

BOOKED

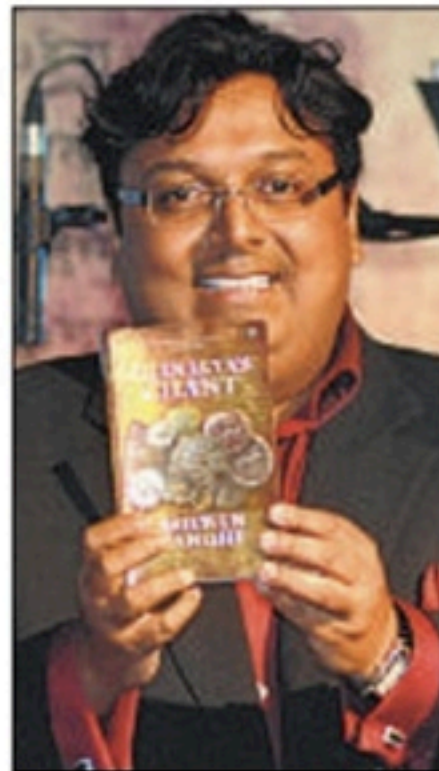
WHAT Book launch
WHERE Lower Parel

The launch of city author Ashwin Sanghi's sophomore book, *Chanakya's Chant*, was held at the live music venue, Blue Frog. With guitars and drum kit onstage, the gathering comprised of culture vultures rather than the nightclub's regular audiophiles.

An audio-visual presentation kickstarted the event, where Sanskrit shlokas took over the soundscape. The star attraction of the launch was Shashi Tharoor, who was seen sporting his signature jacket and kurta. Tharoor displayed his gift of the gab, as he launched the book with his wife, Sunanda.

During his discourse on Indian writing in English, Tharoor confessed to not having read the book entirely, and compared Sanghi's latest attempt to Amish Tripathi's *The Immortals of Meluha*.

Chanakya's Chant takes the ancient story of Chanakya and sets in the present-day India. "Like Amish's writing, this book too offers a fresh, new voice to contemporary India," said Tharoor. "These authors



Ashwin Sanghi



Parvez Damania

write with an Indian sensibility for an Indian audience. The book is a brilliant account, backed by historical details of the practices and prejudices of a bygone era."

Tharoor also made light of the IPL controversy he was



Rajit Kapur

embroiled in. "Chanakya is someone the society cannot ignore at its own peril. In my political career recently, many have compared me to Chanakya and his manipulative ways. I'm sure this book will offer some valuable tips to me," he laughed.

Sanghi, an entrepreneur by day and novelist by night, feels this book is a rereading of a familiar tale. "It's a thriller with all its key ingredients. I just take Chanakya and unveil the machinations of the current political system," adds the author.

PRODIP GUHA



Sunanda Tharoor



Shashi Tharoor