Mary Magdalene from Maghada? Were Abraham and Brahama the same entity? These were just some of which religions have

Sanghi sought to answer at an event to mark the launch of a new paperback edition of The Rozabal Line, a Da Vinci Code-style thriller that has had tourists flocking to the Rozabal shrine in Srinagar in recent months.

The lively conversation between Pritish Nandy and the author had the audience

id Jesus travel to India? Was novel itself, travelled from Mesopotamia to Magadha, Jerusalem to Rome, high-

lighting the manner in the questions that novelist Ashwin learnt and borrowed

> from each other down the ages. find it amazing that both Jesus and Buddha fasted for forty days and



Ashwin Sanghi

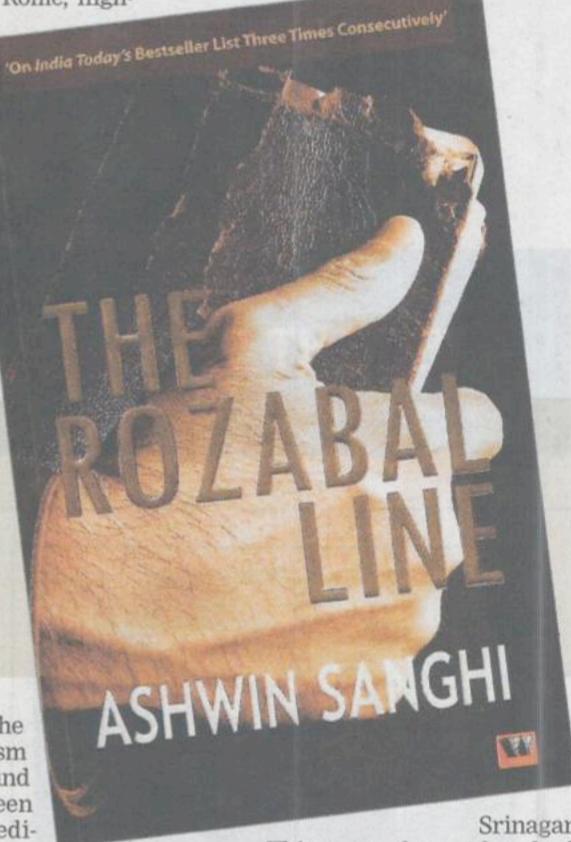
## Delve into this thrilling novel

chuckling in disbelief and amazement as they discussed nuggets from the novel, which has remained a national bestseller for several months consecutively. At the crux of Sanghi's fictional plot lies the possibility that Jesus survived the crucifixion and travelled to India. Sanghi's thriller shocks the reader at almost every page, but the author took pains to assure his audience that his book is a good old varn and that they should read it as a story, not history.

The Rozabal Line is a thriller that is inspired by the author's obvious fascination with linkages between the world's religions. Sanghi's fascination was visible during his talk at Landmark store, where the discussion, like the

nights. I am puzzled by the similarities between baptism and the Kumbh Mela. I find the similarities between Krishna and Christ incredible," says Sanghi excitedly.

The road to publication was a difficult one for Sanghi. "I couldn't find a publisher," he says matter-of-factly. He was forced to self-publish the first edition. Luckily Tata-Westland saw merit in his novel and published the second edition in 2008 and this went on to remain a bestseller for many months. More recently the Lonely Planet guide to India described the novel as the core to the controversial theory that Jesus lies buried at the Rozabal shrine in



Srinagar.

This promptly sent hundreds of tourists flocking to the shrine until the caretakers were left with no alternative but to shut down the tomb to visitors.

Does he believe his own fiction? Sanghi smiles. "I have always loved fiction that sounds like fact and fact that sounds like fiction. The fun in this book is that you rarely know when you are switching from one to the other," he says, determined to leave us equally bewildered.