

'It talks about the threat of terrorism'

Deepika Bugalia

THE SERIAL bomb blasts that ripped Sarojini Nagar and other areas of Delhi inspired this retired Army officer to pen his this work.

Mukul Deva's military action thriller *Lashkar* incidentally became India's first book on the subject.

"I wanted to reach out to people. But I knew people would get bored with the facts. So I decided to do a part-fiction with each event that happens in the book being true and a story generated around it," Deva tells.

After *Lashkar*'s success its sequel (in a four-part series) *Salim Must Die* is ready for release.

With the aim of "stripping the wrong notions about terrorism", the book takes a global perspective of terror.

"*Salim Must Die* spreads out to 12 countries and delves into the psyche of terrorism at a time when the whole world is wounded by it," Deva tells.

For this, the author needed a solid research with exact facts penned intricately into the warp and weft of the story. "The book talks about the futuristic threat of terrorism,



Author Mukul Deva with his pets.

which is scary, and with a tight-knit story, it would definitely be un-put-downable,"

the confident-looking ex army officer claims.

Over 10 years of service with the Army provided this 48-year-old author opportunity to acquaint him the weaponry and tactics used in the military operations.

"The weaponry introduced after my retirement was meticulously researched and so were each facts that have

been presented in the book," Deva adds.

After having received much appreciation and "no negative comments", Bollywood too is seeing a potential in the book to turn it into a film.

"Film directors have shown interest but I would further my talks only after the launch of *Salim Must Die*," he says with an air of panache.

An alumnus of La Martiniere College, Lucknow and a passout of the National

MUKUL DEVA

Disturbly prescient and unpredictable...
— Sarojini Sarojini, *Deva-Dev*

SALIM MUST DIE

Defense Academy, Pune and the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, writing has always been in the blood.

Deva plans to shift to crime after the end of the *Lashkar* series. "I am going with what my inner voice is telling me to do," he quips.

The author will be in town for a reading and a conversation with Siyahi director Mita Kapoor at the launch of *Salim Must Die* on February 20, at Crosswords.