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Exercise Amogh Jwala – Indian Army's Multi-Domain Warfare Showcase

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SECURITY & DEFENCE

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Exercise Amogh Jwala — Indian Army's Multi-Domain Warfare Showcase

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✎ WHY IN NEWS

The Indian Army's Southern Command conducted Exercise Amogh Jwala at Babina Field Firing Ranges (near Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh), demonstrating integrated multi-domain operations combining attack helicopters, drones, electronic warfare, and cyber capabilities in a single coordinated exercise.

ABOUT EXERCISE AMOGH JWALA

Amogh Jwala (Sanskrit: "Unerring Flame") is a field exercise conducted by the **Southern Command of the Indian Army** at the **Babina Field Firing Ranges**, located in Jhansi district, **Uttar Pradesh**.

Duration: March 6–18, 2026 (13 days) **Conducted by:** **White Tiger Division** (armoured division under Southern Command) **GOC-in-C Southern Command:** **Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth**, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM

Location: Babina Field Firing Ranges, Jhansi district, UP

Historic first: First-ever integration of **Attack Helicopters with mechanised (armoured/infantry) ground forces** in an Indian Army exercise — marking a critical advance in air-land battle synergy.

WHAT WAS DEMONSTRATED

The exercise showcased India's shift from **platform-centric to network-centric warfare**:

MULTI-DOMAIN OPERATIONS (MDO):

Land domain: Mechanised infantry, armoured columns, artillery

Air domain: Attack helicopters (Apache/Rudra), fighter aircraft (Rafale/Su-30 support), armed UAVs

Cyber domain: Network operations, communications security, cyber hardening of command links

Space domain: Use of satellite imagery for ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance)

KEY CAPABILITIES ON DISPLAY:

| Capability | Significance |
|----------------------------|---|
| Drone swarms | Low-cost, high-volume area denial and surveillance |
| Counter-drone systems | VSHORAD, laser-based systems against enemy UAVs |
| Electronic Warfare (EW) | Jamming enemy communications and radar |
| Night-fighting | Thermal imaging, night-vision-equipped armour |
| ISR integration | Real-time satellite + drone feeds to command centre |
| Precision guided munitions | Laser/GPS-guided shells and rockets |

BABINA — STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE

Babina Cantonment is one of India's largest armoured warfare training centres:

Home to elements of the **1 Strike Corps** (India's main offensive mechanised strike formation)

Historically a key training ground for tank and infantry combined arms operations

Located in the **Central India plains**, suitable for large-scale mechanised manoeuvre exercises

India's Strike Corps: India has four strike corps: **I Corps (Mathura)**, **II Corps (Ambala)**, **21 Corps (Bhopal)**, and the partially-raised **17 Corps (Panagarh)**

I Corps (Strike One):

HQ: Mathura, Uttar Pradesh; raised April 1, 1965

Re-oriented post-2020 to Northern Command for the Sino-Indian border in Ladakh (previously under South Western Command)

Equipped with **T-90 Bhisma** and **T-72 Ajeya** main battle tanks

BMP-2 Sarath infantry fighting vehicles

INDIA'S MILITARY MODERNISATION CONTEXT

JOINTNESS AND THEATERISATION:

India is moving toward **Integrated Theatre Commands (ITCs)** — a structural reform where Army, Navy and Air Force assets in a geographic area fall under a single Theatre Commander.

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS): Currently **General Anil Chauhan** (PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM) — appointed September 30, 2022 (2nd CDS; tenure extended till May 2026)

ITCs proposed: Northern Theatre Command (China), Western Theatre Command (Pakistan), Maritime Theatre Command, Air Defence Command

Status: Theaterisation process ongoing; implementation phased from 2025 onwards

INDIA'S DRONE POLICY:

Drone Rules 2021 (Civil Aviation Ministry)

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of armed drones (MQ-9B Predator/SeaGuardian from US under FMS)

Indigenous armed drone: **CATS Warrior** (under development by HAL/DRDO)

Drone Shakti initiative for civil drone ecosystem under PLI scheme

RECENT MAJOR INDIAN ARMY EXERCISES (FOR COMPARISON):

| Exercise | Partner/Type | Focus |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Amogh Jwala | Internal | Multi-domain warfare |
| Exercise Tasman Saber | India-Australia-US | Tri-lateral |
| Yudh Abhyas | India-US | Counter-insurgency + conventional |
| Shakti | India-France | Special forces |
| Mitra Shakti | India-Sri Lanka | Counter-terrorism |
| Prabal Dostyk | India-Kazakhstan | Counter-terrorism |
| Bold Kurukshetra | India-Singapore | Armoured warfare |

ELECTRONIC WARFARE (EW) — KEY CONCEPTS FOR UPSC

Electronic Warfare is the military use of the electromagnetic spectrum to:

Electronic Attack (EA): Jamming enemy radar/communications

Electronic Protection (EP): Protecting own systems from jamming

Electronic Support (ES): Signal intelligence — detecting and identifying enemy emissions

India's EW systems:

Samyukta — indigenously developed ground-based EW system by DRDO/BEL

Himshakti — mountain warfare EW capability

Being integrated with network-centric **TACCCS** (Tactical Command, Control, Communications & Intelligence System)

UPSC RELEVANCE

Exercise name, location (Babina, Jhansi, UP), Southern Command (HQ: Pune), GOC-in-C (Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth), domains covered (land/air/cyber/space), CDS (General Anil Chauhan), White Tiger Division.

MAINS GS3:

Defence modernisation — theaterisation, multi-domain operations, drone warfare, electronic warfare, China-Pakistan threat context, Make in India in defence, DRDO and indigenisation.

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGE PEDIA
EXERCISE AMOGH JWALA:

Meaning: “Unerring Flame”; Duration: March 6–18, 2026 (13 days)

Executed by: White Tiger Division, Southern Command, Indian Army

Location: Babina Field Firing Ranges, Jhansi district, Uttar Pradesh

GOC-in-C Southern Command: Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM

Domains: Land, Air, Cyber, Space

Historic first: First-ever integration of Attack Helicopters with mechanised ground forces

INDIAN ARMY COMMANDS (7 TOTAL):

Northern, Eastern, Southern, Western, Central, South-Western, Army Training Command (ARTRAC)

Southern Command HQ: Pune

INDIA’S FOUR STRIKE CORPS:

I Corps (Mathura) — raised April 1, 1965; re-oriented to Northern Command post-2020 for China border

II Corps (Ambala)

21 Corps (Bhopal)

17 Corps (Panagarh) — partially raised

Tanks: T-90 Bhishma, T-72 Ajeya; IFV: BMP-2 Sarath

CDS OF INDIA:

Current: General Anil Chauhan, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM (appointed September 30, 2022; tenure extended till May 2026)

First CDS: General Bipin Rawat (January 1, 2020 – December 8, 2021)

INTEGRATED THEATRE COMMANDS (ITCS):

Proposed: Northern (China border), Western (Pakistan border), Maritime, Air Defence

Status: Implementation phase 2025 onwards

KEY INDIGENOUS DEFENCE SYSTEMS:

EW: Samyukta (DRDO/BEL); Himshakti (mountain warfare EW)

Drone: CATS Warrior (HAL/DRDO — in development)

Tank: T-90 Bhishma (licensed production, HVF Avadi)

TACCCS: Tactical Command, Control, Communications & Intelligence System

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Multi-Domain Operations (MDO): US Army doctrine adopted 2018; India aligning

MQ-9B Predator/SeaGuardian drones: India approved purchase under FMS from US

Drone Rules 2021: Ministry of Civil Aviation; Drone Shakti initiative under PLI scheme

India’s defence budget 2025-26: Rs 6.81 lakh crore; 2026-27: Rs 7.85 lakh crore (15% increase)

75% of modernisation budget earmarked for domestic procurement

Sources: [PIB](#), [Ministry of Defence](#), [The Hindu](#)

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