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THE FREE PRESS JOURNAL

MUMBAI | SATURDAY | MAY 30, 2026

APAR'S HIGH-VOLTAGE GROWTH PLAN

From AI-led infrastructure to renewable energy, the company eyes global expansion

APAR Industries is positioning itself to capitalize on the rapid growth of electrification, renewable energy, smart infrastructure, and digital transformation, the company's leadership said during interactions with mojo4industry at buildelec 2026.

Speaking on the future of the conductor and cable industry, Chaitanya Desai, Managing Director, APAR Industries, said renewable energy, railway electrification, data centers, and ESG-led clean energy initiatives are significantly boosting demand for power infrastructure.

"With electricity becoming the preferred clean energy source, we are seeing strong growth opportunities across generation, transmission, and distribution," Desai said.

He highlighted the progress made in India's power distribution sector, noting that AT&C losses have reduced from nearly 27 percent a decade ago to around 15 percent today. According to him, transformer capacity is growing at over 15 percent, driven largely by renewable energy integration, while transmission infrastructure is witnessing 5–10 percent growth despite right-of-way challenges.

Desai added that resolving infrastructure bottlenecks could push transmission growth beyond 10 percent annually.

Chaitanya Desai

Chandrashekhar Shrotri

Discussing APAR's business strategy, Chandrashekhar Shrotri, CEO – Cable Solutions, said the company is aligning itself with the global transition toward an "all-electric economy."

"Electric vehicles, renewable energy projects, railway electrification, and modern infrastructure are creating demand for advanced cable and connectivity solutions. We have positioned our portfolio to address these evolving requirements," Shrotri said.

Shrotri also emphasized the growing domestic opportunity in housing and infrastructure. APAR is catering to this demand through advanced low-smoke, halogen-free house wires using e-beam technology under its APAR Anushakti range.

On the international front, he said the company remains focused on exports despite temporary tariff-related disruptions in the US market.

"The US remains a long-term market for us, and we have established APAR USA LLC to strengthen our presence there," he added.

Highlighting global opportunities, Gaurangi Desai Mehra, Director – Marketing & Communications, said increasing energy consumption due to AI, data centers, and infrastructure expansion is creating strong worldwide demand for efficient conductors and specialty cables. "Grid modernization has become a global priority. Countries are looking for more efficient, low-loss, and low-sag conductor solutions, and APAR is well positioned to support this transition," she said.

She added that APAR's UL-approved cable products and long-standing presence in the US and European markets provide the company with a strong platform for global expansion, including emerging markets in Africa and South Asia.

On the technology front, Yuvraj Mehra, Sr. DGM – IT & Automation, said APAR is increasingly leveraging AI, IoT, and automation across operations.

He explained that IoT-enabled machinery at manufacturing facilities helps monitor operational parameters, improve production efficiency, and reduce raw material costs. The company has also automated customer quotation processes and strengthened customer engagement through digital CRM tools and data-driven sales systems.

At buildelec 2026, APAR showcased solutions for housing wires, renewable energy, data centers, and fire survival cables through an immersive exhibition experience.

Shailja Chopra, GM Marketing – Cable Solutions, said the company designed the stall to create a vibrant and clutter-free experience for visitors. "We wanted to present APAR in a more impactful and engaging way. Through anamorphic graphics and 3D visualizations, visitors could better understand how our products contribute to India's growing infrastructure ecosystem," Shailja said.

With increasing investments in electrification, renewable energy, and smart infrastructure globally, APAR Industries aims to strengthen both its domestic and international footprint while accelerating innovation in energy-efficient and digitally enabled solutions.

WATCH: https://bit.ly/M4I-APAR

India a bright spot for global machinery firms: VDMA

The latest VDMA Business Climate Survey for India, conducted between 20 April and 4 May 2026 among 85 member companies, shows a modest improvement in business sentiment: a clear majority rates the current situation as satisfactory or good, capacity utilisation remains robust, and order books have strengthened. Against a backdrop of tariff-driven supply-chain realignments and weak momentum in parts of Europe, India continues to consolidate its role as a strategic manufacturing destination for international machinery and equipment companies.

Rajesh Nath, Managing Director, VDMA India, says: "India's domestic demand and investment momentum continue to provide a comparatively resilient environment for machinery & equipment suppliers. With real GDP growth estimated at 7.6% for FY2025/26, the survey results underline that many European subsidiaries can still expand in India despite global uncertainty. For VDMA members, this strengthens the case to align sales and localisation strategies with India's industrial policy priorities and customer investment cycles."

Johannes Gernandt, VDMA Chief Economist, says: "In a fragmented global economy, India stands out as a relative bright spot for many VDMA members. The survey confirms a stable-to-improving operating environment, supported by robust domestic demand. In addition, the conclusion of negotiations on an EU–India Free Trade Agreement would, once ratified and implemented, improve market access and reduce tariff barriers—an important tailwind for machinery & equipment companies with production and sales footprints in India."

Current situation

The current business situation shows a remarkable improvement compared to the previous survey: the share of companies rating conditions as good increased to 36% (from 29%), while the share reporting satisfactory conditions declined to 54% (from 63%); the share rating conditions as poor edged up to 9% (from 8%). Capacity utilisation remains robust and improved at the margin, as the share of companies operating below normal fell to 12% (from 17%), while 22% report above-normal utilisation (unchanged) and 66% report normal utilisation (from 61%).

Order books have improved. While 38% of companies report an above normal stock of orders, 46% consider it normal and 15% below normal. Expectations for incoming orders over the next three months remain upbeat, with about two thirds anticipating an increase and only a small minority expecting a decline. Domestic demand continues to be the main driver, while export orders remain mixed amid global uncertainties.

Outlook

The outlook for the next six months remains positive: 57% expect their business situation to improve, 40% anticipate stability, and only 4% foresee deterioration. Employment plans mirror this confidence, with 44% planning to expand headcount, 51% expecting no change, and just 5% anticipating reductions.

Nominal revenue growth projections are encouraging. For FY2025/26, companies report solid nominal revenue gains on average (around 11%), broadly in line with the optimistic sentiment seen in the previous survey cycle. For FY2026/27, respondents expect average nominal revenue growth of about 10%, pointing to continued expansion.

Performance & challenges

The survey reveals a differentiated picture across sub-sectors. Electrical Automation shows above-average sentiment and a marked improvement compared to the previous survey, while the Machine Tools and Manufacturing Systems sub-sector continues to lag behind the machinery & equipment average.

Impediments to business remain relatively minor. Overall, 47% of respondents report that their business activities are currently hindered, while 53% do not. The most frequently cited challenges (excluding "other factors") are shortages of raw or input materials with 14%, marking a clear increase compared to H2 2025 (3%). This is followed by lack of orders (13%) and purchasing restrictions due to local content requirements (11%). Shortages of skilled labour (9%) are mentioned less often, while financing constraints and technical capacity limitations (both 4%) remain relatively minor.

Rajesh Nath

Strategic implications

India's machinery & equipment market continues to offer attractive growth prospects for VDMA member companies, supported by robust domestic demand, improving order books and sustained investment intentions. New survey evidence also suggests that the ongoing West Asia conflict has, on average, only a moderate impact on domestic business prospects – primarily via demand and trade/logistics channels rather than directly through energy costs – highlighting both the resilience of local operations and the importance of supply-chain risk management for subsidiaries integrated into global trade routes.

READ: https://bit.ly/vdma-India

Netrasemi unveils AI Chip, gears up for production

Netrasemi, a Thiruvananthapuram based fabless semiconductor startup, has announced the launch of its flagship AI system on chip (SOC) A2000. The chip has now achieved successful silicon Bringup and getting ready for commercial production.

The SoC chip with smart vision and real-time video analytics capabilities enables on-device AI for smart cameras and Edge AI platforms. The chip fabricated at TSMC's 12nm advanced process node targets high-TOPS AI performance, computer vision, Video streaming, secure boot and significant IO capabilities such as PCIe. A2000 is one of India's first AI/ML chips and it features Netrasemi's in-house Neural processor (NPU), Vision cores (VPU), Image Signal Processor (ISP), Crypto-Engines and other hardware acceleration IP cores. It also features their patented Heterogeneous graph-stream parallel processing architecture.

The chip design will be shared with select OEMs for joint R&D to develop further commercial use cases. The chip commercial production is likely to begin next year at TSMC, Taiwan.

Jyothis Indirabhai, Co-founder CEO, Netrasemi, says, "Our SoCs goes beyond conventional AI/ML integration by combining proprietary hardware accelerator IPs with domain-specific optimizations tailored for high-performance, real-time edge AI. The architecture is designed specifically for compact, power- and cost-sensitive edge devices. We are currently working with several leading OEMs to facilitate early sample evaluations, co-development, and advanced R&D initiatives."

Govt of India's (MeitY) Semiconductor Design Linked Incentives (DLI) and Design Infrastructure Support (DIS) played a key role in achieving this critical milestone. The company was one of the first 4 startups selected for Rs. 15Cr DLI support in 2023 by MeitY. Netrasemi has raised Rs 125 crore in total funding till date from investors including ZOHO and Unicorn India Ventures.

These highly secure and power efficient AI chips target applications like smart cameras for surveillance, Edge AI boxes and Intelligent video gateways. The chip will go to volume production in 2027, and it is expected to address challenges of global platform developers in bringing advanced AI algorithms to small edge devices.

READ: https://bit.ly/netrasemi-m4i

India, Korea focus on green energy

India and South Korea have strengthened their partnership on green growth and sustainable development, signaling a renewed push for climate-friendly innovation, renewable energy deployment, and sustainable financing across Asia and other emerging markets.

During the recent Korean State Visit to India, both countries reaffirmed their commitment to supporting each other's flagship international climate initiatives. India, a founding member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), and South Korea, a founding member of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), announced their intention to join the international organizations established and hosted by the other country.

The move is being viewed as a major step toward deepening bilateral cooperation in clean energy and accelerating global climate action.

Further advancing this agenda, Dr. Malle Fofana, Deputy Executive Director of GGGI, met with ISA Director General Ashish Khanna and senior officials in New Delhi on May 11, to discuss expanding collaboration between the two organizations.

Officials emphasized that stronger cooperation is essential to address financing and implementation challenges that continue to slow the adoption of solar and renewable energy solutions, particularly in developing economies.

Under the proposed collaboration, ISA will contribute its expertise in facilitating solar deployment through country-led implementation frameworks, blended finance mechanisms, policy support, and capacity-building initiatives. GGGI, meanwhile, will bring its strengths in policy advisory, technology scale-up, and investment mobilization.

DG ISA & DED GGGI meeting at ISA Secretariat

Since its establishment, GGGI has mobilized more than USD 18 billion in green investment commitments, expanded access to clean energy for 8.3 million people, and supported initiatives projected to reduce over 540 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions across more than 50 countries.

Complementing these efforts, ISA has worked with over 120 member countries to accelerate solar energy adoption through initiatives focused on catalytic finance, regional transmission connectivity, integrated capacity-building, and innovation ecosystems aimed at converting climate ambitions into scalable and bankable projects.

"The growing global momentum for solar energy, which has doubled in just the last two years, reflects the strategic benefits of the Republic of Korea's association with the International Solar Alliance," said Ashish Khanna, Director General of ISA. "As an alliance led by the Global South, ISA looks forward to deepening its collaboration with GGGI to accelerate scalable and inclusive solar solutions where they are needed most."

Dr. Fofana highlighted India's leadership role in climate action and clean energy investment. "India stands at the forefront of scalable climate action, representing one of the most dynamic investment landscapes for clean energy," he said. "In collaboration with GGGI and the International Solar Alliance, this creates a strong pathway to unlock capital, bridge the gap between ambition and implementation, and accelerate sustainable infrastructure across emerging economies."

The two organizations also announced plans to build on their longstanding cooperation, including a joint solar trust fund, to further accelerate clean energy investments and support countries in achieving resilient and sustainable energy transitions.

Analysts say the strengthened India-Korea partnership could play a pivotal role in mobilizing climate finance and expanding renewable energy access across Asia, particularly at a time when countries are seeking faster pathways toward low-carbon development.

READ: https://bit.ly/india-korea