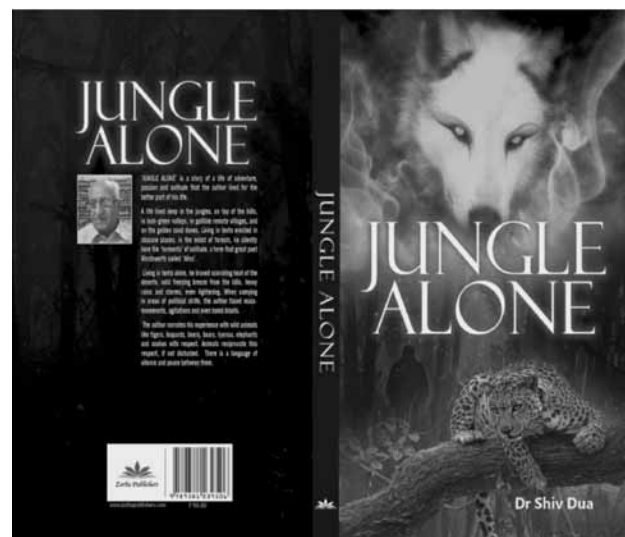


BOOK REVIEW

JUNGLE ALONE Novel dealing with Man and Wild by Dr. Shiv Dua, shiv.dua3@gmail.com, Mobile: 09871408050, Zorba Publishers, Gurgaon, Haryana, 2014, 198p, Rs. 199. Available on line with 'flipkart' and 'amazon.in' sites.

Earth's natural mineral resources exploitation involves many steps and the cardinal foremost being geological mapping, followed by prospecting (geological, geochemical and geophysical detailing), geological exploration by drilling, exploitation by mining etc. This novel is a commendable job by the author for the consumption of general public (undoubtedly many are unaware) in the general knowledge domain. It centers on life of drilling crew with emphasis on author's personal experience, spanning over 37 years, living in non-inhabitant/ jungles areas over long years of stay, leaving their near and dear with family separation. Exposed to various natural vagrancies, having hard life, sometimes associated with fearful/ dangerous life threatening situations faced in a day to day life, and yet trying to be happy **in the given toughest live milieu and contributing their best to the nation's most precious mineral wealth, in silence with a smile.**

It is structured in 10 chapters, under the captions: Live Forests of Orissa; Bhutan - Land of Thunder Dragon; Whispers of Death, Ukhrul, Manipur; Jahangirw, the Leopard; Neel Gai (Blue antelopes) and 'Tantric'; Murderous Canal and Holy Deer; Snake and Sparrow; Bhaluatoli Jungles of Bihar (Jharkhand now) and The Liz and Snakes of Sawar. While reading, it is self-generating the interest with suspense and knowledge enrichment, suiting to the general populace and thus it is accomplishing the envisaged cardinal endeavor. This is a handy invaluable novel, as an asset, for all ages cutting across a specific knowledge domain expertise. It acts as a great eye-opener to common public and all others who are unaware, how Geo-exploration field staff work in several odd conditions, with meager remuneration, sacrifices, isolation from society as well as separation from their families, like defense, but unrecognized by the public as well as authorities concerned.



In the fitness of the things, a special mention, necessitated as a needy compelling demand: The field camps of geologists and geophysicists get shifted frequently. In case of mapping geologists, especially, in hilly inaccessible areas, it could be every few days (mostly less than a week) with head loads by trekking, where tracts are unavailable/ carts driven by humans or animals like gypsies/nomads. Such incongruent milieu and other field hostile infirmities be addressed for betterment by revisiting and looking at the international practices as is in vogue as adopted by developed countries. **It's also hoped this tonic novel may energize to ink their highly valued nostalgic reminiscences by gifted geologists and geophysicists spent force. It is imperative to state that the field scientists and technicians have relentlessly rendered yeomen societal service in extremely hazardous, arduous, and treacherous field conditions. As such, this request needs to be pondering over in realizing as write-ups by individuals and teams headed by an editor, be published by book publishers and Earth Sciences Technologies Journals. Notably, such enunciations will definitely emulator worthy for the present and posterity.**

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