

From the Desk of the Editor

- Nikini Poya seems not to get the same recognition among Buddhists as Vesak, Poson and Esala. However, when one thinks of the significance of one of the events of Nikini Poya, namely, the holding of the First Buddhist Council, one could even say that it is as important as Vesak full moon day. When nearing *parinibbāna*, Venerable Ananda asked the Buddha as to who will take His place. The reply was that it is the Dhamma that should be taken as the Master after the Buddha's demise.

Hence, it is because of the timely action of Most Venerable Maha Kassapa Maha Thera, who convened a meeting of 500 Arahants and meticulously collected, rehearsed from memory (*sajjhayana*), and codified the discourses under Digha, Majjhima, Samyutta, Anguttara and Khuddhaka Nikayas that we have the Buddha's teachings in pristine purity. Similarly, it is in regard to the rules of discipline or the *Vinaya*, for bhikkhus and bhikkhunis. The teachings of the Buddha are available to us today because of this timely action.

When the issue came up whether minor rules should be dropped, there was difference of opinion as to where to draw the line. The final decision of the Assembly was to keep all the rules of discipline without tampering. Consider what a wise decision that the Arahants of the time took for the safety of the Buddha's dispensation.

- It is said that 'Knowledge decides what to say, Attitude decides how to say, Skill decides how much to say and Wisdom decides whether to say or not'. In the series on Attitudes, the discussion this month is on 'Attitudes

to Ourselves’. There are many instances in life where persons have failed because of not caring for themselves or not having a wholesome attitude towards oneself. More of it in the article.

- In building our nation patriots of all communities have contributed. The strength of a nation is built on communal harmony. A notable protagonist of such harmony during early twentieth century when Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) was yet a colony of the British Empire was Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam. A colleague of his at the Cambridge University when writing of him has referred to him as ‘*Sinhala Tamil*’. So deep was his vision of communal harmony. He is often referred to as the ‘Father of University Education’ in Sri Lanka. In his memory, the first residential facility for undergraduates, when the University of Ceylon was shifted to Peradeniya, was named Arunachalam Hall. Learn more of this great personality in this issue of BOSAT – a person to emulate.
- The history of Vajiraramaya Temple, which is celebrating its 125th birthday, in November this year is presented by the Secretary of the 125th Anniversary Organizing Committee. The main function is on the 30th of November, 2026 at the BMICH, Colombo. Four publications are planned, namely, *Pelene Vajirañāṇa Maha Nayaka Thera and Vajirarama Vihara* in English, the *apadānas* (life histories) of 26 past residential bhikkhus of Vajiraramaya, the 125 Years’ Commemorative Volume of Vajiraramaya and a compilation of Sinhala lyrics written by the Most Venerable Pelene Siri Vajirañāṇa Mahanayaka Thera.
- The article in the series *A Bit of our Heritage* is on *Dīghavāpi* in the Ampara District, also known as *Digāmadulla*. It has a history going back to the time of King Kāvantissa of

Māgama. The reservoir that was built by the younger of the two sons for agriculture along the route from Māgama to Anuradhapura was also of military importance. The famous dictum attributed to Napoleon ‘An army marches on its stomach’ underscores that logistics and food supply are critical for success in a war. This was known to our Sinhala kings even before the birth of Christ. *Dighavapi* also epitomizes the tank-dagoba culture of the ancients of Sri Lanka. Restoration of *Dīghavāpi* was started in the 1960s and is now in full steam as it is the only religious site of the 16 sacred places worshipped regularly that has not been fully restored.

- The article in Sinhala is very special because it is by Venerable Pamburana Metteyya Thera who has been attributed for starting the two publications of Vajiraramaya, namely, *Bauddha Lamaya* in Sinhala and The BOSAT in English under the guidance of Most Venerable Pelene Siri Vajirañāṇa Mahanayaka Thera.
- You are sure to enjoy the *Journey on a Train* as you are already a passenger. But please ensure that your luggage is mindfully and correctly packed to enjoy the ride!!!



- **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.**