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Bodylicious A tryst with the past

April 3, 2011 By Vardhini. N. C DC chennai

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It would indeed be fitting to call Ashwin Sanghi's latest literary endeavour can best be described as a historical thriller and a political drama.

Combining two genres of writing is a challenge, not a child's play but Ashwin Sanghi has met it more than adequately done just that with a flourish and panache!

Chanakya's Chant is a page-turner that chronicles the machinations of Chanakya and the protagonist, Gangasagar Mishra. A remarkable follow-on to Sanghi's hugely successful Rozabal Line, Chanakya's Chant essentially delves into the past to find prototypes for the present following the success of his previous book Rozabal Line.

"Chanakya has spawned so many clones amongst the movers and shakers of the present," says the author. "There are traces of Chanakya in the likes of Mayawati, Narasimha Rao, Laloo Prasad Yadav and Indira Gandhi."

Commenting further on the inspiration for the book, he says, "I really didn't need to look very far. I think there is enough material in the newspapers to weave a story."

Ashwin Sanghi says he was at a great advantage while writing a book on ancient times.

"There are huge gaps in history, so I could convincingly fill them up with fiction," he explains, adding, "People always tend to comment on the good old days of the past. But I feel things were just as unstable in the past with multiple kingdoms fighting against one another. I think it is similar to the present day scenario and the battle strategies have not changed."

The author is obviously fascinated by the Machieavelliian protagonist as he jocularly remarks, "I would love to possess the power of Chanakya his intellect and ruthlessness."

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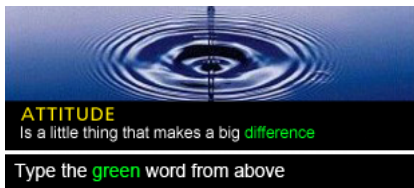
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