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PHOTOS: SRIJANI GANGULY & AGENCIES

RAPID FIRE



ASHWIN SANGHI

Author of *Chanakya's Chant* and *The Krishna Key*. The launch of his book *The Sialkot Saga* was announced at JLF. The book will be released in April this year.

NEWCOMERS ARE GETTING A BREAK NOW

■ Where do you get the ideas for your novels?
I get the ideas from my day to day life. It often strikes in the middle of a conversation. I also have a nasty habit of recording all my ideas. So whenever I see or hear something interesting I e-mail it to myself and refer to them whenever I start working on a new novel.

■ Was 'The Sialkot Saga' also a product of this habit? *This was a story that I wanted to do for the longest time. Being from a business family, I thought this was second nature to me. I should be able to do something on the business world. But I kept putting it off. Chanakya's Chant was in the world of politics. The Krishna Key was of mythology. Eventually my publisher, Gautam said, "Listen, for the longest time you've been telling me that you're going to do a book on business. Are you planning to do one or not?" I knew the framework, but didn't know how I was going to tie it into the ancient.*

■ How did you collaborate with author James Patterson? One of my dear friends at Penguin Random House was in London on an assignment. She ended up talking to the person who represented James Patterson at Penguin Random House. The discussion was on why JP wasn't doing any book set in India. You know the way an arranged marriage happens? Two aunties will sit and figure everything out. So these two aunties met and figured everything out.

■ How has the publishing industry changed since you started out?
More newcomers are getting a break now. Second, the publishing industry at earlier times wasn't looking for the next Ashwin Sanghi or Amish Tripathi. They were looking for the next Arundhati Roy or Amitava Ghosh.

'Being a writer is a very lonely job'

By Srijani Ganguly in Jaipur

also added that it was her mother, Tanuja, who inculcated the habit of reading in her. "I don't remember a time when there weren't books in the loo, on the table and stacked up all around the house. Above her bed, there were close to 400 books. At my own home now, I have three rooms that have been turned into libraries."

Although she loves to read and even carries books to film sets, she is not yet ready to become a

writer herself. At a press conference, held after the session, the actor said, "I've never thought about writing. It's only when I've read a good book that I've thought about what I would have written if I were a writer. But as such, no, I don't want to be a writer. Being a writer is a very lonely job. It's a one man's job, on one man's head. You have to live for so long in your imagination, only going out to eat food and then coming back to your own world. I don't think i have the time, patience or frame of mind to become a writer."



Kajol