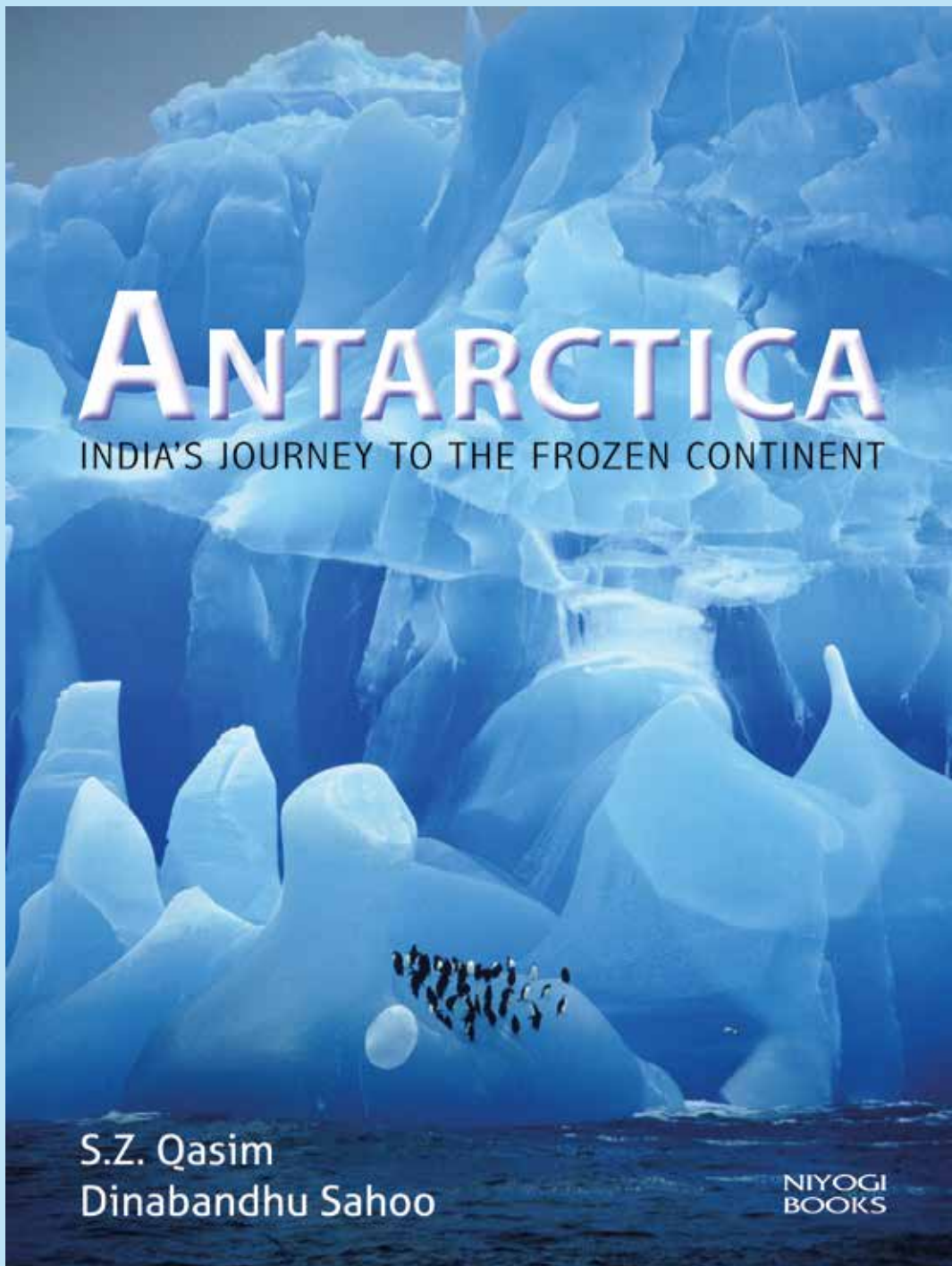


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Dr Syed Zahoor Qasim, known as the 'Ocean Man of India' and the 'Antarctica Hero' led India's first expedition to Antarctica and successfully organised seven other expeditions. He was the director of National Institute of Oceanography, and was appointed as the founder secretary in the Department of Environment, Government of India. He has also held the positions of Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Milia Islamia and Member, Planning Commission, Government of India. He is the recipient of several awards including the Oceanology International Lifetime Achievement Award, the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Shri by the Government of India.



Dr Dinabandhu Sahoo, a faculty member at the Department of Botany, University of Delhi, was the first Indian student to visit Antarctica during 1987-88 in the seventh Indian scientific expedition. He has visited all the seven continents and five oceans within a record time of eighteen months. He was a visiting fellow at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, INSA-JSPS visiting fellow, Japan. He is the recipient of several awards including the award from the National Environmental Science Academy, India for his outstanding contribution in the field of Marine Science.

