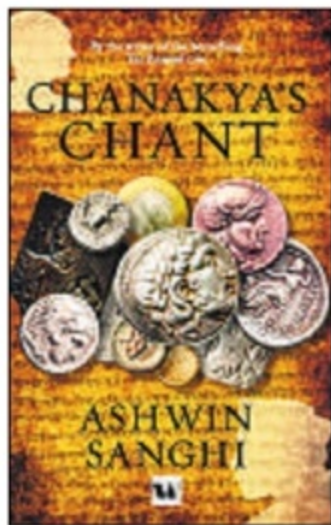


NOW, CHANAKYA'S CHANT ON BIG SCREEN

Rights to adapt Ashwin Sanghi's bestselling book bought by UTV



Ashwin Sanghi



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As one of the biggest book adaptations — Harry Potter And The Deathly Hallows-Part 2 — nears release this weekend, the trend of adapting books to films continues to flourish in India. UTV Motion Pictures recently bought the rights to Ashwin Sanghi's bestseller, *Chanakya's Chant*.

Sanghi, whose book is doused with political overtones, had previously men-

tioned in an interview that if a film like *Raajneeti* (2010) could be made, he was not worried about misinterpretation. Which is why, Sanghi decided to stay out of the screenwriting process.

"UTV asked me if I would like to be involved, but I'd rather not. You see, we authors are very possessive of our work, so I would want to be as true as possible in the adaptation, putting limitations on the screenplay," says Sanghi, who understands that he would not be able to contribute a lot to the film. "Authors have a lot of liberty

in terms of storytelling. But it takes a lot of effort to put down a few extra scenes as opposed to sentences. Film as a medium imposes certain restrictions. That's why you want those producing your book to remain true to it."

With limited information about Chanakya available, the entrepreneur-by-day and writer-by-night spent over six months researching his political strategies. Yet, Sanghi stays clear of terming his book as Chanakya's real story. "Even though it's based on a lot of research and 50 per cent is based on historical facts, I

prefer to call it fiction. I did not write it to give people an understanding of him. This was written with the intention of making a fast-paced page-turner," says Sanghi.

Siddharth Roy Kapoor, UTV CEO announced in a press statement that this adaptation would be UTV's next big political thriller after *Raajneeti*. The studio is currently in search of directors and writers for the film.