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POWERING INDIA'S FASTENER ECOSYSTEM

Subbakrishna K.S., Sales Head – India, Infrastructure Business, Kennametal India, on platform innovation, aerospace-ready fastener solutions, and productivity-driven tooling

At FASTNEX 2026, held alongside IMTEX Forming 2026, Kennametal reaffirmed its strong focus on India's fastener and infrastructure ecosystem by showcasing its comprehensive, end-to-end tooling solutions. As a global leader in advanced tooling and material solutions, Kennametal continues to support fastener manufacturers across automotive, aerospace, and industrial segments with innovation-led offerings designed for mass production environments.

In an interaction with mojo4industry at IMTEX Forming 2026, Subbakrishna K.S., Sales Head – India, Infrastructure Business, Kennametal India, spoke about the strategic relevance of FASTNEX, the company's latest innovations for fastener manufacturers, and how its application-driven approach helps customers enhance productivity and efficiency. Here are excerpts from the interaction:

Subbakrishna K.S

What makes FASTNEX 2026 an important platform for Kennametal India, particularly for your infrastructure business?

FASTNEX is a very important platform for us because Kennametal has been offering solutions for fastener manufacturers for several decades now. This long-standing presence helps us continuously strengthen and upgrade our brand in this segment.

At the same time, FASTNEX provides us with an excellent opportunity to engage with customers and prospects whom we may not be regularly in touch with, including OEMs and fastener manufacturers. We are keen to interact with them, understand their evolving requirements, and showcase the breadth of our offerings. Platforms like FASTNEX enable meaningful conversations and help us expand our reach within the fastener manufacturing ecosystem.

What are the key innovations Kennametal is showcasing at the exhibition?

Innovation is at the core of Kennametal, particularly platform innovation, which is one of our key competencies. At FASTNEX, we have showcased solutions that go beyond conventional fastener manufacturing tools.

Along with tooling solutions for fastener production, we have also demonstrated capabilities further upstream in the process—specifically, solutions related to rod manufacturing, which serves as a critical input for fasteners. Our offerings cater to fasteners used across automotive and aerospace segments.

In recent years, many OEMs and fastener manufacturers have started entering the aerospace segment, particularly over the last two to three years. Aerospace applications require non-ferrous fasteners, and for this, we offer unique solutions with special grades specifically designed for manufacturing non-ferrous fasteners.

Given that fastener manufacturing is largely a mass-production process, innovation plays a crucial role in improving productivity and efficiency. Our special grades and application-specific solutions help customers enhance output, reduce downtime, and achieve consistent performance in high-volume production environments.

How do Kennametal's tooling & wear-resistant solutions help customers improve productivity?

At Kennametal, we strongly believe in offering end-to-end solutions. Our regular interaction and continuous engagement with customers play a critical role in ensuring that we recommend the right solution for each application.

There are three key factors that guide our approach. The first is a thorough understanding of the application, which is absolutely vital for offering a customised solution. The second is identifying the specific problem or challenge that the customer is facing in their manufacturing process.

These aspects together help us design and recommend the most effective solution. Additionally, we have a dedicated R&D facility located in Bengaluru, which works closely with Kennametal's global plants. This close collaboration enables us to bring global innovation and best practices to the Indian market.

Through this integrated approach – combining application understanding, problem-solving, and strong R&D support – we are able to deliver products and solutions that significantly improve customer productivity and operational efficiency.

READ: https://bit.ly/fastnex-kennametal

Bharat Electricity Summit 2026

The Summit, which will be held from march 19 to 22, will bring together key stakeholders to engage for a sustainable and resilient future for the sector, says Power Minister Manohar Lal

Bharat Electricity Summit 2026, a global conference-cum-exhibition for the power and electricity sector, will be held from 19-22 March at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi. A formal announcement to this effect was made today by Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs Manohar Lal at New Delhi. The Minister also unveiled Brochure and Teaser Film for the Summit.

The theme of the four-day Summit is "Electrifying Growth. Empowering Sustainability. Connecting Globally". It will showcase India's leadership in the global energy transition while addressing challenges and opportunities in the power sector. The Summit will bring together domestic and international stakeholders from government, industry, academia, and civil society to deliberate on the future of electricity and sustainable energy systems, facilitate cross-sector dialogue and for strengthening global cooperation, fostering strategic partnerships.

The event will feature more than 50 high-level conference sessions, a series of expert-led panel discussions, thematic pavilions and technology showcases representing the full spectrum of the electricity and clean energy value chain. The event will host over 500 exhibitors, welcome 25,000+ attendees and attract 1,000+ delegates and 300 speakers from India and around the world.

Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 shall be a platform to convene global policymakers, CEOs, government leaders, electricity experts, investors, regulators, innovators, suppliers, and solution providers. Through stakeholder engagement and networking, the Summit shall enable discussions that impact progress across the entire electricity value chain—from generation and transmission to distribution, storage, and smart consumption.

One of the features of the Summit would be a 'Buyer Seller Meet' that would seek to accelerate partnerships and unlock new business opportunities across the global power supply chain. Thus, the Summit shall be a forum for fostering cross-border collaborations and mobilising investments, to accelerate clean electricity deployment.

The event shall offer a unique opportunity to different players in the Electricity Sector to exhibit their technologies, systems and solutions at the Summit. These include manufacturers, suppliers, contactors, innovators, and solution providers in Power Generation, Power Transmission, Distribution, Energy Storage and Battery tech, Energy Efficiency, Energy Transition, Startups and other areas.

READ: https://bit.ly/BharatElectricity

Speaking on the occasion, the Power Minister, said that Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 reflects India's resolve to shape the future of electricity systems. As Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has said- We are entering to an era of energy abundance. There was a time when our discussions centred on bridging shortages and meeting basic needs. Today, we are talking about managing surplus, ensuring resilience, and delivering universal excellence.

The Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 will not just display what we have achieved; it will be a launchpad for what we will achieve together, by bringing on one platform technology providers, infrastructure developers, innovators and decision-makers. The Summit offers a unique environment where local capabilities connect with global vision to shape a sustainable and resilient electricity future, he said.

The Minister also commended the collaborative efforts of Ministry of Power, its CPSEs, other supportive Ministries, States/UTs and industry bodies for advancing India's electricity vision and marking the official beginning of summit preparations.


Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 curtain raiser

Next-Gen 3D metrology

PolyWorks highlights digital inspection and 3D metrology advancements at IMTEX Forming

PolyWorks presented its latest innovations in digital inspection and 3D metrology at IMTEX Forming 2026, demonstrating how software-driven measurement technologies are transforming quality control on the manufacturing shop floor. The company showcased an integrated portfolio of solutions focused on reverse engineering, intelligent inspection workflows, CNC CMM automation, and connected 3D measurement data. Speaking at the event, Dinesh Yadav, Application Specialist, PolyWorks India, outlined how manufacturers can move from conventional inspection methods to data-centric, digitally connected quality processes using the PolyWorks software ecosystem.


Dinesh Yadav

Reverse engineering

At the reverse engineering station, PolyWorks demonstrated PolyWorks|Modeler, designed to convert 3D scan data of physical parts into editable CAD models. According to Dinesh, the solution enables manufacturers to digitally reconstruct complex components with high accuracy. The generated CAD models can be further modified in standard CAD software, supporting product redesign, legacy part replication, and accelerated product development cycles.

Single-pass intelligent inspection

PolyWorks also showcased enhancements in inspection workflows through PolyWorks|Inspector. Dinesh explained that, unlike traditional processes where complete scanning is followed by alignment, the software now allows a single-pass scan of a physical part. The captured data is automatically aligned with the CAD model, streamlining the inspection process.

WATCH: https://bit.ly/polyworks-imtex

This latest development, introduced this year, is aimed at reducing inspection time while improving accuracy and simplifying operations for shop-floor users.

CNC CMM inspection

Addressing automation in fixed-bed CNC CMM environments, PolyWorks demonstrated its capability to generate collision-free probe paths. Dinesh noted that a common concern in automated CMM inspection is the risk of probe collision with the part. With PolyWorks|Inspector's CMM module, probe paths are created automatically with built-in collision avoidance, enhancing equipment safety and operator confidence while ensuring smoother execution of inspection programs.

3D measurement data

A key focus of the showcase was PolyWorks|DataLoop, the company's solution for managing connected and traceable 3D measurement data. The platform acts as a centralised dataset that collects and consolidates measurement data from multiple devices and systems. Dinesh emphasised that DataLoop transforms raw 3D measurement results into structured, reliable information that can be effectively used for decision-making. By bringing data from different machines into a single controlled environment, manufacturers can move beyond isolated inspection outcomes and use quality data as a strategic resource across operations.

Smarter quality control

Through its demonstrations at IMTEX Forming 2026, PolyWorks underlined how its software-driven approach helps manufacturers enhance inspection speed, accuracy, and traceability. By combining reverse engineering, intelligent inspection, CNC CMM automation, and centralised data management, the company aims to support the industry's shift towards smarter, digitally integrated quality control systems.

BASF to open a global digital hub in Hyderabad


Dr. Dirk Elvermann with Piyush Goyal, Commerce & Industry Minister of India

BASF plans to open a global Digital Hub in Hyderabad in the first quarter of 2026, sharpening BASF's existing global Digital Hub network in Europe (Ludwigshafen and Madrid) and Asia Pacific (Kuala Lumpur). Digital Hubs are centers of digital expertise that deliver standardized, digital services at scale to BASF's businesses worldwide.

"With this next step in value creation in BASF's back-end organization, we ensure digital service delivery on competitive terms," said Dr. Dirk Elvermann, CFO and Chief Digital Officer, BASF SE. "Hyderabad offers all the attributes of a state-of-the-art Digital Hub with global reach. Seamless cooperation between the new Digital Hub in India and our existing global Digital Hubs, and excellent service delivery to our businesses, are the top priorities."

Preparations for opening the Digital Hub in Hyderabad are underway. Hiring and operational activities under the new Indian legal entity, "BASF Digital Solutions Private Limited" will begin immediately. "I am pleased that we can launch the hub so quickly and ramp it up sustainably," said Dietrich Spandau, President of Global Digital Services. "Our goal is to build an attractive place to work that embodies BASF's Winning Culture and enables high-performing, global teams."

"The Digital Hub in Hyderabad becomes part of BASF's long-standing and successful presence in India with existing manufacturing and research and development activities in the country. It supports BASF's ambition to work faster, leaner and focus on what creates the most value," said Alexander Gerding, Head of BASF Group Companies in India.

India–EU FTA: Boost for MedTech sector

The proposed India–European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is being viewed by the domestic medical devices industry as a significant opportunity to strengthen global partnerships, enhance technology collaboration, and support India's ambition of becoming a leading MedTech hub.

Industry body Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AIMED) said the agreement could unlock high-value cooperation between India and the EU, provided it ensures fair competition and balanced regulatory alignment. Emphasising the need for safeguards, AIMED highlighted concerns around market distortions caused by low-priced imports routed through third countries.

Rajiv Nath, Forum Coordinator, AIMED, said the FTA must protect domestic manufacturers while promoting mutual growth. "The India–EU FTA must ensure a level playing field for India's medical device manufacturers. With fair regulatory alignment and safeguards against predatory imports, especially from third countries, this agreement can unlock high-value collaboration, boost domestic manufacturing, and support India's ambition to become a top-five global MedTech hub," he said.


Dr Rajiv Chhibber


Rajiv Nath

READ: https://bit.ly/medtech-aimed

Nath added that regulatory cooperation through a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) based on common ISO standards would be critical. "The goal should be mutual growth anchored in quality, transparency, and patient safety under an MRA based on common ISO standards. We look forward to reviewing the fine print and the follow-on cooperation discussions," he noted.

Dr Rajiv Chhibber, Joint Forum Coordinator, AIMED, said the FTA comes at a strategically important moment, as the European Union seeks to diversify partnerships beyond the United States and China while deepening economic and diplomatic engagement with India.

"The India–EU Free Trade Agreement comes at a strategically important time, as Europe looks to diversify partnerships beyond the US and China and deepen economic and diplomatic engagement with India," Chhibber said. While the detailed provisions of the agreement are still awaited, he described it as an industry-friendly framework that could strengthen economic integration between the two regions.

Highlighting India's growing role in the life sciences sector, Chhibber said, "In pharmaceuticals and medical devices, India has already established itself as a trusted partner for the EU with growing acceptance across European markets."

For the MedTech industry, he added, the FTA presents an opportunity to deepen the EU–India strategic partnership through enhanced technology collaboration, improved health security, and closer cooperation on shared global health priorities.

Industry stakeholders are now awaiting the final text of the agreement and subsequent implementation discussions, which are expected to determine the extent of market access, regulatory convergence, and long-term benefits for India's medical devices ecosystem.