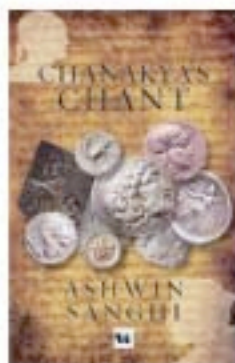


### ■ CHANAKYA'S CHANT

By Ashwin Sanghi  
*Westland, ₹195*

Thriller writer Ashwin Sanghi made his debut with his 2007 novel, *The Rozabal Line*, which he published under the pseudonym of Shawn Haigins. Westland-Tranquebar Press published the revised edition of the book in 2008, and now the publishing house has released Sanghi's next book, *Chanakya's Chant*. Set in the year 340 BCE, it is about the Brahmin Chanakya who was instrumental in installing Chandragupta Maurya on the throne of Pataliputra and then sewing up ancient India's first empire. The story fast forwards by 2,500 years, and Chanakya's avatar, Gangasagar Mishra, a Brahmin teacher in small-town India, enters the scene. And it turns out that modern India, like ancient Bharat, is just as riddled with class hatred, corruption and divisive politics. Can this wily pundit pull off another miracle and unite India? Read to find out.



## COMING UP NEXT

Our critic's pick of books to look out for in the coming weeks

### ■ JAANE BHI DO YAARO

By Jai Arjun Singh

*HarperCollins India; ₹250*

If you are a blogophile, you might know him as Jabberwock. Freelance Delhi journalist Jai Arjun Singh looks at Bollywood of the 1980s,



when an unheralded movie, made on a budget of less than Rs 7 lakh, went from a quiet showing at the box-office to becoming famous as India's definitive black comedy. Among other things, the making of the film involved finding air-conditioned rooms for dead rats and even persuading a respected actor to stop sulking and eat his meals. Singh's take on the making of the film is as entertaining as the film itself.

### Matthew Hayden

*Standing My Ground*



### ■ STANDING MY GROUND

By Matthew Hayden  
*HarperCollins*

*India, ₹599*

Matthew Hayden was one of the most commanding batsmen cricket has ever seen — and one of its great enigmas as well. A devout Catholic, he

was also a ruthless sledger. A brutal enforcer, he is also a soft-hearted family man. The Australian record-holder for highest scores in Tests and ODIs was also forever troubled by self-doubt. In *Standing My Ground*, Hayden confronts these contradictions head-on. He dissects Australia's tactic of verbal warfare and his own role as key aggressor. This isn't a predictable ball-by-ball account of a stellar career. He opens up on umpires, the media, superstitions, teammates and opponents with disarming honesty and humour. This is one book you can't afford to miss.

— Compiled by Saumya Pant