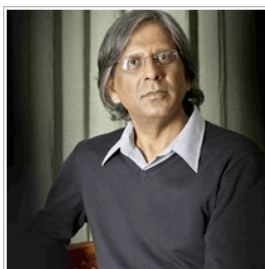


## Mukul Deva, Author, Tanzeem

Anil Mascarenhas / 10:47, Apr 04, 2011

**“Its time for us Indians to start thinking as a Nation – to demand more from our leadership – to kick out those thieving politicians...”**



**Mukul Deva, Author, *Tanzeem***, completed his formal education from La Martiniere College, Lucknow, the National Defence Academy, Pune and the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun. Mukul was commissioned in the Sikh Light Infantry of the Indian Army in 1981. An eventful Army tenure, which included a decade of operational service in India and overseas, ended in an equally remarkable transition when Mukul turned his attention to the corporate battlefield. Another twist in the tale followed when Mukul turned to his first love - writing. The result was a series of books spanning genres as multi-faceted as his personality. Today, with three successive bestsellers in three years Mukul is acknowledged as India's literary storm trooper and one of the pioneers of the Indian thriller novel. TANZEEM, the final book of the best-selling LASHKAR series released in Feb 2011 and his next book AND DEATH CAME CALLING is slated for release in Jan 2012.

Replying to **Anil Mascarenhas**, **Mukul Deva** says, “Its time for us Indians to start thinking as a Nation – to demand more from our leadership – to kick out those thieving politicians...”

### **When did you first think of writing a book? Brief us on the common thread in all your books.**

I had always wanted to write books. I actually started to pen it down only around 1998; after I left the Army. There is no common thread in my books- my first book was short stories, second a Management primer, third self-help, then followed a coffee table on ‘Women In Indian Cinema’ and finally The Lashkar series.

### **Do you think you will get out of your military style of writing and do something different?**

Well, I will be staying with thrillers for a while. I have finished the terror series for now and will be doing different kinds. I am going to focus on the ‘7-Deadly Sin’ series, the first of which will be DEATH CAME CALLING – a techno thriller dealing with greed. It is already done and scheduled for 2012. Also on the anvil is another very topical thriller – which I will not talk about – except to say that it should be done pretty soon.

### **A book a year, is it getting easy or difficult now?**

It was never easy to begin with, and now the primary challenge is to come up with something different every year. I am happy to say that the next two are certainly very different... Just watch this space...

### **Which are the old and new authors you like to read?**

I love Salinger, Camus, Bhagwati Charan Verma, Wodehouse and Horace McCoy

### **Besides writing what are your other passions?**

Apart from writing my other passions are to travel to meet people and chill out preferably in a good bar or club.

### **Between being an army man and a story-teller, which life would you prefer?**

The life of a story teller for sure; that best defines who I am, though I loved the army life too.

## **You also do corporate training. What are some key essentials you would like to see changed in the corporate world?**

I do more of business or executive coaching and mentoring. Which is basically to help hardwire people for success. Training is done only occasionally, if it is a really challenging assignment. It would be great to see companies adopting a coaching culture.

## **Any learnings the army can take from the corporate world?**

Soldiering is the second oldest profession in the world. There is a lot that the army can teach the corporate world. My book S.T.R.I.P.T.E.A.S.E – The Art of Corporate Warfare, revolves around the same.

## **Do you manage to maintain a work-family balance?**

But of course, that is fundamental if you seek to remain in flow and balance.

## **You mentioned that the approach in dealing with terrorists is often short-term. What would be your suggestions?**

The short answer is – STRIKE AT THE ROOTS... For the long answer – please go through the LASHKAR series.

## **Do you track the stock market? Plan to write a book on it?**

I do, but not much. Plan to write a book on it? Maybe? The theme of my next few books is under wraps for now.

## **Tell us a little about The Shades of Black.**

The Shades of Black I can best define is one of the '7-Deadly Sin' series.



## **Do you think your Force 22 is very different from the NSG commandoes?**

Oh yes! Force 22, as described in the books, is primarily a strike action group – to go out and hit at the problem. The NSG has a clearly defined role and of course is limited by reality and our weak-kneed politicians..

## **Which has been your most satisfying book?**

To read it's 'RAISE HIGH THE ROOFBEAM CARPENTARS'-by Salinger and to write its been 'TANZEEM'.

## **What is your message to India?**

Its time for us Indians to start thinking as a Nation – to demand more from our leadership – to kick out those thieving politicians who are raping the country.

I would not go so far as to say that we should lynch them, but we must certainly ensure they never come to power again and every rupee they have stolen is brought back into the system. They are a far more dangerous enemy

that any terrorist.

Also how dare a Salman Khan go to Pakistan and give them a clean chit for Mumbai. He may have managed to buy himself out of killing sleeping people on sidewalks but obviously he is a lousy actor and has no qualms selling out the country just to sell his movies. Its people like him (and not MF Hussain) who should be kicked out of the country.

## **What is your message to those who wish to join the army and to those who wish to write books?**

I would say JUST DO IT!!!! There is no better way to live.