

## India's Ministry of Defence Aims for Two-Year Arms Acquisition Timeline



India's Ministry of Defence (MoD) has launched an ambitious initiative to drastically shorten the procurement cycle for military hardware, targeting a maximum timeline of two years for arms acquisitions. This significant reform, a key part of the government's declaration of 2025 as the "year of reforms" for the defense sector, aims to eliminate protracted delays caused by extensive trials and prolonged contract negotiations that have historically hindered the modernization of the armed forces.

The current review of the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 is being steered by a high-powered committee, headed by the Director General (Acquisition). This committee has identified three critical bottlenecks contributing to procurement delays: the detailed preparation of the Request for Proposal (RFP), the often-lengthy field evaluation trials, and protracted contract negotiations. While the DAP formally prescribes a two-year timeline, major acquisitions have frequently stretched to seven or eight years, a duration the MoD is determined to curtail. The swift acquisition of the Rafale M fighter jets, finalized within the stipulated two-year period, is being cited as a benchmark for future procurements.

To achieve this accelerated timeline, the review committee is exploring several innovative measures. One key proposal involves leveraging advanced digital simulations to conduct trials for certain types of military hardware. This move could significantly reduce the need for time-consuming and costly physical field evaluations, while maintaining rigorous assessment standards. Additionally, the panel is considering a provision to bypass redundant trial processes

for weapon systems that are already in active service and have a proven track record with the militaries of allied nations.

The committee, which includes senior MoD officials, representatives from the defense industry, and academic institutions, began its comprehensive review in June and is expected to conclude by December 2025. This aggressive timeline underscores the government's commitment to enhancing the efficiency and responsiveness of the defense establishment. Streamlining contract negotiation frameworks is also a major focus, aimed at cutting through bureaucratic hurdles and ensuring faster finalization of deals.

This initiative represents a significant institutional push to instill discipline in meeting procurement deadlines and foster greater transparency in the acquisition process. By rationalizing testing protocols and approval mechanisms, the Ministry of Defence aims to ensure that the Indian armed forces are equipped with modern technology quickly and effectively, thereby bolstering the nation's defense preparedness and strategic capabilities in a rapidly evolving global security landscape.