



Narendra-09 Wheat Variety | Uttarakhand | 17 Nov 2025

Why in News?

A farmer from [Nainital district](#), Uttarakhand, has received **national recognition** for developing the [climate-resilient wheat variety “Narendra-09”](#) and registering it under the [Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights Act, 2001 \(PPV&FRA\)](#).

Key Points

- **About Narendra-09:**
 - **Narendra Singh Mehra** from Devla Malla village (Nainital) developed the [wheat variety “Narendra-09”](#) through on-farm selection of naturally occurring plants.
 - The variety shows **high heat tolerance** and produces **50-80 grains per stalk**, compared to 20-25 grains in traditional varieties. It adapts well to **diverse areas** across hills and plains, requires less water, and performs well under climate-stress conditions.
 - The farmer registered the variety under the [Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights Act \(PPV&FRA\), 2001](#), securing legal breeder and farmer rights.
- **About Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights Act (PPV&FRA), 2001:**
 - It was enacted to **protect newly developed plant varieties, recognise the rights of farmers**, and promote the **breeding of improved crop varieties** in India.
 - The Act allows the registration of **new, extant, farmers’, and essentially derived** varieties, provided they meet the **DUS criteria** of Distinctness, Uniformity, and Stability.
 - It grants breeders **exclusive rights to produce, sell, market, distribute, import or export** their registered varieties. Farmers are also allowed to **save, use, sow, resow, exchange and share** seeds of protected varieties, but they cannot sell these seeds in **branded form**.
 - The Act also provides for **benefit-sharing, Plant Genome Saviour Awards**, and establishes the [National Gene Fund](#) to reward farmers and communities that have conserved or contributed valuable genetic resources.

Garuda Exercise 2025 | National Current Affairs | 17 Nov 2025

Why in News?

The [Indian Air Force \(IAF\)](#) is taking part in the **8th edition** of **Exercise Garuda-25**, a bilateral air combat drill conducted with the **French Air and Space Force (FASF)**.

Key Points

▪ **About Garuda Exercise:**

- “Garuda” is a bilateral [air exercise](#) between the Indian and [French air forces](#), conducted periodically since 2003.
- It is among the **highest-level air force exercises** India conducts with a foreign air force and is held alternately in India and France.
- Its key objectives include [enhancing mutual operational capabilities](#), sharing tactics, building log-operational familiarity and forging strategic ties.

▪ **About 2025 Edition:**

- The 8th edition of Garuda (Garuda-25) is being held from **16th to 27th November, 2025** at **Mont-de-Marsan Air Base in France**.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** contingent, featuring [Su-30MKI fighter aircraft](#) supported by **IL-78 refuellers** and **C-17 Globemaster III** air-lift assets, will operate alongside [French multirole fighters](#) in complex simulated missions involving **air-to-air combat**, **air defence**, and **joint strike operations**.

