

REGION **2**



**SHOCKING REVELATIONS IN LOKNITI-CSDS SURVEY, WHO ARE THE MIGRANT WORKERS LIVING IN DELHI?**

BANKING & FINANCE **6**



**FESTIVE SPENDING TO DRIVE INDIA'S GROWTH AT 6.5-6.8 PER CENT: DELOITTE**

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**DRAUPADI MURMU PRESENTS AWARDS TO THE WINNERS OF 69TH NATIONAL FILM AWARDS**

## Delhi CM assures social security to Gig Workers

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal met the Gig Workers Association and assured them that the government stands with the common people at every step. "We will create robust laws to provide social security to gig workers, but it may take some time," the Chief Minister said. Kejriwal instructed Minister Atishi to ascertain whether gig workers fall under the Construction Workers Welfare Board.



Kejriwal further said that state governments have a "significant amount of funds under the Construction Workers Welfare Board, which often remains underutilized". The association sought separate legislation," he said.

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## India to become \$7 trillion Economy by 2030 : JP Morgan

**NEW DELHI:** India will grow into the world's third-largest economy by 2027, with its GDP more than doubling to USD 7 trillion by 2030, said JP Morgan's Managing Director of Asia Pacific Equity Research, James Sullivan. "I would argue very strong long-term tactical drivers that make India a key overweight from a structural perspective from JPMorgan," James Sullivan said in an interview with CNBC-TV18. Sullivan expects the manufacturing contribution to India's GDP to rise to nearly 25% from 17% and exports to more than double, to over a trillion dollars. "From a longer-term perspective, we see massive changes in the overall struc-



ture of the Indian economy, which present clear opportunities for sector selection within what we think will be a strong overall market," he said. He pointed to the below-average earnings revision in China, a trend not seen since 2005, suggesting that China may be at an inflexion point in its economic trajectory. Such an inflexion point can often lead to new opportunities and challenges, making

it a topic of keen interest for investors, he said. "In China, we are very focused on specific sectors, if we can focus in line with government policy, if we can focus on deeply beaten down sectors that offer significant valuation support, then we see opportunity. So, it's a slightly different portfolio allocation strategy in each market," he said. There are indications that China is contemplating a boost in its 2023 budget deficit through a new stimulus initiative. This strategy involves the issuance of at least a trillion yuan, equivalent to USD 137 billion, in additional government debt, with the aim of channelling these funds into infrastructure projects.

## India, China main sources for half of Global Growth in 2023 & 2024: IMF



**MUMBAI:** India and China the two neighbouring countries are expected to jointly account for half of the world's growth in 2023 and 2024, with the Asia Pacific remaining the 'most dynamic' region this year, said the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In a report titled Regional Economic Outlook for Asia and Pacific, the IMF said that growth in Asia Pacific is expected to rise from 3.9% in 2022 to 4.6% in 2023. IMF staff estimate that Asia's growth will slow to 4.2% in 2024 and to 3.9% in the medium term - the lowest in the past two decades except for 2020. The IMF revised upwards India's growth estimate to 6.3% in FY24, due to resilient domestic demand and strong investment inflows. Meanwhile, the Chinese economy, it said, is expected to expand 5% in 2023 and 4.2% in 2024, lower than 5.2% and 4.5%, respectively, estimated in April. "In Asia's advanced economies, tight financial conditions will hold back demand, while the outlook for exports will depend on price movements of global commodities (Australia, New Zealand) and the technology cycle (Korea, Singapore, Taiwan Province of China)," it said. Per IMF, in Asia's emerging markets, relatively accommodative financial conditions will aid domestic demand despite monetary policy tightening, although external demand and sluggish investments will pose challenges. China's weaker near-term growth outlook will weigh on

regional growth, it said, adding that the Chinese economy is expected to expand by 5% in 2023 and by 4.2% in 2024. Compared to the April 2023 World Economic Outlook, this is a downward revision of 0.2 and 0.3 percentage points, respectively on account of renewed weakness in the property sector despite more policy support than previously assumed. The report pointed out that the global economic backdrop has remained challenging for economies in the Asia and Pacific region, with central banks tightening monetary policy across the globe. However, a fall in global commodity prices from the 2022 peak supported disinflation. "The boost from China's reopening in the first half of the year was above expectations. Strong private demand yielded positive growth surprises in India," it said. While China's inflation remains low and well-below target, reflecting falling food and fuel prices and still sizable economic slack, headline inflation in India rose in the third quarter due to a weather-related vegetable price shock. According to the IMF, the emerging market economies of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) are expected to see growth of 4.2% in 2023 and 4.6% in 2024—a 0.3 percentage point downward revision relative to April. The downgrade, it said, reflects not only weaker external demand, but also lacklustre domestic demand as a result of monetary policy tightening.

## It's a fight to save Constitution not house: Raghav Chadda on Delhi HC order



**NEW DELHI:** AAP leader Raghav Chadda on October 17 said that it was not a fight to save a house or a shop, but a fight to save the Constitution of India. Chadda's reaction came after the Delhi High Court set aside a trial court order cancelling allotment of his official residence. "I thank the Hon'ble Delhi High Court for setting aside the order of the trial court, which was against me," the MP said. He further added that this was for the first time a Rajya Sabha member had been targeted in this manner. "Till now, I have delivered two speeches in Parliament holding the BJP-led Central Government accountable. After my first speech, my official accommodation was cancelled. After my second speech, my membership as a parliamentarian was suspended."

## Cabinet approves 4% DA hike for Govt employees, 7% MSP hike for 6 Rabi crops

MEENAKSHI BHATTACHARYA  
New Delhi

Cabinet approved 7% MSP hike for 6th Rabi crop and 4% DA hike for central government employees. Good news for government employees in the festive season, the Union Cabinet approved 4 percent increase in dearness allowance under the Seventh Pay Commission! Till now the central government employees were getting 42 percent DA, after the increase of 4 percent, they will get 46 percent dearness allowance. Employees will get increased DA from July 2023, as a result, they will get arrears or dues of the last few months. This will benefit 47 lakh central govt. employees and 68 lakh pensioners. DA for central government employees is calculated on the basis of the latest Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW). The 7 percent increased minimum selling price (MSP) for six major Rabi crops will be applicable for the next marketing season of 2024-25. Union Information Minister Anurag



Singh Thakur further said that the Cabinet has approved 7 percent increase in MSP for lentils, barley and sunflower. The highest increase in MSP has been approved for lentils by Rs 425 per quintal. The government has increased the MSP of wheat by Rs 150 per quintal to Rs 2,275 per quintal for 2024-25. This is the highest increase by the Narendra Modi-led government since it came to power in 2014. The government said in an ex-post that the MSP of wheat has increased from Rs 1,400 in 2014-15 to Rs 2,275 in 2024-25. Anurag Thakur said the CCEA has approved the increase in MSP for all essential Rabi crops for the 2024-25 marketing season. He said, "Based on the recommendation of CACP, we have increased the MSP of 6 Rabi crops. The MSP of wheat has been increased by Rs 150 per quintal." He said the support price of wheat for the 2024-25 marketing season has been increased from Rs 2,125 per quintal to Rs 2,275 per quintal in 2023-24. Wheat is the main rabi (winter) crop, sowing of which begins in October, while harvesting takes place in April. MSP is

Based on the recommendation of CACP, we have increased the MSP of 6 Rabi crops. The MSP of wheat has been increased by Rs 150 per quintal

the minimum rate ensured to protect the interests of farmers and below this rate grains are not purchased by government procurement agencies. The Cabinet approved Rs 20,773.7 crore for setting up transmission lines to draw power for the 13 GW renewable energy project in Ladakh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech announced setting up of 7.5 GW solar park in Ladakh.

## Rahul attacks Adani Group over coal pricing issue

KAVITA SHARMA  
New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has accused the top corporate Adani Group of over-invoicing the coal imports to India and hiking power tariff, he also accused the group of taking 32,000 crores from the pockets of the poor in India. Rahul also blamed the Prime Minister Narendra Modi of protecting Gautam Adani. Addressing mediapersons in New Delhi Congress MP Rahul Gandhi cited a report of a UK



based daily newspaper "Financial Times" and said this man is protected by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Taking note of the rising electricity prices in India, Rahul said "We are providing subsidies in Karnataka and will also do in

Madhya Pradesh, if we come in power but the youth of the country must understand, that "As soon as you switch on the fan or light, the money goes in to the pocket of Gautam Adani. "People are paying more for each unit, this overpricing is heavy on poor man's pocket. Inquiries are happening in other countries but not in India. Adani buys coal in Indonesia and when it reaches India its price is doubled, Rahul added. This is a big theft and we will initiate probe on this if we come to power said Gandhi.

## Twenty rescued after giant wheel stops rotating at Navratri fair in Delhi

**NEW DELHI:** At least 20 people, including four children, were rescued after a giant wheel in Navratri Mela at outer North Delhi stopped working, a fire department official said on Thursday. Sharing the details, the director of Delhi Fire Service (DFS) Atul Garg said that a rescue call was received at 11:10 p.m. on Wednesday from Subash Rameela Maidan in Narela that more than 20 people were trapped in a giant wheel. "Acting on the call, two fire tenders along with the rescue teams were rushed to the site. "A total of 20 people, including four men, 12 women and four children were safely rescued from the jammed wheel swings," said Garg. "No casualty was reported. Particulars could not be traced out," Garg added.

## Navratri puja held at Kashmir's Kupwara after 75 years



**FW DESK Kupwara**  
The Sharda Devi Temple, located near the Line of Control (LoC) in Teetwal village of Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, hosted Navratri Puja for the first time since 1947. The event took place on the first day of Sharad Navratri, attracting a considerable number of pilgrims from across the country. Swami Govindananda Saraswati of Hampi led the celebrations, reaching Teetwal village with his followers on a Rath Yatra from Kishkinda, the birthplace of Lord Hanuman in Karnataka. The Puja also saw the presence of Kashmiri Pandit pilgrims, including A.K. Raina, a theatre

personality known for his role in the movie 'Kashmir Files.' Amit Shah, while celebrating the Navratri Puja at the historic temple, expressed its profound spiritual significance. "It is a matter of profound spiritual significance that for the first time since 1947, the Navratri pujas have been held in the historic Sharda Temple in Kashmir this year," he said. "This not only signifies the return of peace in the valley but also marks the rekindling of our nation's spiritual and cultural flame under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi." The Sharda Devi Temple is an ancient shrine and one of the 18 Maha Shakti Peethas. Situated in the Neelam Valley of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, the temple is dedicated to the Hindu Goddess Maa Sharda, often regarded as an incarnation of Saraswati, the Goddess of knowledge and wisdom. According to legend, the temple's origins can be traced back to the period of exile of the Pandavas. King Lalitaditya Muktapada, who ruled the region during the 8th century, is believed to have undertaken the temple's renovation. The Maa Sharda Devi Temple holds significant religious importance for Hindus, especially within the Kashmiri Pandit community. Devotees from various parts of India visit the temple to seek blessings and offer prayers to the Goddess.

## No room for same sex marriage : Akal Takht

JAGMOHAN SINGH  
Amritsar

Akal Takht the highest Sikh Temporal seat taking serious note of same sex marriage, disqualified the Sikh priests to perform religious services in the Gurdwara (Sikh shrine) Sri Kalgidhar Sahib in Bathinda after the marriage of two girls on September 18 inside the Gurdwara in the presence of their families. Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh said that as per Sikh tenets there was no room for same-sex marriage as it was utter violation of Sikh religious customs. In this regard the five high priests led by Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh taking a serious note of the marriage of two girls which was solemnised at Gurdwara Sri Kalgidhar Sahib in Bathinda on September 18, disqualified the entire managing committee



of the Gurdwara concerned forever. Head Granthi (priest) Hardev Singh, Priest Ajaib Singh, Raagi Sikandar Singh and Tabla vadak Satnam Singh were blacklisted for five years for being part of the controversial wedding which was solemnised in their presence in the Gurdwara. In future, all these people would never be allowed to perform any religious service in any of the Gurdwara or religious event, said Jathedar. Akal Takht deadly against

as per Sikh tenets there was no room for same-sex marriage as it was utter violation of Sikh religious customs" House of Commons, Vedanti described it as 'anti-Gurmat' trend that had no place in Sikhism. The directive, the first of its kind, has been issued under the seal of Akal Takht. The directive reads that the rising trend of same-sex marriages in western countries was a matter of concern. The move of certain countries to give legal accordance to such marriages had already initiated a worldwide debate. He said Sikh code of conduct did not allow such marriages.







## Inflation eases, but is relief temporary?

September brought a sigh of relief for consumers as inflation rates eased to 5%, a significant drop from July's alarming 15-month high of 7.44%. This dip not only brings us back within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 2% to 6% tolerance range but also aligns with the bank's revised estimate of an average 6.4% inflation for the July-September quarter. However, with the RBI's ideal target being 4%, there's still a long way to go. The RBI's projections for the upcoming quarters suggest that the inflation rate will hover around 5.6% and 5.2% for the October-December 2023 and January-June 2024 periods, respectively. However, these figures might be optimistic. Both the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have recently adjusted their inflation estimates for 2023-24 to 5.5% and 5.9%, respectively. This suggests that the recent dip in inflation, influenced by factors like a decrease in vegetable prices and LPG price cuts by the Centre, might be short-lived. While food inflation has shown a decline, dropping to 6.6% in September, this figure is skewed. The decline in vegetable prices masks the rising inflation rates for pulses, fruits, eggs, and sugar. Moreover, cereals and spices continue to see high inflation rates of 11% and 23.1%, respectively. The rural populace, in particular, is feeling the pinch more than their urban counterparts. While wholesale prices have remained in deflationary territory for the past six months, this trend might soon reverse. With global oil and gas prices on the rise and urea prices up by 20% since March, these increases will inevitably trickle down to retail prices. To sum it up, while the recent dip in inflation offers a momentary respite, it's crucial to remain cautious. External factors and global price trends suggest that the battle against high inflation is far from over.

### LETTERBOX

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"I never dreamed about success — I worked for it."

Estee Lauder,  
co-founder of Estee Lauder

## THE FINANCIAL WORLD

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ADITYA SINHA EXPLAINS WHY COUNTRIES SHOULDN'T WEAKEN REGULATIONS FOR COMPETITIVENESS

## Time to confront AI's long-term risks

Risk is a dynamic and ever-evolving concept, susceptible to shifts in societal values, technological advancements, and scientific discoveries. For instance, before the digital age, sharing one's personal details openly was relatively risk-free. Yet, in the age of cyberattacks and data breaches, the same act is fraught with dangers. A vivid cinematic example of evolving perceptions of Artificial Intelligence (AI) risk is the film, *Ex Machina*.

In the story, an AI named Ava, initially viewed as a marvel of synthetic intelligence, reveals her potential to outwit and manipulate her human creators, culminating in unforeseen hazards. Such a tale exemplifies how our understanding of AI risk can drastically change as the technology's capabilities become clearer. This underscores the importance of identifying the short- and long-term risks. The immediate risks might be more tangible, such as ensuring that an AI system does not malfunction in its day-to-day tasks. Long-term risks might grapple with broader existential questions about AI's role in society and its implications for humanity. Addressing both types of risks requires a multifaceted approach, weighing current challenges against potential future ramifications.

### Over the long term

The risks that present themselves over the long term are worth looking at.

Yuval Noah Harari has expressed concerns about the amalgamation of AI and biotechnology, highlighting the potential to fundamentally alter human existence by manipulating human emotions, thoughts, and desires. In a recent statement by the Center for AI Safety, more than 350 AI professionals have voiced their concerns over the potential risks posed by AI technology.

One should be a bit worried about the intermediate and existential risks of more evolved AI systems of the future — for in-



stance, if essential infrastructure such as water and electricity increasingly rely on AI. Any malfunction or manipulation of such AI systems could disrupt these pivotal services, potentially hampering societal functions and public well-being. Similarly, although seemingly improbable, a 'runaway AI' could cause more harm — such as the manipulation of crucial systems such as water distribution or the alteration of chemical balances in water supplies, which may cause catastrophic repercussions even if such probabilities appear distant. AI sceptics fear these potential existential risks, viewing it as more than just a tool — as a possible catalyst for dire outcomes, possibly leading to extinction.

The evolution to human-level AI that is capable of outperforming human cognitive tasks will mark a pivotal shift in these risks. Such AIs might undergo rapid self-improvement, culminating in a super-intelligence that far outpaces human intellect. The potential of this super-intelligence acting on misaligned, corrupted or malicious goals presents dire scenarios. The challenge lies in aligning AI with universally accepted human values. The rapid pace of AI advancement, spurred by market pressures, often eclipses

safety considerations, raising concerns about unchecked AI development.

The world does not have a unified approach. The lack of a unified global approach to AI regulation can be detrimental to the foundational objective of AI governance — to ensure the long-term safety and ethical deployment of AI technologies. The AI Index from Stanford University reveals that legislative bodies in 127 countries passed 37 laws that included the words "artificial intelligence".

One of the most celebrated regulations out of these is the European Union's AI Act. It adopts a 'risk-based' approach, tying the severity of risk to the area of AI deployment. This makes sense when considering AI applications in critical infrastructures, which demand heightened scrutiny. However, tying risk solely to the deployment area is an oversimplified strategy. It might overlook certain risks that are not directly tied to the deployment area. Therefore, while the area-specific approach is valuable, a more holistic view of AI risks is necessary to ensure comprehensive and effective regulation and oversight.

However, there is a conspicuous absence of collaboration and cohesive action at the

international level, and so long-term risks associated with AI cannot be mitigated. If a country such as China does not enact regulations on AI while others do, it would likely gain a competitive edge in terms of AI advancements and deployments. This unregulated progress can lead to the development of AI systems that may be misaligned with global ethical standards, creating a risk of unforeseen and potentially irreversible consequences. This could result in destabilisation and conflict, undermining international peace and security.

Thus, nations engaging in rigorous AI safety protocols may be at a disadvantage, encouraging a race to the bottom where safety and ethical considerations are neglected in favour of rapid development and deployment. This uneven playing field can inadvertently encourage other nations to loosen their regulatory frameworks to maintain competitiveness, thereby further compromising global AI safety.

### The dangers of military AI

Furthermore, the confluence of technology with warfare amplifies long-term risks. Addressing the perils of military AI is crucial. The international community has formed treaties such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to manage such potent technologies, demonstrating that establishing global norms for AI in warfare is a pressing but attainable goal. Treaties such as the Chemical Weapons Convention are further examples of international accord in restricting hazardous technologies. Nations must delineate where AI deployment is unacceptable and enforce clear norms for its role in warfare. In this ever-evolving landscape of AI risks, the world must remember that our choices today will shape the world we inherit tomorrow.

Aditya Sinha is Officer on Special Duty, Research, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. Views are personal.



SONALDE DESAI DELVES INTO GENDER NORMS THAT PUSH WOMEN TO FAMILY DUTIES AS MEN FOCUS ON CAREERS

## Eliminate the gender pay discrepancy in the professional world

When women were missing from the labour force, that was because they were home caring for children; when they were paid less than men, that was because they had lower education than men. Or so said the economic orthodoxy, including theories popularised by the 1992 Nobel Prize winner Gary Becker. A few feminist economists and sociologists protested, but their voices were drowned out until Claudia Goldin stood on the podium as the President of the American Economic Association in 2013-14 and argued that the answer to the solution of missing and underpaid women did not lie at home but rather, in the market.

When Betty Friedan wrote in 1963 about college-educated women who were frustrated stay-at-home mothers, she noted that their problem has "no name." Claudia Goldin, the 2023 Economics Nobel Prize winner, has spent half a century giving a name and voice to their problems. She has chronicled the evolution of the American economy from agriculture to manufacturing to services and noted that as economic production moved from home to factories, women were excluded from market activities. It was not until offices, schools, and hospitals began to offer more jobs than factories that women found jobs. However, even when they entered the workforce in droves, overtook men in educational attainment, did not congregate in "female jobs," and did not drop out from the labour force to have children, women continued to earn less than men.

Professor Goldin argued that this disadvantage is due to their inability to take on jobs that involve all-consuming responsibilities.



Parental responsibilities make it difficult for women to take on jobs requiring long hours and irregular work schedules. The private equity partner who saw the deal through and stayed for late-night dinners and meetings had the chance of getting a fat bonus and promotion. These demands are incompatible with raising children, and one partner of a couple often chooses to go on a slower and safer track, the track dubbed the "mommy track," even at the cost of a high-profile career. While women need not be the ones choosing this slow track, gender ideologies often prompt couples to assign women to take over extra family duties while men remain free to concentrate on their careers.

Professor Goldin blamed this inequality on "greedy work" that demands extraordinary efforts from workers rewarded with high salaries, big bonuses, stock options, and fast promotions. Rising income inequality leads couples to forgo gender equity within the household and concentrate on increas-

ing family income via specialisation. Her solution to this dilemma is restructuring a workplace that does not rely on heroic efforts, has moderate work hours, and predictable schedules.

In some ways, Professor Goldin's work dovetails with that of Juliet Schor, who argued in her book *The Overworked American* that it was far more beneficial to companies to hire two workers who worked long hours than three workers who worked regular hours since it reduced costs such as health insurance, office space, and personal services. I suspect that Indian workers in Bengaluru struggling to keep up with Zoom calls at 9:30 p.m. to confer with their American counterparts arriving in the office at 9 a.m. while helping their children with their Algebra homework will relate to this.

Although women's employment rates in India remain low, secular changes suggest that there is no reason why this must continue. Building on Professor Goldin's

observations, the growth of the service sector should offer jobs for women that are not offered by the manufacturing sector; rising education should increase their employability; and declining fertility should free up women's time. But how can we take advantage of these fortuitous circumstances?

### Reshaping the environment

While increased male participation in household work and childcare would help, we must also find ways of reshaping both the work and social environment so that they are conducive to developing a work-life balance for both men and women. This means having work structures that are respectful of workers' time and do not emphasise very long work hours. This makes both social and economic sense. Stanford economist John Pencavel has shown that longer working hours do not mean more productivity and, in some jobs, lead to increased mistakes and injuries.

But if we need to rein in the greedy workplace, we also need to rein in a variety of institutions that demand more and more of our time. This includes schools that rely on parents to supervise homework and urban developments that place homes far from workplaces. Until we can create these supportive institutions, it will be hard to write the last chapter for the grand convergence in labour market outcomes that Claudia Goldin advocates for so fiercely.

Sonalde Desai is a Professor at the National Council of Applied Economic Research and University of Maryland. Views are personal.

### BOOKS: REVIEW

## New novel finds ways to balance civil dreams and heartfelt bonds

SATISH SINGH

In the vast expanse of contemporary literature, Kailash Manju Bishnoi's debut novel, "UPSC Wala Love Collector Sahiba," emerges as a poignant reflection on the dreams, aspirations, and challenges faced by civil service aspirants in India. Drawing from his personal experiences and insights, Bishnoi crafts a narrative that is as much about the rigorous journey of civil service preparation as it is about the complexities of human emotions.

The story revolves around Girish, a renowned columnist whose writings grace the pages of the country's most prestigious newspapers and magazines, and Angel, a diligent civil service aspirant. Their paths cross when Angel stumbles upon one of Girish's articles, leading to a bond that blossoms into love. As the narrative unfolds, we witness the

contrasting fortunes of the two protagonists: Angel achieves her dream of becoming an IAS officer, while Girish grapples with the weight of unfulfilled aspirations. Yet, their love remains unwavering, even in the face of adversity.

Bishnoi's portrayal of the mental and emotional turmoil experienced by both successful and unsuccessful aspirants is commendable. He delves deep into the psyche of these individuals, highlighting the immense pressure, the shadow of failure, and the resilience required to navigate this challenging path. The novel also sheds light on the often-overlooked stories of aspirants hailing from lower-middle-class backgrounds, villages, and impoverished families, adding layers of depth and authenticity to the narrative.

A unique aspect of the novel is its incorporation of contemporary issues. Bishnoi touches upon the Corona period, corruption, and

**Bishnoi's portrayal of the mental and emotional turmoil experienced by both successful and unsuccessful aspirants is commendable**

bureaucratic red tape. While these elements aim to ground the story in the realities of modern-day India, they occasionally feel out of place and detract from the central narrative. Some dialogues between characters also come across as forced or illogical, suggesting areas for improvement in potential future editions.

However, these minor shortcomings do not overshadow the novel's strengths. Bishnoi's writing is engaging, and his characters are well fleshed out, making it easy for readers to empathize with their struggles and triumphs.



UPSC Wala  
Love Collector  
Sahiba  
By Kailash  
Manju Bishnoi  
Seekostly  
Books;  
185 pages;  
Rs320

The intricate dynamics of Girish and Angel's relationship, marked by love, understanding, and occasional conflicts between the heart and mind, are portrayed with sensitivity and nuance.

Beyond the central love story, Bishnoi's novel serves as a commentary on the broader societal structures and expectations that shape the lives of young Indians. The civil service, often viewed as a prestigious and secure career path, is emblematic of the societal pressures many face, especially when juxtaposed against the backdrop of personal relationships and aspirations. Bishnoi's decision to set his love story amidst this high-pressure environment is a testament to the multifaceted challenges today's youth face, where personal de-

sires often clash with familial and societal expectations.

Furthermore, the novel subtly underscores the transformative power of love and support. In a world where success is often narrowly defined by professional achievements, the relationship between Girish and Angel serves as a poignant reminder that true success might lie in the connections we forge and the love we share. Their journey, filled with highs and lows, becomes a metaphor for the broader human experience, where love, understanding, and mutual respect can become guiding lights in the face of adversity. Bishnoi's "UPSC Wala Love Collector Sahiba" is not just a love story; it's a reflection on modern life, ambition, and the values that truly matter.

To sum it up, "UPSC Wala Love Collector Sahiba" is a heartfelt exploration of love, ambition, and perseverance set against the backdrop of the demanding world of civil service preparation. While it has its flaws, Bishnoi's debut effort is commendable and offers readers a glimpse into a world that is both challenging and rewarding.







