

CATCHING UP WITH...
MUKUL DEVA



Ex-army man Mukul's latest, *Salim Must Die*, delves into the anatomy of a terrorist's mind.

● With *Salim Must Die*, Mukul Deva takes forward his theme of international terrorism from his previous book, *Lashkar*

WHAT SORT OF RESEARCH GOES INTO A NOVEL LIKE THIS, AND HOW DOES YOUR ARMY BACKGROUND HELP? The research required is VERY intense. Since October 2005, I have been researching almost two hours a day. My army background has ensured a high degree of realism to the action sequences. Also, my first-hand experience of counter-terror ops has given me a clearer and deeper insight into the dynamics of terrorism.

ON BEING ONE OF THE FEW INDIAN AUTHORS WRITING IN THIS GENRE (POTBOILERS) A country with a rich military tradition like India deserves to have its own writers in this genre rather than have to look to the Tom Clancys of the world. I also thought it was a good way to dispel certain wrong notions about the Indian Armed Forces, an organisation very dear to me. Also, the challenge of walking on this unexplored path (for Indian writers) was just too much to resist.

DO YOU PLAN ON ANY MORE SEQUELS? Yes, there are two more coming. The third, *The Dust Will Never Settle*, is due in January 2010. I am currently working on *Tanzim*, the fourth, which is planned for release in January 2011.

FAVOURITE AUTHORS Salinger, Wodehouse, Camus and Bhagwati Charan Verma are my all-time favourites. —KIRAN MANRAL

