplified reports found that the vast majority were accurate and complete, around one per cent contained errors, such as incorrect diagnoses. Showing that while this approach is highly promising, it still needs careful oversight.Â

Of the 38 studies reviewed, none were conducted in the UK or in NHS settings, a significant gap which Dr Samer says the research team is now seeking to address.

"This research has highlighted several key priorities. The most important is the need for real-world testing in NHS clinical workflows to properly assess safety, efficiency, and patient outcomes," said Dr Samer.Â

"This includes human-oversight models, where clinicians review and approve AI-generated explanations before they are shared with patients. Our long-term goal is not to replace clinicians, but to support clearer, kinder, and more equitable communication in healthcare," he added.

India leapfrogged decades of progress as systems built on open-source architecture, open APIs: Kant

NEW DELHI, Feb 17: AI is a hugely transformational technology which is going to disrupt every single way of life, former Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said on Tuesday, emphasising it must be accessible, affordable, accountable, and multilingual to avoid deepening global inequalities.

Speaking at the AI Impact Summit here, he also said India leapfrogged decades of progress in a short span because its systems were built on open-source architecture, open APIs, and global interoperability.

"Make no mistake that this is a hugely transformational technology. It's going to cut across every sector, it's going to disrupt every single way of life and therefore it's very, very important that AI is made accessible, affordable and accountable," he said at a session on AI for India's Next Billion: Intergenerational Insights for Inclusive and Future-Ready Growth.

The former G20 Sherpa further said huge sums are being invested in AI, leading to a huge amount of disruption and may end up creating a highly unequal society.

He said AI systems must be multilingual, otherwise vast sections of the population would be excluded.

"The challenge is whether we can ensure that AI reaches those below the poverty line... whether AI can be used to transform lives of citizens and whether AI can be used to improve learning outcomes, health outcomes, improve nutritional standards which are major challenges before the world," he said.

Kant stressed that as the world progresses it is important that the power of technology is used to transform lives of citizens in the global south.

"If it is not used to the benefits of (people) below poverty line, they will remain poor forever.

If you are not able to use it for improving education, which is the key to improve learning outcomes, and what was physically not possible is today possible because of the power of AI.

Kant also emphasised that it is important that when India or the global south builds its models, they are made on their own data.

"We've learned from our own digital public infrastructure, which enabled India to leapfrog in seven years, what the Bank of International Settlements said, 'India achieved 50 years of progress in seven years'," he said.

He said India was able to do it because the systems were built on open source architecture, open APIs and global interoperability.

"And, therefore, today, we do fast payment, we do stock market transactions, we do insurance, we do credit to the last mile on the basis of this open source, because we created the digital public infrastructure layer. But on top of that, we allow private sector to innovate and compete in the market space," he added.

Kant further said India is building 10 large language models, opening up data sets and providing computing power to startups and researchers at lower cost.

"India must use its data, its talent, and spread out computing power to its citizens so that we can benefit from this power," he said. (PTI)