

RADIUS EDUCATION

08-09-2026



DISTANCE BETWEEN DREAM AND REALITY

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HIGHLIGHTS

- INTERNATIONAL NEWS
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TODAY NEWS HIGHLIGHT

- **Ig Nobel Prize 2026: Fostering scientific curiosity and innovation through unusual research**
- **Miss World 2026: Johairy Mola of the Dominican Republic wins the 73rd title**
- **India's foreign exchange reserves cross \$740 billion for the first time: Latest RBI data**
- **NVIDIA–Hugging Face acquisition: Expanding from AI hardware to open-source AI ecosystem**
- **Dinesh Sharma appointed Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands: New appointment in the strategic Union Territory**
- **Rangpur–Sibsagar Historic Complex included in UNESCO Tentative List: Ahom Civilization's Heritage Gets Global Recognition**
- **Indonesia's forest fires cause air pollution crisis in Malaysia: Emergency in Serian, Sarawak**
- **International Literacy Day 2026: Literacy as the foundation of human empowerment and sustainable development**

1. Ig Nobel Prize 2026: Fostering scientific curiosity and innovation through unconventional research

The 36th Ig Nobel Prize ceremony took place on September 3, 2026, in Zurich, Switzerland, honoring scientific research that is unconventional yet thought-provoking. Researchers, including Indian scientists, received the Chemistry prize for their work on nutrient-rich protein crystals found in cockroaches. Unique experiments—such as 3D-printing technology inspired by mosquito mouthparts and the burial of cotton underwear to study soil—were also recognized. In Physics, a study on splash-free urinal designs based on fluid dynamics highlighted the application of science to everyday problems.



2. Miss World 2026: Dominican Republic's Johery Mola Wins 73rd Title

Johery Mola from the Dominican Republic won the title at the 73rd Miss World pageant held in Vietnam on September 5, 2026, featuring 111 contestants. Johery Mola is a teacher, model, and social activist who provides English education to underprivileged youth through 'Voices of Tomorrow.' Her 'Beauty With a Purpose' project focuses on fostering self-confidence, critical thinking, and better opportunities among youth through education. This marks the Dominican Republic's second Miss World title; India's Nikita Porwal made it to the top 40 and garnered attention for 'Project M.A.T.I.'



3. India's Forex Reserves Cross \$740 Billion Mark for the First Time: Latest RBI Data

According to the RBI, India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$11.475 billion to reach an all-time high of \$740.803 billion for the week ending August 28, 2026. This increase was primarily driven by a rise of \$9.337 billion in Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) and \$2.191 billion in gold reserves. Meanwhile, a decline of \$43 million was recorded in SDRs, and the IMF reserve position fell by \$11 million. High foreign exchange reserves strengthen India's external payment capacity, the stability of the rupee, and its ability to withstand global economic crises.



4. NVIDIA-Hugging Face Acquisition: Expanding from AI Hardware to Open-Source AI Ecosystem

US chipmaker NVIDIA has struck a deal worth approximately \$12.93 billion to acquire the AI platform Hugging Face; the transaction is expected to close in the first half of 2027. Hugging Face is a leading open AI platform where developers can share, train, and customize AI models, datasets, and applications. This acquisition will see NVIDIA expand from AI hardware into the software and model ecosystem, potentially boosting open-source AI. However, this vertical integration of hardware and software could also raise concerns regarding competition, platform neutrality, and NVIDIA's market dominance.



5. Dinesh Sharma Appointed Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar: New Appointment in Strategic Union Territory

President Droupadi Murmu has appointed BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Dinesh Sharma as the new Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, succeeding retired Admiral D.K. Joshi. Dinesh Sharma is a former Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, and his appointment is significant regarding the administrative and constitutional framework of the Union Territory. The strategic location of Andaman and Nicobar near the Strait of Malacca makes it vital for India's maritime security in the Indian Ocean and the Indo-Pacific region. This region is also crucial from the perspectives of national security, the blue economy, marine resources, connectivity, tourism, and the 'Act East Policy'.



6. Rangpur-Sibsagar Historic Complex Included in UNESCO Tentative List: Global Recognition for Ahom Civilization's Heritage

Assam's Rangpur-Sibsagar historic complex has been included in UNESCO's Tentative List, reflecting the legacy of the Ahom dynasty, which spanned approximately 600 years. The Ahom ruler Swargadeo Rudra Singha developed Rangpur as a planned capital in 1704, featuring palaces, temples, fortifications, and water structures. The Talatal Ghar, Rang Ghar, and the reservoirs of Joysagar, Gaurisagar, and Sibsagar stand as prime examples of Ahom architectural prowess and advanced water engineering capabilities.



7. Air Pollution Crisis in Malaysia Due to Indonesian Forest Fires: State of Emergency Declared in Serian, Sarawak

Malaysia declared a state of emergency in the Serian district of Sarawak due to transboundary haze caused by forest fires in Indonesia, with an Air Pollution Index (API) of 519 recorded. Smoke from forest and peatland fires in the Borneo region crosses borders and affects air quality, driven by dry weather and prevailing winds. Malaysia has implemented measures such as cloud seeding, school closures, and other health-safety protocols to mitigate pollution. This incident highlights the significance of addressing transboundary air pollution, forest fires, PM2.5 levels, peatland conservation, and regional environmental cooperation.



8. International Literacy Day 2026: Literacy as the Foundation for Human Empowerment and Sustainable Development

International Literacy Day is observed annually on September 8 under the leadership of UNESCO, aiming to promote the importance of literacy and quality education. UNESCO proclaimed the day in 1966, and it has been observed since 1967 to address the global issue of illiteracy. In modern times, the scope of literacy has expanded to include digital, financial, health, and media literacy; meanwhile, in India, initiatives like NEP 2020 and ULLAS play a crucial role. Literacy is linked to SDG-4 (Quality Education) and fosters human capital formation, women's empowerment, employment, and socio-economic equality.



1. Where was the 36th Ig Nobel Prize ceremony held in 2026?

A - Zurich

B - Paris

C - London

D - Geneva

The 36th Ig Nobel Prize ceremony was held on September 3 in Zurich, Switzerland, honoring unusual yet thought-provoking scientific research. Researchers, including Indian scientists, conducted unique studies on topics such as cockroach protein crystals, 3D printing using mosquito mouthparts, cotton underwear in soil, and splash-free urinals.



2. Who won the Miss World 2026 title?

A - Nikita Porwal

B - Johery Mola

C - Elizabeth Reynes

D - Tanusia Chetty

Johery Mola of the Dominican Republic won the 73rd Miss World pageant held in Vietnam on September 5, 2026, which saw participation from 111 contestants. Her 'Beauty With a Purpose' project focuses on providing English education to underprivileged youth; India's Nikita Porwal made it to the top 40, and this marks the Dominican Republic's second Miss World title.



3. What was India's foreign exchange reserve as of August 28, 2026?

A - \$729.328 billion

B - \$728.494 billion

C - \$740.803 billion

D - \$750.803 billion

According to the RBI, India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$11.475 billion to reach a record high of \$740.803 billion on August 28, 2026, driven primarily by increases in Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) and gold reserves. Meanwhile, marginal declines were recorded in SDRs and the IMF reserve position; high foreign exchange reserves strengthen India's external payment capacity and the stability of the rupee.



4. Which AI platform has NVIDIA struck a deal to acquire?

A - OpenAI

B - Hugging Face

C - DeepMind

D - Anthropic

NVIDIA has entered into a deal to acquire the AI platform Hugging Face for approximately \$12.93 billion, with the transaction expected to close in the first half of 2027. This move will expand NVIDIA's reach from AI hardware to software and model ecosystems and could boost open-source AI, although vertical integration raises concerns regarding competition and platform neutrality.



5. Who has been appointed as the new Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

A - Dinesh Sharma

B - D.K. Joshi

C - Rajiv Kumar

D - Manoj Sinha

President Droupadi Murmu has appointed BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Dinesh Sharma as the new Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands; he will succeed retired Admiral D.K. Joshi. Located near the Strait of Malacca, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are strategically significant for India's maritime security, the Indo-Pacific, the blue economy, connectivity, and the 'Act East Policy'.



6. In which list has the Rangpur–Sivasagar historical complex been included?

A - World Heritage List

B - Tentative List

C - Ramsar List

D - Red List

The Rangpur–Sivasagar historical complex in Assam has been included in UNESCO's Tentative List; it reflects the cultural and architectural heritage of the Ahom dynasty, spanning approximately 600 years. Developed by Swargadeo Rudra Singha, the structures in Rangpur—such as the Talatal Ghar and Rang Ghar—along with water bodies like Joysagar, Gaurisagar, and Sivasagar, exemplify the architectural prowess and advanced water-engineering capabilities of the Ahoms.



7. In which district of Malaysia was a state of emergency declared due to haze?

A - Serian

B - Kuching

C - Miri

D - Sibü

Malaysia declared a state of emergency in the Serian district of Sarawak due to transboundary haze caused by forest and peatland fires in Indonesia; an API (Air Pollutant Index) reading of 519 was recorded there. Malaysia implemented measures such as cloud seeding, school closures, and health safeguards; this event highlights issues related to transboundary air pollution, PM2.5, forest fires, and the importance of peatland conservation.



8. Which program related to adult literacy is significant in India?

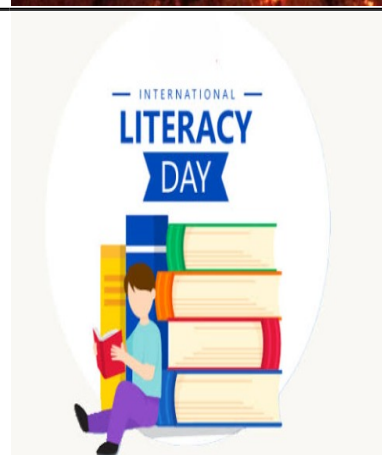
A - ULLAS

B - PM-KISAN

C - PMAY

D - Ujjwala

International Literacy Day is observed annually on September 8 under the aegis of UNESCO; it was proclaimed in 1966 and has been celebrated since 1967. Modern literacy encompasses digital, financial, health, and media literacy, while in India, NEP 2020 and ULLAS are aligned with the SDG-4 goal of quality education.



One Liner

1. Where was the 36th Ig Nobel Prize ceremony held? - **Zurich Convention Center, Switzerland**
2. Which country is Zoheri Mola from? - **Dominican Republic**
3. The Rangpur–Sivasagar historic complex was included in which UNESCO list? - **Tentative List**
4. What API level of air pollution was recorded in the Serian district of Malaysia? - **519**
5. Dinesh Sharma was appointed as the Lieutenant Governor of which Union Territory? - **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**
6. What is the largest component of India's foreign exchange reserves? - **Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)**
7. Who won the Miss World title in 2026? - **Zoheri Mola**
8. Which AI platform did NVIDIA agree to acquire in a deal worth \$12.93 billion? - **Hugging Face**
9. On which date is International Literacy Day observed every year? - **September 8**
10. What did India's foreign exchange reserves reach on August 28, 2026? - **\$740.803 billion**