

# Military action thriller traces routes of terror

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NEW DELHI

April 2: *Salim Must Die*, the second book in Delhi-based author-cum-entrepreneur Mukul Deva's *Lashkar* series, was released at the India International Centre here on Thursday. A "military action thriller", the novel has been published by HarperCollins. Salim, in the thriller, is an old ISI member and a former Brigadier in the Pakistan Army who plans to unleash global terror strike of "unthinkable proportions".

The event saw the author in conversation with journalist and author of *The Srinagar Conspiracy* (2000), another thriller in the same genre, Vikram Chandra. V.K. Karthika of HarperCollins introduced the author.

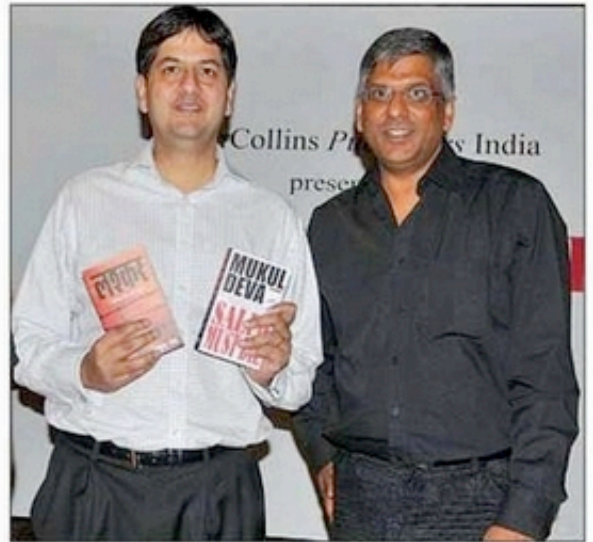
"India has had few writers like Frederick Forsyth and Tom Clancy. It is a difficult genre to pull off. And Mukul is making all efforts to make the genre popular here," she said.

Mr Chandra said that he had been fascinated by the genre. But the thrillers he

read were always based in New York, Washington or London. He wrote *Srinagar Conspiracy* he said, because he wanted such a story to be based in India.

*Salim Must Die*, Mr Chandra added, encompassed the geopolitics and the military. "It is a story of our times. It talks about issues relevant to us," he said.

Talking about his books, Mukul said that he started writing *Lashkar* on the same evening when blasts rocked Sarojini Nagar in 2005.



Journalist-author Vikram Chandra releases author Mukul Deva's new book *Salim Must Die* at the India International Centre in New Delhi on Thursday.

PHOTO: Biplab Banerjee