

The right move

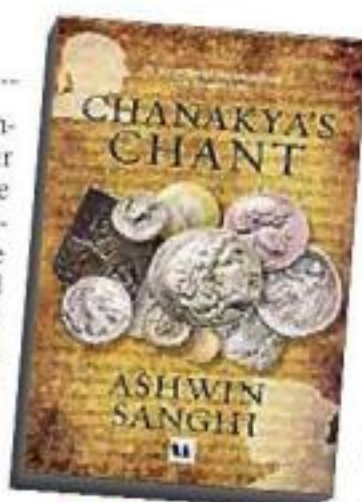
The book brings to context the Guru of politics, Chanakya, with the protagonist to present a gripping political drama

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Politics is a game played enthusiastically by power mongers to have absolute control over the state. The insatiable desire for the power is the root cause for all the wars and the destruction witnessed by the mankind so far. History is replete with volumes of avaricious kings whose covetous desire for wealth and land had resulted in tumultuous wars and bloodshed. This trend has been in vogue for over several thousands of years from now. The same pattern would continue to exist till mankind fails to relinquish his greed for absolute power. The authority and absolute power brings a drastic change in the character of any person. People with great character can alone withstand the allurements of power. Another key factor in the entire process is it that the King maker is equally perspicacious compared to the king. The kingmaker is the real strategist engaged in devising all the plans and moves to topple the putative opposition or the enemy.

In the light of importance of politics and its crucial role, only players with outstanding brilliance can design strategies and right moves at the right time to have the desired effect of the plan on a long term. Chanakya is acclaimed to be the best political pundit whose audacity has glorified Bharat and the reign of his protégé Chandragupta Maurya was reckoned as the golden age of India. The book 'Chanakya Chant' by Ashwin Sanghi is an interesting read that culminated the age old strategy followed by Chanakya and the present day political moves in a befitting manner. The ultimate aim in both the cases was to acquire the political hegemony for their protégé.

The author has tried to draw parallels



Chanakya's Chant
Ashwin Sanghi
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between the erstwhile Guru and the present day Gangasagar, the king-maker and the protagonist of book. There are so many similarities between the two characters and both the stories are narrated in parallel. The story is beautifully woven and the plot is very gripping. But most of the political plots designed by Gangasagar could be easily guessed

as they lacked the novelty and are the usual prototype political conspiracies hatched in movies. In short, the story had a usual hand in glove kind of relationship between a goon, a greedy business man and a cunning political strategist who tries to moves the pawns carefully making eloquent use of both bad men and money to attain his ultimate motive in life.

Extensive research has been done by the author in elucidating the theories put forth by Chanakya. Some of the discussions and the humour filled conversations between Chanakya and his students are exquisitely drafted. The words were carefully chosen in all these conversations and they seem to have different intrinsic and extrinsic meaning. This sort of colloquy is just a delight for a reader.

This book finally draws a conclusion that politics is a mind-game like the game of chess and without sagacious planning the player may not achieve the desired motive. But as always people seem to believe if the ends are good then means doesn't matter. People condemn politics as it involves lot of deceit, manipulation and insidious activities nevertheless peerless power and authority demands ruthlessness as evident in our contemporary world.