

Stock markets open lower amid weakness in IT, Services shares

MUMBAI, FEB 18: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty began the trade on a negative territory on Wednesday, tracking losses in IT and Services stocks in a volatile session.

After a bearish start, the 30-share BSE Sensex further declined 247.92 points, or 0.30 per cent, to 83,203.04.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 70.25 points, or 0.27 per cent, to 25,655.15.

Among the Sensex constituents, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Adani Ports, HCL Technologies, Tata Consultancy Services, Eternal, Maruti Suzuki India, Asian Paints, Trent, HDFC Bank, IndiGo, Kotak Mahindra Bank and ICICI Bank were the major laggards.

On the other hand, ITC, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finserv, Bharat Electronics Ltd, State Bank of India, UltraTech Cement, Sun Pharmaceutical and Bajaj Finance were the gainers.

"The volatility in IT stocks may continue, in response to incoming news relating to the sector. Overall, IT stocks may remain weak since uncertainty surrounding the sector is huge and large institutional

investors are unlikely to invest big time in IT stocks, unless valuations become compelling," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

He added that there could be chucks away from IT towards other sectors like banking and financials, automobiles, telecom, pharmaceuticals etc. where there was good earnings visi-

bility. In Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 benchmark was trading over 1 per cent higher. Markets in China, Hong Kong, and South Korea remained closed for trading on account of Lunar New Year holidays. The US equities market ended higher in overnight deals on Tuesday.

Foreign institutional investors bought equities worth Rs 995.21 crore on Tuesday,

while domestic institutional investors purchased stocks worth Rs 187.04 crore, according to the exchange data.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.22 per cent to USD 67.59 per barrel.

On Tuesday, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 173.81 points to close at 83,450.96.

The 50-share NSE Nifty advanced 42.65 points to settle at 25,725.40.

Nissan bets on new models, sales infra boost for brand resurgence this year

NEW DELHI, FEB 18: UDAIPUR, Feb 18: Japanese automaker Nissan is lining up multiple products, bolstering its sales infrastructure as it places 2026 as the year of resurgence for the brand in India.

The company, which currently sells just one model Magnite in the country, on Tuesday launched its second offering — the seven-seater PVM Gravite.

"When we say Nissan is committed to India, what's really important is the year 2026. This is going to be a year for the brand resurgence for Nissan in India," Nissan Motor India MD Saurabh Vatsa told reporters here.

Besides Gravite, the company plans to bring in a Tekton SUV and a larger seven seater C segment SUV later this year, he added.

"As we go ahead, export remains one of our fundamental foundational pillars... In FY 2026-27 we are going to cross the 1 lakh unit export mark from India," he added.

Therefore, 2026 new approach, new products, new directions and this is going to be supported with the price coverage from six lakhs to almost up to Rs 20 lakhs, he said.

"We are going to go from one segment of vehicles to four segments of vehicles and the potential of these

United States, Japan, China and the Middle East. And we are not committed for the short term. We are actually committed for the long term," he noted.

The company is focussed on SUV-led strategy, because this is what the market is looking for, and this is where the automaker sees potential for growth in the Indian market, he added.

"India is central to Nissan's global ambitions. Our actions over the past year strengthening operations, expanding the network and embarking on a product offensive demonstrate our long-term commitment to this market," Sabbagh stated.

The Gravite is not just a product launch; it marks the beginning of a sustained growth phase for Nissan in India, he added.

"With local manufacturing at our alliance partner facility in Chennai and a future-ready product roadmap, we are here to compete, grow and lead in the segments that matter," he stated.

The nationwide drive used a dedicated digital portal to mobilise citizens. Participants engaged with scenario-based questions focusing on data privacy, accountability, and the prevention of misinformation.

Those who completed the pledge received a digital badge and access to specialised AI learning pathways.

He noted Magnite will continue to play an important role in the company's

product portfolio in the country.

Vatsa said the company is going to leverage high growth markets internationally to bring in additional sales volume.

"As we go ahead, export remains one of our fundamental foundational pillars... In FY 2026-27 we are going to cross the 1 lakh unit export mark from India," he added.

The automaker currently has around 160 dealerships around the country.

Thierry Sabbagh, Divisional Vice President and President, Middle East, KSA, CIS and India, Nissan and Infiniti, said the automaker remains committed to the Indian market.

"This is one of the core markets for us, with the

four segments is almost 2.5 units, so that's a strong, robust number and a segment coverage," he added.

The company said dealer network expansion is underway across Tier I and Tier II cities to enhance accessibility and customer experience.

The company plans to scale up the sales outlets to 250 by the end of this fiscal.

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