

# New book revives age of Indian thrillers

**Manisha Gangahar**  
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AN AUDIENCE of not just mediapersons and special invitees, but of readers in a good number at The Browser, Sector 8, for the launch of Mukul Deva's new book underscored the fact that fast-paced thrillers and juicy whodunits by Indian authors have finally found a market.

Not very long ago, it was a literary fiction that dominated the Indian publishing industry.

Deva's 400-odd military action thriller 'Salim Must Die', is a sequel to Lashkar, which has now been released in Hindi as well.

Gen V.P. Malik, while formally releasing the book, complimented the author for putting together a wealth of information, all kinds of it, and kneading it into a plausible plot.

"The book is well written and makes quite an enjoyable read. But I wouldn't advise anyone to read it on a night before a week day, else one will



Gen V.P. Malik (ret'd) releasing a book by Mukul Dev (right) at a function at The Browser book store in Chandigarh on Saturday.

be caught dozing at work," said Gen Malik. The book has been described as uncannily prescient and hard to put down.

The most important aspect of Deva's writing, said Gen Malik, is the authenticity of his characters and the way the author delves into the mind space of various personalities.

Other works of Mukul Deva include 'Time after Time ... It All Happened' and 'M.O.D.E.L.: The Return of the Employee'.

"At heart I am a writer. At the same time, deep down, I am still a fauji because you can take a guy out of the Army but not the Army out of the guy," asserts Deva.

Deva is an alumnus of the La Martiniere College, Lucknow, the National Defence Academy, Pune, and the Indian Military Academy in Dehradun.

He was commissioned in 1981 into the Sikh Light Infantry of the Indian Army and took retirement after 15 years of service, including a decade of active combat duty.

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