The S-Form, recently, had a gender sensitivity workshop and School has proudly established itself as a strong supporter of the ‘He for She’ campaign. Now, while Aayush tends to veil articles in the form of satires, this may be noted exception, as we believe that something important has slipped loose. Of late, one is struck by the lack of such sensitivity when Doscos participate in various co-educational activities hosted by School. The recently concluded Doon School Model United Nations (DSMUN) Conference just serves to highlight this unfortunate trend, and despite the controversy surrounding this article, the issue must be addressed.

It is popular knowledge that a handful of Doscos do indulge in rather insensitive activities, which include sexist and misogynistic behaviour in a variety of matters. In addressing these absurd instances, we wish to turn focus to the practice of ‘superlatives’, a game where individuals select a member of a group according to judgmental criteria (such as looks and appearances). Put simply, have we ever thought how objectifying and demeaning it is to rate people on merely their appearance? Admittedly, this year’s DSMUN witnessed far fewer ‘entertainment sessions’ and the level of debate was more refined, but this game did find its way to the floors of committee sessions against better judgment. Such ‘superlatives’ aren’t restricted to formal events. After Social gatherings with all-girls schools, Round Square Conferences or any opportunity to interact with the opposite sex, Doscos tend to judge women based on a myopic perspective of so-called ‘beauty’. They label them on bases of ‘hottest’ or ‘cutest’ - perspectives formed after male-prejudiced discussions on how ‘hot’ a particularly shaped person may be, or on the basis of their ‘attractive’ demeanour. We see these as unacceptable due to their objectification of women and urge the community to think about how demeaning these actions may be.

Delving further, this objectification is amplified when discussions on ‘attractiveness’ turn into judgemental sessions on ‘ugliness’ as well. Candidly, we don’t see how a respectful student from our School would have the audacity to label women (let alone, fellow human beings) along these lines. In all fairness, this particular issue might go both ways: it is highly probable that even female adolescents indulge in rating boys along these lines or imposing their perspectives on others. However, such actions are, either way, inexcusable.

With that, we must address specific instances of these practices in School recently. At the recent DSMUN conference, chits (i.e. direct message slips between delegates) were given considerable weight during marking. While a majority were formal and pertaining to the conference, delegates did receive the odd, explicit and rather offensive chit. Administrative instructions to filter such chits, while adhered to, didn’t stop a few from being sent through – which is regrettable. Another such case was when some boys felt the need to ‘greet’ our in-house female guests during the 7-on-7 football tournament held in April. Many aren’t aware of this, but a group of S-Form prospects ran across Martyn House one night for a “better look”. In the process to satisfy their adolescent urges, these boys breached the privacy of our female guests.
Regulars

Diplomatic Corps

The following boys received awards at the 11th Doon School Model United Nations Conference held between August 18-20, 2017:

Best Delegates: Jehan Jhaveri, Mihir Gupta, Vikram Jain
Best Committee: All India Political Parties’ Meet, 2002

Well done!

THE WHO?

Who is Carlos Estévez?

Kushagra Kar: A cartel head.
Rishab Dev: Professor
Archit Oberai: A Businessman

Carlos Irwin Estévez, known professionally as Charlie Sheen, is an American actor who became famous for the TV show ‘Two and a Half Men’.

Opinion Poll

Have the topics for Assembly Talks become redundant?

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UNQUOTEABLE QUOTES

It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.
-Mother Teresa

You’ll get murdered at least once in your life.
Akshat Jha, shooting

That’s how the world works in school.
Omar Chishti, talks to S-Form.

Shut down the door.
PVD, keeps it closed.

We have an expertise coming.
Naman Agarwal, not from you.

Observe my words.
AST, precisely.

Oh no, I slipped on my tongue!
Ayushmaan Narayan, clumsy.

Will you quiet now?
MKS, takes charge.

Let’s hideous it.
Aradhya Singhal, look away from the mirror.

I don’t want to talk you.
Sai Rajan, neither do we.

People make mistake.
Aryaman Agarwal, shows us how.

The Pope lives in Jerusalem.
Aryan Chhabra, a man of all faiths.

Around the World in 80 Words

A suicide car bombing by the Taliban killed seven people in Afghanistan. England’s highest goal scorer, Wayne Rooney, announced his retirement from International football. Indian Railways Minister, Suresh Prabhu, resigned from his post following two derailments in the past five days. O. Panneerselvam was declared the Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, as the AIADMK reunited. In two monumental rulings, the Supreme Court of India declared the right to privacy as a fundamental right and Instant Triple Talaq as unconstitutional.

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We would ask you to imagine how violated you’d feel while at another school if you were subject to such behaviour by the host students. For any female visitor on our campus, being in a male dominated School (in terms of numbers) only exacerbates the situation. To date, the real implications of such actions haven’t been recognised by our boys, for in the process of seeking ‘cheap thrills’, they chip away at our School’s reputation. We always tend to take pride in our ‘Dosco hospitality’, but in light of these, it’s important to ask whether we’re as hospitable as we claim to be.

Finally, we’d like to shed light on a stronger form of objectification of women: sexualisation. It is no secret that ‘young love’ often runs rampant during such co-educational events; the propaganda piece report on Page 4 would implicitly refer to this. Don’t get us wrong, we’re not opposed to romantic affections, (not ‘Taliban’ as MHS would put it) but sexualisation and pursuit of such methods for the same call upon a lot of questioning.

To conclude, we would implore everyone to introspect and empathize with women visitors to our campus, who deserve to be treated with equal respect and hospitality as we’re accustomed to show. Let’s not shelve this issue after DSMUN, and hope to amend our behaviour – putting an end to such actions for good.

(Contd. from Page 1)

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): What is freedom to you?
Mr Tom Alter (TAL): Freedom to me is to lovingly tease a very close friend of mine without him minding it. It means much more to me than what it is conventionally understood as: the freedom to live life to its fullest. Just last night I asked my taxi driver when he’d last gone to the cinema, “Bees saal ba gye” (It’s been 20 years) he replied. I then asked him when he’d mindlessly sat around a table with a group of friends and chatted meaninglessly for a short while- “Choubis saalo mein socha tak nahi” he replied again. Aaj hame yeh, phursat nahi milti. (I haven’t even thought in 24 years. Today I don’t even have the leisure). In a world getting incessantly fast, leisure becomes a luxury few can afford: luxury to talk the way we are, without the slightest worry. This is the kind of freedom I am talking about.

DSW: Why do you feel that people have forgotten about Mahatma Gandhi’s death?
TAL: I don’t think there is any one reason for that, but rather a combination of notions and opinions. Gandhiji stood for a life full of quality. He was quite a difficult man after all, because he preached not what was easy but what was right. Today, no one remembers that 30th January was the day that he was assassinated. The reason is that so many people in power felt relieved about the fact that Gandhiji was killed in 1948 since they now had the autonomy to do as they pleased. If that feeling was so strong in 1948, imagine what it has grown to become now. I often say, Hindustan was divided in 1947, but Bharat was split in 1948. Hindustan refers to the vast landmass that stretched from Rangoon to Ravalpindi, but Bharat is what we had left for ourselves. The precedent we set by doing that was unfathomable; if Gandhiji can be assassinated then what is a few Sikhs being killed or a few Muslims being killed. It is really important that we discuss and contemplate deeply about what our nation stands for.

DSW: You’ve been an actor, writer and teacher. Which profession gave you the most satisfaction?
TAL: I guess all of them gave me equal satisfaction because I was doing the things I loved. Anything that you have worked very hard for, when reaches success, gives you enormous satisfaction. There is one very famous ghazal: Meine mana ki kuchh nahi Ghalib, muftaatahai to burakyahai. This literally translates to: seldom do things come free of charge, but what occasionally does, ceases to add any value due to the lack of hard work put into it.

DSW: Do you feel that India is losing its diversity?
TAL: Not really the diversity, but the unity that complements it. Sadly, it is off this division that politicians fight campaigns and target constituencies. It is this very division that politicians in every single party and state use to create their electoral banks and win elections. All they really, often focus on in their interactions is to learn about each caste’s needs and then to utilize them and gain public support. So, while diversity is still intact, we need to begin thinking as one unified nation.

DSW: How can Doscos play a part in our country’s reformation?
TAL: The Doon School was founded on the revolutionary ideal for the service of this nation. Doscos played a major role in the independence movement and continued to do so through the infancy of our nation. It is their ideal that you can use for yourselves. It is important that your generation figures out for itself what their country stands for in their hearts. It is only when you have a sense of the end result can you can manoeuvre past the challenges that seek to obstruct you.
Fearless to Negotiate

Ojas Kharabanda and Zoraver Mehta report on the recent Doon School Model United Nations Conference.

With about four hundred delegates, 32 schools and fourteen progressive committees; the 11th Session of The Doon School Model United Nations (DSMUN) Conference surely lived up to expectations as one of the most prestigious of such conferences in the country. The flags waving all around campus, suited members of the Executive Board, and delegates from all over the country set a ‘diplomacy ready’ vibe around School. Be it the heated debates in committee rooms, meeting new people of varied backgrounds (and genders) or the massive involvement of our School’s staff and students, the conference was a gruelling mix of work and occasional leisurely moments - bringing all our efforts to fruition.

As the rain and various duties increased for those involved, the ante continued to increase up until Thursday night, with final touches being laid across campus. With background guides uploaded, dramatic crises videos shot (one video had 3423 takes) and extravagant suits pulled out from high-end garment bags, the delegates arrived early last Friday. The conference commenced with a short plenary session in the MPH, during which gavels were presented to the Chairpersons. Delegates were then ushered to their committee rooms for their sessions, where they quickly lapsed into debate upon key issues facing our country and world. From the Militarisation of Outer Space to the Legalization of Homosexuality, agendas across the spectrum of political discourse were deliberated with incisiveness and commendable quality. The first day, however, was marked by the arrival of the Chief Guest: the Vice President of the Indian National Congress, Rahul Gandhi. While security arrangements at gates led to long lines, delegates quickly filled the MPH to hear one of the country’s most prominent politicians. Before them, however, the Executive Board had the privilege of attending a tea session with Mr. Gandhi, where he patiently answered questions regarding national matters. The opening ceremony commenced with a short performance by the School Popular Band, playing a medley of two songs followed by Mr. Gandhi’s much awaited speech. This was followed by a question-and-answer session, where the Chief Guest answered tough questions regarding the Goods and Services Tax, the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty and Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Doscos and other delegates alike.

As the conference progressed over the course of the weekend, various structural changes at this year’s conference were put into place. A new marking scheme was implemented for all delegates, along with meals being held at the CDH. Additionally, the newly introduced daily feedback sessions revealed a positive progression in the standard of debate and seriousness of delegates, with many veteran MUN-ners claiming this year’s quality to be unparalleled. On the hospitality front, delegates were pleased with the quality of services and accommodations during the conference as well as the anticipated delegate dance, that capped our social experiences during the MUN.

Furthermore, the committees saw a lot of activity during the conference, with various near-impossible acts being accomplished during our simulation of the United Nations. The Special Convention on Religion and Terrorism witnessed the formation of a U.N. backed sovereign territory for the ISIS - accomplished successfully by our very own Dosco delegates. The Framework Convention on Climate Change witnessed an action nonpareil in MUN parlance: the ratification of our very own Doon Climate Agreement - with over a score of independent articles and being several thousand words long - all in the span of three days. The 16th Lok Sabha lived up to its reputation for entertaining discourse, and discussed two hotly debated topics in contemporary India: Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code and Demonetisation, both of which were declared

(Contd. on next page)
illegal by the House (all while responding to the PM's assassination). Along similar lines, the All India Political Parties’ Meet, 2002 saw an uncanny partnership between the RSS and Asauddin Owaisi to solve the Godhra Riots - winning the award for the Best Committee. Furthermore, a new committee - the United States National Security Council - was established under the graceful leadership of a Dosco enacting U.S. President Donald J. Trump, while delegates formed parts of his Cabinet to solve continuous crises. However, the most anticipated and unique event of DSMUN, the General Assembly was in all sense a true success this year. The crisis - regarding nuclear weapons - left everyone overwhelmed in an attempt to pass a joint directive combating the issue. After four hours of intense negotiations, back-channel deals and exhaustion of all diplomatic efforts; the committee managed to agree upon a directive by a margin of one vote, thereby breaking a four-year trend of unsolved crises at the DSMUN General Assembly. The more controversial kinds of diplomacy notwithstanding, Model U.N. gives teenagers who have problems ranging from acne to Inter-House, a real platform to deliberate on some of the most important problems faced by our world today, often representing a perspective in complete conflict with their own. Like the Headmaster said in the closing ceremony, conferences like these teach us how to disagree with others without being disagreeable. Overall, the apt planning and passionate participation of this year's delegates and students involved has truly set high standards for the forthcoming years ahead. The Executive Board and Secretariat deserve much credit for their collective efforts over a period of six months, leading to a virtually flawless conference. DSMUN has surely lived up to its reputation, for which Mr Mohit Sinha and our seniors must be thanked. It now remains our task next year to raise the stakes, standards and quality of the conference to levels higher than ever before.

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Do you think the concept of theatre is being eclipsed by that of the film industry?

Professor Ravi Kant (RKT): Ever since the cinema eclipsed Parsi theatre in the 30s and 40s, that has been the case. While theatre’s realm has become smaller, you still have professional theatre groups in cities like Delhi and Mumbai. College and street level theatre groups in India are also there in sufficient numbers. A lot of people from theatre actually go and join the film industry. Therefore, there exists a symbiotic relationship between the two. It's not always about the domination of one over the other. Many renowned actors like Balraj Sahni and Chetan Anand used to do theatre. Today too, we have Manoj Bajpayee and Vishal Bhardwaj, who also did theatre. The route to Bombay Cinema seems to go via Delhi at many instances. I am from Delhi, and have seen that symbiotic relation happening. Cinema is the most dominant form though, also because it pays very well. There are bigger risks, and bigger gains.

DSW: What methods do you propose to promote participation in Hindi activities across schools?

RKT: I was quite impressed by the Hindi section in the Library. The first thing to do to promote Hindi is to read a lot. There are some fabulous works of literature in Hindi, and Urdu. Try your hand at other activities like writing, debating and drama as well, which I believe your school already does. Being a student of Hindi cinema, I know a lot of foreigners who watch Hindi cinema, to learn the language itself. If you look at the older films specially, the language used in the 50s and 60s tend to be of a higher order, which may not be found today. Today, Hindi films have a more cinematic language than a literary one.

DSW: What advice would you give to aspiring dramatists within School?

RKT: I would tell them to master diction. Diction unfortunately has declined in today’s Hindi cinema. You can safely say that Amitabh Bachchan and Naseeruddin Shah are the last two actors with such brilliant diction. You can find flaws in the diction of the current generation. Watching actors in the real world is another advice that I would give. If you look around, even in your houses, you will see lots of characters who have different personality traits. This allows for a better grip over acting. Acting after all, is about getting into the skin of another character. Watch a lot of old films as well.
Are assembly talks slowly growing redundant?

**Point**

Devang Laddha

How many of us remember the topic of the last Assembly Talk yesterday we heard? Even if we do, how many of us remember the content of the speeches, let alone the speakers? This number remains small and points to how Assembly Talks have become obsolete in a Dosco’s life. While the speeches are certainly a boost for the speakers, most fail to impact the School community. However, the podium has much more power than what it is used for and to achieve that, these Talks need to be changed and made more relevant.

First, let us try and understand what kind of opportunities Assembly talks give to School. Assembly talks give us a unique platform where, unlike other platforms, one can only address the School community. While there are platforms such as the Weekly, they also address members outside school. Rather than have any record, one can talk freely about issues existing within School, which rather than being censored can become a part of the discourse in School. However, very rarely do people come and talk about issues in School, choosing instead to talk about other issues which, while important, are not of immediate relevance to us. They fail to utilise the potential of Assembly Talks in effecting change, or at least initiating discussion on issues that are of more direct relevance to us as a community. Moreover, only students can give assembly talks, which reduces accessibility to the forum. Masters should also be able to address the School community and talk about important matters they wish to convey. However, even if one were to argue that the purpose of the platform is to give confidence to students, then there too are improvements be made. If students are wishing to learn how to give a speech and sway people, they must first be comprehensively trained in public speaking. This would enable them to prepare better for speeches, gain more skills and would also make speeches more enjoyable for the audience. This would make for a far better talk, ones that are memorable and are looked forward to.

The simple fact is that Assembly Talks give an opportunity to the community that stretches much beyond than just giving confidence. While that has become its purpose of late, it seems to me that this does injustice to the forum. A platform to speak freely has immense potential for it gives an agency to the entire community, and the podium on the MPH should be doing nothing less.

**Counterpoint**

Adit Chatterjee

In a forum that professes collaboration, a structure that enables a student to address the whole school gathering in order to share their ideas and views on the world is a near perfect example of how we support our ideals. The idea itself does not matter, the fact that we allow such unobstructed expression bears testimony to the claims we make. In the two years that I have been in School, I have witnessed a number of assembly talks, each of which discussed a range of topics that varied from politics to personal development. These talks inspired a number of people to approach the podium, including myself, and it was only after giving an assembly talk that I realised the intrinsic value of the activity. It instilled a new air of confidence in me; I was able to express myself with ease, and I was able to channel this confidence in fora, such as the School Council.

However, why is the concept of the Assembly Talk being scrutinized? Had every speaker been excellent, we would not be having this debate. What we must realise as an open-minded society is that one of the greatest uses of Assembly Talks is to allow many students to overcome their fear of public speaking, not to provide mind-blowing talks worthy of being displayed at TED. We look at this aspect of Assembly as a tool for personal development, and the ideas shared are only a bonus that comes from the more experienced speakers. The Weekly works in a similar way, with no obstruction of opinion, and allows those that aren’t ready to address the school gathering to still be able to share their views.

In essence, the crux of an Assembly Talk is not just about the ideas shared; in fact, it is more of a stepping stone that many students hope to cross at some point in their School life, in order to gain a sense of achievement. Being no small feat, the very act of stepping up to the podium to speak is laudable, and is a major obstacle that one can pass, instilling, as I said before, a new confidence in the speaker that will support our ideals. The idea itself does not matter; the intrinsic value of the activity. It instilled a new air of confidence in me; I was able to express myself with ease, and I was able to channel this confidence in fora, such as the School Council.

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**The First Reason**

Raghav Goyal analyzes the growth in popularity of dangerous online games.

On July 29 this year, a fourteen year old boy committed suicide. A series of investigations revealed that the cause of his tragic death was a result of a series of gross online challenges, infamously known as ‘The Blue Whale Challenge’. Made popular through social media, this challenge preys on those with mental instabilities or teenagers forced into this by peer pressure or simple curiosity. The challenge entails a series of tasks including maiming yourself, waking at absurd hours, and watching inappropriate videos. These tasks aim to weaken the victims’ mind, ensuring that they follow through with the challenge, with the final objective being committing suicide. Originating in Russia, the founder of the game, Philip Budeikin, stated that the original purpose of this game was to filter the weak minded from society. The participants are given 50 days to complete their set of tasks, with the threat of releasing sensitive information about them if they fail to do so. The administrator collects this information at the beginning of the game and further threatens to harm the families of the players if they try to leave the game at any point. Many surviving participants have confessed that their lives were altered in a massive way; the administrators released all their personal information publicly, even causing their family members to lose their jobs. Despite the potential harm from the game, it has been deemed a huge success by the founder, for most of the participants have completed the game. Over 130 people have committed suicide in Russia due to this game, most being teenagers. This has raised the question of what causes people to subject themselves and their families to such torture? One cannot help but ask whether our society has reached such a rut that teenagers must resort to such extreme measures. While there are many teenagers who play the game for experimentation, the vast majority of participants are people facing emotional stress or some form of mental strain. It is a disgrace to our society that people who have so many years ahead of them are giving up on their lives. The fact that they are put under so much pressure, stemming from parents to classmates, highlights the failure in our society. However, even if they are under pressure or are suffering from depression, self-harm is the wrong road to walk. Today’s youngsters live and believe more in the virtual world rather than the real one. Their dependence on technology is gradually rising, leaving them incapacitated to differentiate one world from the other. Often, the careless exposure to the internet and mental stress that a teenager goes through, tends to prove disastrous. The young community prefers living in the virtual world; video calling friends instead of physically meeting up; playing silly games instead of participating in sports. They are under pressure to have friends on social media, despite the fact that social media is known to be one of the main reasons for anxiety. However, there is hope. Many initiatives have been put in place to combat this problem, the most prominent being ‘The Pink Whale Challenge’. This challenge is an initiative by an unnamed publicist and fashion designer in the wake of the Blue Whale Challenge which had caused many of his loved ones to commit suicide or be diagnosed with irreparable mental trauma. He claimed that he wished to eradicate the Blue Whale Challenge by giving the exact opposite tasks such as forgiving people, showing more generosity and giving others and our lives meaning. While there is no academic endorsement that supports the claim that such an initiative could counter the Blue Whale Challenge, it is certainly a step in the right direction. The Pink Whale Challenge handles the issue at its core, psychological level, and has been said to have helped quite a few surviving victims.

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[Humour]

**Stupid Sam**

Varen Talwar

There was a boy whose name was Sam,
He had failed in every exam.
Mathematics, Science and History-
To him they were all a mystery.

English and Hindi were no less,
His mind was in a complete mess.
Whatever it was, he just didn’t know,
He had no brain, and he had no glow.

One day he failed yet once again,
His teacher nearly used a cane;
But she gave him still a final chance
(And even at some answers a glance!)

So, Sam prepared for a few weeks,
At school, at home - where no one peeks.
His teacher thought he would pass this time,
And that he knew all the texts sublime.

But sadly Sam failed this time too,
His papers had just red, no blue.
His teacher later to heaven did sail;
But before that had him put in jail!
Monday dawned, with the weekend’s hangover still upon the 250-odd people who had participated in the successful DSMUN’17. The best part? They woke up at 8:59 AM, rather than 6:00 AM (to the utter dismay of the masters, who have syllabi to finish). But before we move on, a compulsory mischievous note on ‘What Happens at Vegas, Doon’.

Amidst all the heated debate and the destructive crises, the gentlemen amongst us still managed to find time for a cosy moment or two (for lengthy discourses with the opposite sex, nothing else). Chits were passed and the ‘places to be’ were actually occupied. Jokes apart though, this time, many believe that DSMUN managed to strip itself of the so-called ‘social MUN’ tag. For a change, our GA was also engaging, despite the daunting prospect of four and a half hours in the rather suffocating MPH (pat yourself on the back, Crisis Directors). The only gripe? The receipt of staple Golden Night grub for what is labelled as the ‘Grand Dinner’ as the reward (most of us were left to scavenging by the end of it).

After the weekend fiesta, The Inter-House Swimming Competition, with its colourful flags and swimming trunks, did manage to bring some zest back to our rather grey world. We saw the usual contingent of toppled records and heart-stopping finishes (and controversy, especially regarding disqualifications).

The Careers Department (especially our new arrival) has been rather busy with their usual business of popping all sorts of bubbles (regarding admission into certain places), with the influx of late recommendations after amended deadlines (“I love deadlines. I love the whooshing sound they make as they go by”) not helping matters.

Most of the SC-form has realized that we are now in the business end of things (if you haven’t, I hate to burst your bubble). Certain people, however, have not left their beloved Daenerys and Jon just yet, waiting for the Grand Finale (to be leaked). I would advise you to not be swayed by the calm before the storm, because Winter Trials are coming.

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**The Week Gone By**

Salman Mallick

**Crossword**

**International Sports**

Note: All answers related to people in this crossword refer to their surnames.

Across

2. Current leaders of the NBA eastern conference.
6. Swiss tennis player recently won a record-breaking 9th Wimbledon title.
7. NBA player who recently moved to the Boston Celtics in a trade deal, was 2014’s MVP.
8. Scheduled to make her first Grand Slam appearance after serving a 15-month doping ban.
11. Winners of this year’s ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup.

Down

1. Footballer who recently completed a world-record transfer to French club, Paris Saint-Germain.
3. Brazilian forward playing for Liverpool, involved in a controversial transfer saga with FC Barcelona.
4. Currently has the most assists in the EPL.
5. This American recently became the first swimmer to win 3 gold medals at an international level in one night.
9. Highest ranked country in the FIFA World Rankings.
10. The current world no. 1 male tennis player.

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