

Fighting terror

Mukul Deva's new book offers tips to make our country safe

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The basic qualification to be recruited as a constable in the Indian Police Force has been brought down from 10th standard to 8th. On the contrary, the terrorists are becoming tech savvy; they are educated and are imparted quality training. The very paradox has made India suffer from numerous terror attacks. So what should be done, how can India become safer, what are the immediate challenges that army, police forces and our government face? The answers to all of these are there in the latest book, *Blow Back* by Mukul Deva, whose previous books are also on terrorism. The very practical solutions that he has offered, aren't predictions, "Rather are a result of applied common sense," says Mukul, in the city on Saturday to release his book at the Capitol Book Shop. His earlier books that suggested a unique identity card or a more active intelligence agency are again as he says, "Common sense as to what can make our country safe."

Besides these solutions, Mukul with his this book too has continued to expose the realities that public is unaware of, "Not many people know that all terror attacks on India were in accordance with Operation Topac, that was designed way back in 1988 by the General of Pakistan's army." What follow such revelations are nasty phone calls and mails by those, who don't want their political goals to be cut short, "But all this doesn't bother me. For every one nasty call, I got over 100 mails applauding my courage," says Mukul, who has earlier served in the Sikh Light Infantry regiment of the Indian Army. Any such expose` is the outcome of meticulous research that Mukul undertakes, "Even if my book is a work of fiction, I can't afford to tamper with facts. Anything I write that hasn't been earlier brought under the public notice is backed by enough proof." He prefers weaving all the facts in the form of fiction for he believes, "Who would read text books on terrorism? Gyan has to be the part of the plot to keep people engaged."

In this book, he has also specified that terrorism is because of economic and political reasons and is not a result of religious fanaticism always. Albeit his criticism of the system, he feels what give Indians power is the Right to Freedom of Expression and Speech, "That forms the genesis of all my books. I put the Right into practice everytime I write a book."

Mukul took a year's time to complete *Blow Back* and plans to release his next book, which is last in this series, *Tanzeem* next year. On the cards is a series of seven books on crime that he started working on. Bollywood and London Studios have approached him for copyrights to his books, "Hope people after reading truth will be able to see truth!"

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