

50th Session (27 June 2018)

By the writer of the bestselling
The Panchajanya

CHANAKYA'S CHANT



Name of the Book: *Chanakya's Chant*

Author: Ashwin Sanghi

Presenter: Sangay Chedup, Bhutan National
Legal Institute

Synopsis of the Book

The Book '*Chanakya's Chant*' is a historical novel written in 2010. The book is a mixture of ancient history and politics depicting the Indian history and politics. The Chanakya was the writer of Arthashastra. Here Chanakya narrates about a sharp parallel story between two individuals. One of these individuals is the very person who brought the scattered Indian subcontinent under the reign of Chandragupta Maurya. Chanakya is one of the wisest political strategists to have ever lived in the history of India. The second protagonist is Gangasagar Mishra, who is a rather insignificant Brahmin teacher who seems to be struggling to make ends meet but is actually a reincarnation of Chanakya himself. The book takes the reader right into 340 BC where Chanakya, a Brahmin youth vows revenge for the gruesome death of his father by the King of Magadh, Dhanananda. Chanakya grows up to become a master strategist who, through his, calculating and cunning tactics seeks his revenge and also, at the same time, manages to thwart Alexander the Great's plan to invade Bharat. But his most stunning victory is yet to come when by using all his crafty means and pitting the weak forces against each other he manages to anoint Chandragupta Maurya to the throne of Magadha and forming the first empire in India, the mighty Mauryan Empire.



Profile of the Author

Ashwin Sanghi was born 25 January 1969. He is an Indian non-fiction writer. He is the author of three best-selling novels: '*The Rozabal Line*', '*Chanakya's Chant*' and '*The Krishna Key*'. All of his books are based on historical, theological and mythological themes. He is one of India's best-selling conspiracy fiction writers

and is an author of the new era of retelling Indian history or mythology in a contemporary context.

Profile of the Presenter



Sangay Chedup works as a Legal Officer at the Bhutan National Legal Institute. He pursued Law from NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. He completed his Masters from the University of Vienna, Austria.

Discourse

The book takes the readers right back to 340 BC where Chanakya, a Brahmin youth vows revenge for the gruesome death of his father by the King of Magadh, Dhanananda. Chanakya grew up to become a master strategist who, through his, calculating and cunning tactics seeks his revenge and also, at the same time, manages to thwart Alexander the Great's plan to invade Bharat. But his most stunning victory is yet to come when by using all his crafty means and pitting the weak forces against each other he manages to anoint Chandragupta Maurya to the throne of Magadh and forming the first empire in India, the mighty Mauryan Empire. In India today, almost two and a half thousand years after, we have Pandit Gangasagar Mishra living in Kanpur, draws inspiration from the master strategist Chanakya, to get his protégée Chandini Gupta appointed to the highest office in India, that of the Prime Minister. As was with Chanakya the same is with Pandit Mishra, there is no rule that can't be broken or mended, no price too high to pay and absolutely nothing that can stop you from reaching the goal. There were four mantras that Chanakya believed in *Saam, daam, dand, bhed*, which meant equality, enticement, punishment and sowing dissension, and so does the modern day Chanakya portrayed by Pandit Mishra. The book excellently flits between the two periods and keeps the reader hooked to read what comes next in the political drama. Will Pandit Mishra succeed in his mission to take Chandni to the top or will he be the king-maker he so desires to be? The book continues to keep the reader engaged and enthused enough to read through to the very end. This book is a well-paced political thriller that will keep the readers riveted. The takeaway lesson from this session is that, let alone India, the world has hardly changed in terms of greed, hatred, corruption, sexual deviance and political divisiveness.

