The Metamorphosis of Patna from Pataligram to an Upcoming Smart City

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Abstract

Patna, a city with a glorious past has a continuous history that spans over 2500 years, since its transformation from Pataligram to the fort city of Pataliputra. It was soon made the capital of ancient India’s first empire and remained at the epicenter of the sub-continent for over a millennium up till the Gupta period and was the greatest city on earth in its heydays. However, there was a decline in the post-Gupta period until its revival in the Islamic period. It was declared as the capital of Bihar and Orissa in 1911, which it has remained till the present times. The twenty first century has witnessed a rapid growth of population of the city. There has also been a turnaround in the city’s overall development with several initiatives being taken up. The selection of the city under the Smart Cities project and the approval of MRTS proposal has further provided impetus to its growth and development.

The objectives of this paper are (1) to provide a historical overview of the city of Patna, particularly with regard to sustainability of its urban form, use of eco-friendly technologies, demonstration of environmental conservation measures and sustainable practices, (2) to explore the transformation of the city upto the twentieth century, (3) to highlight some of the city’s recent development initiatives, and (4) to assess the city’s prospects of becoming smart and sustainable.

Key Words: Patna, Pataligram, Pataliputra, Smart city, Eco-friendly techniques, Sustainable practices