

From the naxalite movement to a pre-partition Mumbai, the lives chronicled in his acclaimed novels are diverse - representing as he does, a country which prides itself on just that trait. CV Murali, whose second novel was released earlier this month, is the new voice on the Indian English fiction scene...

What is this book about?

Prisoners of Hate, my second novel, delves into the minds of Farhan, Madhav and Sanjay - three men whose lives are intertwined together by a quirk of fate. It traces the history of their forefathers and the events leading to the 1993 Mumbai riots and subsequent terror attacks and the paths chosen by the three

protagonists. As the narrative progresses, there is also a constant dialogue with the reader - bringing the mirror onto their faces and drawing them into looking at various societal issues - the greatest of which are intolerance and apathy.

Where do you draw your inspirations from for your work?

I draw inspiration from the society in which I live. I am intrigued by the incidents, happenings and conflicts reported around us, which in turn triggers my thought process.

Why did you decide to write?

I wanted to express myself on issues which concern me (and many of our countrymen/women,

I hope) such as conflicts in class, caste, religion and the reasons thereof and writing offers me a great medium to do so. I also discovered while I started writing that I had the ability to craft an engrossing tale to captivate the readers till the end. Therefore, I write stories set in our midst - which besides entertaining my readers would also make them pause and think...

How would you describe this book?

I would like to describe this book as a book of hope. To quote from the Sutradhar of this book - "I hope that one day, not too far away, we will speak. Hope, that we will all speak together and its reverberation will shatter this deafening sound that I hear today. Hope that these reverberations will echo throughout our society and stop this madness. Hope that future generations will be wiser and learn from our follies. Hope that our children and their grandchildren and their children will one day see and

live the dream of a frail old man who had defied the odds and had dared to speak out..."

Why do you choose subjects such as the naxal movement?

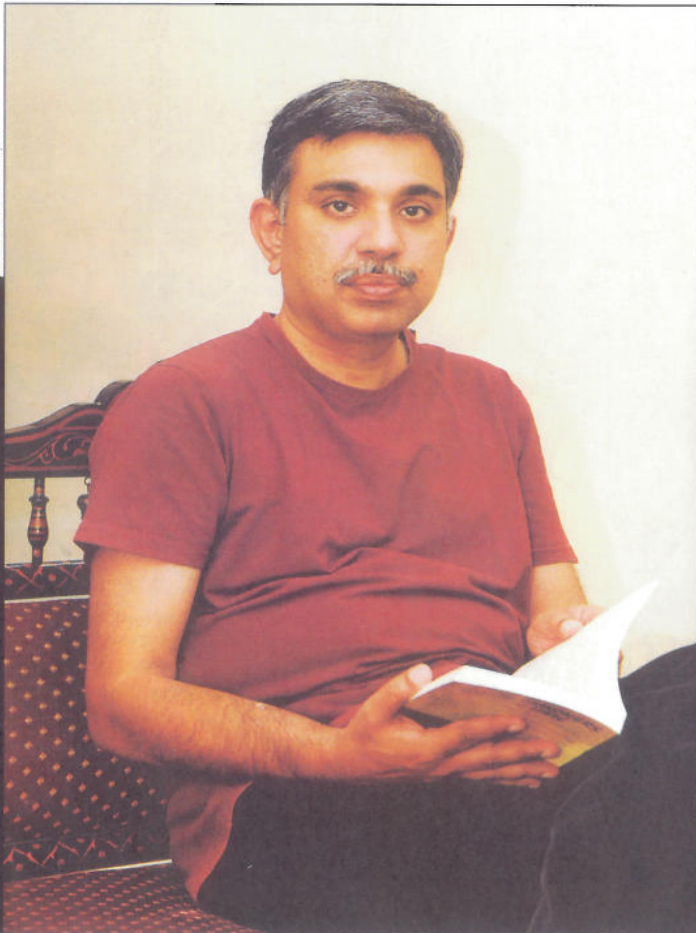
Well, the Naxal movement (which was a backdrop for my first book) and religious fundamentalism and terrorism (which forms the backdrop for my second) both deal with conflicts which are very near to us and affect us - but as a society, we are still grappling with the reasons and solutions. These subjects therefore offer me an opportunity to probe and look for probable causes which are the reasons for conflicts - violent or otherwise.

Will you ever give up your present job to write full-time?

I do not have the answer today since I am not yet well-known as a writer and therefore not many people have read my works. But who knows what the future has in store? Que sera sera...

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An IIT graduate heading quality function at a Chennai-based MNC and an author. For CV Murali, multi-tasking is not an option but a way of life. We meet this two-book-old author

Mumbai to Chennai