

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 churns 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.

NEW DELHI, FEB 18: EY India has expanded its tax technology suite with the launch of AI-enabled solutions designed to manage complex compliance requirements for Indian businesses. These tools, which include Global Trade Automation, the EY India AI Tax Hub, and Accounts Payable Automation, are being showcased at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi, according to a release.

The new offerings are integrated under India Tax Platform, EY's unified ecosystem "that brings together Direct and Indirect Tax compliance to offer enterprises a single source of truth for tax and finance operations".

"EY's latest solutions are designed to unify tax workflows, improve transparency and strengthen real-time compliance across enterprise operations. The Global Trade Automation platform helps organisations plan, track, integrate, and comply with end-to-end EXIM operations through AI-enabled HSN and FTA analysis, automated customs validation,



and audit-ready documentation," the release said.

According to Sameer Gupta, National Tax Leader at EY India, "With these new AI-enabled suite of Tax solutions, our goal is to give businesses a connected, intelligent system that strengthens accuracy and supports real-time decision-making."

The EY India AI Tax Hub

utilises AI agents trained by tax professionals to handle research and litigation tasks. Additionally, the Accounts Payable Automation tool digitises the invoice lifecycle to ensure compliance with GST and the recently mandated Invoice Management System (IMS), according to the release. The firm said that these solutions are built

specifically for the Indian regulatory environment.

"By combining AI-driven insights with our domain experience, the expanded India Tax Platform helps teams manage compliance more confidently and with greater transparency," Rahul Patni, Partner and Digital Tax Leader at EY India, said. (ANI)

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 MPV Gravitte.

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

"So in close succession, we are bringing in three new vehicles in almost 12 months from now. Therefore, the year of resurgence, which is going to be based on a product lineup which is broadly SUVs," Vatsa said.

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.

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

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.

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

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 Gravitte 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.

Gravitte, which is powered by a 1 litre petrol engine, is priced between Rs 5.65 lakh and Rs 8.49 lakh (ex-show-room). (PTI)

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18: New Delhi [India], February 18 (ANI): India has officially achieved a Guinness World Record for the most pledges received for an artificial intelligence (AI) responsibility campaign within 24 hours. Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the milestone on Wednesday at the India AI Impact Summit 2026.

The campaign, which ran from February 16 to 17, recorded 250,946 valid pledges. This figure significantly exceeded the initial government target of 5,000 participants. The initiative was conducted under the IndiaAI Mission in partnership with Intel India.

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.

AHMEDABAD, FEB 18:: The Adani Group has announced 24 fully-funded scholarships for students at India's leading business schools under the 2025-27 cohort of the Adani Accelerated Leadership Programme (AALP).

The scholars, drawn from the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) in Bangalore, Calcutta and Lucknow, and the Indian School of Business (ISB), were formally felicitated at the Group's headquarters in Ahmedabad by Karan Adani, Managing Director, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), and Director, Adani Cement.

The announcement of scholarships reinforces Adani Group's commitment to inclusive leadership development and nation-building, a release said.

The AALP Scholarship is designed to ensure that high-potential management students are not constrained by financial circumstances. Selection is based on a rigorous evaluation framework that combines academic excellence with demonstrated financial need, enabling merit to prevail irrespective of background, the release said.



Minister Vaishnaw stated that the campaign aims to foster a culture of ethical technology use. He emphasised that the initiative is designed to ensure AI serves as a beneficial tool for all citizens. "It is his [Prime Minister Narendra Modi's] vision that inspired us to reach out to colleges, engage with faculty members, and encourage students to take this pledge to use AI as a tool for the good of society, as a technology that improves our lives, and to ensure it is used responsibly," Vaishnaw said.

Minister highlighted the role of the younger generation in the record-breaking turnout. More than 250,000 students participated in the

24-hour window. The government intends to use this momentum to integrate responsible AI practices into the national education and innovation framework.

Vaishnaw noted that the high volume of pledges reflects a growing awareness of digital ethics across the country. He described the achievement as a benchmark for how nations can lead in responsible technology adoption.

"A special round of applause to the 250,000 students who have taken this pledge. This is truly a proud day for the country. This is the direction in which the nation must move -- towards a future where AI is

embraced with responsibility," the Minister added.

The India AI Impact Summit 2026 serves as a platform for global leaders to discuss the future of technology. Officials stated that the record-setting campaign demonstrates India's commitment to shaping the global discourse on AI with a focus on public trust and transparency.

The Minister concluded by stating that the campaign marks a milestone in citizen-led digital responsibility. He noted that the response from the public confirms that the country is ready to adopt AI while remaining mindful of ethical standards. (ANI)

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

LONDON, Feb 18: 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.

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).
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.

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."

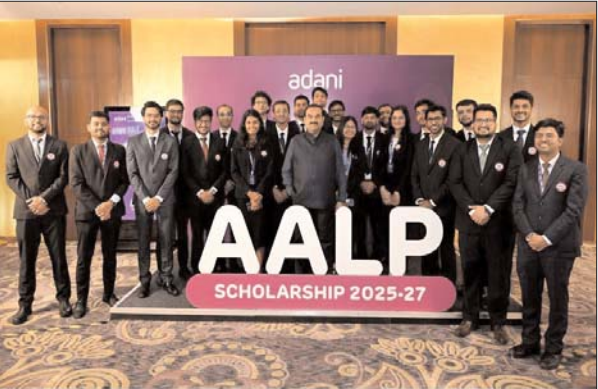
While doctors reviewing these AI-simplified reports found that the vast majority were accurate and complete, around one per cent contained errors, such as incorrect diagnoses. Showing that while this approach is highly promising, it still needs careful oversight.

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.

"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.

Adani Group announces scholarships for young talent at India's top business schools



Addressing the scholars and their families, Mr Adani said: "This is a scholarship programme. It is conviction. At the Adani Group, we believe talent exists everywhere, but opportunity does not. These scholars are here because of merit. They competed nationally, proved their excellence and earned their place. Our role is to ensure that access, exposure and mentorship match their ambition so they can lead India's next phase of growth."

The 2025-27 cohort reflects the depth and diversity of India's emerging leadership pool.

Among them is Anand Babu Kamineni, a first-year Master of Business Administration (MBA) student at IIM-Calcutta, who ranked in the top 0.1 per cent in na-

tional competitive examinations, including the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), the Common Admission Test (CAT) and the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). Raised in a small village in Andhra Pradesh, his academic trajectory underscores how access to opportunity can amplify talent shaped by perseverance.

Ayush Srivastava of IIM-Lucknow brings experience in training over 500 engineers in complex oil and gas systems and leading critical technology upgrades across European offshore operations, reflecting the blend of technical depth and managerial capability required in an increasingly interconnected global economy.

The cohort also includes scholars such as Madhu

Gupta of IIM-Calcutta, who has led large operational teams with a focus on safety and execution excellence, and Kanav Bansal, whose early career contributions to high-impact systems delivered measurable financial outcomes. Together, the scholars represent analytical rigour, operational competence and resilience across sectors.

Beyond financial support, AALP provides structured industry immersion, mentorship and exposure to large-scale infrastructure and enterprise platforms, linking classroom learning with operational realities.

As India accelerates its growth ambitions, sustained collaboration between academia and industry will be critical to building leadership capacity. Through AALP, the Adani Group aims to create a pipeline of leaders grounded in excellence, access and responsibility, the release said.

The 2025-27 scholarships mark the continued expansion of AALP as a platform where aspiration is enabled by opportunity and individual achievement contributes to collective progress, it said. (ANI)