

# Get thrilled, by hook or by book

James Patterson and Ashwin Sanghi have come together for the first-ever Indo-US thriller



James Patterson



Ashwin Sanghi

Dibyajyoti Chaudhuri

**T**hey might be living in different parts of the world, but the audience they cater to is united in its love for one thing — good books. In sync with this thought, award-winning author James Patterson and our homegrown mythology-fiction writer Ashwin Sanghi have come together for a first-of-its-kind Indian-US thriller.

While Mumbai is expected to be the backdrop of the first novel, Kolkata

might be woven into future plots. Says James, "Collaborations are not new. But this will be exciting. I'll write an elaborate outline, maybe 70 pages — detailed, clear, focused. The co-author will write the first draft, and I'll see the work every few weeks. It will be followed by another two to seven drafts," he says.

James, who has earlier worked with local authors on novels set all over the world, feels that India — with its vibrant and chaotic cities, rich history and heritage — is a perfect backdrop. "Ashwin, with his wide historical knowledge and love for a fast-paced plot, leaves no room for a better writing partner," he says.

Ashwin, on the other hand, feels that mythological fiction in India might be

headed in the same way that chicklit and IT/TM campus stories did. "I see a herd mentality in India and this often results in similar titles being released back-to-back. Till recently, publishers believed that Indian authors were incapable of writing decent thrillers and thought it should be left to names like James Patterson, Robert Ludlum, Frederick Forsyth or Stephen King. Our collaboration will result in India getting its own brand of thriller with fundamentally Indian content and international style," he says.

The author feels Kolkata is the perfect location for a future thriller. "Let's not forget that Satyajit Ray's famous Indian sleuth, Feluda, lived here," adds Ashwin.

Do we sense some plotting there?