

VANVERSE

POETRY

SECTION

After the Rain

The morning danced with golden light,
birds stitched songs into the sky,
and every flower wore a smile
as if the world had just awakened.
Then came the rain, gentle and slow,
washing away yesterday's dust,
teaching the trees to sway instead of
break.
The earth breathed deeply,
and hope returned with the scent of wet
soil.
I realised storms never arrive to stay;
they come to remind us that endings
can nourish beginnings.
Like rivers finding their course,
like seeds choosing to bloom,
I stepped forward with quiet faith,
knowing every raindrop carried away fear
and left behind a heart ready to grow.

-Shakya Negi, XII

Am I? Am I Met?

If I go, where shall I be?
A full-spirited bird or a broken tree?
Or a mother like Mary,
Or a poisonous, stinging bee?
Who am I, if not who I am?
Who shall I be, if not who I want to be?
Is this plan a verse or a spree?
It burns my skin — a fuming fire,
Blood through my skin,
Yet in everything I desire.
Oh Lord, see the wounds,
See the bruises — am I alone?
Can't You see? Are You viewed in veil?
Or perhaps got stabbed by a nail?
If a body lives but doesn't live,
If a body senses but doesn't feel,
What should I be called?
A new beginning or an end?

— Krittika Sarkar, XI



literary section

Why?

Why AI Can't Replace Middle School Minds

With AI instantly writing essays and solving math problems, it's easy to wonder what's left for human brains. but if you want to see AI completely fall flat, just look at a middle schooler.

A 12-year-old's brain isn't a neat computer waiting for textbook facts. It's a chaotic, noisy, brilliant construction zone. AI is just a glorified prediction machine recycling old data; middle schoolers are delightfully unpredictable. Their brains are rewiring themselves through trial, error, and wild, out-of-nowhere epiphanies that no algorithm could ever guess.

Real learning at this age doesn't happen in a vacuum. It's tangled up in friendship drama, awkward growth spurts, and a brand-new sense of what's fair. A screen can analyze text tone, but it can't feel the nervous pit in your stomach before speaking up, the sting of being left out, or the courage of standing by a friend. You can't code empathy.

Plus, AI offers a fast-forward button to the answer, but skipping the struggle skips the growth. Middle school is where you're supposed to mess up, throw out a bad draft, and get frustrated. That messy friction is where grit and real confidence are born. A machine can hand you a finished paper, but it can't give you the proud feeling of figuring it out yourself.

AI is built to play it safe with boring, average answers. Middle schoolers are the exact opposite—wired to push buttons, ask endless "why" questions, and challenge everything. We don't teach them to out-memorize a computer; we teach them to protect the stuff machines will never touch: curiosity, humor, grit, and heart. AI might organize yesterday, but middle school minds are inventing tomorrow.

- JAASVI VII

Why am I here,
When I am so
mere
For this big world,
Where every way
is hurdled.

Why are the stars
so high,
And the seas so
deep?
Why do I wish to
play at night,
And all day to
sleep.

Why do we lose,
And why do we
win?
When whatever
we own,
Is within.

Why do we work,
And why do we
rest?
Why is living this
life,
Like a test?

Why so many
questions,
Why can't they
end?
Can't I be free,
For a day, I spend?

-Jhanvi Kuntal, X



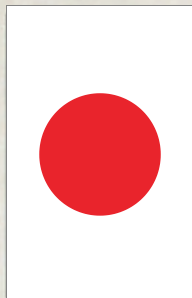
NEWS HEADLINES



BREAKING NEWS

LIVE

International News



A powerful 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck Japan's southern island of Kyushu on 28 July 2026, leaving at least 34 people dead, triggering a mall explosion, and destroying over 800 homes amidst a sweltering regional heatwave.



On July 30, 2026, U.S. President Donald Trump announced a major breakthrough in his Gaza peace plan, saying an agreement had been reached for Hamas to disarm and for Israel to gradually withdraw from Gaza.

1) President Donald Trump announced that his specially created "Board of Peace" has reached a historic draft agreement for the "complete disarmament" of Hamas and other armed groups in Gaza.

2) Amid severe trade disruptions and threats to energy routes near the Strait of Hormuz, Saudi Arabia announced a 14-nation maritime alliance to secure vital regional waterways.

Indian News



Student-led "Cockroach" protests in New Delhi demanding sweeping exam reforms and total accountability, India's education minister has officially stepped down.

India's new Union Minister of Education is Pralhad Joshi, who officially assumed office on July 26, 2026.



On 31 July 2026, the Supreme Court stayed the arrest of former Tamil Nadu minister V. Senthilbalaji in a corruption case, while author Taslima Nasrin returned to Kolkata after a 19-year absence.



On 18 July 2026, Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1 successfully reached orbit, marking India's first successful orbital launch by a privately developed rocket.



On 2 August 2026, India concluded its campaign at the **Commonwealth Games 2026** in Glasgow, finishing 4th with 39 total medals (13 gold), and received the handover to host the **CWG 2030** in Ahmedabad



August 2026 — Tanvi Sharma Makes History at Taipei Open

Teenage badminton star Tanvi Sharma created history by winning the Taipei Open 2026, becoming the youngest Indian to win the women's singles title.



On Thursday, 30 July 2026, at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Neeraj Chopra, Rohit Yadav, and Yashvir Singh all qualified for the men's javelin throw final.

19 July 2026 — Spain Crowned FIFA World Champions

Spain defeated defending champions Argentina 1-0 after extra time in the 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup final. Ferran Torres scored the decisive goal in the 106th minute, securing Spain's second World Cup title.



30 July 2026: Renowned Nepali-British mountaineer Nirmal "Nimsdai" Purja, 43, was killed when a devastating avalanche struck his expedition on Broad Peak in Pakistan's Karakoram range. His death was officially confirmed on 1 August 2026 by his expedition company, Elite Exped



This digital artwork captures the duality of Spider-Man and Arcane in order to depict a state of mind that is contradictory but courageous at the same time. Spider-Man stands for duty and perseverance, whereas Arcane serves as an inspiration to go beyond one's emotions, embracing chaos and change. Blue hair serves as a reminder of imagination and hope in dark times, and gold adds to that strength that comes from the struggle. Thus, a character that does not stand for perfection but for evolution emerges.

-Siya Kalirawna, XII



ACHIEVEMENTS



Vantage Hall proudly received multiple honors at The Economic Times Education Excellence Awards 2026, celebrating excellence in academics, boarding, and sports.



At the MU20 Knowledge Festival, our Falcons represented Vantage Hall Girls' Residential School with exceptional creativity, intellect, and leadership. We celebrate P. V. Sri Varshini, Alice Elangbam, Sanskrithi Agarwal, and Janhavi Kuntal for securing 3rd Place in Best Presentation, along with Kritika Sarkar for earning an Honourable Mention in Oxford MUN. Furthermore, Jhalak Agarwal, Akshara Gupta, Caira Kareen, and Aayat Qurishi were recognized with the prestigious Social Catalyst Awards. Congratulations to all our achievers for making the school immensely proud!



Thunderbird House emerged victorious in the Inter-House Quiz Competition, displaying exceptional knowledge, teamwork, and quick thinking. Congratulations to all participants!



We're thrilled to announce that our delegates excelled at UNISON MUN 2026, winning honours in major committees and making us proud:

- **Outstanding Delegate:** Anvi Garg IX
- **Special Mention:** Mannaz Singh XI
- **Special Mention:** Khwaish Malik XI

A round of applause to our young diplomats for showcasing the spirit of Vantage Hall with brilliance and confidence.

Investiture Ceremony



In an extremely proud and motivating Investiture Ceremony, Vantage Hall Residential School formally inducted the newly elected members of the Student Council and Club Presidents for the Academic Year 2026-27. In the ceremony that exuded responsibility, honesty, and dedication through the oath taking of the young leaders and their badge giving, we look forward to them taking their mantle of leadership to motivate their peers into working together and innovating as the year progresses.



YOUR MONTHLY ENTERTAINMENT

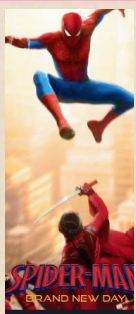
The Devil Wears Prada 2 promises a stylish return to the high-pressure world of fashion, ambition, and sharp wit. With beloved characters expected to re-enter a rapidly changing industry, the sequel could explore power, reinvention, and the cost of staying relevant. Fans are excited to see how glamour and rivalry evolve in a digital era where trends move faster than ever. If it captures the charm and bite of the original, this sequel could be both nostalgic and refreshingly modern.



VOGUE MET GALA



The 2026 Met Gala themed Costume Art reimagined the red carpet as a living gallery. Beyoncé returned in a sculptural skeleton gown while Rihanna stunned in molten silver Margiela. A major highlight was the next generation with Blue Ivy and Sunday Rose Kidman appearing alongside their parents. From Katy Perry's AI glitch dress to Lisa's crystal covered look the night showed that fashion remains a powerful blend of art glamour and spectacle on the world stage.



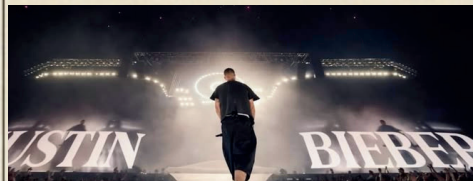
The new Spider-Man movie is an action-packed adventure showcasing Spider-Man's courage, humor, and resilience, delivering thrilling battles, heartfelt moments, and unforgettable heroism throughout.



Dunkin' shut down in India after struggling with competition, changing customer preferences, and expansion challenges, highlighting the difficulty global food chains face in local markets.



Coachella 2026 delivered unforgettable performances, vibrant energy, stunning visuals, and diverse music. The festival blended art, fashion, and community, creating an exciting cultural experience for music lovers worldwide.



The Odyssey is an epic adventure following Odysseus's perilous journey home, exploring courage, resilience, loyalty, destiny, and the enduring power of hope.

MOVIES

TEEN SCOOP



Can AI Ace your Homework??

Is AI Helpful for Teenagers for summer holiday homework

Yes, AI can be very helpful for teenagers in school projects when used wisely. It helps students find information quickly, improve writing, generate ideas, and create presentations or designs. AI tools can also explain difficult topics in simple language and save time during research.

However, students should not depend completely on AI. Projects should include their own creativity, understanding, and effort. Copying AI-generated work without learning from it may reduce critical thinking and originality.

When used responsibly, AI becomes a smart learning assistant that supports teenagers in developing skills, creativity, and confidence in their studies.

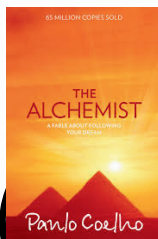
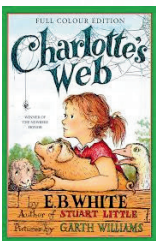


CARING FOR ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH

Adolescent mental health is vital because this stage shapes emotional, social, and physical well-being. Around one in seven adolescents experience mental health conditions, often unnoticed and untreated. Common challenges include anxiety, depression, behavioural disorders, eating disorders, psychosis, self-harm, and risk-taking behaviours. Supportive families, schools, and communities help protect mental well-being. Prevention, early detection, and accessible care are essential. WHO supports governments through programmes, training, and evidence-based guidance to promote and protect adolescent mental health worldwide.

~WHO

Book Series



The story tracks Santiago, a young Spanish shepherd who frequently dreams of a hidden treasure waiting for him near the Egyptian pyramids. Driven by a desire for purpose, he abandons his comfortable pastoral life to make the journey across the North African desert. Along his path, he encounters various mentors who offer essential life lessons:

E. B. White's *Charlotte's Web* examines themes of unconditional friendship, loyalty, and the natural cycle of life, including death and grief. The narrative emphasizes the power of language to transform perspectives and save lives, all while promoting compassion for all creatures. It ultimately provides comfort by celebrating the lasting impact of love and legacy.

Hair colour has become a big trend among teenagers today. Many teens dye their hair to look fashionable or to copy celebrities and influencers. However, hair colour is not always cool. Frequent colouring can damage hair, making it dry, weak, and rough. Some hair dyes also contain chemicals that may cause allergies or scalp problems.

Another issue is that many teenagers feel pressured to change their appearance just to fit in with others. True confidence does not come from changing your hair colour. It comes from being comfortable with who you are. Natural beauty should also be appreciated.

Hair colouring can also be expensive and time-consuming because it needs regular maintenance. Instead of following every trend, teens should focus on healthy habits, good character, and self-confidence. Fashion trends change quickly, but a healthy and natural look never goes out of style. Being yourself is always cooler than copying others.



WHAT'S THE HYPE ABOUT

DIET COKE?

From celeb obsessions to viral Instagram posts, Diet Coke is having its main character But what's really behind the buzz?



BUZZ BREAKDOWN

- It's not just a drink, it's a whole mood.
- Clean girl, Y2K, study fuel, late-night gossip essential — Diet Coke somehow fits every era.

LIMITATIONS & PRECAUTIONS

- Contains artificial sweeteners
- Not a substitute for water.
- Stay hydrated.
- Too much caffeine can affect sleep or cause headaches.

WHY IT'S EVERYWHERE

- ★ That crisp, addictive taste hits different.
- ★ Low cal, high vibe — the perfect guilt-free treat.
- ★ Celebs can't get enough.
- ★ A whole aesthetic, from silver cans to cute accessories.

FINAL SIP

Diet Coke isn't just a drink, it's a mood. Enjoy it, love it, but keep it balanced — just like school life.



VANTAGE NEWS

2026

■ volume 6 ■

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