

From the Desk of the Editor

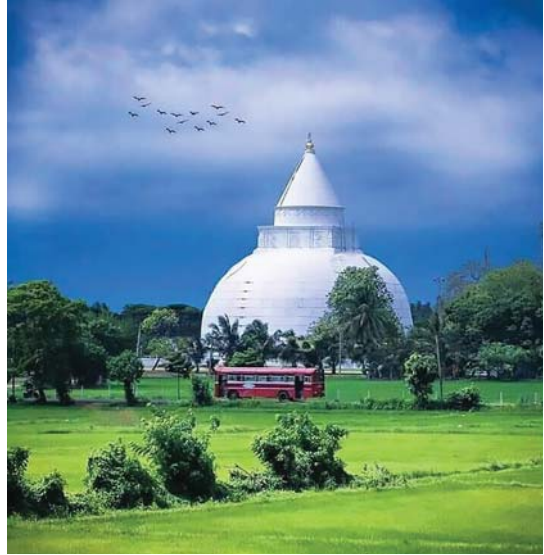
- The world over successful people are those who were innovative and took advantage of opportunities that emerged. All opportunities are not for the welfare of humanity and could be even disastrous. These days there is much publicity given to wrongful possession, distribution and bringing of harmful drugs. Often the street values of detected drugs are mentioned, which could even be a calling to some, come what may, to earn an easy buck. Funds earned in this manner are very shaky and could lead to one's own undoing. The lead article in the BOSAT of this month is on developing entrepreneurship with sustainability and is written by an expert in that field. It has wealth of information on developing skills and to make one's visionary dreams come true.
- This success much depends on one's own attitude to one's education. Why do we learn and what's the ultimate goal? To be a success in life knowledge alone is not sufficient. There are many more ingredients that one has to develop with purpose and confidence.
- In the series on Right Attitudes the focus in the current issue is on Right Attitude to Education. What for is education if that person is a rake, a drunkard, gambler or squanderer? The writer reminds us of an old adage that states that '*there is no worth of the learning of one who is not virtuous*' - *sīlena anupetassa sutenattho na viijjati*.
- There is much harm done to the society and especially to growing-up children, by giving headline prominence to anti-social activities and persons involved in such activities. In actual fact in society, it is not so.



- There are many persons who have been successful and have contributed immensely to build our nation. Such a person is Engineer A.N.S. Kulasinghe, who was honoured with the title of *Deshabandhu* for his contributions to build our nation. The *chaitya* at Kalutara Bodhi and the *Sambodhi Chaitya* at the Colombo Harbour and Planetarium in Colombo are marvels of a Sri Lankan Engineer using pre-stressed concrete technology developed by him. Read about him, know about him and get inspired.
- According to the statistics with the Department of Buddhist Affairs there are at present 12,235 registered temples in Sri Lanka. This would mean that there will be a similar number or slightly less of *Katina* ceremonies where devotees offer a *katina cīvara* (robe) to the sangha of a temple. The *katina* robe is brought in procession to a temple before dawn and offered to the sangha. In far-off rural areas the procession is not very elaborate like in towns. But the importance is that ancient traditions, to the extent possible, are maintained according to the rules of the Vinaya. More frequently asked questions (FAQs) are answered in an article on the *Vas* season.
- The links between the temple and the surrounding people, referred to as *gocara-gāma* in Pali and *goduru-gama* in

Sinhala are strengthened during the period of rain-sretreat that ends with the offering of the *katina cīvara*.

- The history of our ancient places of worship found in the mnemonic verse that B u d d h i s t s



often recite during *vandanā* (worship) has been a feature article. This month it is of Tissamahārāma in the deep south with a bubble-shape stupa. It is accredited to King Kavantissa, the father of Dutugamunu, who regained the kingdom of Rajarata from South Indian invasion.

- Sri Lanka has withstood 17 foreign invasions during its long history of over two millennia, including those of the three European colonialists. Even so, Sri Lanka has survived with an unbroken history.
- When one compares the history of many other nations that have experienced foreign invasions, it may be considered a miracle. In this regard think of the heroic, uncompromising selfless role played by the Maha Sangha of this country who fearlessly came forward to keep up the morale of our people and our nation!!!

