

# Book Review



**Name of the book:**  
**Accountability - Angst,  
 Awareness, Action**

**Author:**  
**Jay P Desai**

**Publisher:**  
**Dorling Kindersley (India)**

**Pages: 228**

Every one in Mumbai reacted to the 9/11 terror attacks in their own way. Jay Desai, the CEO of strategy boutique Universal Consulting, turned his inner angst into an introspective book that looks at the issue at the core of misgovernance – the lack of accountability. But to study the lack of accountability, it's important to understand accountability in its entirety in the Indian context. Especially, the accountability mechanism of the three pillars of our governance – the legislature, executive and judiciary. Desai attacks the problem from all sides, bringing in a bit of history and socioeconomic perspective, followed by a deep dive into the institutions and mechanisms of accountability and their effectiveness. Finally, he comes up with six inadequacies, and then charts out a roadmap for improvement in each of these areas. There's even a chapter on the positive role that citizens, business and media can play in keeping governance intact. Given that the India story looks set to derail due to a lack of exactly what Desai explores - accountability - this is a book that comes at the right time.