



## Editor's Desk

We are in for a festive time again, with Christmas and New Year round the corner. In fact festivities are the hallmark of our culture and we have a splendid mosaic of variety of festivals spread over the year. How wonderful would it be if the whole world became a part of this mosaic! No one apparently wants war, bloodshed and misery. Even then billions of dollars are being spent to wage wars. How we wish if these tons of money were diverted to the development of poor nations.

We would soon be bidding good-bye to the year 2001 and ushering in the New Year. Our CMD, Mr. K. K. Kapila wishes all the staff and their families a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year. A young amateur poet amongst us, underground so far, has also an optimistic message on the occasion, for all of us, through his poem published inside.

ICT is a big but closely-knit family. This can be substantiated by the fact that we have around close relations like father and son, brothers, sisters, cousins and many more. Another significant category is that of couples. Besides the First Couple of the ICT family, we have few others like Mohans, Nidhi Kumars, Singhals, etc. The latest addition is our colleagues Pal-Sukhada duo who have recently tied the nuptial knot. Well, that is a tradition and a record of sorts. If grapevine is to be relied, some more love birds are in the queue. But I will keep mum till they themselves decide to break the news, lest I am dragged to court!

The World's oldest building code was that of Hammurabi, the King of Babylonia. It was written

sometimes in the year of the Lord 2200 BC, nearly 4200 years ago. The code was very stringent with regard to shoddy construction, that resulted in loss of human life or property. In this Newsletter we reproduce an English version of the code.

Everyone has his or her own definition of "marriage". Socrates defined it as, "A very good way to promote civilization - if you get a good wife you will be happy, if you get a bad one you will become a philosopher", whereas George Bernard Shaw described marriage as "The time when two people are under the influence of the most violent, most insane, most delusive and most transient of passions. They are required to swear that they will remain in that excited, abnormal and exhausting condition continuously until death do them part." In this Newsletter, we present a few selected definitions of marriage. Just check which one suits you the best!!

I had promised in the last Newsletter that we will provide you the details of what the little birdie had whispered in my ear about the bells chiming on the first floor of A-11, Green Park. Well! the birdie informed me that Mr. Prashant Kapila has got engaged to Ms. Himani Chawla on 27th October, 2001. Our heartiest congratulations to both Himani and Prashant.

Happy reading,

- Editor

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## Kudos

Mr. K. K. Kapila has been selected "Man of the Year 2001" by The American Biographical Institute and its Board of International Research, for "his outstanding accomplishments to date and the noble example he has set for his peers and entire community." It is indeed yet another great honour bestowed upon Mr. Kapila making us all proud of him. Our heartfelt congratulations to him for this coveted award.



Our warm congratulations to Mr. M. V. Sastry as well, for Shriram award and Certificate of Merit, awarded to him for his article "Get the Best from You" published in 'January-March 2001' issue of "Management Review". Well done Mr. Sastry! (I hope you are working on next article for us - Editor)

## New Appointments

The following senior and middle level staff have joined our Company. We take this opportunity to welcome them to the ICT Family.

### Associate Director

Mr. Sanjeev Bajracharya

### General Manager

Dr. Indra Kr. Kamboj

Mr. Ramji Pahari

### Consultant

Mr. R. C. Gupta

### Manager

Mr. P. R. Choudhary

Mr. Nisheeth Kr. Singh

### Deputy Manager

Mr. Manoj Kumar

Mr. Satish Kumar

Mr. Umesh Pati Tiwari

Mr. Rajesh Chandra

Mr. B. Ramamurthy

Mr. N. Sivath Kumar

Mr. B. V. Leela Prasad

Mr. M. D. Iqbal Karim

Mr. Ajay Kumar Ojha

### Assistant Manager

Mr. Rohit Kr. Singh

Mr. B. V. Subramanya

Ms. Nidhi Kapila

## Wedding Bells

The following of our staff have shed their bachelorhood and entered the 'Grihastha Ashram'. We wish them a very happy married life.

Ms. Meenu Misri married to  
Mr. Yogesh - 18.11.2001

Mr. Basudeb Pal married to  
Ms. Sukhada - 25.11.2001

Mr. Satish Rawat married to  
Ms. Geeta - 25.11.2001

Mr. P.K. Pathak married to  
Ms. Nisha - 01.12.2001

Mr. Manas Mohanty married to  
Ms. Bhartee - 09.12.2001

Mr. Rajiv Khanna married to  
Ms. Kavita - 11.12.2001

Mr. Khyali Ram Fulara married to  
Ms. Indra - 12.12.2001

## Know Your Project

ICT has been awarded a Construction Supervision project in the recent past, for 6-laning of a 25 km stretch of Hyderabad-Bangalore Section of NH-7 between Bangalore and Devanhalli in the State of Karnataka. This is a part of the North-South and East-West Corridors project.

The contract is for an amount of Rs. 33.2 million extending over a period of 32 months. Four Key-Professionals, 11 Sub-Professionals and Support Staff have already been mobilized and the work at site has commenced since September 2001. The 6-laning project is quite specialized and has come to us because of our acknowledged professional competence and high service standards.



*It is not what you want to say that is important. It is what the audience wants to hear.*

*The audience's interest is paramount, not yours.*

## How to Skilfully Make a Talk - Les Giblin

Here are five rules which, if you observe them, will make you an interesting speaker. They make the difference between interesting and uninteresting ones.

### 1. Know what you want to say.

If you don't know exactly what you want to say, don't get on your feet or open your mouth.

Speak with authority, from knowledge, with confidence and this can only be if you know what you want to say.

### 2. Say it and sit down.

Be brief, be to the point and then sit down.

Remember no one was ever criticised for saying too little and if more is desired from you, it will be asked of you. Quit winner.

### 3. Look at the audience while you talk.

The importance of this rule is hard to overstate.

Anybody worth talking to is worth looking at.

This is why talkers who read their talks rarely go over.

### 4. Talk about what the audience is interested in.

It is not what you want to say that is important. It is what the audience wants to hear.

The audience's interest is paramount, not yours.

A sure-fire method of being a winning and well liked talker is to tell people what they want to hear.

### 5. Don't try to make a speech.

Don't try to orate – few can. Make a talk instead.

Be natural, be yourself. That is why you are making the talk.

Just say what you have to say, naturally.

- Contribution : D. Vasudevan

# Article

## Being British more than the British

Living in Nigeria for most of our lives had taught us a thing or two about their ways and manners. They are generally quite drawn towards Indians and Indian food. Bollywood movies in particular have completely bowled them over. So when our house help left us, it wasn't much of a problem to get someone else.

We got this old man called Bonniface who seemed like a harmless fellow, quite willing to work. But little did we know that he had his nose stuck up high in the air as he claimed to have worked for the English, French and God knows how many more Foreign households. He felt that he was superior to Indians and as far as culinary skills were concerned, his were the best. He was very prim and proper no doubt, with perfect manners and etiquette, but was too crisp for our liking. So after a few days of boiled and baked and steamed food we decided that

enough was enough; it was time to add the Indian touch to him as well.

The first task was to actually get him to dirty his hands while cooking, like making roti. I must say he didn't like it one bit as this was obvious from the shape of the rotis and the time he spent later getting the dough off his hands. Somehow, once he learnt making rotis of a variety of shapes and sizes, it was time to teach him something new like making gravywali sabzi, where we ended up eating dhania powder instead of garam masala or hing instead of kali mirch.

Once my mom was in a hurry to go out and she told him to quickly grate the carrots. Upon returning to the kitchen after a while she found him happily reading the newspaper while carrots were neatly piled up. On query he replied, "But madam you did not tell me which side of the grater to use and how thick you wanted the

carrots to be?"

Gradually he learnt a few things though he never approved of the Indian ways. He never ate Indian food and whenever offered he always politely refused. Once we had invited a couple of people over and had other helpers also in the kitchen. After dinner was over all were told to take whatever food they wished to. Everyone happily obliged except our 'old man' who just looked on disapprovingly. After all the guests and helpers had left, Bonniface stayed on to put things away. After some time we realized it was too quiet in the kitchen and started wondering what he was upto. We peeked in and to our utter surprise we found him sitting in a corner quietly relishing the food, he apparently despised in the past!

- Aradhna Mathur

***If it causes the death of the son of the owner of the house - they shall put to death a son of that builder.***

## World's Oldest Building Code



*The Code of Hammurabi as it appears on a lime stone relief in the British Museum*

### Translated Form of the Code of Hammurabi

If a builder builds a house for a man and does not make its construction firm :

If the house which he has built collapses and causes death of the owner of the house - that builder shall be put to death.

If it causes the death of the son of the owner of the house - they shall put to death a son of that builder.

If it causes the death of a slave of the owner of the house - he shall give to the owner of the house a slave of equal value.

If it destroys property, he shall restore whatever it destroyed and because he did not make the house, which he built firm and it collapsed, he shall rebuild the house that collapsed at his own expense.

If the construction does not meet the requirements and a wall falls, that builder shall strengthen the wall at his own expense.

- Contribution : G. L. Bhor

*(I am sure if this code is implemented in our country, we will not have the distinction of becoming the most populous nation of the world - Editor)*

## Poem

### *Coming Year*

There's something special about the  
Coming Year

As each day of it will bring  
Happiness & Cheer

As each hour of it will bring  
Success & Glory  
As each minute  
of it will bring Joy & Prosperity

As each second of it will take you  
away from Worries & Fear

There's something special about  
the Coming Year

As all your dreams will come true

As all your tears will go away

As the flowers of happiness will  
shine your way

As all the sad things in your  
life will disappear

There's something special about the  
Coming Year

So, welcome the year with a smile

Forget everything else for a while

I am sure the New Year will be full of Joy and  
free of Fear

There's something special about the Coming  
Year

- Mohit Kumar

## Thoughts

### **Different Perceptions about Marriage**

Marriage is the only adventure open to the  
cowardly. - Voltaire

Love is an ideal thing, marriage a real thing; a  
confusion of the real with the ideal never goes  
unpunished. - Goethe

Marriage is like a cage; one sees the birds  
outside desperate to get in, and those inside  
desperate to get out. - Montaigne

Marriage is a great institution, but I'm not ready  
for an institution. - Mae West

An archaeologist is the best husband a woman  
can have; the older she gets the more interested  
he is in her. - Agatha Christie

A man is incomplete until he is married. After  
that, he is finished. - Zsa Zsa Cabor

Bachelors should be heavily taxed. It is not fair  
that some men should be happier than others. -  
Oscar Wilde

Eighty percent of married men cheat in  
America. The rest cheat in Europe. - Jackie  
Mason

Marriage is not a word; it is a sentence. -  
Anonymous

- Contribution : Anand Prakash

*(Marriage is like a laddoo, jo khayeh woh  
pachhtaye aur jo na khayeh woh bhi pachhtaye -  
Editor)*

## Humour Section

A man built a house without a roof. When asked why he had not completed the job, he replied :  
"Don't you know that the Government has decided to put a ceiling on all urban property?"

Do you know why more wives leave home than husbands?

Simple, few men know how to pack their own suitcases!

The other day my wife said she missed me. I thought that was very sweet of her until she told  
me she was going back to the rifle range for more lessons.

A man having bought several expensive cigars, insured them against fire. After he had smoked  
them, he then decided that he had a claim against the insurance company and filed a case. The  
insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason that the man had consumed the  
cigars normally. The man sued. The judge stated that since the company had insured the cigars  
against fire, they were obligated to pay. After the man accepted payment for his claim, the  
company then had him arrested for arson ..... (A crime of intentionally setting property on fire)

A recently married soldier sought permission to visit his bride before his overseas posting. The  
Commanding Officer (CO) granted him a special 24 hour leave.

The soldier didn't return until another day had elapsed. The CO sought an explanation. 'Well,  
sir,' said the soldier, trembling, 'When I got home, my wife was taking a bath.'

'Taking a bath,' shouted the officer, 'Does that take two days?'

'Well, no, sir. But you see, it took almost two days to dry my uniform.'

### **Send your contributions / Article to ISO Secretariat**

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