

In conversation with...

MUKUL DEVA

The last book of the *Lashkar* series – *Tanzeem* – authored by Mukul Deva, has hit the bookstands and has been receiving rave reviews



ON TANZEEM: *Tanzeem* is the final book of the *Lashkar* series. It aims at completing the circle and taking us back to where the menace of terrorism began as well as offering a glimpse of the future... All in fiction-thriller format, of course. Despite the fiction format, I am confident that anyone who goes through all four books will end up with a very clear picture of what lies in this murky world of terrorism.

DIFFERENT FROM THE PREVIOUS NOVELS: Although the characters



remain the same in all four books of the *Lashkar* series, you will note that the treatment and approach is quite distinct and different in each of them. Also, each book takes a closer look at different aspects of terrorism and counter-terrorism.

AREAS EXPLORED: The first major change in *Tanzeem* is that a lot of action takes place in Afghanistan and the NWFP areas, unlike *Lashkar* and *Blowback*, which were more India-centric and *Salim Must Die*, which had a global setting. Completely new is the historical perspective on the global jihad and what the future holds for us.

ON INDIAN LITERATURE: Indian writing is seeing interesting times. In fact, I feel blessed that this massive change is taking place in my lifetime. ■

– *Viresh Verma*