Delhi's the backdrop of this thriller

Lakshana Palat

Ashwini

Sanghi

and James

Patterson

(inset); The

book cover

(right)

uman remains found in a barrel in an upmarket area of South Delhi, and a serial killer on the loose, right in the middle of Delhi's bustling streets,—this is the crime thriller Private Delhi, a novel by Ashwin Sanghi and American author James Patterson.

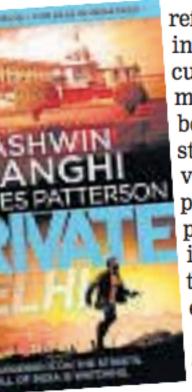
"I've read so many crime thrillers from Scandinavian

Scandinavian
countries. The
thriller is usually set
in deserted and
abandoned places...
we wanted a killer
who has anonymity
and is lost among the
millions," says
Sanghi.

This is Sanghi's

second thriller with Patterson, who has already written several books in the Private series. For those who are familiar with Patterson's works, will see the return of the character Jack Morgan — but in an Indian setting, along with dark and brooding protagonist Santosh Wagh.

"The first novel,
Private India was set in
Mumbai, and had a distinct
Bollywood flavour. The second
book is set in Delhi, as I felt
that Delhi can just lend itself
to crime thrillers," says
Sanghi. Why does he think so?
"Most cities have
degenerated. Delhi is
different...it has such a



refreshing and
in-your-face
culture. It has so
much going on,
besides the
strong cultural
vibe, there's
power play,
political
intrigue, and
the media
element. And
it's these very
aspects which
we've used in

the story. You'll see how there's a power struggle between the Chief Minister and Lt. Governor. There's a medical element as well."

The duo have worked hard to do justice to the city. "We've been cautious. We've included all the positive and negative aspects of Delhi," he says.

■ lakshana.palat@hindustantimes.com