

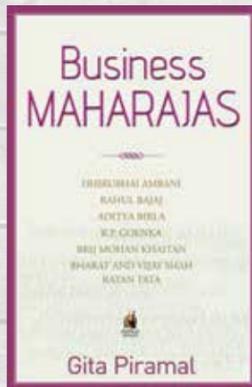
BUSINESS MAHARAJAS

by Gita Piramal

Acclaimed journalist and writer Dr Gita Piramal delivers an interesting read in her first book, **Business Maharajas**, where she writes about eight iconic businessmen of India, who collectively control sales of over ₹550 billion, directly employing around 65,00,000 people. They include the late Dhirubhai Ambani of Reliance Industries, a groundbreaker in the petrochemical business; Rahul Bajaj of Bajaj Auto who has redefined the automobile sector in India; and Vijay Kumar of B Vijaykumar & Co, whose diamond business needs no introduction. Not only is the narrative characterised by simplicity and clarity, but each section of the book also begins interestingly with a defining moment or incident from the life of the businessman. From Bharat Shah's James Bond themed party for his daughter's wedding to Brij Mohan Khaitan's narrow escape from a bomb blast, Piramal writes with ease, undaunted by the wealth and status of her subjects. While heavy in content, she ensures that her book is not a mere representation of facts and

figures; her anecdotal style of writing succeeds in catching the reader's attention. It is evident that the organised structure of the book has been aided by extensive research. Her discerning eye identifies the strengths and weaknesses, as well as the strategies employed by these business moguls to reach unprecedented levels of success. All in all, **Business Maharajas** is a highly recommended book not

only meant to inspire an entrepreneur looking to pay homage to the spirit of enterprise, but also for a reader looking for an insight into the lives of highly successful men.

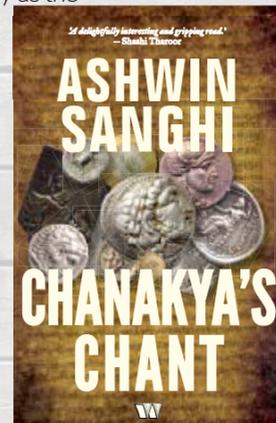


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CHANAKYA'S CHANT

by Ashwin Sanghi

In **Chanakya's Chant**, India's bestselling author Ashwin Sanghi creates a tour de force, which makes for an exciting and compelling read. The plot is divided into two sections. In the first, Sanghi recreates the year 340 BC, wherein a Brahmin, who would later be called Chanakya, vows to seek revenge for the murder of his father. The reader is provided with a slice of history as the author retells the story of the battle between Alexander the Great and Chandragupta Maurya, after which Chanakya proceeds to write the **Arthashastra**, a treatise on kingship, economic and social policy and statecraft and its various facets. Sanghi then skips two and a half millennia forward in the second section, where a Brahmin teacher, Gangasagar Mishra, seems to have been endowed with qualities akin to Chanakya. The question is whether, amidst the squalor of politics, corruption and greed, Gangasagar manages to broker peace using the methods described by Chanakya. This book is a racy read, and Sanghi leaves no stone unturned to ensure that he doesn't lose sight of his reader. Page after page, he controls the narrative like a puppeteer, often surprising the reader, while painting the background with vivid imagery. While this is a recommended read for those who have a penchant for historic fiction, it is also a great potboiler for anyone looking for breakneck pace and a well-woven story.



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