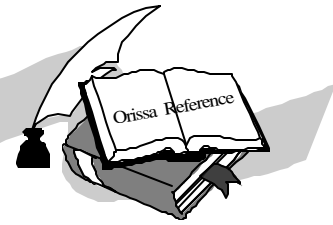




## *From the Editor's Pen....*



Nobel scientist Albert Einstein has humbly said, "The more we study the more we discover only our ignorance. I am collecting pebbles from sea shore and the vast ocean of knowledge remains unexplored. There is no end or limit to the knowledge. It is a never ending process. Knowledge is information and information promotes absolute knowledge." We are living in such an age that in the fraction of a minute information explosion is taking place. In this ultra computer age intermedia competition is going on in three medias like oral, visual and audio visual, each trying others to trail behind and go ahead. Whatever may be the fact the print media (visual) has kept its identity radiant and resplendent and still continues to be most powerful medium of communication. The history of press is as old as of over five hundred years. When Gutenberg, (1397-1468) Johan German printer, of fifteenth century believed to have been the first European to print with movable type. He had printed 'Mazarin Bible' (1455) which was done at Mainz.

I had joined Information & Public Relations Department in 1970 as Additional Production Officer in O.I.S. (Class-II) as a direct recruit selected by Orissa Public Service Commission. I was entrusted with the task of printing books, folders, posters, leaflets on the plan, policies, schemes, programmes and developmental activities of State Government as well as life and culture of Orissa. In 1973, I was transferred to Delhi and was attached with the Office of the Special Commissioner liaison, Government of Orissa designated as publicity officer. I had the opportunity of visiting Tourism Information Centres and Information Centres of other State Governments located at Delhi. I had also the opportunity to glance through Hand Books of various State Governments specially like Government of Maharashtra, Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Gujrat in those information centres. Those references in respect of their states were of elephantine in size, ranging from 500 to 1000 pages. Since then I had a dream that one day I will also edit a reference book on Orissa, on its plan, policies, schemes, programmes and developmental activities of the State as well as on life and culture of Orissa. At last in the year 2003 I was able to edit a book, the book-in a comprehensive and in an exhaustive form putting detailed statistical data titled as 'Orissa Reference Annual-2003'. This was the maiden,

Reference Book on Orissa in a consolidated form. Since the inception of this Department (1948) for about 54 (fifty four) years no reference book was published by this Department.

As a communicator better can be called as an 'Informer'. It is my bounden duty that I will try my level best to bridge this communication gap between public and government by harnessing print media as a powerful and effective medium of communication. I know that there are a good number of avid readers, who may bring to my notice any omission and commission in the text and give their constructive suggestion upon which I will rectify and correct the defects, if any found in that book. This book has 45 chapters (contents) and the total number of Annexure list serially comes to 84 (eightyfour). The facts and data of the book 'Orissa Reference Annual-2004 has been updated till 27.3.2005. The objective of this book is to make acquainted the public in State, National as well as at International level, the rich cultural heritage of Orissa, different policies of the State Government, the life of the people and vital statistical information. Orissa is on the rapid path of industrialisation. On Orissa's future prospect the Chief Minister of Orissa Shri Naveen Patnaik opines, "There is tremendous opportunity for development of Information Technology, Bio-Technology and Tourism. Exploiting the opportunities we are trying to take Orissa ahead. Orissa is poised for a massive industries growth in mines, minerals and power sectors." I believe that this book will provide the basic information on Orissa to businessmen and research scholars of international repute, tourists, researchers, students preparing for central and state civil service examinations. My continuous endeavour of editing for the second time, Orissa Reference Annual 2004 will not go in vain, if it is accepted as a reference book for all purposes and is accepted and appreciated by its readers. Readers opinion will bring new enthusiasm and create new spirit and vigour to transpire me to edit the third edition of the Orissa Reference Annual-2005. The book was scheduled to be brought out by the first week of January 2005. Due to some unavoidable circumstances it could not be brought out in time. I regret and apologise my readers for the inconvenience caused to them. I assure that 2005 edition of Orissa Reference Annual will be made available to the public by the first week of January, 2006.



(Tarakanta Mohanty)