



OFB

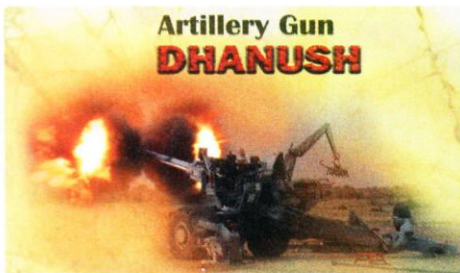
ORDNANCE FACTORY BOARD

The Road Ahead

ORDNANCE FACTORY BOARD [OFB], comprising 41 ordnance factories located across the length and breadth of the country, is the oldest and largest defence production organization in India, functioning under the Department of Defence Production of Ministry of Defence. OFB forms a hub for modern manufacturing industry to meet the armament needs of the nation's armed forces.

The organization is headed by the Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGO), who is also the Chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board. OFB has 09 Members of the rank of Addl DG. OFB has 5 operating divisions, depending upon the type of the main products/technologies employed. These are:

- » Ammunition and Explosives (A&E)
- » Weapons, Vehicles & Equipment (WV&E)
- » Material and Components (M&C)
- » Armoured Vehicles (AV)
- » Ordnance Equipment Group of Factories (OEF)



Each of the above divisions is headed by a Member. The remaining Members are responsible for staff functions, viz Personnel, Finance, Planning & Material Management, Technical Services, Engineering and Export & Marketing.

The history of the Indian Ordnance Factories is contemporaneous with the emergence of British power in India. The first unit, Gun & Shell Factory (GSF) was set up in 1802 at Cossipore, Kolkata. 18 ordnance factories were set up before Independence. 4 factories were established between 1947 and 1962 and thereafter 19 more units came up. There is more than 200 years of history behind the organization.

The Ordnance Factories are immensely proud of their contribution to national security during the wars of 1947-48, Indo-China Conflict of 1962, Indo-Pak Wars of 1965, 1971 and in the Kargil War of 1999.

Competence & Milestones

OFB manufactures the entire weapon system platform along with its ammunition and related accessories, artillery guns, arms, ammu-



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DGO & Chairman
Ordnance Factory Board

munition, tanks, combat vehicles, troop comfort items and other equipment required by the armed forces, Central Armed Police Forces, State Police Organisations [SPO] and civil indenter.

It is a pleasure to share that the 'Pride of the Nation', the 155 x 45 calibre artillery gun 'Dhanush' has cleared the final phase of user exploitation firings at Pokhran on 7 June 2018. The next step is completion of General Staff (GS) evaluation. After completion of GS evaluation, bulk production clearance (BPC) will be accorded. The indent has already been issued to OFB for 114 guns. On receipt of BPC, OFB will start supply of the guns in accordance with the agreed delivery schedule.

Another achievement is the up-gunning of 130 mm artillery guns to 155/45 calibre. OFB has chalked out a plan of manufacture in anticipation of the order from the Indian Army. OFB has also indigenously developed 155mm X 52 Cal Mounted Gun System (MGS) in association with BEML and BEL. The commencement of bulk production and supply of Bi-Modular Charge System (BMCS) for 155mm ammunition is yet another feather in the organization's cap. The Commander's Thermal Imaging Sight for T-72 Tanks is also important as it gives night fighting capabilities to the tank thereby increasing its effectiveness.

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OFB has also handed over the first batch of fully automatic 5.56 X 30 mm Joint Venture Protective Carbine (JVPC) to the Chhattisgarh Police in May 2018. The prototype of 7.62 x 51mm 'shoot to kill' assault rifle has been developed in a record time to meet the growing demands of the army. The user trials of this rifle are presently underway.

OFB's motto is to become a 'Complete Combat Solution Provider'. With the facilitation of 'Ease of Doing Business', implementation of 'Artificial Intelligence', and encouraging 'Intellectual Property', OFB is getting future ready.

Future Challenges

Today, OFB stands at a critical juncture. 100% FDI in Defence Production has allowed the entry of many new players. The organization is going through a challenging period due to a liberalized defence market, coupled with higher expectations of customers and the growing competition from the national and international manufacturers. Nevertheless, it is worthwhile to remember that "opportunities come in the guise of challenges".

The history of the organization reflects that it has always emerged stronger under challenging conditions. 'Team OFB' has always stood together and faced many adverse situations, turning threats into opportunities.

Growth Drivers

One important domain of OFB that is being nurtured and progressed is **Research & Development (R&D)**. Though the mandate for R&D activities was assigned to OFB only during 2006, yet we have achieved major successes in development and indigenisation of many new products like 155 mm x 45 calibre Artillery Gun System 'Dhanush', upgunning of 130 mm gun to 155 mm calibre, upgraded L-70 Air Defence Gun, 7.62x39mm Assault Rifle Ghatak, A-7 ammunition, 20 mm Anti Material Rifle ammunition, 7.62 PKT ammunition, Indigenous manufacture of Bi-Modular Charge System for 155mm Guns to name a few, contributing to a turnover to the tune of Rs 2966 crore, which is 21% of the turnover of the organisation. OFB has achieved an indigenous content of 90% in its supplies to the forces.

OFB's most successful projects in the recent times are in the technology segments where it has strong technical knowledge base. These are the areas where the future orders are more visible and secure. Accordingly, seventeen 'Growth Drivers' of R&D have been identified which would propel the future progress of OFB. With special emphasis and time bound progress, these projects would ensure a bright future for the organization. ■