

From the Desk of the Editor

- Whatever thoughts we wish to convey to others we usually use a language. A language may phonetically sound different but the concepts and thoughts that are conveyed are basically the same.
- The Buddha could have used the language of the Vedas in teaching the Dhamma. The Buddha's intention was to reach out to the commoner. Hence, the Buddha used the language of the people of Magadha referred to as *Māgadhi* and now popularized as Pali, pronounced as Pāli with a long 'a'. The whole of the Tipiṭaka is in Pali.
- Pali as a language is universal in that it could be written in any script. Today we have the Pali Tipitaka written in many scripts e.g. Sinhala, English, Thai, Burmese, Khmer, Chinese, Tibetan and also in digital form.
- The first script ever used in putting the Tipitaka into writing was Sinhala, the language of the people of the *Sihala dīpa* (Ceylon, Sri Lanka) and that was during the reign of King Valagambha (88-22 BCE). Sinhala as a language with its own script had developed the capability and capacity to write and pronounce the words of the Buddha without distortions. Not all languages have that capability.
- This BOSAT issue is enriched by a valuable contribution by Professor Sandagomi Coperahewa, Chair Professor of Sinhala, University of Colombo with title '**Sinhala: A Unique Language**'.
- *Anyone born a Sinhala and thinks that learning Sinhala is valueless in the modern age is willfully discarding a valuable inheritance.* One could even say that such attitudes are a rekindling of the colonial mentality that was nurtured during the heyday of British colonialism.

- There was a silent Buddhist and cultural revival in late 19th century and a key figure that mentored such a revival was **Most Venerable Hikkaduwe Sri Sumangala Maha Thera** who is featured under *Builders of our Nation*. There are many interesting anecdotes relating to the Venerable Thero that typify the agonies of the so-called ‘natives’ under colonial rule.
 - Interestingly, Buddhist concepts like compassion, mindfulness, generosity are reaching the highest echelons in management training today. Stanford University at Palo Alto, California, USA, for example, has a eight weeks’ course for caregivers and CEOs on Compassion Concentrating Training (CCT). More of it in the article ‘**From Profit to Purpose**’.
 - In our rich cultural heritage correct practices and religious observances play a major role. The article in Sinhala on බෞද්ධ චක් පිළිවෙත් highlights their importance and relevance both in communal life and self-development.
 - We continue with our series on *A Little Bit of our Heritage* with an article on one of our hallowed places - **Kelaniya**. So sacred it is for Buddhists that our ancients mention that all one’s sins are expiated if we worship once at *Kelaniya* - ‘උපන් දා සිට කරනු පවු නැත වරක් වැන්දොත් කැළණියේ’
 - **The Pali-English Vocabulary** is continued to assist everyone who wish to quote the Pali terms in their writings in English and to assist in their correct pronunciation.
 - We welcome suggestions on subject areas for future issues of the BOSAT.
- **The BOSAT monthly periodical will be released at least two days prior to a Full Moon Day. Download it to your mobile or any other electronic device. It will be a useful Damma Periodical to read on the Poya day.**