

Reality gets animated

[Ruma Malia](#)

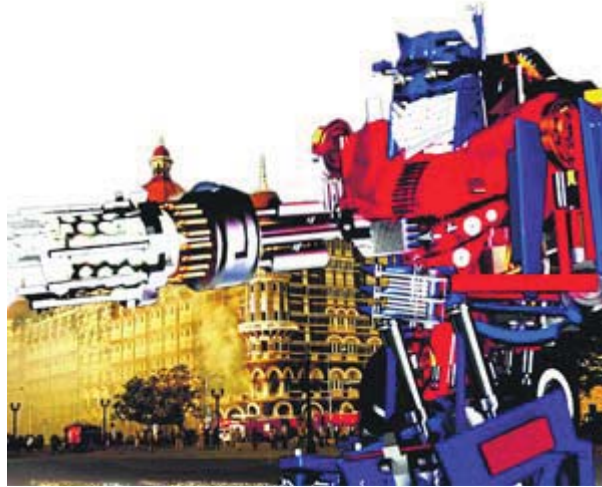
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The Indian animation [feature films](#) industry, which thrives on [mythology and fantasy](#) subjects, is set to explore a contemporary story with the 3-D [film](#) **Crackers**

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Box-office success notwithstanding, the Indian animation industry is taking bigger and bolder steps. If a love story in the form of *Roadside Romeo* was a one-off attempt to move away from main-stream mythology and fantasy heroes, Anil Goyal's 3-D project *Crackers* blends the contemporary issue of terrorism with [fantasy](#) elements. Further, the use of 4-D effects in certain scenes marks the film's technical high-point. A story of four school friends - Rocky, Kate, Molly and Gopu - who find their lives hunky-dory till terrorists attacks their school, it is being produced at his Delhi-based studio RTM Technologies.



With 25 per cent of the film complete, Anurag Pandey, who is heading the project at RTM, is guarded about questions on using the 4-D technology that will be lent by the Chennai-based Prasad EFX. Probe him further and he says, "Crackers is a 3-D film but we will use 4-D technology to add more effect in certain scenes. It is premature to talk about it since these effects will be rendered during post-production." Meanwhile, talking about the film's creative highlights, he says, "The detailing of characters and sets in *Crackers* is of a very high intensity. Not only have we created major digital sets to depict the school where most of the action happens, we have also made it a point to incorporate some key elements of 26/11 attacks in the film. In fact, we have created a virtual replica of the Taj Mahal Palace and Towers to lend it a realistic touch. While we have done a lot of field as well as online research to create assets such as these, we have also incorporated self-visualisation."

However, the realistic sets are not all that the film seeks to achieve in terms of creative news. With the four lead characters turning into human robots to tackle the terrorists, creating mechanised bodies that are super human but not [aliens](#), has been yet another challenge. But ask Pandey about the periods of trials and tribulations and he modestly dismisses it with "There were trouble areas once we moved into production but that's part of our job." As for the commercial success of his team's efforts, he is confident that the film will not meet the same fate as many projects churned out of the animation factory in India and targeted at kids. "Crackers is a film targeted across age groups. While at one end it is entertaining with the protagonists participating in a Michael Jackson summer camp at their school, it goes on to address a serious issue like terrorism and how ordinary people can fight it by using their unique individual talents to bring create an extraordinary force."