Summary of Conclusions

The present study undertook the task of discerning the population characteristics of million plus cities in India which are 53 according to Census 2011.

There were eight basic points of inquiry (i) origin and regional setting of million plus cities (ii) their current status, urban primacy, FDI inflows and their trends and growth pattern from 1901 to 2011 (iii) spatial pattern in the distribution of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (iv) spatial and temporal changes in sex composition (v) pattern and change of literacy rate and gender disparity (vi) the salient features of life time international and internal migration reflected by streams, by distance categories, source areas of in-migration and reasons of migration (vii) an overview of slums at international and national level and its magnitude in million plus cities and (viii) the pattern of work participation rate by sex and their economic activities.

Methodology that has been adopted was in consonance with the basic objectives of the study. A systematic approach has been applied for the present research. The data used in this study is secondary in nature which has been collected from the Census of India and official website of United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. Data obtained from different sources is processed using statistical techniques for the analysis. The cartographic presentation has been done by Arc GIS 9.3 software. However, in case of slums, migrations, working population and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, the data have been used for 35 million plus cities as per 2001 census.

Urbanisation is inevitable and irreversible. The world of 21st century is an urban world and the contemporary urbanization is characterized by concentration of urban population in large cities. Importantly, there has been tremendous increase in the size of population residing in million plus cities. The number of such cities has grown substantially over the period 1950-2011. Cities all over the world with more than million inhabitants each have increased from 75 in 1950 to 456 in 2011 and the percent of world urban population residing in these cities has increased from 23.7 percent to 39 percent respectively. However, the distribution of million cities and their population varies among the major areas. In Northern America and Oceania regions, more than half of the urban population is markedly concentrated in million cities whereas it is 44 percent in Latin America and Caribbean and 40 percent in Asia. In Europe and Africa 23 and 31 percent urban dwellers respectively live in
CHAPTER IX

million plus cities. In terms of number, million cities are growing very fast in developing countries. For example, there were only two million cities in Africa, 8 in Latin America and the Caribbean and 26 in Asia in 1950. But there number markedly increased to 51, 63 and 231 respectively in these regions by 2011. In developed world million cities are continuously increasing but in slow speed in comparison to the developing countries. In India the number of million cities since 1951 has increased ten folds from 5 in 1951 to 53 in 2011. The million cities alone account for 42.6 percent urban population in 2011 in comparison to 18.8 percent in 1951. These contained 13.3 percent of total population of the country. India’s urban areas hold 31.2 percent of its total population. The urbanisation has increased faster than expected in India. In 2011, for the first time, the absolute increase in the urban population is higher than the rural population since independence.

India added 91 million urban population in the last decade, in which 53 million population has been added by million plus cities alone which is 58 percent of the total urban population. Thus, the largest cities are generally more efficient in generating growth and attracting investments and are therefore attracting more population. The total number of Urban Agglomerations/Towns, which constitutes the urban frame, is 7935 in the country in 2011. Of these 468 are Class I towns containing 70 percent of the total urban population. This number has increased from 76 in 1951. Another important feature of the 2011 Census is a phenomenal increase of 2,774 new towns. This unexpected jump in the number of “census towns” from 1362 to 3894 is unprecedented in the history of the Indian census since 1901. Many of these towns are part of UAs and the rest are independent towns. This growth of urban population during the past decade is reflected in higher growth in metro cities which is attributable to both natural increase in the resident population and higher net in-migration.

Rapid growth of million plus cities, particularly, in comparison to the smaller urban places giving a reflectance of skewed pattern of urbanisation in India. Economies of scale, wide consumer market, improved economic infrastructure and historical advantage leads to the concentration of economic activities in big cities. With economic liberalization and expected higher economic growth, rate of urbanization in India in coming decades is likely to increase.

In India not only the size of million cities has increased dramatically but also their number. Fifty three million cities are located in 18 States and Union Territories as per 2011 census. These cities have acted as focal points on the cultural landscape of India. They
continue to play a major role in India’s emergence as a premier industrial and political power in the world. With the origin of cities dating back to Indus valley civilisation, their contribution to the evolved cultural landscape has been substantial. The origin of the 53 cities that have acquired the status of million plus cities ranges from 600 BC (Varanasi) to AD 1960 (Durg-Bhilainagar). These cities are located in the four physical regions, namely, the great plains of India, the peninsular plateau, the coastal plains and the Himalayan Mountains. Physiographically, 15 million plus cities are located in the Great Indian Plain, 18 situated in coastal areas and 19 positioned in the peninsula region. North western Himalayas have only Srinagar million plus cities whereas North-eastern region without any million city. Largely these towns have grown into million plus cities have enjoyed some initial advantage and better geographic location. Their concentration was relatively high in the northern plains along the river banks and coastal areas in the early historical period. The medieval period of Indian history was significant from the view point of urban centres. Most of the towns which are million plus cities had appeared as administrative, defence and trade points during the medieval period. Nine largest cities- Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ahmadabad, Bangalore, Pune and Jaipur had their origin during the medieval period. However some of them grew significantly as a result of the deliberate policy of the British to develop port cities. In the British period, railways and modern industry also led to the creation of new industrial town such as Kanpur, Dhanbad, Asansol and Jamshedpur. The post-Independence period saw the influx of refugees in settlements like Faridabad. Durg-Bhilainagar was the outcome of industrialization and Chandigarh was created as new administrative city. Most of the cities which are million plus in 2011 had enjoyed some administrative status in British period. They have continued to dominate the Indian landscape as important administrative, economic, social or cultural centre.

Presently, at the state level, greater concentration of million plus cities is found in Uttar Pradesh and Kerala (seven each) followed by Maharashtra (six), Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh containing four each. Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan have three each cities with million plus inhabitants. The corresponding number is two in Chhattisgarh, Punjab and West Bengal has and Bihar, Haryana, Delhi, Karnataka, Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir containing one million plus cities. The rest of the state/union territories are without any million plus cities. The population of these million cities ranges from 10,01,365 in Kota (Rajasthan state) to 1,84,14,288 in Greater Mumbai (Maharashtra state) in 2011. All these cities are connected through railway network, major transport routes
of golden quadrilateral, north-south and east-west corridor and national highways. 18 new
cities acquired the status of million plus in 2011 census are located on these major transport
routes.

Population explosion is one of the most threatening issue facing contemporary large
cities which are resulting in large scale rural-urban migration and rapid urbanisation. In order
to comprehend the growth pattern of million plus cities, three time periods have been
identified: British period (before 1951), post-Independence to initiation of economic
liberalisation (1951-1991) and post-liberalisation (1991-2011) period. Since historic times,
urbanisation has been instrumental in structuring the spatial landscape of the Indian cities.
During British rule, urbanisation was characterised by selective development of a few port
cities and their hinterlands. During this period, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai were the only
three important metropolitan areas which are located on the coastal areas accommodate a
very high share of urban population of the country. They attract large number of migrants for
their administrative, commercial and manufacturing activities. After 60 years they maintained
their status in terms of all economic activities and employment opportunities. In contrast with
the British Period that witnessed a period of urban stagnation, the post-Independence period
is notable for rapid urbanisation, particularly for one lakh and million plus cities. It is
characterised by uneven distribution with few larger metropolitan areas and mega cities
growing at a faster rate and containing disproportionate large share of urban population in
India. This may be the massive public-sector investment in selected locations, especially
during the Second and Third Five Year Plans, advent the industrialisation and development of
the tertiary sector.

During the post-liberalization phase, the importance of cities and urban centres has
been growing in India’s economic development. It is linked with the globalisation,
industrialisation and economic development. This period has seen tremendous increase in
number of urban areas as well as concentration of population in such urban centres. The
reasons for such rapid urbanisation is attributed to the growth of modern type of industry,
commerce and service occupations (including public administration) all of which are
concentrated in urban areas and especially in these cities. The level of urbanisation shows a
strong positive correlation (r=0.76) with per capita income. FDI inflows have an important
role in the growth of urban population in million plus cities which reveals a strong
correspondence with per capita income and urbanisation of the states. An individual million
city has its regional economy which seems to be the determining factor of its growth. Initially the cities may have acquired impetus by the government but now there strong linkage with the regional and global economy spurt there population. In Indian context, urban primacy calculated for the country as a whole as also at regional level using regions carved by Census of India, 2011 shows no primacy at the national scale. However, at the regional level, urban primacy is very high in the eastern and northern regions where Kolkata and Delhi are the largest mega cities.

Society in India is still largely organized on the basis of castes which affect the social, economic and political structure of the society. Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes constitute the ‘core’ among the weaker section of the society in India. The proportion of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes living in urban areas provide an indication of the content and quality of their role in the process of modernization and socio-economic development. The forces of urbanization, social and protective legislations, positive discrimination and other measures taken by the Government, have led to gradual improvement in occupational mobility and living standards over the years, but the living conditions of the majority of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes continue to show socio-economic backwardness.

More than one sixth of scheduled castes population was enumerated in 2001 in India. In which four fifth of them lived in rural areas and rest of one-fifth was found in urban areas. The significant proportion of scheduled castes could not residing in the million plus cities after the Independence. It was nearly 11 percent in case of scheduled caste. Scheduled castes is more dispersed all in comparison to scheduled tribe population. Scheduled caste were the main suppliers of the labour and associated with agricultural work. This explained their large concentration in million plus cities or states which are located in Northern Indian Plains and the coastal plains of peninsular states. In south India, a significant population lived in the Chennai, Banglore and Hyderabad million plus cities. In the western part of India, except Mumbai and Ahmadabad a small size of population lived in other million cities.

Scheduled tribes constitute 8.2 percent of the India’s total population. In total, 91.7 percent of scheduled tribes were lived in rural areas and only 8.3 percent in urban areas. Million plus cities had accounted only 1.3 percent in 2001. At the percent level, it was highest in north-east states but in absolute figure they were small in size comparison to Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh state. Scheduled tribes are mostly found in the north-
eastern, western and central regions, which records nearly ninety percent. In distinction, respective shares of northern and southern states in total tribal population is quite small. In fact, total tribal population of Madhya Pradesh is about three times as large as from all eastern states clubbed together. Most of the tribal population is living in the million plus cities which are located in the tribal areas like Nagpur, Jamshedpur, Asansol and Jabalpur. Broadly speaking, the areas of occupance and dominance of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe are mutually exclusive.

Sex composition of a population refers to the balance between male and female in any population. Sex ratio is the most commonly used measure to represent sex composition of a population. In 2011, the sex ratio stands at 940 for the country as a whole as compared to 933 in 2001. It has increased 26 points in urban areas and 1 point in rural areas. Urban sex ratio has increased in all the states of India including north western states like Punjab and Haryana where sex ratio is unfavoured to females. Where the general sex ratio in urban area increased to favour of females, it has drastically decreased in 0-6 population in the states/union territories. One most striking feature which emerged from the current census is that Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh have improved the child sex ratios that had skewed in the last decade. Even it is decreased fifteen points in rural areas and four points in the urban areas.

The sex ratio in the country had always remained unfavourable to females. In the beginning of 20th century in million plus cities sex ratio was 798 that had declined to 705 in 1941 which was the lowest during more than a century (1901-2011). In the last decade it has continuously increased by 36 points in million cities and 7 points in the country as a whole. 53 million plus cities added more females (20.1 million) as compared to males (19.5 million) which is a healthy sign. Indian metropolitan areas, which are the scenes of male excessive in migration, are characterized by a paucity of females. Literature highlighted that the male migration was dominated in the million plus cities has been partially changed family and female migration after the liberalisation period due to availability of greater job opportunities. In fact, female percentage has increased continuously after Independence. The pattern of sex ratio when cross classified by size of class-I cities revealed that the sex ratio has decrease with the increasing population size. It is more favourable in cities with less than one million populations. There exist considerable regional variations in the magnitude of deficit of females across million plus cities. The cities located in south India namely Kerala, Tamil
Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are marked with a relatively more favourable sex ratio. As against this, Jammu Kashmir to Bihar and western state including all million plus cities report a much more adverse sex ratio. It is observed that sex ratio in cities with million plus population is high where the urban and rural sex ratio of the state is high. Relatively speaking, southern million cities sex ratio is more favourable to females in comparison to northern states.

The child sex ratio in the million cities which was 903 in 2001 has decreased 5 points point i.e. 898 in 2011. Among the million plus cities child sex ratio ranged from 971 in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) to 780 in Agra (Uttar Pradesh). In half of the million plus cities the sex ratio is lower than 900. At the regional level the child sex ratio is favourable in the south, east and north-east region. It is completely skewed in the western and north-western region of India which has largest deficit of girl child. The child sex ratio in cities with million plus population is high where the urban and rural sex ratio of the state is high. The decline in child sex ratio has been equally common in rural as well as urban areas, although the magnitude is evidently on the higher in the rural areas in the 2001-11.

The census evidence suggests a clear cultural preference for male children, particularly among some north Indian states. Of recent, sex imbalances are also attributed to sex selection, which is most prevalent in urban areas amongst higher economic quintiles, and even for these groups the practice continues to be fuelled by a patriarchal structure that believes in, values and promotes son preference. Furthermore, as social norms are changing toward smaller families, the availability of and access to new technologies provide an easy way for parents to achieve such goals. In order to effectively combat gender inequality and its extension to discrimination against the fetus and the sentient of female, it is necessary to address the root of the problem and cultural perceptions regarding women. Thus, the declining sex ratio is a matter of great concern, as it will lead to serious demographic imbalances and adverse social consequences. A strong public awareness and attitude of society can change this trend.

Literacy has been considered one of the most important attributes of social development. It is seen as a prerequisite for economic growth, social mobility and political stability. Illiteracy, by contrast, has frequently been related to increased poverty, under development, political volatility and economic stagnation. A minimum level of literacy is essential for a person to get out of ignorance and backwardness. A high level of literacy
reflects the dynamic character of the city population. For a geographer, literacy is that qualitative attribute of population which is a fairly reliable index of the socio-economic development of an area.

After Independence, there has been a remarkable growth in literacy rate in urban areas. In 1951 more than 1/3rd of the urban population was literate. It had become more than 2/5th by 2011. There has been relatively greater progress in the female literacy rate rather than male literacy rate and the difference has been consistently narrowing down in million plus cities. It is less than 10 percent points in 2011 which is lowest of all times. Along with several literacy programmes like Operation Black Board, Minimum Level of Learning, Mahila Samakhya, National Literacy Mission, District Primary Education Programme, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and the contribution of private sector in the field of education has been remarkable.

Cities with million plus population have shown enormous progress in the country as reflected in the average literacy figures i.e. 88 percent. It records a jump of 5 percent point in the last decade. The previous pattern of higher literacy rates in south Indian million plus cities than in north Indian ones persist. However, the million cities in north have also improved considerably in there literacy rate. Million plus cities which have low literacy rate, is usually due to excessive illiteracy among females rather than males. Spatial disparity in literacy within males is less than females and it is high in north India in comparison to south India. Infact, spatial disparity in literacy between million cities has declined by sex in the current decade. Besides being, the disparities in literacy rates of cities in a particular size category, the bigger cities display higher literacy rates than the smaller ones. Because the bigger cities, by virtue of being greater centres of modern industry, administration and education, tend to attract a higher proportion of literate migrants from different parts of the country. It is also notable that the literacy rates of state capital cities are generally higher than other cities. Comparatively, it is high in south India rather than north India. The differences in literacy rates of cities belonging to different regions are the outcome of various correlates. First, it is a notable feature that the literacy rates of million plus cities find a strong association with the literacy patterns of areas in which they are located. Second, the function of million plus cities is a strong factor in determining the literacy rate. Third, metropolitan areas which have higher proportion of Muslims and SC/ST population have relatively low literacy rates. Fourth, the higher literacy rates in south India’s cities are attributed to a more sustained history of
traditional learning, an early start in western education, and the more vigorous efforts of Christian missionaries in this area.

The dynamics of million plus cities growth shows that migration has been a very important component, because cities are the centres of trade, manufacturing, services and modern culture. These functions could not have been sustained without labour and skilled persons. People migrate to cities not only for work, but also for the business, education and marriages etc. 13 lakh persons were enumerated as international migrants in million plus cities upto 2001. In which, most of them are from neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka, and Indian mega cities are the main receiver.

In India, internal migration is largely influenced by regional disparity in the levels of development, which had its roots during colonial rule. Migration towards million cities became more important because they acquired new prominence in the urbanization map of India. As per ‘place of last residence’ criterion, 37 million constituted more than 1/3rd population of million plus cities were classified as lifetime migrants. There were 20 million male and 17 million female lifetime migrants enumerated upto 2001. However a majority of female migrants had not migrated for work and had cited marriage as the main reason for the change in residence. Among males the most important reason for migration is ‘work/employment’. The size of the city and the proportion of migrants reveal significant correlation with each other. Indian top nine larger urban centres have received more than a million populations as a life time migrants in their total population including Greater Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore, Pune, Surat, Chennai, Ahmadabad and Hyderabad. The share of migrant’s population is closely related to the economic position and vibrancy of cities. The new economic policy has undoubtedly boost up the industrial set up in the larger urban areas which increase a much greater magnitude of migration to cities.

There are different streams of migration generally relating to the degree of economic and social development in the area of origin as well as area of destination. The most important component among the streams is the rural to urban and urban to urban migration in million plus cities. The majority of migrants in million plus cities were rural to urban and mega cities received the largest migrants in terms of absolute figures. Those million cities which are larger in size and diversity of function had received highest migrants like Greater Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Surat. Agra, Allahabad, Madurai, Varanasi and Amritsar had enumerated fewer migrants. These cities are basically
known for religious prominence and have low industrial base. Migrants from both streams move in search of employment, quality of education and for better their prospect. Opportunities in million plus cities for employment, education and health etc. are the pull factor which attracting migrants from rural area and also from smaller town and cities. Three most backward states namely Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan contributing the highest proportion of migrant population in million plus cities. In these states, the larger proportions of population have migrated from rural areas.

As far as distance categories are concerned the census data shows the dominance of intra-state as well as inter-state migration in million plus cities. Most of the inter-state migrants come from the neighbouring state. In case of urban migrants, inter-state and inter-district migrants were higher than the rural migrants. Female dominate the intra-state migration due to marriage factor whereas male were dominating in both rural and urban area in million plus cities in inter-state migration in search of employment.

The 21st century has witnessed a rapid growth of urban population coupled with development activities of social facilities which has resulted in the creation of slums and associated problems of an alarming magnitude. Due to lack of employment and suitable jobs in the countryside, people from rural areas migrate to the cities. In cities they obtain jobs, but their income hardly allows them to have good shelter. Hence, they occupy vacant land or try to adjust themselves in the existing slums. This results into a growth of slums and squatter settlements in most of the cities and towns of the country. In India, slums are found in all the cities, large and small, old or new, unplanned or planned. The unplanned residential areas are mostly occupied by the poor, engaged in various low-paid works. Areas, which are seen to be over crowded, decaying and faulty laid out and lacking in necessary services are generally termed as ‘Slum’. Census of India 2001 slum definition has been adopted for the present study. Due to unavailability of infrastructure and housing facilities, slums are now becoming the permanent features in million plus cities.

The prevalence of slums varies dramatically across cities of the developed and developing world. In 2001, nearly 1/3rd of the world’s urban population lived in slums. Majority of them were in the developing regions in contrast to more developed regions. India alone accounted for 17 percent of the world’s slum dwellers. In 2001, 42.6 million population lived in slums in India which is distributed among 640 towns/cities. This constitutes 15 percent of the total population of the country and 22.6 percent of the urban population of the
States/Union territories reporting slums. The distribution of slum towns across the states and union territories was not uniform in India. Andhra Pradesh had the largest number of towns reporting slums followed by Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. Only few states like Maharashtra, Haryana, and Andhra Pradesh had shown high percentage of slum population than the national average. Some states like Kerala, Assam and Goa had reported slum population less than 10 percent.

In million cities every fifth person was living in slum area in 2001. Greater Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Faridabad, Meerut, Nagpur, Vijayawada, Asansol, Jabalpur Amritsar and Ludhiana have high incidence of slums in comparison to the rest of the million plus cities. Patna and Kochi had recorded lowest concentration of slum population among all the million plus cities. Five largest cities in India namely Greater Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Chennai and Hyderabad constituted more than 64 percent slum population of the total slum population of million plus cities. Thus, the mega cities are the main dwelling place of slum population. Majority of the slum population lived in municipal corporation area. Only 16 percent slum population was enumerated in their out growths.

The pattern of slums in each city has resulted from its environment, stage of development and characteristics of location. Analysis of slumming in metropolitan areas reveals that the slum proportion decreases with the decrease in industrial status of a city. Highly industrialized cities have highest area of slum localities, therefore holds the larger size of slum population. The ever-increasing slum population is a continuous phenomenon in cities, but providing good facilities at the rate of their growth will definitely benefit all the slum dwellers. Slumming and planning of cities have inverse relationship. Slumming generally flourishes in such cities where planning is lacking. Neither slums can be removed or shifted completely from the cities. However, full utilization of the meagre efforts and state welfare policies can give them some relief or make their living condition slightly better if honestly implanted. There is an urgent need to tackle this situation for long term sustainable development as well as for city prosperity.

Workforce study is of great concern for the public at large because standard of living, income, education and health are determined by current levels of employment and unemployment. Metropolitan areas are the enormous sources of employment in secondary and tertiary activities for both rural and urban residents. The economic and social
development of million plus cities depends on the number of persons who are economically active, the quality of their work and the regularity of their employment.

In 2001, more than 35 million persons were engaged in the working force in the cities with million plus population in different activities. Comparatively low proportion of work participation rate was found in the million plus cities of backward states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand. At the regional level, south India presents the picture of more work participation rate than the north India. More than half of the million plus cities male were engaged in different activities in 2001. The male work participation rate was comparatively high in all southern million plus cities from northern India. Relatively south India is more industrialized rather than north India. Census data reveals poor work participation rate among women than men. The number of female workers was about 1/6th of the male workers. The female work participation rate in million plus cities was according to their regions. It was low in the backward states like Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan million plus cities. In fact, it was also low in the developed states like Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and Delhi. Comparatively work participation ratio was high in the central and southern region than the north India.

The main contributors to the workforce are main workers in million plus cities which were more than 93 percent in total worker in 2001. It is observed that the work participation rate of female main workers was always lower than their male counterparts in 2001 in the metropolitan areas as well as in the states and union territories. The workforce ratio was markedly higher in the million plus cities in all the category of workers from urban area as a whole. The reasons for very high percentage of main worker in million plus cities are better employment opportunities due to high degree of industrial development and better transport facility on permanent bases. The highest percentage of main male workers was found in the million plus cities of developed states and relatively low percentages had noticed in the backward states million plus cities. The percentage of main female work participation rate was highest in the Indian largest urban center like Greater Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Surat etc. Less than 80 percent main female work participation rate recorded in the Muslim dominated city of Meerut, religious places of Agra, Allahabad and Varanasi.

Census 2001 provides the four industrial categories of workers namely cultivators, agricultural labourers, house hold industries and other workers. Majority of the worker (more than 95 percent) were engaged in the service sector (other worker) in million plus cities. A
small proportion of household industries worker (3.1 percent) was enumerated. Cultivators and agricultural labourers combined include only 1.3 percent of the total worker of the million plus cities. The service sector provides better opportunities to the migrants as well as for the city resident in million plus cities.

Now let us raise some issues which emanate from the discussion in the present study. An important question for future research pertains to the role of globalisation and its impact on trend and growth of million cities. Likewise, the issues related to the vitality and prosperity, vulnerability, sustainability, social embeddedness of the cities may be formulated into research questions. All this would require formulation of new analytical framework for research.

Succinctly put, the post-reform urbanisation in India is economy-driven, top-heavy oriented towards larger cities. It is characterised by uneven distribution with few larger metropolitan and mega cities growing at a faster rate and containing disproportionate large share of urban population in India. There is tremendous increase not only in the number but also concentration of population in such urban centres. The urban landscape dominated by few large port cities has been transformed as a result of emergence of large number of metropolises dotting the entire length and breadth of country. These are no longer confined to the coastal areas. They have fast developed in interior land except north-east part of India. The vast region of metropolitan cities is seen around Delhi (Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Meerut and Agra,), Greater Mumbai (Vasai-Vivar, Nashik and Pune) and in Kerala’s (Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Malapuram, Thrissur, Kannur, Kollam, and Kozhikode) million plus cities. An individual million city’s strong linkage with the regional and global economy seems to be the determining factor of its growth/spurt in their population.