

Company to also set up airgun mfg facility

► **Continued from P 1**

Co-owner of the Webley & Scott Group John Bride and company director SP Sial told TOI that the project has been designed with the vision of creating one of India's most advanced and integrated ammunition manufacturing ecosystems.

"The plant will manufacture ammunition of multiple calibres, including 9×19 mm, 5.56×45 mm, 7.62×39 mm, 7.62×51 mm and 12.7 mm defence-grade rounds widely used by military and security agencies," said Sial.

He added that the company acquired about four acres of land in Lucknow node and would soon begin other processes. "The facility will be for both defence purposes as well as civilian sales," he said. Apart from ammunition, the facility will also manufacture primers and other key components required in the production process.

Officials said this would provide the company with complete end-to-end manufacturing capability within India, significantly reducing dependence on imports for

critical defence supplies.

"The development is a milestone for the UP Defence Industrial Corridor, which has been promoted by the state govt as a hub for indigenous defence production under the Centre's 'Make in India' initiative," an official said.

Industry experts believe the project could strengthen domestic defence preparedness, create employment opportunities, attract ancillary industries and accelerate technology transfer in the defence sector.

Webley & Scott already operates a manufacturing unit in Sandila area of Hardoi district, where pistols, revolvers, rifles and shotguns are being produced. The company is also setting up a separate airgun manufacturing facility at the same location to produce premium-quality airguns.

The proposed ammunition unit in Lucknow is expected to expand the state's role in India's rapidly growing defence manufacturing ecosystem and reinforce efforts aimed at achieving self-reliance in strategic and military production.