In Europe, 277 million people lived in cities with more than 20,000 inhabitants in 2011, which is 55% of the total population. Most of the cities in Europe are known as ‘shrinking cities’.

In India, 377 million people lived in cities in 2011. There were 7933 cities/towns comprising 4041 statutory towns and 3892 census towns. The structure of Indian cities is top-heavy wherein 70% of the urban population is concentrated in Class-I UAs/Towns with population >100,000.
Expansion of cities and urban sprawl

- At a first glance, Europe provides the impression of being mostly unsettled area—only 4% of the territory is classified as built-up areas in 2014.
- The respective national share range from 0.3% in Finland to 33% in Malta.

- The manifestation of India as ‘rural economy’ is reflected in the share of built-up areas, as only 4.58% area of the entire country was classified as built-up area in 2014.
- The districts in South India show a higher built-up area density as compared to North India.
In-migration (Inter-state)

- In 2015, countries of EU had 4.5 million immigrants
- Germany was the main destination country of immigration

- Total 326 million internal migrants in 2007-08, comprising 28.5% of the total population (NSS, 64th round)
- Highest inter-state migrants was reported in Maharashtra followed by Delhi
Out-migration (inter-state)

- Total 2.1 million emigrants in 2015
- Germany and Belgium were the main source countries

- Half of the out-migrants in India were from four states only - UP, Bihar, MP and Rajasthan
- Poverty, high man-land ratio, stagnation of rural economy and low wage rates were the main push factors