

# allrounders

## 'History with conspiracy sells'

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

**B**usinessman-turned-author Ashwin Sanghi believes everybody loves conspiracy theories. "Whether it's John F Kennedy's assassination by aliens, or Jesus's last years in India, conspiracy packaged in historical relevance sells like hot cakes," he says. The author of the best-selling novel *The Rozabal Line* was in the city as a part of an Apparao Galleries initiative to participate in a discussion on the *Divine Feminine*.

His debut novel *The Rozabal Line*, is a work of fiction woven from historical texts about Jesus. Apart from this broad similarity with *The Da Vinci Code*, his novel explores the commonality that exists between religions. "My extensive research in writing this book has led me to believe that all religions are rooted in a single source. From ancient inscriptions, to all manner of historical evidence, the interlinking is there for anyone who cares to see it," he reveals.

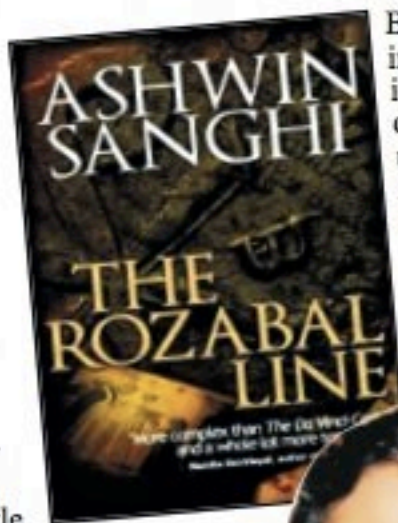
The economics major from Yale is

an entrepreneur by day and a novelist by night. "I started writing novels as a means of escape from reality, into a world of my own. Writing became a sort of therapy, which kept me relaxed in my daily life," he says. "I'm happy and relieved that despite my busy schedule, that gives

me very little time with my wife and our six-year-old son, they are proud of my achievements."

The deeply religious author has been to Chennai several times. "Every few years I make a trip to Tirupati. It's on these trips that

I visit Chennai. As a guy born and brought up in Mumbai, I enjoy South Indian cuisine.



But all this apart, I am interested in the diversity in the writing script and culture. I might one day use this as a plot, building on the historical relevance of South India as possibly the place from where civilization spread across the country," reflected the author.

**'SOUTH INDIA IS THE PLACE FROM WHERE CIVILISATION SPREAD ACROSS THE COUNTRY'**

Ashwin Sanghi and his book (top) *The Rozabal Line*

