# **Djokovic the** unloved greatest



### ARVIND SUBRAMANIAN

ossibly the greatest tennis player of all time, the paradox of Novak Djokovic will be that tennis fans will never embrace him as such.

The tennis debate is apparently settled. By winning the 2023 French Open, Novak Djokovic has surpassed Rafael Nadal in the total number of grand slam tennis titles. and has won all four grand slams three times compared to twice for Rafa and Rod Laver, and only once for Roger Federer. More titles, more all-court dominance, and nearly as much longevity as his two great contemporaries, Novak Djokovic has definitively burnished his GOAT (greatest player of all time) credentials. His recent French Open victory and indeed the grand slam titles he will accumulate in the remaining few years of his career may well be the key to cementing that status. Consider why.

Tennis is punctuated by developments, mostly technological and some related to human athleticism, that raise the level of the game. The move away from heavy wooden rackets and the availability of new strings were two such in recent times.

Today the defining change is that rackets have become so light that it allows for spectacularly harder hitting. As a result, there is a new geometry to tennis with the court effectively becoming much larger. Players are standing farther away from the baseline to handle the pace so that the playing surface has expanded considerably length-wise, and also horizontally because more angles have opened up.

This development has seen the resurgence

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of the volley, drop shot and lob — staples in the armoury back when tennis was played mostly on grass — to exploit players standing far back. Tennis has become, paradoxically, more varied and interesting for the spectator. One of the new joys is to watch the many different ways in which Carlos Alcaraz — the most exciting prospect in years - executes the drop shot which is all feel and finesse, and the exact opposite of the violent force that the modern rackets force players to unleash.

This next generation of players has had to respond by becoming stronger in order to hit harder, by moving faster sideways to handle the new pace, and by moving quicker up-anddown to reach the drop shot and retrieve the follow-up lob. For the spectator, a Carlos Alcaraz or Casper Ruud or Holger Rune scampering across the court is to witness a new species of tennis athlete.

All this is a prelude to emphasise the Djokovic achievement. Approaching 37, at a time when tennis is a different game in terms of court size, power and athleticism, Novak has not only made the transition, he has despatched with ease the young, kinetic pretenders (who could almost be his children), and that too on the most physically demanding surface, namely the clay of Roland Garros. Novak is the king of two generations (and levels) of the game.

Yet, fans have not truly warmed to Djokovic. Why? Perhaps they have never forgiven him for being the spoiler at the Rafa-Roger party. Darling of the fans — each for his own compelling reason - Novak dared to vanquish them, puncturing the magic of enthralled fandom.

Novak's own personality and eccentricities

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https://gem.gov.in".

have also contributed. His nationalism, antivaccine creed, occasionally inappropriate remarks, and edginess on court have all undermined his endearability quotient. Some of this is unfair because he is often overtly appreciative of his opponents during a game. Some of it is surprising because he has a compelling story of overcoming adversity. Practising on courts as bombs explode around you (like the gun shots that was background noise for the Williams sisters learning tennis in the cratered courts of Compton, California) and having one's parents make big sacrifices in the war-torn Serbia of the 1990s should be the stuff of Hollywood scripts.

But there is probably a deeper tennis-related reason for the tepid embrace of fans. Novak's tennis lacks flamboyance and distinctiveness. Federer floated and danced on or rather above the court like Nureyev. Rafa's matadorian, hustling muscularity and de facto ambidexterity will remain inimitably suigeneris. Posterity may also be kind to Del Potro's forehand. McEnroe's volleying (and tantrums), and Borg's backhand (and bearing). Yes, Djokovic' return of serve is special as is his physical elasticity but they delight the expert but elude the average fan. Lacking that one big tennis attribute that could be etched in our consciousness, Diokovic is condemned to weak remembrance.

What Novak has done instead is to take the routine to such a level of subtle excellence that we focus on the former without really understanding, let alone recognising, the extraordinary skill involved in that conversion. He plays the game of a run-of-the-mill, even nondescript, tennis player but produces results that belie the pedestrian style. We see the soaring bird but without any dazzling plumage to admire.

The Federer-Nadal 2008 Wimbledon final is remembered as one of the greatest tennis matches ever played. The truth is, for sheer tennis quality, competitiveness and endurance, that accolade should probably go to the Australian Open final of 2012 where Novak prevailed over Nadal in an epic 5-setter that lasted nearly six hours. We don't remember that game because the victor was Novak Djokovic. That Novak is not as appreciated as he deserves to be says less about him than about us not-discerningenough fans. Novak's fault has been to operate in the realm of the ordinary even though he has rendered it extraordinary.

Novak Djokovic could yet win the calendar Grand Slam this year, which would be the first since Rod Laver did so more than half a century ago. Having exited from tennis, Roger Federer is now more likely to be seen with Anne and Anna, marketing Switzerland's mountains with the former and purveying the latter's fashion wares. Rafa's exit is imminent as he, sadly, struggles with a body battered by the very distinctiveness of the game that so thrilled us. It is time for fans to let go of the Rafa-Roger fetish and stop seeing Novak as a spoiler.

Perhaps then we will open our eyes and our affections to the genius, hard though it is to grasp, of Novak Djokovic

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The writer is former Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India

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## **NEET UG 1st in a series** of hurdles for aspirants

SARTHAK CHOUDHURY New Delhi, 14 June

The result of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) was declared on Tuesday evening. This time, 2.08 million students had taken the test – 250,000 more than last year. Cracking NEET, an entrance exam for undergraduate students who wish to pursue medical, dental and AYUSH courses in government and private medical colleges, isn't easy. Add to that the glitches and other preventable issues that mar the process.

Last year, for instance, the exam was delayed from its May schedule. Aspirants alleged that a centre in Rajasthan allowed students to write the exam without taking their biometrics. Elsewhere in Rajasthan, students alleged they were made to write the paper twice on account of a mix-up in the question paper for Hindi and English medium aspirants.

NEET is no cakewalk. But those who have cracked it will tell vou that neither are the years after that.

Nitya Singh (name changed on request), a 28-year old doctor who is practising with an institute in Gurugram, says she spent over ₹1 crore on coaching in Kota and college fees Her salary after an MBBS degree is not even a fraction of that.

'We spend a lot of money on coaching and college fees. It takes years to recover the amount we have invested," she says.

A large part of the expenditure in medical schools is on account of the books, says Prashanth S. immediate past president, Indian Medical Association (IMA). "Different states have different fees for medical colleges. While a few offer scholarships, in some private institutions, the fees can go up to ₹1.5 crore." he adds.

The high fee is a setback for people from humble backgrounds. A daily-wager from Ferozepur, Punjab, says he borrowed ₹82,000 for his son's admission to a college in Amritsar. "The fee for the semester is higher than my family's annual income. God knows how I'll be able to pay the fees for the rest of the course," he says.

For several students, the problem does not end with getting



MEDICAL COLLEGES



brings with it a plethora of challenges. One of the most difficult parts

is preparing for NEET PG while studying MBBS, students say. "Preparations for NEET PG start when you are in your third vear. The internships should be used for revisions. It becomes hectic after a point because we have our clinical postings as well but we

cannot do much about it," says Privanka Chadha, third-year MBBS student, Bharati Vidyapeeth Medical College, Pune. Mental health of the students

remains an issue. Last year, the National Medical Commission (NMC) wrote to principals of over 600 medical colleges in the country asking them to furnish details of post-graduate medical students who have died by suicide during the past five years. This is likely the first serious attempt by the regulator to address the issue of stressful working conditions and mental health issues faced by resident doctors. There is little clarity. though. on how NMC proposes to use the data it collects.

According to a recent Right to Information (RTI) reply from the NMC, 119 students have died by suicide in the past five years. The More on business-standard.com

through the exam. The course, too, RTI reply also revealed that 1,166 students dropped out of medical colleges, among whom 116 were from MBBS and 956 from postgraduation.

"Mental health issues and a rising number of suicides among medical students haven't been adequately addressed," savs Prashanth. "A number of uncertainties also add to the pressure. Current MBBS students face the prospect of appearing for NExT (National Exit Test, proposed by NMC) sometime soon. But the rules around it haven't been framed to date.'

Another problem for students is the process of documentation, which was introduced in 2019 but got delayed because of the pandemic. It requires the students to analyse and note down what they have learnt across sessions on a particular day.

"The process needs to be worked out quickly because it adds to the students' burden. In addition to it, the teacher-student ratio is skewed (1:200). So, the burden on teachers too is high," says a faculty member of Madras Medical Coll ege who doesn't wish to be named.





For more details kindly visit IOB's website (www.iob.in)→click on link TENDERS→ ARC-Cell→Corrigendum to Web-Notice dt 16.05.2023 Place: Chennai General Manager Date : 14.06.2023

## Capital Small Finance Bank

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Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the provisions of Section 124(6) of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act") read with the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 as amended ("the Rules"), the Equity Shares of the Company in respect of which dividend has not been paid or claimed for seven (7) consecutive years or more are required to be transferred by the company in the name of Investor Education and Protection Fund ("IEPF").

n compliance with the said Rules the Company has sent individual notices to all the concerned shareholders whose shares are liable to be transferred to IEPE, the full details of such members are made available on the Bank's website at https://www.capitalbank.co.in/. urther any member whose name is appearing in the above-named list shall send equest letter to Capital Small Finance Bank Limited. Midas Corporate Park. 3rd Floor. 37 G.T. Road, Jalandhar - 144001 Punjab, India alongwith self-attested copy of KYC locuments of the shareholders like PAN, cancelled cheque leaf alongwith latest utility bill as address proof for claiming the dividend on or before October 30, 2023 and avoid the ransfer of your shares to IEPF authority. The members may also contact Mr. Amit Sharma, Company Secretary on +91-181-5051111, 5052222 or at cs@capitalbank.co.in for an uery /information.

n the event, valid claim is not received from any of the shareholders on or before October 30, 2023, the Bank will proceed to transfer the Equity shares alongwith the unclaimed dividend for the Financial Year 2015-16 in favour of IEPF without any further notice in accordance with the Rules. Please also note that no claim shall lie against the Bank in espect of shares/ unclaimed dividend transferred to IEPF pursuant to the said Rules.

Please note that the concerned shareholders can claim the shares from IEPF Authority by naking an application in the prescribed Form IEPF-5 online and sending the physical copy of the same, duly signed (as per the specimen signature recorded with the Company/RTA) along with the requisite documents enumerated in Form IEPF-5, to the Nodal Officer of the Company

Place: Jalandhai Date: June 14, 2023





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## **J.K. Cement Limited**

(CIN: L17229UP1994PLC017199) Registered Office : Kamla Tower, Kanpur-208001, Uttar Pradesh Telephone : +91-512-2371478 Fax : +91-512-2332665 Email : shambhu.singh@jkcement.com Web : www.jkcement.com

## Transfer of unclaimed/unpaid Dividend and Equity Shares of the Company to the Investor **Education and Protection Fund**

Members are hereby informed that unclaimed dividend for the financial year ended 31st March, 2016 and the Equity Shares of the Company in respect of which dividend entitlements have remained unclaimed for seven consecutive years from the financial year ended 31st March. 2016 will be due for transfer to the Investor Education and Protection Fund of the Central Government (IEPF) in the fourth week of September, 2023, pursuant to the provisions of Section 124(6) of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016. The relevant details are available on the Company's website www.jkcement.com under the section " Information about IEPF ". Individual letter in this regard is being sent to the concerned Members at their respective address registered with the Company / the Depository Participants.

Members are advised to lodge their claims in respect of the above by writing to our RTA M/s. NSDL Database Management Limited (NDML) 4th Floor, Trade World A wing, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai- 400 013 by 19th September, 2023. If any valid claim is not received by NDML by 19th September, 2023, the Company shall proceed to transfer such unclaimed dividend and shares to the IEPF in accordance with the aforesaid provisions of law. Once these unclaimed dividend and underlying shares are transferred to IEPF, such shares may be claimed by the concerned members only from IEPF Authority and no claim from the shareholders whose unclaimed dividend and underlying shares stand transferred would be entertained by the Company.

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> For J.K. Cement Limited Place : Kanpur Date : 14.06.2023 Shambhu Singh Vice President (Legal) & Company Secretary ICSI Membership No. FCS 5836



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