

Desi Bofors will now be part of Indian Army by March-end

First batch of Dhanush artillery guns referred to as 'Desi Bofors' will be inducted in the Indian Army on March 26, more will be added by year end

By Abhishek Bhalla

New Delhi: The first batch of Dhanush artillery guns referred to as 'Desi Bofors' will be inducted in the Indian Army on March 26. By the end of the year, a regiment comprising 18 guns are likely to be pressed into action.

Sources said the first batch is likely to have five guns that will soon be deployed on the China and Pakistan frontiers.

Dhanush, an indigenous artillery gun of 155 mm x 45mm calibre on the lines of Bofors, has a better rate of fire and a strike range of 38 kilometres. The weapon is the first long-range artillery gun to be produced in India. 81% of its components are indigenously sourced. The scale would go up to 90 per cent by 2019.

Last month, the Army and Ministry of Defence gave clearance for bulk production order of 118 of these guns to the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB). The Indian Army is going in for mediumisation of artillery to phase out field guns that can be replaced with weapons that are easy to be transported to high altitudes and have a better range.

"Dhanush is equipped with inertial navigation-based sighting system, auto-laying facility, on-board ballistic computation and an advanced day and night direct firing system. The self-propulsion unit allows the gun to negotiate and deploy itself in mountainous terrains with ease," MoD had said in a statement last month.

As a part of this plan, the Indian Army also plans to induct M777 Howitzers from USA. The cost of acquiring 145 such guns is more than Rs 5,000 crore. While 25 guns will come to India in a fly away condition, the rest will be assembled at the proposed Assembly Integration and Test facility for the weapon system in India, in partnership with Mahindra.

Highlights

- Dhanush is a 155mm x 45mm calibre artillery gun and is also called the "desi Bofors".
- Sources said the first batch is likely to have five guns that will soon be deployed on the China and Pakistan frontiers.
- The weapon is the first long-range artillery gun to be produced in India.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/desi-bofors-indian-army-march-dhanush-defence-1484238-2019-03-22>

Indian Air Force demands fast-track development of anti-radiation missile; DRDO to conduct pending trails

India's first attempt at indigenously developing an anti-radiation missile (ARM) is now gathering momentum, with scientists at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) gearing up to move forward with pending trials of the high-tech New Generation Anti-Radiation Missile (NGARM) without any more delay, reports *The Week*.

The Indian Air Force (IAF), which is the intended user for the weapon, wants the DRDO to fast-track the whole process.

The first trial of the NGARM was already conducted by test-firing it from a Sukhoi-30MKI over the Bay of Bengal on 18 January.

At that trial run, testing of specifics such as control guidance, aerodynamics and propulsion without a seeker was conducted.

Work on the NGARM project goes back to 2012, when feasibility studies on the new missile were initiated. A missile configuration was evolved based on the reports of these studies.

The NGARM is aimed at providing tactical air superiority capability to aircraft armed with it.

Currently, the ARMs are the AARGM (AGM-88E) from the US, Kh-31P developed by Russia, and Mar-1 of Brazil. All these weapons have range till about 100 kms. India's NGARM too, will be able to hit targets within a similar range.

ARMs are a specialised kind of weapon which are particularly aimed at destroying or suppressing enemy systems which generate radiation, for example surveillance radars or fire control radars.

Hyderabad-based DRDL is the nodal agency undertaking the NGARM project, with supporting from a number of labs of the DRDO.

An air force official spoke of the urgency of the requirement for the NGARM, stating, ".....we need to get the missile on time. The DRDO getting into this is good news, but they have been at it for five years. They have not yet mastered the technology for the sensors, which is the most critical part".

<https://swarajyamag.com/insta/indian-air-force-demands-fast-track-development-of-anti-radiation-missile-drdo-to-conduct-pending-trails>