

# Jal Prahar 2025 - Comprehensive Notes for UPSC

## Introduction

The Indian Navy and Army successfully conducted the **biannual joint amphibious exercise 'Jal Prahar 2025'** along India's eastern coast. It was organised from **16 to 23 September 2025**, highlighting India's focus on strengthening inter-service cooperation, operational readiness, and coastal defence strategies.

## 1. Background of Jal Prahar

- **Nature:** A large-scale **amphibious exercise**, held every two years.
- **Participants:** Primarily the **Indian Navy and Indian Army**.
- **Objective:** To test **joint planning, coordination, and execution** of amphibious operations (troop landings from sea to shore).
- **Strategic Relevance:** Enhances India's maritime security preparedness, especially on the **eastern seaboard** which faces major strategic challenges (Bay of Bengal, Andaman Sea, South-East Asia).

## 2. Exercise Structure (Two Phases)

### (a) Harbour Phase - Visakhapatnam (16-20 Sept 2025)

- **Activities Conducted:**
  - Induction & integration of Army troops onboard **INS Gharial (Magar-class amphibious ship)**.
  - **Training & orientation:** Familiarisation with shipboard life, safety briefings, and operational rehearsals.
  - **Coordination drills:** Tabletop exercises to finalise planning and SOPs.
  - **Sports & cultural interactions:** To build camaraderie and strengthen trust between Army and Navy personnel.
- **Significance:** Prepared troops mentally and physically for the upcoming Sea Phase. Ensured seamless coordination before live drills.

### (b) Sea Phase - Off Kakinada (21-23 Sept 2025)

- **Major Activities:**

- **Hard beaching:** INS Gharial tested its beach landing capability.
  - **Landing Craft Assault (LCA) deployment:** Carried troops and equipment from ship to shore.
  - **Mechanised infantry operations:** Deployment of **BMP amphibious infantry fighting vehicles**.
  - **Live tactical manoeuvres:** Conducted under realistic combat conditions to validate operational readiness.
- **Outcome:** Joint SOPs were validated, ensuring that both services can operate seamlessly during real combat missions.

### 3. Significance of Inter-Service Synergy

- **Operational Necessity:** Amphibious warfare requires tight coordination between sea and land forces.
- **Enhanced Communication:** Improved information sharing and command structures between the Army & Navy.
- **Unified Combat Approach:** Promotes understanding of each service's **strengths & limitations**.
- **Strategic Defence:** Boosts preparedness to secure India's **eastern maritime borders** from external threats, piracy, or hostile incursions.

### 4. Technological and Tactical Highlights

- **Modern Platforms Used:**

- **INS Gharial** (Magar-class amphibious ship).
- **Landing Craft Assault vessels** for rapid troop movement.
- **BMP amphibious infantry fighting vehicles**.

- **Tactical Advancements:**

- Validated **joint SOPs** under combat-like conditions.
  - Improved **beach landing techniques** for mechanised infantry.
  - Tested integration of naval firepower with land-based mechanised forces.
- **Future Preparedness:** Helps adapt to **emerging maritime threats** such as grey-zone warfare, littoral combat, and disaster-response scenarios.

### 5. Strategic Importance for India

- **Eastern Seaboard Focus:** Covers critical trade and energy routes in the Bay of Bengal.
- **Power Projection:** Enhances India's ability to project force in the Indo-Pacific.
- **Disaster Relief:** Amphibious capability is vital for **HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief)** during natural calamities.
- **Regional Security Role:** Strengthens India's position as a **net security provider** in the Indian Ocean Region.

## 6. Key Takeaways for UPSC

- **Jal Prahar 2025 = Biannual Navy-Army joint amphibious exercise.**
- **Location:** Eastern Coast (Visakhapatnam & Kakinada).
- **Duration:** 16-23 September 2025 (two phases – Harbour + Sea).
- **Aim:** Strengthen interoperability & amphibious warfare capability.
- **Platforms Used:** INS Gharial, LCAs, BMP amphibious vehicles.
- **Significance:** Boosts strategic defence, inter-service synergy, tactical readiness, and HADR potential.

## 7. Possible UPSC Questions

### (a) Prelims-Oriented

- Jal Prahar is a joint exercise between:
  - (a) India & USA
  - (b) Army & Navy
  - (c) Navy & Air Force
  - (d) India & Japan

### (b) Mains-Oriented

*"Discuss the significance of inter-service joint exercises like Jal Prahar for India's maritime security and strategic preparedness."*

## 8. Conclusion

Jal Prahar 2025 is a **demonstration of India's evolving amphibious warfare capability**, highlighting the critical role of **Army-Navy cooperation**. By testing modern platforms, validating SOPs, and enhancing inter-service understanding, it strengthens India's **defence posture** and ensures readiness for both combat and humanitarian missions in the Indo-Pacific.

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