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ABSTRACTS

Editors

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The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
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Government of Gujarat

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Buddhism in Gujarat: Some supplementary Evidences from Sri Lankan Sources

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Sri Lanka is the only country in the South Asian region where Buddhism has been the main religion throughout its history. It is also credited for having a long and

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continuous historical tradition, which is stronger and more reliable than any other narrative tradition of the region. Therefore, Sri Lankan sources are useful for reconstructing the history of Buddhism, not only in Sri Lanka, but also in the other countries of the region where Buddhism had disappeared with the rise of Hindu, Christian and Islamic powers.

The present paper deals with the history of Buddhism in Gujarat with the help of Sri Lankan Sources. The *Sinhala* and *Pali* chronicles, *Sinhala* literary works, *Pali* canon, *Jataka* stories, and a few inscriptions will be taken as the primary sources for this paper.

A cursory investigation into Sri Lankan sources reveals that there are references to various regions, such as, *Aparantaka*, *Lataratta*, *Surattadesha* and *Gujjararatta*, all falling within the present state of Gujarat. Moreover, the well known port cities, namely, Bharukachchha (Bharuch) and Supparaka (Sopara), located in the Western coast of India acted as centres of exchange (for material, persons and ideas) and trade where Sri Lanka made its links with Gujarat in various ways.

The paper will scan through the Sri Lankan sources from the very beginning to the modern period in order to understand the transformations that Buddhism underwent in Gujarat.