

## Third wave threat dampen Christmas

Amid rising number of Corona cases and the Omicron threat looming large, a massive crowd of revellers thronged the Sunset Boulevard of Kolkata on Christmas Eve throwing caution to wind. Photos from the night surfaced online where a giant rush of people were seen at Park Street. The city of joy had not looked this vibrant since the pandemic began with Park Street bathed in colourful lights and giant billboards. A festive air gripped the city as it celebrated Christmas with a spirit that matched that of the pre-pandemic days, even though doctors have advocated caution amidst fears of a third wave. Never had Kolkata looked this vibrant in the past two years with Park Street bathed in an unmatched festive fervour. The giant billboards signalling the coming of a new year sported everything from new cars to cough syrups, as the millennials and Gen Y came out to throng Victoria Memorial, St Paul's Cathedral and Park Street soaking mushy in Yuletide spirit. With the night restrictions withdrawn for celebrations, police were already bracing for a good turnout at the festival on Christmas Eve and Christmas day and deployed extra personnel for managing the crowds. Traffic restrictions were also planned in the area for the revellers. And the people did not disappoint.



By the time New Year set in there was a sharp spike in the Corona cases and the State Government swung into action restricting crowd at Park Street and other popular places where people thronged. The government also imposed certain partial

lockdown like measures keep the rise in check. But signs were ominous as Corona with its new variant Omicron threatened to take the City under siege. -- Sneha Paul

## The Red Velvet

Bow Barracks, home of over 100 Anglo-Indian families celebrated Christmas in its full glory. The red buildings which were recently renovated were adorned with LED lights and a Christmas tree right in the centre of the Barracks. The celebrations began on 21st with a dinner party which had more than 12 different types of dishes and was accompanied with musical performances. The narrow lanes of Bow Barracks were buzzing with people wearing Santa-caps, reindeer headbands, bunny-ears headbands and a mask on their faces. "The Christmas celebration this year is a little different as people are wearing masks, rest everything remains the same" said the Secretary of the Bow Barracks. The Anglo- Indian society located in the heart of Kolkata is known for its authentic Christmas celebration and people from all round the city come down every year to be a part of it. "The age old-traditions and the people of Bow Barracks make the Christmas celebration here even more special", said a resident of the barracks. The Anglo-Indian families come down together every year to organise this community Christmas, which makes it one of the oldest celebrated Christmas in the city. -- Vaishnavi Shukla

## Durga Puja gets UNESCO heritage recognition



Durga Puja had always been at the centre of the global cultural cauldron. Now UNESCO has gone ahead recognised it as the Kohinoor in its social crown and once again thrown open a debate between the Centre and state, both scurrying to make the most of it. With Durga Puja becoming a part of the 'Intangible cultural heritage list' released by the UNESCO, India now has a total of 14 events that represents the country's tradition and culture. Durga puja highlights the best of Bengal's tradition. During the festival, divides of class, religion and ethnicities

collapse as people come together to celebrate the victory of good over evil. As per UNESCO, cultural heritage does not end at the monuments and collection of objects it also includes tradition or living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed to our descendants such as oral tradition, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional craft. Chief minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee

said that the fact that Durga Puja had been listed as an Intangible heritage by UNESCO was the result of her endeavour. She also claimed that it was part of her vision of 'Biswa Bangla' and the result of her envisioning the Durga Puja Carnival. On the other hand the BJP government at the centre was not willing to give up. Union Minister for Culture, Tourism And Development Of North Eastern Region, G Kishan Reddy refuted the claims of Mamata Banerjee on Twitter and informed that it was the result of two years of hard work of the union culture ministry through the Sangeet Natak Akademi. He also credited the external affairs ministry and India's Permanent Delegation to UNESCO for recognition. As per a report published in 2019, the Modi government had nominated Durga Puja in Kolkata for UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) status for 2020. The nomination had been forwarded by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, which operated under the Union Ministry of Culture. Sangeet Natak Akademi had termed Durga Puja as the most important festival of West Bengal. In a tweet, BJP IT Cell Head Amit Malviya also disagreed with everything that Ms Banerjee had said. The debate may continue till the dust settled, but the truth is that while Ms Banerjee over the last decade had left no stones unturned to convert Durga Puja into one of the biggest festivals of India and transform the city into a giant exhibition of installation art that people from around the globe came to admire. -- Riya Saha

## Campus News



Sister Nivedita University and Techno India University came together to celebrate Christmas with a cultural evening featuring the students of both the institutions. The event "Aji Subhodine" began with the customary lamp lighting followed by the opening song by Techno India. The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication and Fine Arts of SNU played their roles to perfection. While melodies like 'Kon Alote' filled the evening air, the carols like "Silent Night" & "Joy to the world" filled people with warmth and bonhomie. Bible reading by - Prof. (Dr.) Subir Kumar Dhar, Director, SIL & DESNU and speeches by our honourable guests including OSD to Hon'ble Chancellor, Pradyut Biswas, CFO Subir Rakshit, Registrar of TINT, Dr. Summauli Pyne made the event more meaningful. The December chill failed to drop the charm as the dance troupes performed to the song of "Biswa Pita Tumi" and "Mongol Deep Jwele". The programme culminated numbers like "Believers", "Hundred Miles" and "Jingle Bells". And it would be amiss not to mention SNU's very own Santa Claus who spread cheer with his presence and handful of toffies that he gave to the audience. -- Sulagna Roy

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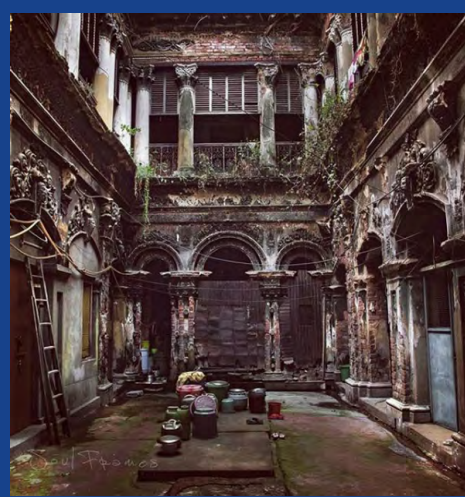
## Screams of Putulbari

A lot of stories revolve around Putulbari of the House of Dolls. Situated smack in the heart of North Kolkata in Sovabazar, the house carried the ignominy of stories alleging of torture by the Babus of Putulbari. And today as the house stands alone, the blue doors could still hide in their belly a history murky and dark and maybe souls that still cry out for justice. It's believed that once upon a time, the affluent Babus, who lived in the house, took undue advantage of their power and influence to do several dark deeds. In the 20th Century 'Putulbari' was used as a warehouse for unloading of goods. The topmost floor of the building was used by



the owners. It is said that the Zamindars abducted young women and abused them for their carnal pleasures. What followed were grisly murders to keep the crimes under wraps. What culminated these evil deeds was an incident when a girl after being molested was starved to death along with the corpses in one of the dark dungeons of rooms. After that the place became haunted. While the stories of Putulbari had flooded social media off late, many in fact deny these stories and claim that it was a means to defame the past owners of the house. So SNU Post took a closer look at the house. On reaching the place the first thing we saw was in order to put a ban on unwelcomed visitors, a board had been put up to warn intending trespassers that the house is

not haunted and that no one should disturb the residents just to confirm those rumours. The structure from outside looked more like a warehouse than a house, the large rooms could



be easily made out even from the exterior. The entrance to this building really looked in shambles and there it was right in front of the face, a large signboard. It was dark inside only lit by a dim incandescent bulb at a distance. The Post found two men sitting on the ground floor and they claimed to be the workers of the warehouse. The first floor was inhabited by families. People living there were hesitant to speak. On speaking to the landlord of the place he agitatedly said: "Some people had unnecessarily spread these rumours on the social media and on the internet about ghosts in this house whereas in reality none of these are true. This building was basically a warehouse from the very beginning and still remained the same. There were people who stayed in this building and they are definitely not ghosts." We didn't experience anything supernatural there, but the interiors, the lighting and the hesitation of the people around that area spoke out a lot about the place. As the Post was gently and firmly asked to leave, some questions were still left unanswered like what was behind the blue doors! -- Trisha Ghosh and Rajroop Basu

# The Korean crave in Kolkata

Korean culture has taken India by storm and Kolkata is no exception.

Be it Korean drama or music, it seems that the cultural influence on the millennials is profound. Just after waking up in the morning in a weekend youngsters love to submerge in the amazing view of Seoul in a K-drama with a beautiful chemistry



between the actors and actresses or kick-start the evening with the nail biting suspense of the Squid Game. The nights are reserved for the Korean Zombies who travel trainloads of them to Busan.

The lockdowns and self-imposed homestay resulted in an insatiable desire for entertainment and Korean entertainment just filled in the spot. Indians got familiar with K-culture. Not only the movies or dramas, K-pop culture attracted the young folks too. BTS, Black Pink and their likes have taken the world by storm. Young folks also love OSTs of the dramas.

The millennials of India are becoming fascinated about the whole Korean culture. They are visiting Korean restaurants here. Even the fashion industry is getting influenced by this. Young boys and girls are buying K-pop merchandise and grooming themselves like some particular K-drama's characters. The rise of the hallyu wave has been extensive, especially in the last few years. According to the OED, the word "hallyu" itself means "the increase in international interest in South Korea and its popular culture, esp. as represented by the global success of South Korean music, film, television, fashion, and food". However, the meaning of this borrowed word has now expanded to refer to South Korean pop culture and entertainment itself. With Korean content or K-content becoming more and more globally accepted and followed, the language itself is also exporting itself

to a more global audience. People are even learning Korean languages these days. Certain group of millennials literally have the urge to go to South Korea to see their idols. Words like Aegyo, Hwaiting, Kimichi, Bulgogi, Chimaek, Hanbok and Manwah are being used with consummate ease by this generation of K-lovers. Words like 'Kamsahamnida', 'saranghae',



annyeonghaseyo' - have become daily vocabularies for K-drama watchers.

We can easily say Korean entertainment industry is dominating OTT platforms with its unique and attractive concepts. The Korean wave is taking over millions of hearts. There are criticisms but the eye-popping fandom just stand as witness to the fact that K-Culture is here to stay. wanted him to, he spent most of his day spraying bullets and throwing bombs at his opponents in the game. He soon dropped out concerned more with the matters of life and death within Free Fire. Four years later, Lokesh, earns about ₹50,000 to ₹90,000 a month. About ₹40,000 of this comes through his YouTube channel, Pahadi Gaming (with over 9,27,000 subscribers), and the rest through sponsors and prize money earnings.

If you do not want to be professional player or a streamer you can be an eSports Entrepreneur like Dr Rushindra Sinha (Founder of Global Esports), Manoj 'VLT Sentinel' Kasyap (founder of Velocity Gaming). The world is just opening up. And sky is the limit.

--Kasturi Banerjee

# Scavenging on human souls

One of the dirty secrets that India still harbours despite all its acts and rules, is manual scavenging that is still rampant in parts of the country and patronised with a sick bravado by a section.

Manual scavenging, which is a by-product of slavery and also a caste based exercise, was banned in 1993, and later in 2013 it was made a punishable offence under The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act. The PEMSAR Act provided imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine of Rs 50,000 for engaging and employing people into cleaning hazardous waste of sewers and septic tanks.

The death of manual scavengers do not even get listed as death due to the manual scavenging. The Central Government had recently said in the Parliament that no deaths were registered in the country due to manual scavenging. However, contradicting their own statement, the authorities had also accepted that 941 workers had died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks in the last three decades and the numbers just keep on increasing. Activist Bezwada Wilson from the Safai Karmachari Andolan, which works to eradicate manual scavenging, said on Twitter 472 deaths had been recorded from 2016 to 2020, with 26 deaths so far this year due to the practice. (He was talking about 2021).

According to a report in News Minute, the government had caste-related data of 43,797 persons identified as involved in manual scavenging, and over 42,500 of them belong to the Scheduled Castes, the Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry said on December 1 last year. Responding to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale said 42,594 (97.25%) of the people involved in manual scavenging belong to the Scheduled Castes, 421 to the Scheduled Tribes, and 431 to Other Backward Classes. While a total of 58,098 people involved in manual scavenging were identified in surveys, caste-related data was only available for 43,797 of

them, he said.

Over 90 per cent of manual scavengers were never listed under the PEMSAR Act. The main reason why more than 600 workers had died while cleaning dangerous waste of sewer and septic tanks in past five years, as more than 20 per cent of these deaths have never been recorded under the PEMSAR Act. A sanitation worker from Delhi, Karamveer, whose family lost two members due to manual scavenging told The Probe in an interview that, "We don't get any facilities that is why my father died, if he got proper protection, he would have been alive." He goes on to say, "How would you feel cleaning someone else's faeces? We have to suffer because we are poor. We feed our children with same hands that we use to clean latrines. Yet everybody treats us like insects."

In the 21st century, at a time when people are talking about going to Mars, then why can't we use machines instead of manual scavenging? No protective gears are enough to send people into the sewer lines and septic tanks for cleaning. It's never late to realise and stop the historic wrong of dehumanizing fellow humans by paying the dues to the families of the dead and replacing the current workers with machines and alternate jobs.

--Aniket Datta



# Heart of the matter



Apart from regular external injuries, internal breakdown of the human machine is coming out with far more regularity for footballers, especially in matters of the heart.

The uncalled termination of Inter Milan Star Christian Eriksen from the club, after he was diagnosed with cardiac ICD device has sent shiver down everyone's spine. The 29 year old Denmark legend held millions of football lovers in shocking silence when he slumped on to the field to the anguish of his teammates and rivals alike and petrified look of his wife.

Matters tending to the heart resurfaced with the Manchester marksman—Sergio Aguero. The 34 year old, now Barcelona star was forced to go off the field with heart issues, after 18 years of footballing dominance, leaving the Blaugrana fans heavy hearted who waited to see Messi's shadow lifted by another Argentinian goal-scorer. The recent breathing issue of Manchester United Swedish defender Victor Lindelöf has kept his career hanging by a thread. The 27-year old English Premier League player is not alone to encounter breathing issue during match hours, another 27-year old Napoli midfielder Piotr Zielinski was taken off too, within 24 hours of Victor's compliant, citing similar problem during game hours.

The human heart is unpredictable, works differently for every flesh. On the other side of the scales are those like the 36 year old Real Madrid Vice Captain Luka Modric who continues to play full 90 minutes of every game, at an age considered to be 'old' in the sporting profession, not to forget the heroics of Zlatan Ibrahimović and Gigi Buffon who continue to flourish at their age. Did I miss out on CR7 or LM10!

We can all train the body to function like a well-oiled machine, its good to listen to the heart once in a while.

--Md Saba Ahmed

# REWIND 2021

**#stayhomestaysafe**, this hashtag came on the trend on 2020 for the first time. But 2021 was quite a remarkable one, as people experienced the 2nd wave of the deadly Covid-19 and were restricted in their homes.

**#FarmersProtest** hashtag trended several times throughout the year after the farmers' turbulence began in 2020 against the three controversial farm laws for agricultural reform.

The test cricket series between India and England got a massive response from fans on Twitter. Which trended under the hashtag **#Ind vs Eng**

**#Tokyo2020**, this year the Tokyo Olympics 2020 took place. India won seven medals in the prestigious competition

The Central Government gave a thrust to the smooth sailing of crypto investors in the country. They proposed a bill to prohibit all private cryptocurrencies. After the development, the values of multiple cryptocurrencies sink people took Twitter to talk about **#Bitcoin**.

I don't think **#PermissiontoDance**

is unknown to anyone. For those who are unaware, Permission to Dance is a new song by BTS, the South Korean boy band

Kolkata's 'Durga Puja' is now a World Heritage site. The decision to include Durga Puja in the list was taken during the 16th session of its annual convention. On 15th December, 2021 UNESCO tweeted, Durga Puja in Kolkata has been inscribed on the **#IntangibleHeritage** list.

# Social Media 2021

**PAWRI HORI HAI!**  
Pawari ho rahi hai: Dananeer Mobeen the Instagram influencer, introduced "pawari ho rahi hai" through a small video to see the song tearing through the roof

A former factory worker in Italy has become the content creator of the year by just showing the easy way out to the funny complicated ways we approach life.

Sahadev Sang became famous for his song bachpan ka pyaar that became the subject of reels of both the famous and the commoner.

Saemy is a Rapper from Khidirpur, Kolkata, who's song papa had gone famous on reels because of its funny lyrics

The ruling Trinamool Congress party's slogan became a hit on the streets and the internet, becoming iconic and a watershed moment in electioneering.

The Bengali song adopted by the communist Party for the West Bengal elections became a runaway hit.

This song by Yohani went viral and became an instant hit for the young and old alike.

The song went viral and courted enough controversy too.

This song by Yohani went viral and became an instant hit for the young and old alike.

Unlimited feminist tone that soulful vocals, women gassing themselves up and the sheer volume of self-love with pictures.

People were seen showing off their dance moves and seemed to be having a lot of fun while dancing to this tune.

Bhubhan Badyakar selling style through interesting jingle when caught on camera and shared on internet went viral.

World

REWIND 2021



Military coup takes over Myanmar. Elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the NLD party detained.



Facebook whistleblower Francis Haugen declassifies thousands of internal documents to the WSJ and US SEC that accentuates Facebook's malpractices.



World leaders meet to talk climate at COP26. Scores of Climate activists stage demonstrations worldwide to highlight leaders' inability to bring meaningful progress



Wikileaks founder Julian Assange to be extradited back to the US. His lawyers cite CIA 'murder' plot and appeal against extradition to UK's top court.



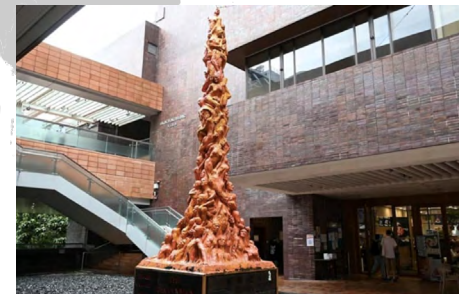
Unexpectedly lethal 2nd wave pushes nations into lockdown. Reveals inability to cope and unpreparedness of major health care systems



Israel spyware Pegasus comes under scanner. Allegedly helped governments in snooping dissenters, journalists, and oppositions among others.



Unhappy with US and EU's effort to induct Ukraine into NATO, Russia amasses 90,000 troops at the Ukrainian border



Tiananmen Square memorial removed from University of Hong Kong



Conflict heightens between Hamas and IDF after Sheikh Jarrah evictions. 256 Palestinians and 13 Israelis die. Israel continues Palestinian evictions.



Taliban takes over Kabul. The US makes a hasty exit, ending the 20 years long 'War on Terror' in Afghanistan.



Tigray crisis takes form of a war as Ethiopia doubles down on curbing separatist uprising by the TDF

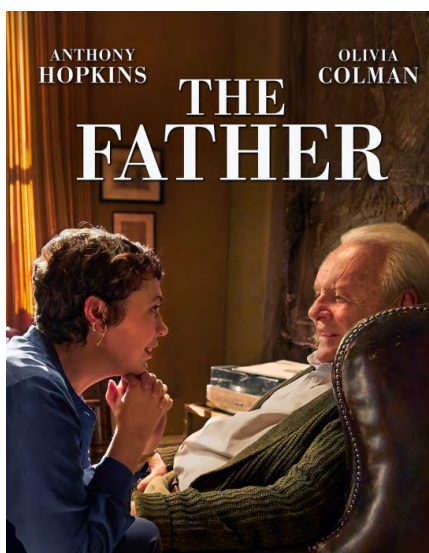
Editorial Team: Department of Journalism & Mass Communication UG 1 and PG 1  
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Quote of the issue

"I became a journalist to come as close as possible to the heart of the world"-- Anonymous

Entertainment

REWIND 2021



Anthony Hopkins received Academy Award for Best Actor for the movie "The Father", becoming the oldest actor to receive an Oscar.



Famous actor, model and Bigg Boss 13 winner Sidharth Shukla passed away on September 2. As did South Indian Superstar Puneeth Rajkumar on October 29



Akshay Kumar starrer Sooryavanshi created history releasing in 1300 screens



Taylor Swift's "Folklore" became the best album of the year at 63rd Annual Grammy Awards.



"Squid Game" a South-Korean survival drama series released on 17 September became the most watched OTT series of 2021.



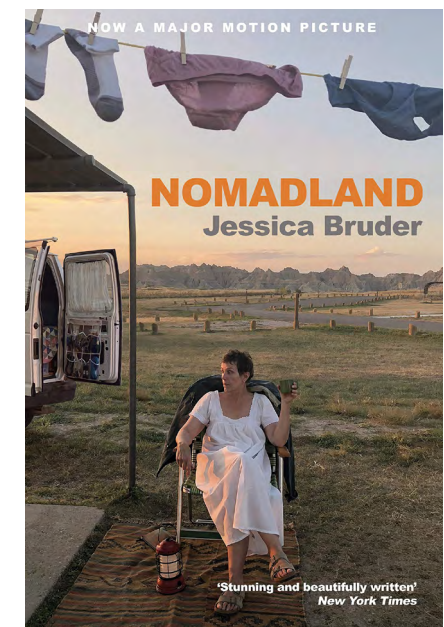
Actress Kangana Ranaut, received Padma Shri on November 13 for her brilliant performances in "Panga" and "Manikarnika".



Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan was accused in connection with Mumbai Drug Case and was arrested on October 3.



The two of the most desirable bachelors of Bollywood ties the knot. Rajkumar Rao married her partner Patralekha on November 15, while Vicky Kaushal swept the dream girl Katrina Kaif off her feet on December 9



Chloe Zhao's "Nomadland" became the best picture at the 93rd Academy Awards.

**India**

**REWIND 2021**



CDS Bipin Rawat dies in a helicopter crash in the hilly terrains of Tamil Nadu.



Harnaaz Sandhu becomes Miss Universe as India wins after 21 years.



Assembly elections in West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.



Tata buys Air India for ₹18000 crores back after 67 years from the Government.



World biggest Cricket Stadium with more than 1 lakh seats gets inaugurated in Gujarat



Many Indian States report Coal shortage.



Farmers protest gets violent on Republic day as they try to capture Red Fort.



Central Cabinet Reshuffle leads to massive change in the government and ministers.



PM Modi announces repelling of 3 farmers bills after a year-long protest.



The Petro Prices in India has seen so many rises that people have lost count of what the prices were at the beginning of 2021. And the trend is set to continue in 2022.



Cyclone Tauktae and Yaas hits the western and eastern side of India.



Power Plant Projects gets damaged due to Glaciers Breakoff floods at Uttarakhand.



2nd wave of covid 19 reaches at its peak results in heavy deaths due to lack of oxygen.



3000 kg of heroine costing ₹21000 crores from Afghanistan seized at the port of Gujarat.

**Sports**

**REWIND 2021**



Italy denied England to win Euro via shoot-out



Despite Taliban takeover, two young Afghan athletes were able to take part in Tokyo Olympics.



Novak Djokovic, who was defeated in the US Open final by Russian Daniil Medvedev on September 12, failed to win the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and US Open in a calendar year.



Ons Jabeur of Tunisia became the first female tennis player from an Arab country to enter the world's top 10 after qualifying for the quarter-finals of the Indian Wells tournament.



Simone Biles, withdrew on July 28 from the individual all-around and later from the vault, uneven bars and floor final after being weakened by a loss of confidence and a loss of spatial awareness.



India cruised to an innings victory in the fourth Test in Ahmedabad and clinched the series against England 3-1 and qualified for the World Test Championship (WTC) final.



Peng Shuai put China in the crosshairs of the sporting community when she accused former vice-premier Zhang Gaoli of having forced her into a sexual relationship



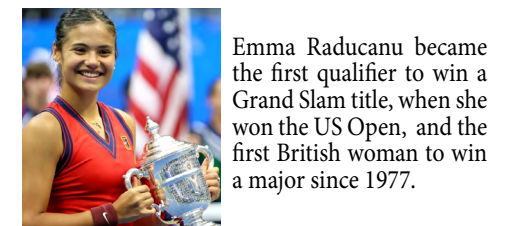
India finished off Tokyo Olympics with a record seven medals (1 Gold, 2 silver and 4 Bronze) bettering London Olympics by one.



Two days after announcing his departure from Barcelona, Lionel Messi signed a two-year contract with Paris Saint-Germain.



Dutchman Max Verstappen became Formula One world champion for the first time on December 12 by winning the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix ahead of his British rival Lewis Hamilton.



Emma Raducanu became the first qualifier to win a Grand Slam title, when she won the US Open, and the first British woman to win a major since 1977.



Belarusian athlete Krystsina Tsimanouskaya was threatened with forcible repatriation to Belarus during Tokyo Olympics.



New Zealand defeated India by eight wickets to be crowned as the winners of the inaugural ICC World Test Championship



New Zealand's Ajaz Patel became the third bowler to take 10 in a test innings, against India equalling Anil Kumble's record against Pakistan.



Australia won the ICC T20 World Cup final match of the T20 World Cup 2021 by defeating New Zealand.