

Adaptation Culture in OTT Platforms (2025–2026): Fiction, Crime, and Historical Narratives in the Streaming Era

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Abstract: *In India, the fast growth of Over-the-Top (OTT) platforms has profoundly changed how stories are produced and consumed, especially in the area of literary adaptations. This study looks at how non-fiction and fiction novels are adapted into series for OTT platforms between 2025 and 2026. The research employs a platform-conscious analytical framework that incorporates Adaption Theory, Convergence Culture, Transmedia Storytelling, and Political Economy of Media, going beyond conventional fidelity-based techniques in adaptation studies. The study examines how source texts are transformed into digital series using seven key parameters: Core Theme Retention, Narrative Structure, Character Arc Transformation, Temporal Treatment, Genre Reconfiguration, and Narrative Speed. It focuses on four case studies: The Secret of the Shiledars (JioHotstar), Amar Vishwas(MX Player), Daldal (Prime Video), and Black Warrant (Netflix). The study finds recurrent trends in the adaptation process through comparative textual analysis, such as thematic preservation along with structural reorganisation, character arc expansion, narrative pacing acceleration, and genre hybridisation for streaming viewers. The results show that platform logics, including binge-oriented storytelling, episodic hooks, and audience retention tactics, influence Indian OTT adaptations in addition to aesthetic reinterpretation. Thus, adaptation becomes a negotiated process that sits at the nexus of industrial demands, digital infrastructure, and literary creativity. This study illustrates the changing relationship between literature and digital storytelling in the streaming era and adds to current adaptation scholarship by emphasising India-centric OTT adaptations throughout the 2025–2026 timeframe.*

Keywords: Adaptation Culture; OTT Platforms; Literary Adaptation; Platform Capitalism; Indian Streaming Media; Intellectual Property Economy; Genre Transformation; Digital Media Studies.

I. INTRODUCTION

Over the past ten years, the rapid growth of digital technology has fundamentally altered how information is produced, distributed, and consumed. Over-the-Top (OTT) streaming services have become powerful narrative ecosystems that are disrupting traditional broadcast television and theatre exhibition models. In India, platforms like JioHotstar, MX Player, Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, and Sony LIV have not only increased viewership across linguistic and geographic borders but have also made significant investments in turning popular fiction books into serialised digital formats. In this industrial transition, old literary texts are rewritten to fit modern binge-watching cultures and digitally networked audiences, reflecting a combination of cultural capital, commercial strategy, and technological innovation. OTT platforms offer greater narrative flexibility than traditional media like television, which frequently follows censorship guidelines and episodic rigidity, or film, which is limited by runtime. Deeper character arcs, intricate subplots, and creative genre merging are made possible by long-form narrative. In order to conform to platform-specific audience statistics, market segmentation tactics, and international distribution models, these modifications



frequently reinterpret the original content. As a result, the adaptation process involves balancing literary authenticity, financial feasibility, and algorithm-driven visibility rather than just translating text to screen.

Nevertheless, these changes also raise important queries: How much of the original novels' themes are retained in OTT adaptations? In the digital streaming market, how are genres rearranged? How is narrative structure and pacing influenced by audience analytics, platform algorithms, and binge consumption patterns? Additionally, what impact does the platform's branding identity have on the aesthetic and ideological decisions made in adaptations?

This study explores the dynamic interactions between literary texts, serialised digital storytelling formats, and platform logic in a few fiction novel adaptations that were made available on Indian over-the-top (OTT) platforms between 2024 and 2026. The study attempts to comprehend how OTT platforms are altering the link between literature and screen culture in modern India by placing these adaptations within larger discussions on media convergence, digital capitalism, and narrative transformation.

Aim: to examine the serialised storylines of modern fiction novels on Indian over-the-top (OTT) platforms and comprehend the wider cultural and industrial implications of this adaptation culture.

Objectives:

1. To investigate narrative restructuring in OTT adaptations of fiction novels.
2. To explore genre trends and thematic shifts in selected adaptations.
3. To contribute theoretically to adaptation and platform studies.

II. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This work is important in several academic and professional situations, especially now that streaming services are changing the narrative ecology. Although fidelity-based discussions about how "faithful" a screen text is to its literary source have long influenced adaptation studies, modern media settings require a more comprehensive analytical approach. Between 2024 and 2026, content production on Indian OTT platforms entered a more intense phase, with fiction novel adaptations evolving from isolated creative experiments to major industrial decisions (Divya Rani, 2025). This study offers up-to-date empirical evidence that reflects the changing semantics of digital storytelling in India's streaming era by looking at these latest modifications.

Crucially, the work incorporates adaptation theory with platform studies and media convergence theory, going beyond conventional text-to-screen comparison. In today's digital world, algorithmic recommendation systems, viewer analytics, subscription-based economics, and brand positioning strategies all play a role in shaping narratives in addition to creative vision. Platforms like JioHotstar, MX Player, Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, and Sony LIV all follow different industrial logics and foster certain consumer identities and genre preferences. The study illustrates how digital consumption habits, binge-watching behaviour, and data-driven decision-making processes frequently impact narrative restructuring, pace, character enlargement, and genre blending by placing literary adaptations within this platform logic.

The study's emphasis on India makes it noteworthy. Western case studies, frequently focused on Hollywood or Euro-American streaming activities, have dominated much of the literature on worldwide adaptation. Despite their tremendous growth and international circulation, Indian OTT adaptations—especially those based in regional literatures and multilingual contexts—remain under-theorised. The study adds regionally grounded knowledge to the global adaptation discourse by emphasising Indian platforms and how they understand textual storytelling. It emphasises how adaptation tactics in India's media business are shaped by linguistic diversity, cultural specificity, and sociopolitical settings.

Overall, the study contributes to three connected domains:

Adaptation studies: by moving fidelity discussions toward platform-aware analysis in adaptation studies.



Platform and Media Convergence Studies: by demonstrating how technology and economic infrastructures affect the structure of narratives.

Indian Media Studies: by recording and analysing a quickly growing but understudied area of literary OTT adaptations.

By doing this, the study provides a thorough framework for comprehending how literature is rearranged in algorithm-driven streaming societies and how narrative structures change in the digital age.

III. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How are narrative structures transformed when fiction novels are adapted into OTT series?
- What genre patterns emerge in adaptations across different OTT platforms during 2024–2026?
- In what ways do adaptations negotiate textual fidelity and creative reimagining?

IV. LITERATURE REVIEW

4.1 Literary and Media Adaptation Studies

The field of adaptation studies has changed dramatically in the last thirty years. Early research frequently focused on fidelity critique, which assessed a movie's degree of "faithfulness" to its literary source. But according to scholars like Linda Hutcheon in *A Theory of Adaptation* (2006), adaptations are not derivative copies but rather imaginative reinterpretations. Hutcheon emphasises reinterpretation across chronological, cultural, and industrial settings and views adaptation as both a process and an outcome. In a similar vein, Robert Stam criticises fidelity discourse for favouring literature over film and suggests an intertextual strategy that sees adaptation as multidirectional and dialogic.

More recently, media ecology frameworks have been used to examine adaptation. According to Thomas Leitch, studies of adaptation need to look at institutional and audience characteristics in addition to medium-specific hierarchies.

Gap Analysis: The majority of studies continue to concentrate on the film or Western television industries, even though global scholarship has extended adaptation theory toward intertextuality and economic contexts. Empirical research on Indian OTT adaptations in the wake of the 2023 streaming boom is limited. Moreover, adaptation studies continue to under-theorise the effects of algorithmic commissioning and binge-structured narrative on literary transformation, especially in non-Western contexts.

4.2 Transmedia Storytelling and Convergence Culture

According to the transmedia storytelling framework, which Henry Jenkins popularised in *Convergence Culture* (2006), stories now take place on a variety of platforms, with each medium adding something distinct to the tale world. Transmedia encompasses more than just adaptation; novels, web series, social media interaction, and fan communities all work together to create narrative universes.

Jenkins places a strong emphasis on participatory culture, in which viewers actively distribute, remix, and interpret stories. In the OTT era, the lines between the source text and the screen version are blurred by literary adaptations that frequently extend beyond the streaming text into fan fiction, memes, digital marketing efforts, and interviews. In line with convergence logic, streaming services promote binge-watching cultures that deepen immersion and continuity of story (Mittell, 2015).

While Hollywood franchises and international media conglomerates are the subject of much transmedia scholarship, little is known about how Indian OTT platforms use transmedia techniques to adapt literary texts. Furthermore, rather than looking at mid-range literary adaptations, previous research frequently looks at large-scale franchises. The ways in which Indian literature adaptations foster fan interaction, digital debate, and participatory growth in regional and multilingual ecosystems have not received enough attention.



4.3 Platform Studies and Political Economy

Platform studies look at how cultural output is influenced by digital infrastructures. According to scholars like Nick Srnicek (2013) and José van Dijck (2017), digital platforms function inside data-driven capitalism, where algorithms shape production choices and select exposure. Global distribution tactics, data analytics, and subscription-based revenue structures are how OTT services operate.

According to this approach, narrative content is both a creative creation and a product that is tailored for engagement metrics. In order to maintain subscription retention, serialised adaptations frequently include cliffhangers, binge logic, and season renewability. To lower financial risk and take advantage of existing fan communities, commissioning decisions may give preference to novels with proven audience bases (Lobato, 2019)

Few studies directly connect platform political economy with literary adaptation research, despite the fact that it has been hypothesised extensively. An analysis that focuses on India and examines how regional OTT platforms balance traditional storytelling customs with international streaming standards is lacking. Furthermore, there is still a dearth of empirical studies on the indirect influence of algorithmic recommendation systems on adaptation aesthetics.

The study suggests that OTT literary adaptations should be viewed as platform-conditioned reinterpretations by combining aesthetic, cultural, and industrial viewpoints. Adaptation is now a multi-layered negotiation influenced by audience analytics, binge consumption, algorithmic visibility, and brand identification rather than a simple comparison between text and screen.

V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

5.1 Research Design

This study adopts a qualitative, comparative research design to examine literary adaptations on Indian OTT platforms between 2024 and 2026. The research is interpretive in nature, combining textual analysis to understand how literary narratives are transformed within digital streaming ecosystems.

The study operates at two levels:

Textual Level – Comparative analysis between source novels and OTT adaptations.

Narrative-Structural Level – Examination of serial format, pacing, character expansion, and genre reconfiguration.

5.2 Analytical Framework

The analysis integrates:

Adaptation Analysis Parameters

Parameter	What to Examine in the Novel (Source Text)	What to Examine in the OTT Adaptation	Analytical Purpose
Core Theme Retention	Central philosophical, social, or emotional themes	Whether themes are preserved, diluted, intensified, or reframed	To assess thematic continuity vs. reinterpretation
Narrative Structure	Linear / Non-linear / Multiple timelines	Episodic segmentation, season arcs, cliffhangers	To examine restructuring for serial consumption
Character Arc Transformation	Internal monologues, psychological depth	Visual performance, dialogue-driven exposition	To study how interiority is externalised
Temporal Treatment	Flashbacks, slow development	Fast cuts, montage, binge-oriented flow	To assess time restructuring for OTT



			logic
Genre Reconfiguration	Pure genre classification (romance, crime, etc.)	Hybridisation (thriller-romance, crime-drama)	To study genre intensification for market appeal
Narrative Speed	Reading-dependent pacing	Editing rhythm, episode duration	To measure binge optimisation

Six narrative and aesthetic factors make up the structured adaptation analysis matrix used in this study. Every chosen adaptation is compared to its original work in a number of areas, including narrative speed, genre reconfiguration, character arc transformation, narrative structure, core theme retention, and temporal treatment. The systematic identification of narrative restructuring in the streaming setting is made possible by this parameter-based comparative framework.

5.3 Data Analysis

Case Study 1: The Secret of the Shiledars (JioHotstar)

(Adapted from the Marathi novel *Pratipashchandra* by Dr Prakash Koyade)

Source Text Overview

The book uses archival intrigue and Maratha history to place its scenario inside a historical-mystery framework. Its key themes include cultural identity maintenance, secret legacies, and civilizational memory. The work has a fairly linear structure, with regulated pacing, extensive historical details, and progressive discoveries. Instead of action-driven suspense, the story mostly focuses on dialogic explication, coded hints, and intellectual inquiry.

Adaptation Overview

Aditya Sarpotdar is the director of the Indian historical mystery-adventure thriller series *The Secret of the Shiledars*, which debuted as a whole season with all episodes accessible at once on Disney+ Hotstar on January 31, 2025.

Rajeev Khandelwal is the main character in the series, with important roles played by Sai Tamhankar, Gaurav Amlani, Ashish Vidyarthi, and Dilip Prabhavalkar. Under the Dashami Creations label, Nitin Vaidya produces it.

The adaptation's plot revolves around an undercover organization of soldiers known as Shiledars, elite defenders entrusted with guarding hidden treasures connected to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's heritage. The narrative, which combines fictional treasure-hunt themes reminiscent of franchise adventure stories with actual historical elements, chronicles the protagonist's quest to discover and protect these secrets amid peril, treachery, and conspiracies.

Analysis Table

Parameter	Source Text (Novel)	OTT Adaptation (Series)	Analytical Observation
Core Theme Retention	Focus on historical legacy and cultural preservation	Retains the civilizational memory theme but dramatises it through high-stakes conspiracy	Thematic continuity is preserved, but emotional intensity is amplified for visual impact
Narrative Structure	Linear progression with investigative unfolding	Episodic segmentation with cliffhangers at episode endings	Structure is reorganized to sustain suspense and encourage binge consumption
Character Arc Transformation	Intellectual, research-driven protagonists with internal	Protagonist become action-oriented, emotionally	Interior monologue is externalized through



	reflections	expressive figures	performance, dialogue, and conflict
Temporal Treatment	Chronologically stable with reflective historical references	Use of flashbacks and rapid cross-cutting between timelines	Temporal fragmentation enhances thriller aesthetics and narrative urgency
Genre Reconfiguration	Historical mystery with academic tone	Hybrid historical–action–thriller	Genre intensification aligns the narrative with mainstream OTT expectations
Narrative Speed	Gradual revelation and slow narrative build-up	Accelerated pacing with action-driven sequences	Literary gradualism is replaced by tempo-driven storytelling suited for digital platforms

The Secret of the Shiledars adaptation serves as an example of how OTT storytelling can reorganise literary content without completely sacrificing its thematic core. The story is refocused on suspense, speed, and genre hybridisation, but the fundamental focus on historical memory is still present. As a result of platform-conditioned narrative engineering, the novel's linear investigative pace is rearranged into episodic arcs interspersed with cliffhangers. Originally expressed through contemplative text, character psychology is turned into action-focused dramatisation and performance intensity.

All things considered, the change exemplifies a larger trend in streaming-era adaptations: maintaining thematic integrity while rearranging the structure and generic elements to satisfy the preferences of binge-watching societies.



Case Study 2: Amar Vishwas (MX Player)

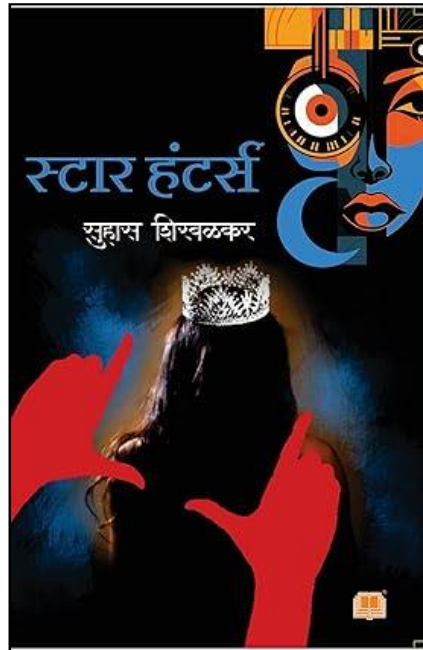
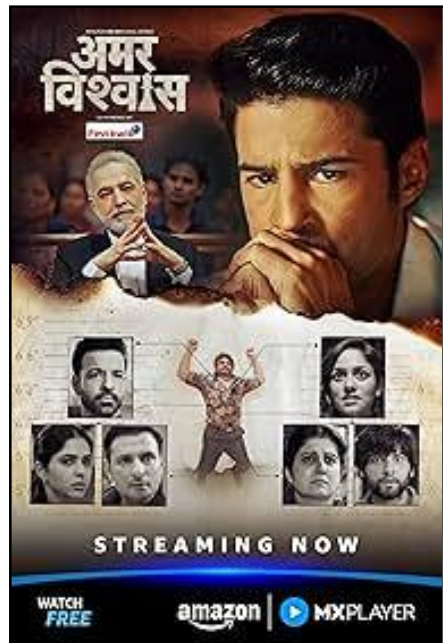
(Adapted from the novel Star Hunters by Suhas Shirvalkar)

Source Text Overview

Suhas Shirvalkar's book *Star Hunters*, which combines psychological intrigue with trial tactics, is based on crime-mystery and legal thriller tropes. Its main plot centers on a well-known murder case and delves into complex social biases, the impact of the media, and the nuances of justice that go beyond the obvious. Amar Vishwas, the main character, is shown as a bright legal mind who is dedicated to truth and systems integrity. With its slow presentation, careful research, and thematic emphasis on morality, power, and ulterior intentions, the book moves at a steady pace.

Adaptation Overview

Released on February 11, 2026, the *MX Player* version translates the main plot into a serialised judicial drama that combines moral ambiguity, investigative excitement (crime-drama), and courtroom clashes. The series, which takes place over 10 episodes and features Rajeep Khandelwal as the title advocate, emphasises psychological conflict, sophisticated legal strategy, and dramatic suspense. Intense courtroom conflicts and moral quandaries within a modern Indian legal system are highlighted in the adaptation, which strives for a narrative pace that maintains viewer interest over episodic arcs.



Analysis Table

Parameter	Source Text (Novel)	OTT Adaptation (Series)	Analytical Observation
Core Theme Retention	Justice, moral ambiguity, systemic bias in law enforcement	maintains moral conflict and the pursuit of truth while increasing media	The main storyline is still present, but thematic prominence is increased by focusing on external conflict



		influence and public spectacle.	and public opinion.
Narrative Structure	Linear investigative progression	Episodic arcs with gradual revelations and courtroom peaks	Investigations into episodic climaxes appropriate for binge forms are reshaped by the serial framework.
Character Arc Transformation	Amar as a contemplative, principled lawyer with internal ethical and emotional conflict	Amar is a forceful, emotionally reserved, and instinct-driven legal protagonist	Dialogue and performance externalize internal psychological subtlety, with a focus on visual dramatics.
Temporal Treatment	Chronological uncovering of clues and deliberation	Structured flashbacks, investigative cutaways, and courtroom time jumps	Temporal compression highlights real-time legal strategy and heightens suspense.
Genre Reconfiguration	Legal drama with mystery subtext	Legal thriller-crime blend with elements of suspense and social drama	Genre hybridisation aligns narrative with mainstream OTT expectations
Narrative Speed	Detailed procedural build-up	Faster pacing with intense courtroom sequences and revelations	Story momentum is heightened to suit digital consumption and episode-by-episode engagement

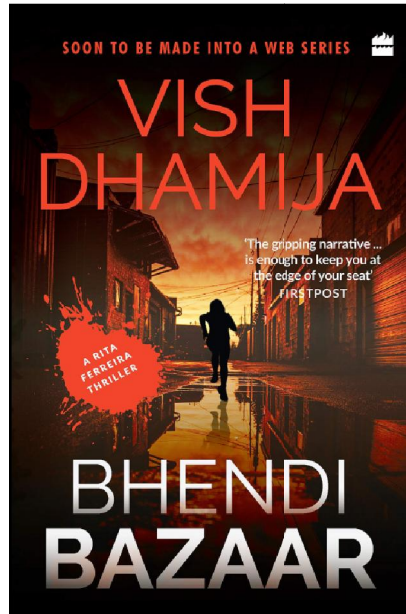
In order to attract internet audiences, the adaptation of Amar Vishwas reconfigures narrative emphasis toward heightened external tension and episodic suspense while maintaining the novel's primary thematic focus on truth and justice (e.g., media scrutiny and courtroom staging). The series reorganises the plot into episodic peaks that often conclude with questions or disclosures, encouraging the binge-watch patterns typical of OTT platforms, while the source literature depends on methodical exposition within a linear investigative framework. Instead of using introspective prose, Amar employs instinct and strategy in public courtroom drama, shifting character portrayal from internal moral thought to more externalised performance.

All things considered, the series shows how a literary legal story can be adapted for episodic streaming viewing without losing the novel's major themes while enhancing the dramatic exposure, tempo, and genre hybridity typical of online platforms such as MX Player.



Case Study 3: Daldal (Prime Video)

(Adapted from the novel Bhendi Bazaar by Vish Dhamija)



Source Text Overview

The brutal crime thriller *Bhendi Bazaar* by Vish Dhamija takes place in Mumbai's maze-like underworld. It tracks intricate criminal networks, institutionalised corruption, and the psychological aspects of justice and crime. Investigative investigation, moral ambiguity, and psychological depth are the main themes of the story, which frequently uses in-depth procedural explanation and thematic examination of trauma, guilt, and social prejudice.

Adaptation Overview

The seven-episode psychological crime thriller series *Daldal*, which debuted globally on January 30, 2026, on Prime Video, starred Bhumi Pednekar as DCP Rita Ferreira, a senior investigator immersed in a vicious serial murderer hunt against the backdrop of Mumbai's criminal scene. By fusing procedural inquiry with unresolved trauma and moral complexity, the series, which was created by Suresh Triveni and directed by Amrit Raj Gupta, maintains the novel's central crime-investigation premise while raising the psychological stakes and creating an atmosphere of dread. In order to highlight psychological depth and human vulnerability, *Daldal* moves the focus from "whodunnit" to "whydunnit," examining the effects of the pursuit on the protagonist as well as the system she functions within.

Adaptation Analysis Table

Parameter	Source Text (Novel)	OTT (Series)	Adaptation	Analytical Observation
Core Theme Retention	Crime, justice, psychological depth, systemic corruption	Crime and psychological investigation are maintained, and the protagonist's moral complexity is increased.		Although the fundamental issues of crime and guilt still exist, emotional and psychological aspects are visually highlighted.



Narrative Structure	Linear investigative methodology	Peaks in the episodic framework occur around character conflicts and disclosures.	Series structuring transforms the book into suspenseful, binge-worthy episode arcs.
Character Arc Transformation	Intellectual, procedural focus on investigation	Rita Ferreira was portrayed as having internal conflict and psychological damage.	Through performance and cinematic approaches, internal psychological struggle is externalised and becomes a fundamental narrative component.
Temporal Treatment	Chronological unravelling of clues	Time leaps and flashbacks heighten the tension and reveal personal history.	Character history and involvement are enhanced by non-linear temporal elements.
Genre Reconfiguration	Crime thriller with procedural emphasis	Horror-themed psychological criminal thriller	The adaptation adds psychological horror aspects for dramatic effect, further intensifying genre hybridity.
Narrative Speed	Gradual build-up with detailed exposition	accelerated tempo with peaks in episodic tension and visual momentum	In order to sustain interest throughout episodes in line with OTT consumption patterns, pacing is increased.

One example of how a literary criminal story is modified to satisfy the needs of digital streaming cultures is the Daldal Prime Video version. Through character development and cinematic techniques, the series enhances psychological depth and moral ambiguity while maintaining the novel's central themes of crime, justice, and societal complexity. Daldal uses episodic organisation and temporal fragmentation to maintain tension throughout a seven-episode arc, which contrasts with the text's linear investigatory growth and reflects platform-driven narrative architecture (e.g., cliffhangers and non-linear backstory). Visually highlighting the protagonist's inner terrain, especially her internal conflict and pain, brings the story closer to psychological crime thriller norms. The adaptation intensifies dramatic engagement by fusing psychological horror with crime procedural aspects, demonstrating a reconfiguration of genre. In order to accommodate binge-oriented viewing experiences on a major streaming platform, the adaptation rearranges narrative speed and structure while maintaining the novel's overall thematic coherence.

Case Study 4: Black Warrant (Netflix)

(Adapted from [Black Warrant: Confessions of a Tihar Jailer](#) by Sunil Gupta and Sunetra Choudhury)

Source Text Overview

Journalist Sunetra Choudhury and former Tihar Jail superintendent Sunil Gupta co-wrote the nonfiction memoir *Black Warrant: Confessions of a Tihar Jailer*. The book describes Gupta's personal experiences running Tihar Jail, one of India's most infamous prisons, in the early 1980s, revealing the systemic corruption, moral quandaries, and complex power dynamics present in the criminal justice system. The book emphasises psychological complexity and institutional critique by vividly describing inmate tensions, bureaucratic pressures, and ethical problems. It does this by fusing true-crime detail with thoughtful reflection on justice and human resilience.





Adaptation Overview

The seven-episode Hindi-language crime thriller *Black Warrant*, which was co-created by Vikramaditya Motwane and Satyanshu Singh and produced by Applause Entertainment, Andolan Films, and Confluence Media, debuted on Netflix on January 10, 2025. It dramatises the lived experiences of Sunil Kumar Gupta (played by Zahan Kapoor) as he accepts a role in Tihar Jail, navigating the harsh realities of prison life, systemic corruption, power struggles among inmates, and moral complexities of reform within an unforgiving environment. It is clearly based on the book. Incorporating prominent prisoners like Charles Sobhraj into the plot and capturing psychological tension, institutional critique, and socio-political undercurrents against the backdrop of 1980s India, the series's narrative combines organised plot arcs with genuine occurrences.

Adaptation Analysis Table

Parameter	Source Text (Book/Memoir)	OTT Adaptation (Netflix Series)	Analytical Observation
Core Theme Retention	Real-life institutional critique, moral complexity within the prison system	amplifies individual struggle and survival politics while maintaining emphasis on corruption, moral quandaries, and systemic injustices.	By emphasising personal moral struggle and using dramatic tension and visuality, the adaptation builds upon institutional critique.
Narrative Structure	Episodic recounting of events; reflective memoir format	Serialised narrative with structured episodic climaxes and thematic arcs	The linear anecdotal structure is reorganised into narrative arcs with rising



			dramatic tension, suitable for serial viewing
Character Arc Transformation	Sunil Gupta as introspective, observant jailer evaluating systemic flaws	Gupta is presented as a torn hero whose principles are continually put to the test by the harsh surroundings.	Inner reflection from the book is externalised through layered performance and situational conflict
Temporal Treatment	Chronological memoir recounting past events	Uses flashbacks and cross-cutting to interweave personal backstory with present prison events	Character psychology is deepened, and the dramatic effect is enhanced by temporal fragmentation.
Genre Reconfiguration	A true-crime narrative that incorporates philosophical reflection	Crime drama with prison thriller aesthetics	Genre intensification adapts the memoir into a gripping narrative that aligns with OTT consumption patterns
Narrative Speed	Deliberate pacing driven by reflective detail	Accelerated pacing with episodic tension and cliffhangers	The series' narrative tempo is tightened to maintain audience interest.

The series adaptation of *Black Warrant* maintains the key themes of Sunil Gupta's memoir—moral ambivalence, institutional corruption, and systemic critique within India's largest prison—while rearranging the story to fit Netflix's serialised storytelling format. To increase suspense and viewer engagement typical of binge-oriented consumption, the adaptation restructures the book's reflective recounting of lived events and institutional analysis into episodic climaxes, escalating interpersonal conflicts and moral quandaries (e.g., structured plot arcs and tighter scene rhythms).

One noteworthy aspect is character transformation: Gupta's reflective voice is externalized through conflicts, theatrical performance, and visual tension in the book. The series also uses non-linear methods for temporal treatment, with interwoven timelines and flashbacks enhancing psychological subtlety and bringing the story's pacing into line with more general thriller standards. As the adaptation transitions from true-crime documentation to atmospheric, character-driven prison drama, striking a balance between institutional critique and dramatic spectacle, genre reconfiguration is clearly visible. All things considered, *Black Warrant* is a perfect example of how real, non-fiction stories may be narratively altered for streaming services while maintaining thematic complexity and captivating viewers with high-stakes, serialised storytelling.

VI. CONCLUSION

This study examined how literary texts are reinterpreted by Indian over-the-top (OTT) platforms between 2025 and 2026 within the technological, institutional, and economic framework of streaming media. The research shows that modern adaptations are more focused on narrative functionality within platform ecosystems than strict textual fidelity by examining a few chosen adaptations, including *The Secret of the Shiledars*, *Amar Vishwas*, *Daldal*, and *Black Warrant*, using six specific parameters: Core Theme Retention, Narrative Structure, Character Arc Transformation, Temporal Treatment, Genre Reconfiguration, and Narrative Speed.



A distinct trend can be seen in all of the case studies: the main ideas are usually kept but modified for more emotional impact and bringing appeal. Serialised, season-based arcs with climax hooks appropriate for OTT retention methods are created by rearranging narrative frameworks. Expansion and externalisation of character arcs turn literary introspection into relational drama and apparent conflict. In order to accommodate streaming consumers, genres are frequently recalculated into hybrid thriller or drama formats, while flashbacks and parallel timelines further fracture temporal frameworks. Cliffhangers and tighter episodes are preferred due to the noticeably quickened narrative tempo. Overall, adaptation in the Indian OTT context operates as a platform-driven convergence process shaped by industrial logic, algorithmic visibility, and subscription economies. Moving beyond fidelity debates, this study argues for a platform-conscious understanding of adaptation and contributes to scholarship by foregrounding India-centric OTT transformations within the global streaming landscape.

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