

Mukul Deva is out with his second book on terrorism and intends to write two more

Photo: Pradeep Tewari

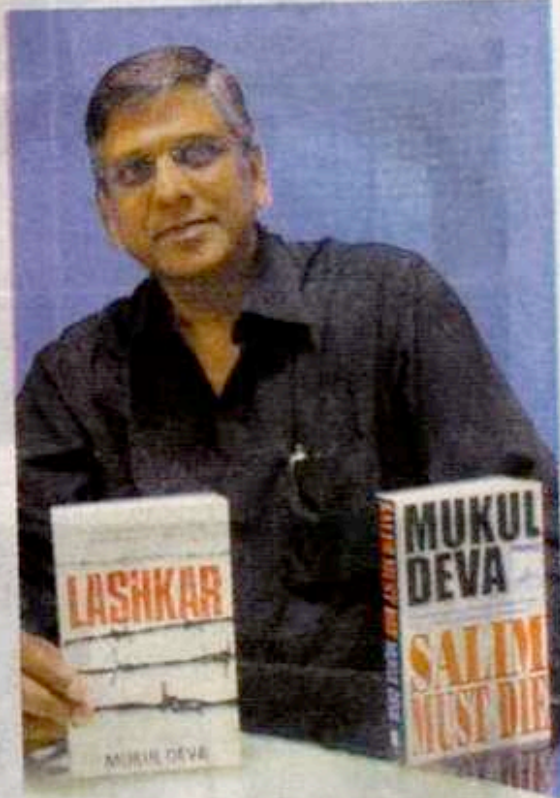
■ Manpriya Khurana

Finally, a book by someone who's been in the midst of it all! When an Army man pens on action, thriller, suspense, battle, adventure...you bet he's smelled the gunpowder himself. That's author Mukul Deva. So when his note reads 'This book is a work of fiction although some of the events mentioned here have actually taken place', it only saturates the credibility factor. That's his book *Salim Must Die*. At Browser's bookstore, on Saturday to promote his latest offering, he gets candid about books, writers and of course the Army.

"This is my sixteenth city," he declares, but no there's not a speck of fatigue. An author and an Army man? "You can take the guy out of the Army but not the writer out of him," he declares while beginning from the beginning *Lashkar*, prequel to *Salim Must Die*, "I came up with *Lashkar* for two reasons, one, during Sarojini Nagar blasts, I felt New Delhi was not doing enough and secondly, layman does not have a clear picture, just like an average Indian doesn't know much about their Army," reasons the alumnus of National Defence Academy and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.

Terrorism is too comprehensive a subject to be dealt with in span of a few hundred pages and out comes a sequel. "*Salim Must Die* deals with the anatomy of a terrorist," he continues. Two hours of research everyday and not surprisingly there's a mention of the infamous sea route in his works already. "It's all logical, otherwise I'm no predictor," he sets the record straight.

With an average Indian happily tucking chic-lit under his arms, he sure is a class's author, no? "I am author," he throws, all the titles, "I have penned self help books, I have written on women and cinema, but I would



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say I'm a profiler of the times," of course apart from the *Striptease* and *Model*. He adds, "Profiler of times—that's what authors need to be increasingly and I am lucky enough to have got the right editors and publishers with Harper Collins and its chief publisher." He did grow the normal route via Hardy Boys, Enid Blyton and PG Woodhouse, James Hadley et al.

Talk of sequel and he has some plans, not one but two, "The third sequel *The Dust Will Never Settle* will be out by January next year and the fourth one called *Tanzim* later on." Watch out!

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