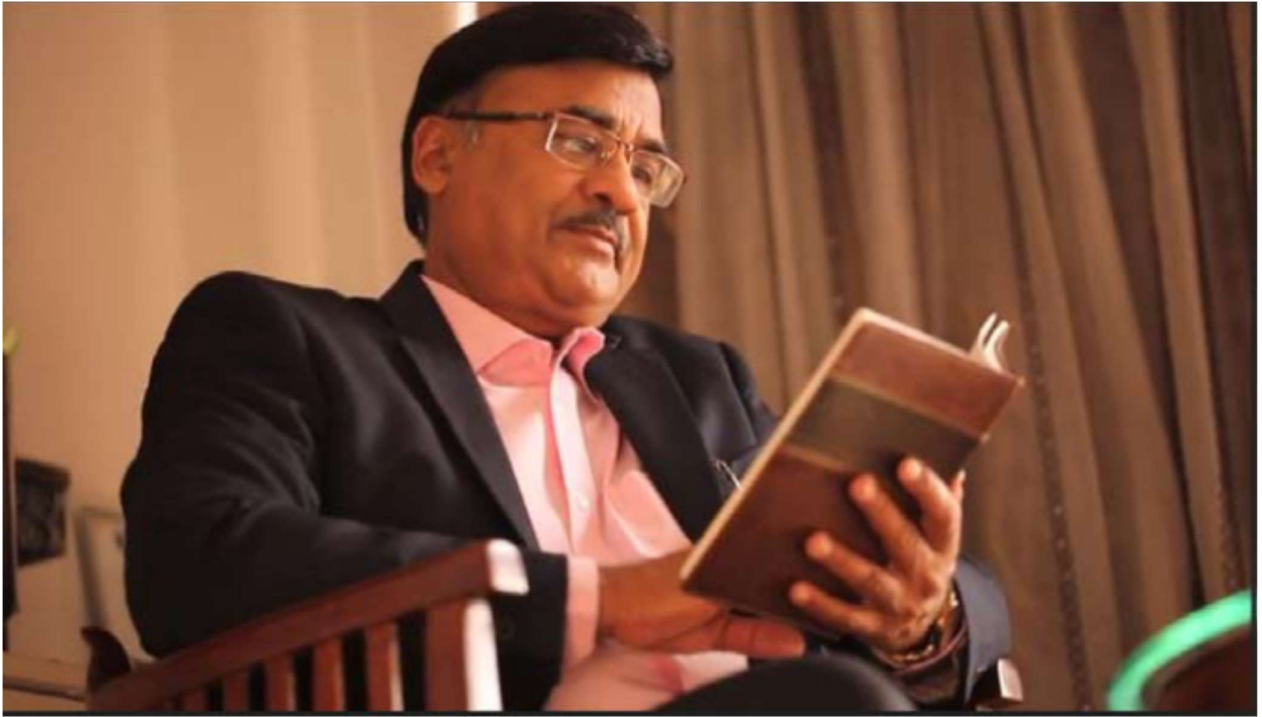




AJCONGLOBAL
YOUR FRIENDLY FINANCIAL ADVISORS



CA (Dr.) Ashok Ajmera's Weekly Column as on May 9th, 2026

" Earnings Momentum Cushions Indian Equities Against Crude Surge and Geopolitical Risks"

CA (Dr.) Ashok Ajmera's Weekly Column

Indian equities ended the week on a steady yet cautious note, as escalating U.S.-Iran tensions and rising crude oil prices weighed on investor sentiment despite strong optimism around corporate earnings. The NSE Nifty 50 settled at 24,176.15 and the BSE Sensex closed at 77,328.19, with the benchmark indices still ending the week higher by 0.7% and 0.5%, respectively. Brent crude briefly crossed the \$100 per barrel mark, reviving concerns over inflationary pressures and India's macroeconomic outlook, while the rupee appreciated 0.4% during the week to close at 94.40 against the U.S. dollar amid volatile trading conditions. Broader markets outperformed the benchmarks, with the mid-cap and small-cap indices advancing 3.6% and 4.1% for the week, aided by strong earnings momentum.

The top gainers in the Nifty 50 index were Adani Ports (up 9.83%), Adani Ent. (up 8.95%), M&M (up 7.52%), Shriram Fin. (up 7.51%) and Bajaj Auto (up 7.18%). The major losers in the Nifty 50 index were ONGC (down 6.79%), Coal India (down 5.20%), SBI (down 4.60%), TCS (down 3.21%) and Bharti Airtel (down 2.77%).

FII and DII activity

In the week gone by, FIIs were net sellers of Rs. 11,072.35 Crores and DIIs were net buyers of Rs. 21,392.85 Crores. In the previous week FIIs were net sellers of Rs. 13,771.50 Crores and DIIs were buyers of Rs. 11,585.20 Crores. In the month of April 2026, FIIs were net sellers of equities worth Rs. 70,135.46 Crores and DIIs were net buyers of equities worth Rs. 51,063.87 Crores.

Sector Movement

The Outperforming sector in the week was Nifty Auto, up by 5.18% and worst performing sector was Nifty PSU Bank, down by 1.30% in the week.

Global Market and Major Developments

US

U.S. equity markets moved higher, supported by robust corporate earnings and continued optimism around artificial intelligence (AI)-related businesses. Nearly 85% of companies in the S&P 500 had announced quarterly results by May 7, with large majority reporting earnings above analyst expectations and delivering strong positive surprises overall. Technology stocks led the gains, driven by upbeat developments in AI infrastructure and consumption trends, while energy and utilities stocks lagged. Economic activity data also remained encouraging, with construction spending rebounding in March and factory orders posting stronger-than-expected growth, particularly due to rising demand for electronic products linked to AI expansion.

The U.S. labor market continued to display resilience, although some mixed signals emerged beneath the surface. Initial jobless claims stayed lower than market expectations, while continuing unemployment claims fell to their lowest level since 2024. Nonfarm payrolls rose for the second straight month, with job creation exceeding forecasts and supported mainly by healthcare, retail, transportation, and warehousing sectors. However, the labor force participation rate slipped to its weakest level since October 2021, suggesting fewer people were either employed or actively looking for work. At the same time, layoffs announced by companies increased sequentially in April, especially within the technology sector, where firms cited AI-driven restructuring initiatives.

Despite the broadly healthy economic backdrop, consumer confidence weakened sharply. The University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index dropped to a record low in early May, reflecting growing concerns among households over rising fuel prices and the impact of tariffs. In addition, U.S. labor productivity growth slowed during the first quarter compared with the previous quarter, although it remained healthy on a

Particulars	Close (08/05/2026: Friday)	Open (04/05/2026: Monday)	Previous Close (30/04/2026 Thursday)	Change (%)
Nifty 50	24,176.15	24,063.55	23,897.95	0.74
Sensex	77,328.19	77,257.27	76,664.21	0.54
Nifty Midcap 100	61,910.90	60,235.50	59,374.80	3.56
Nifty Small cap 100	18,737.00	18,147.60	17,567.20	4.05
Sectoral Indices				
Nifty Bank	55,310.55	54,937.90	56,089.75	0.82
Nifty Auto	27,259.85	26,133.50	25,652.85	5.18
Nifty IT	29,394.20	29,606.50	28,530.60	0.14
Nifty PSU Bank	8,371.95	8,495.50	8,811.20	-1.30
Nifty Fin Services	26,011.50	25,664.75	26,141.75	1.38
Nifty Pharma	24,110.30	23,371.30	22,580.10	3.62
Nifty FMCG	51,165.90	51,383.00	50,766.25	0.18
Nifty Metal	13,050.95	12,911.15	12,746.65	1.70
Nifty Realty	823.60	800.45	778.00	3.79
Nifty Media	1,472.80	1,462.60	1,438.70	1.15
Nifty Energy	40,795.80	40,936.70	39,903.75	0.06
Nifty Private Bank	26,561.70	26,274.70	26,717.30	1.07
Nifty Infra	9,497.80	9,444.85	9,242.00	0.83
Nifty Commodities	10,345.10	10,285.15	10,108.80	1.05
Nifty Consumption	11,638.40	11,474.10	11,337.10	1.94
Nifty PSE	10,711.20	10,649.00	10,597.20	0.77
Nifty Serv. Sector	30,371.65	30,292.45	30,471.30	0.41
Nifty Healthcare	15,416.80	14,984.50	14,570.60	3.34
Nifty Oil & Gas	11,598.85	11,740.75	11,331.70	-0.82
Nifty INDIA MFG	16,053.75	15,650.65	15,366.85	3.24
US Indices				
Dow Jones	49,613.97	49,416.66	49,499.27	0.23
S&P 500	7,398.92	7,228.38	7,230.11	2.33
NASDAQ 100	29,234.99	27,731.34	27,710.36	5.50
Commodities				
Gold (in Rs./ 10 gram)	1,52,530	1,51,150	1,51,352	0.78
Brent Crude oil	100.24	106.60	109.21	-8.21

year-over-year basis. Overall, the latest data suggest that while economic activity and employment trends remain relatively firm, consumers are becoming increasingly cautious amid inflationary pressures and policy-related uncertainties.

Europe

European markets ended a volatile week with marginal gains as improving investor sentiment from easing Middle East tensions and strong corporate earnings was partly offset by renewed trade concerns. Markets came under pressure later in the week after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to impose significantly higher tariffs on the European Union if the bloc failed to eliminate tariffs on U.S. products. Among major indices, Germany's DAX and Italy's FTSE MIB posted gains, while France's CAC 40 remained largely flat and the UK's FTSE 100 declined over the week.

European Central Bank officials signaled the possibility of another interest rate hike in June, citing the need for greater confidence that inflation is moving sustainably lower. Supporting these concerns, eurozone producer prices recorded their sharpest monthly increase in over four years during March, mainly due to a sharp rise in energy costs. In Germany, factory orders rose strongly and exceeded expectations, driven by healthy demand across sectors such as electrical equipment, machinery, and data-processing products. However, Germany's construction sector weakened further, with construction activity slipping to its lowest level in more than a year.

Elsewhere in Europe, Spain's industrial production returned to growth in March after contracting in the previous month, supported by improved demand for consumer goods. In the UK, business activity strengthened in April as the Composite PMI moved further into expansion territory, reflecting better performance across both manufacturing and services sectors. Overall, the data suggest that while parts of the European economy are showing resilience, inflation pressures and trade-related uncertainties continue to weigh on the broader outlook.

Japan

Japanese equity markets recorded strong gains in the shortened trading week after the Golden Week holidays. The Nikkei 225 surged 5.38% to a record high, while the broader TOPIX Index gained 2.70%, supported mainly by sharp rallies in technology and semiconductor stocks amid continued optimism around AI-related demand. Investor sentiment also improved on hopes that a possible U.S.-Iran diplomatic breakthrough could reduce geopolitical tensions. Meanwhile, easing oil prices helped reduce concerns around energy costs and supply disruptions for Japan, a major importer of Middle Eastern crude oil. Reflecting softer global bond yields, the yield on the 10-year Japanese government bond eased slightly to 2.48% from 2.50% the previous week.

The Japanese yen remained volatile during the week due to speculation of possible foreign exchange intervention by Japanese authorities, although it ultimately ended largely unchanged against the U.S. dollar. Policymakers continue to closely monitor yen weakness because of its impact on imported inflation and household purchasing power. On the economic front, inflation-adjusted wages rose 1.0% year over year in March, marking the third consecutive month of growth and the first such streak since 2021. Although the increase was lower than market expectations of 1.8% and February's 2.0% rise, the trend indicates that wage growth is gradually beginning to outpace inflation, reinforcing expectations that the Bank of Japan may continue the gradual normalization of monetary policy.

China

Chinese markets ended the holiday-shortened week on a positive note, supported by resilient domestic demand and optimism around stable U.S.-China trade relations. The CSI 300 Index gained 1.34%, the Shanghai Composite rose 1.65%, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index advanced 2.39%, led by technology and consumer-related stocks. Economic data also remained supportive, with China's services PMI improving to 52.6 in April from 52.1 in March, while the composite PMI increased to 53.1 from 51.5, indicating continued expansion in domestic activity despite weak export demand.

Investor sentiment further improved ahead of the planned May 14–15 meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and President Xi Jinping, with markets expecting both sides to maintain the current trade truce and avoid fresh tariff escalation. Meanwhile, May Day holiday data showed domestic trips rising 3.6% year over year and tourism spending increasing 2.9% to RMB 185.5 billion, although lower spending per trip highlighted continued caution among consumers on discretionary expenses.

Major Developments in Domestic Markets

1. India's annual consumer inflation likely moved closer to the RBI's 4% target in April, a Reuters poll showed, as fuel costs rose after the U.S.-Iran war, with crude oil prices still about 40% above pre-war levels despite inflation staying below target for more than a year.
2. India approved a 181 billion rupees (\$1.9 billion) Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme to support businesses hit by the Middle East crisis, targeting total additional credit flow of 255 billion rupees through March 2027.
3. State Bank of India reported a 5.6% rise in Q4 net profit to Rs 19,684 crore but missed analysts' estimate due to a sharp fall in treasury income.
4. Gold demand in India remained muted this week as recovering prices led buyers to delay purchases, while premiums in China stayed steady due to safe-haven demand.
5. Five AAA-rated Indian NBFCs are planning to raise up to 150 billion rupees (\$1.6 billion) through bond sales as falling corporate debt yields, especially for shorter-term funds, encouraged firms to return to the market after a quiet April.
6. India plans to increase spending and extend its key RoDTEP export incentive scheme by five years as the Iran war hurts trade, with March merchandise exports falling 7.4% year-on-year and the current scheme carrying a budget of just over \$1 billion.
7. India's services sector growth picked up in April, with the HSBC India Services PMI rising to 58.8 from 57.5 in March, driven by strong domestic demand despite weaker global orders amid Middle East uncertainties.

8. India is targeting bilateral trade worth \$25 billion with Vietnam by 2030 after elevating ties to an “enhanced comprehensive strategic partnership”, with trade between the two countries already crossing \$16 billion in the fiscal year ended March 2026.
9. India’s Reliance Industries will shut some units at its 660,000 barrels-per-day refinery for 3-4 weeks of maintenance later this month, after Nayara Energy resumes operations, a senior petroleum ministry official said.
10. India’s state-run oil marketing companies have incurred estimated losses of ₹30,000 crore since mid-March after keeping petrol, diesel and LPG prices unchanged despite a more than 50% surge in global energy costs triggered by the West Asia conflict and disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz.

Ajcon Global’s observations and view:

Short term view:

1. Indian equities are likely to trade in a range with a slightly positive bias, as optimism following the BJP’s strong State Election performance and policy continuity has been largely priced in, while persistent FII outflows, weak currency trends, elevated crude oil prices, and stock-specific earnings volatility continue to limit broader market upside.
2. The near-term market outlook will largely depend on developments in the U.S.-Iran conflict and their impact on crude oil prices, with WTI crude remaining above \$95/bbl amid renewed tensions, while any progress in diplomatic negotiations and stabilisation in oil prices could ease inflation, currency, and current account pressures for India and improve investor sentiment, especially as the government enters a relatively election-free period until early 2027 that allows greater focus on macroeconomic management.
3. We continue to recommend accumulation in selective fundamentally strong stocks across sectors such as Railways, defence, logistics & tourism, banking and financial sector, FMCG, food processing, fertilisers, agro-based industries, infrastructure, IT many of which are attractively valued amid the current geopolitical situation. Special emphasis should be given to some small & midcap stocks having great stories.

Medium - and Long-term view

1. We believe that in spite of whatever is happening globally, the Indian economy is still strongly placed as compared to the global peers due to higher GDP estimates, manageable inflation, softening RBI policy & managing the oil crisis well, with the rupee now strengthening and easing near-term concerns. Post, the recent correction many stocks have become attractive to take position from Medium to long term point of view as we believe that any adversity brings with it a greater opportunity, which has been proved time and again in the past.
2. Our faith remains in the Equity as the best asset class in the World but advice caution to the investors to be selective & remain invested in fundamentally strong companies, taking timely decisions.

Disclaimer

Investments in securities market are subject to market risks. Read all the related documents carefully before investing.

Ajcon Global Services Limited is a SEBI registered Research Analyst entity bearing registration Number INH00001170 under SEBI (Research Analysts) Regulations, 2014.

Registration granted by SEBI and certification from NISM in no way guarantee performance of the intermediary or provides any assurance of returns to investors.

Individuals employed as research analyst by Ajcon Global Services Limited or their associates are not allowed to deal or trade in securities that the research analyst recommends within thirty days before and within five days after the publication of a research report as prescribed under SEBI Research Analyst Regulations, 2014.

Subject to the restrictions mentioned in above paragraph, We and our affiliates, officers, directors, employees and their relative may: (a) from time to time, have long or short positions acting as a principal in, and buy or sell the securities or derivatives thereof, of Company mentioned herein or (b) be engaged in any other transaction involving such securities and earn brokerage.

Ajcon Global Services Limited is a fully integrated stock broking, investment banking, merchant banking, corporate advisory, commodity and currency broking Company. It may therefore have commercial relationship for the above said services with the Company covered in this Report. Ajcon Global Services Limited research analysts responsible for the preparation of the research report may interact with trading desk personnel, sales personnel and other parties for gathering, applying and interpreting information.

Ajcon Global Services Limited encourages independence in research report preparation and strives to minimize conflict in preparation of research report. Ajcon Global Services Limited or its analysts did not receive any compensation or other benefits from the companies mentioned in the report or third party in connection with preparation of the research report. Accordingly, neither Ajcon Global Services Limited nor Research Analysts have any material conflict of interest at the time of publication of this report.



Ajcon Global Services Limited or its associates may have commercial transactions with the Company mentioned in the research report with respect to advisory services.

The information and opinions in this report have been prepared by Ajcon Global Services Limited and are subject to change without any notice. The report and information contained herein is strictly confidential and meant solely for the selected recipient and may not be altered in any way, transmitted to, copied or distributed, in part or in whole, to any other person or to the media or reproduced in any form, without prior written consent of Ajcon Global Services Limited. While we would endeavor to update the information herein on a reasonable basis, Ajcon Global Services Limited is under no obligation to update or keep the information current. Also, there may be regulatory, compliance or other reasons that may prevent Ajcon Global Services Limited from doing so. This report is based on information obtained from public sources and sources believed to be reliable, but no independent verification has been made nor is its accuracy or completeness guaranteed.

This report and information herein is solely for informational purpose and shall not be used or considered as an offer document or solicitation of offer to buy or sell or subscribe for securities or other financial instruments. Though disseminated to all the customers simultaneously, not all customers may receive this report at the same time. Ajcon Global Services Limited will not treat recipients as customers by virtue of their receiving this report. Nothing in this report constitutes investment, legal, accounting and tax advice or a representation that any investment or strategy is suitable or appropriate to your specific circumstances. The securities discussed and opinions expressed in this report may not be suitable for all investors, who must make their own investment decisions, based on their own investment objectives, financial positions and needs of specific recipient. This may not be taken in substitution for the exercise of independent judgment by any recipient. The recipient should independently evaluate the investment risks. The value and return on investment may vary because of changes in interest rates, foreign exchange rates or any other reason. Ajcon Global Services Limited accepts no liabilities whatsoever for any loss or damage of any kind arising out of the use of this report. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Investors are advised to see Risk Disclosure Document to understand the risks associated before investing in the securities markets. Actual results may differ materially from those set forth in projections. Forward-looking statements are not predictions and may be subject to change without notice. Ajcon Global Services Limited or its associates might have managed or co-managed public offering of securities for the subject company or might have been mandated by the subject company for any other assignment in the past twelve months.

It is confirmed that CA (Dr.) Ashok Ajmera or any other Research Analysts of this report has not received any compensation from the company mentioned in the report in the preceding twelve months. Compensation of our Research Analysts is not based on any specific merchant banking, investment banking or brokerage service transactions.

Ajcon Global Services Limited or its subsidiaries collectively or Directors including their relatives, Research Analysts, do not own 1% or more of the equity securities of the Company mentioned in the report as of the last day of the month preceding the publication of the research report.

Ajcon Global Services Limited may have issued other reports that are inconsistent with and reach different conclusion from the information presented in this report. Neither the Research Analysts nor Ajcon Global Services Limited have been engaged in market making activity for the companies mentioned in the report.

We submit that no material disciplinary action has been taken on Ajcon Global Services Limited by any Regulatory Authority impacting Equity Research Analysis activities.

Analyst Certification

I, CA (Dr.) Ashok Ajmera, research analyst, author and the names subscribed to this report, hereby certify that all of the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect our views about the subject issuer(s) or securities. I also certify that no part of compensation was, is, or will be directly or indirectly related to the specific recommendation(s) or view (s) in this report.

For research related queries,

Contact: Divya Makwana - Research Analyst at - research@ajcon.net

Website: www.ajcononline.com

Registered and Corporate office

408 - (4th Floor), Express Zone, "A" Wing, Cello – Sonal Realty, Near Oberoi Mall and Patel's, Western Express Highway, Goregaon (East), Mumbai – 400063. Tel: 91-22-67160400, Fax: 022-28722062