

"Nonsense in Indian Science", Dilip M. Salwi, Konarak Pvt. Ltd., Rs. 125/- . ( 1998)

The science writing scenario in our country is a bleak one; most newspapers do not have any science writers, there is no popular science worth its name published in the country and the less said about science fiction the better. Even in this desolate landscape, the name of Dilip Salwi stands out. A prolific author, he has authored more than 30 books on popular science and has won many awards. This book is his latest and is supposed to be " a fun book" which tries to look at all the nonsense in Indian Science.

There is a lot that is wrong with Indian Science; a bloated scientific bureaucracy, neglect of universities, a plethora of research institutes which work as personal fiefdoms of emeritus scientists; the list is long. But this book is neither a serious attempt to explore the shortcomings of Indian Science, nor does it tell the reader anything new. A bunch of generalizations, each prefaced by a well known quote sums up the book. One is reminded of the words of a well known reviewer ; " this book is both good and original: the part that is good is not original and the one that is original is not good".