



INDIA LAND AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

ILDC Brochure
2025



NINTH ILDC 2025
18-20 NOVEMBER,
AHMEDABAD MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (AMA)

About ILDC

A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM FOR LAND DIALOGUE

The India Land and Development Conference (ILDC) is an annual, interdisciplinary, international platform that brings together a diverse array of stakeholders—including government bodies, civil society organisations, academic institutions, international agencies, private sector actors, and grassroots leaders—to deliberate on emerging and persistent issues related to land governance, policy, and development.

Since its inception in 2017, ILDC has grown into a key national and global forum with:



Over 3,000 participants from 70+ countries



More than 300 sessions spanning paper presentations, policy roundtables, artistic interventions, capacity-building workshops, and keynote panels



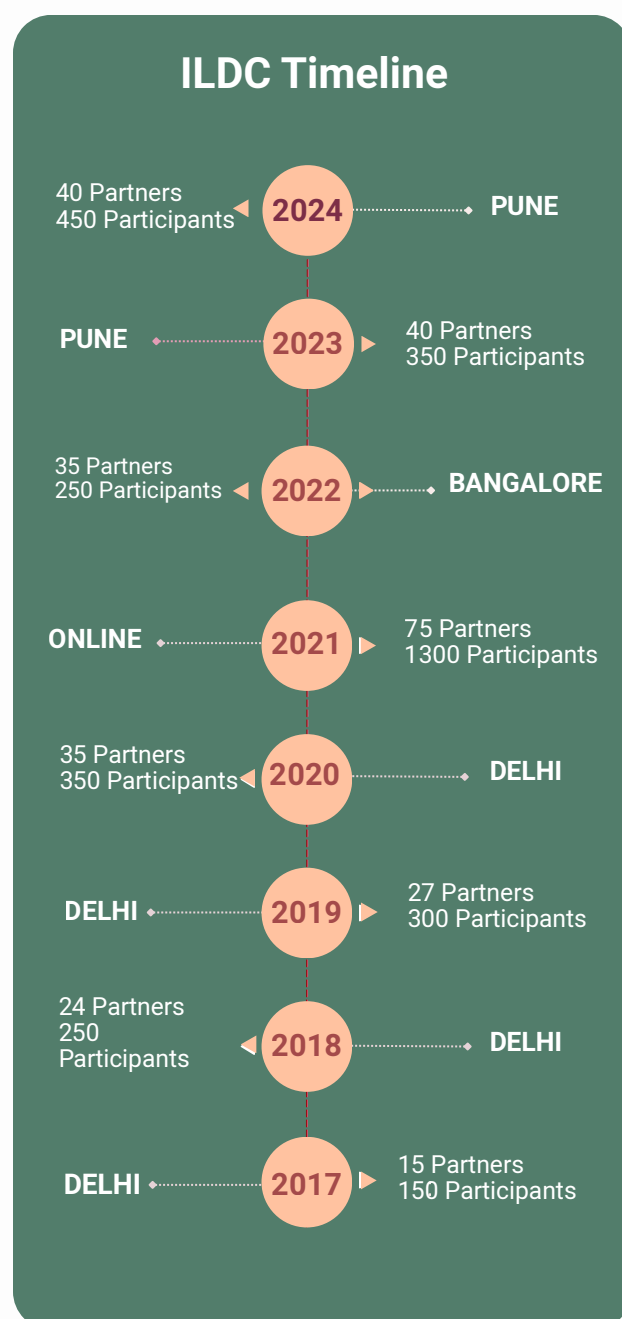
Collaborations with 200+ institutions across sectors and geographies

ILDC continues to foster knowledge exchange, capacity strengthening, cross-sectoral networking, and solution co-creation around land—across rural, urban, forest, and peri-urban contexts.

ILDC themes over the years

Each edition has emphasised cross-learning between Indian states and between countries in the Global South.

- **ILDC2017-** Land Governance for Accelerated and Inclusive Development” **5-6 April, 2017, New Delhi, India**
- **ILDC 2018-** Connection, inclusion, innovation & capacity to improve land governance” **19-21 Feb, 2018, New Delhi**
- **ILDC 2019-** Partnership for enhanced Inclusion and Impact” **12-14 March 2019, New Delhi**
- **ILDC 2020-** Institution, Innovations & Information for Improved Land Governance & Inclusive Land Tenure Security, **02-04, March 2020, New Delhi**
- **ILDC 2021-** Land Security for Peace and Resilience, **21-25 November, 2021, Online**
- **ILDC 2022-** Global Pulls on Local Lands: Southern Perspectives, **7-9 December, 2022, Wipro Learning Center Bangalore**
- **ILDC 2023-** Land-People Relations: Diversity and Transitions, **1-3 November, FLAME University, Pune**
- **ILDC 2024-** Land Tenure Transitions: Climatisation or Communitisation, **5-7 November, 2024**



ILDC 2025 Theme:







"CENTRALITY OF LAND IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: ADDRESSING THE PAST, THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE"

ILDC 2025 will explore land as the thread binding many of India's major developmental transitions—across food, housing, climate, infrastructure, livelihoods, and governance. The dialogue will look back at historical legacies, assess contemporary reform processes, and engage with forward-looking questions of land use optimisation, leasing models, and spatial planning. Across all tracks and dimensions, issues of Gender, Youth, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), and other marginal groups (such as Dalits, Adivasis, landless workers, fisherfolk, and pastoralists) are interwoven, recognizing their centrality in both experience and solution-making.

ILDC 2025 Track-Based Structure

to ensure thematic coherence and sectoral engagement, ILDC 2025 will be organised across six thematic tracks and supported by three cross-cutting dimensions:

THEMATIC TRACKS:

					
<p>1</p> <p>Fields in Transition: Securing Food, Farm Resilience, and Farmer's Livelihood</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Shared Grounds: Commons, conservation & community stewardship</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Changing Climate, Energy Transitions & Shifting Grounds</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Reconciling Demands for Our Urban Future – Addressing Housing, Real Estate and Infrastructure Needs Sustainably</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Digital Grounding: Tech, tenure, trust and transparency</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Strengthening Land Systems: Building Capacities for Transitions</p>

CROSS-CUTTING DIMENSIONS:

GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS: CONTEXTUAL INSIGHTS FROM DIVERSE INDIAN REGIONS INCLUDING THE WEST, SOUTH, NORTH-EAST

SOUTH-SOUTH EXCHANGE: FACILITATING MUTUAL LEARNING ACROSS COUNTRIES OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH

COMMUNITY CENTERING: HIGHLIGHTING INSTITUTIONAL AND GRASSROOTS NEEDS FOR LAND GOVERNANCE REFORMS

9TH ILDC TRACKS AND DIMENSIONS

To enhance clarity, coherence, and regional relevance, ILDC 2025 adopts a Track-Based Structure that places land at the core of critical developmental transitions. This structure enables deeper engagement across geographic, institutional, and thematic areas, while embedding cross-cutting equity concerns throughout. Each track integrates three overarching dimensions—Geographic Focus, Community Centering, and South-South Exchange—to unpack the economic, ecological, and social transformations linked to land. Issues of gender, youth, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), and other marginalized groups—including Dalits, Adivasis, landless workers, fisherfolk, and pastoralists—remain central across all discussions, highlighting their key role in both the challenges and solutions.

Track 1: Fields in Transition: Securing Food, Farm Resilience, and Farmer's Livelihood

Nearly 70% of India's rural population relies on agriculture, but the sector is undergoing major shifts—marked by declining landholdings, widespread informal tenancies, climate-related stress, and growing youth migration away from farming. With average land size now just 1.08 hectares and a significant portion of farmland under informal lease, many smallholders remain without legal protections or access to institutional support.

This track examines the evolving dynamics of agricultural land and livelihoods, focusing on the implications for food security, resilience, and rural dignity. It aims to explore inclusive and sustainable pathways through secure land tenure, climate-adaptive farming, innovative agri-practices, and stronger farm-to-market linkages—especially for women, tenant farmers, and coastal communities.

Track 2: Shared Grounds: Commons, Conservation, and Community Stewardship

Across India and the Global South, forests, wetlands, pastures, and coastal commons—traditionally governed by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs)—are under growing threat from climate change, extractive development, and land-use shifts. As carbon markets and nature-based climate solutions expand into these landscapes, new risks have emerged around consent, tenure security, and equitable benefit-sharing. Many projects proceed without fully understanding local customary tenure or complying with safeguards like Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), putting livelihoods and long-standing stewardship systems at risk.

This track explores the complex intersections of commons governance, climate action, and community rights. It calls for a shift from exclusionary or market-driven conservation to models grounded in local ecological knowledge, customary governance, and equitable partnerships. The aim is to strengthen legal and institutional frameworks that uphold IPLC rights while advancing sustainable, community-led restoration and climate resilience.

Track 3: Changing Climate, Energy Transitions and Shifting Grounds

India, as the world's third-largest greenhouse gas emitter, has set ambitious climate targets under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), many of which are deeply land-dependent. According to the Land Gap Report, nearly half of climate actions relate to land, with over 40% involving direct land interventions. Implementing these goals, including a shift to 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030, could require up to 5–6% of India's landmass—raising pressing questions around land use planning, availability, and trade-offs. In a context where land is finite, fragmented, and often contested, expanding renewable energy and other climate measures risks displacing communities, disrupting livelihoods, and creating new socio-economic and environmental tensions.

This track explores the climate-land nexus with a focus on land use planning for energy transitions, spatial mapping of land footprints, and the impact of large-scale renewable projects on agricultural and common lands, especially in Scheduled Areas. It emphasizes the need for integrated land rights assessments, fair valuation and compensation mechanisms, and socially just approaches to relocation and benefit-sharing. It also addresses the institutional and policy reforms needed to ensure climate-resilient land governance, especially in contexts of coastal erosion, salinization, and displacement.

Track 4: Reconciling Demands for Our Urban Future – Addressing Housing, Real Estate and Infrastructure Needs Sustainably

As Indian cities continue to grow and transform, urban and peri-urban land issues have become central to questions of sustainable development, economic vitality, and social justice. While informal settlements remain a key concern, equally pressing are structural challenges tied to land valuation, acquisition processes, legal ambiguities, and governance of urban commons. With increasing investments in infrastructure, transit-oriented development, and real estate-led growth, urban land is under mounting speculative pressure—often sidelining community needs, ecological safeguards, and equitable planning.

This track focuses on the complex and often contested terrain of urban land governance. It addresses issues such as the regularization and upgrading of informal settlements, transparent land acquisition and compensation, land value capture mechanisms, and community-led valuation processes. It also brings attention to the governance of urban wetlands, green spaces, and commons; the impacts of infrastructure corridors and displacement; and the urgent need for robust legal and institutional frameworks to manage land use transitions. Engaging both government and private sector stakeholders, the track calls for accountable, inclusive, and forward-looking approaches to city planning—where land is treated not merely as a commodity, but as a critical foundation for equitable urban futures.

Track 5: Digital Grounding: Tech, Tenure, Trust and Transparency

India's land administration system is shaped by colonial legacies, legal pluralism, emotional ties to land, and a large volume of informal and unrecorded tenures. Despite ongoing efforts toward individualizing land rights, this complex and fragmented system continues to produce widespread confusion, disputes, and inequities. With over two-thirds of civil court cases in India related to land—and an average resolution time of 20 years—land governance remains mired in administrative inefficiencies and socio-legal challenges. The Government of India has launched major digital reform initiatives like DILRMP, SVAMITVA, and OLRSD, leveraging tools such as drones, GIS, AI, and blockchain to modernize land records, improve transparency, and enhance public service delivery.

However, the central question is whether technical fixes alone can address deeply rooted governance and equity challenges. This track examines how digital innovation can both modernize and complicate land governance—raising concerns around legal validity, trust in digital systems, access disparities, and the risk of exclusion, especially for marginalized groups such as women, the poor, and communities with low digital literacy. It emphasizes the need for participatory approaches, inclusive institutional reforms, and strong monitoring frameworks to ensure that technology delivers not just precision, but meaningful and equitable public value. The track also explores the potential of PropTech, real-time land data for climate response, and integrated data systems for revenue and planning as transformative tools—provided they are grounded in inclusive, context-sensitive design and governance.

Track 6: Strengthening Land Systems: Building Capacities for Transitions

As land governance in India becomes increasingly shaped by digitization, ecological pressures, and shifting legal and social dynamics, building the capacities of institutions, communities, and intermediaries has become critical. This track highlights the urgent need for structured, inclusive, and sustained training efforts that can equip all stakeholders—from grassroots bodies to administrative institutions—to manage the evolving complexity of land-related challenges. Local institutions such as Gram Sabhas, Forest Rights Committees, and revenue departments must be strengthened through targeted training in legal processes, tenure adjudication, participatory planning, and digital tools. Equally important is the empowerment of tenant farmers, pastoralists, landless workers, women, and IPLCs through legal literacy, leadership development, and access to para-legal and support services that can help them navigate both formal and customary systems.

The track also emphasizes mainstreaming land governance education across public administration, legal, and planning curricula, including civil service and judicial training institutions. Government initiatives like the Department of Land Resources' Centres of Excellence serve as important starting points and must be scaled up in collaboration with academic institutions, civil society, and state governments. Peer learning platforms, cross-state exchange, and grassroots innovations can further enrich capacity-building ecosystems. Special attention is needed to bridge capacity gaps in areas such as land use planning, participatory mapping, valuation processes, and dispute resolution—ensuring that both institutional and community actors are equipped not only to implement reforms but to shape them meaningfully.

Forward-Looking Policy Areas at ILDC 2025

ILDC 2025 will dedicate special attention to emerging and unresolved questions, such as:

- Land Use Planning and footprinting as tools for sustainability
- The mutation process: transparency, efficiency, and accountability
- Agricultural land leasing: exploring why some states permit it while others do not
- The buyer–seller–tenant relationship: evolving roles and gaps
- Unlocking surplus and waste land for productive use
- Re-examining real estate bottlenecks and zoning limitations
- Innovative frameworks for the optimal use of land as a scarce resource
- These conversations are expected to generate concrete suggestions, inter-state collaboration, and public–private policy experimentation.



Who Should Participate?

- Senior government officials and land administrators
- Urban and rural planning bodies
- Academics, researchers, and universities
- Real estate sector representatives and industry associations
- Legal practitioners and land rights advocates
- Civil society and grassroots networks
- Multilateral organisations and donors
- Geospatial, PropTech, and digitisation innovators

This cross-section ensures ILDC remains a fertile ground for policy debate, regulatory reform, and action-oriented partnerships.

Past Collaborations & Partners

ILDC's growth has been powered by partnerships with:

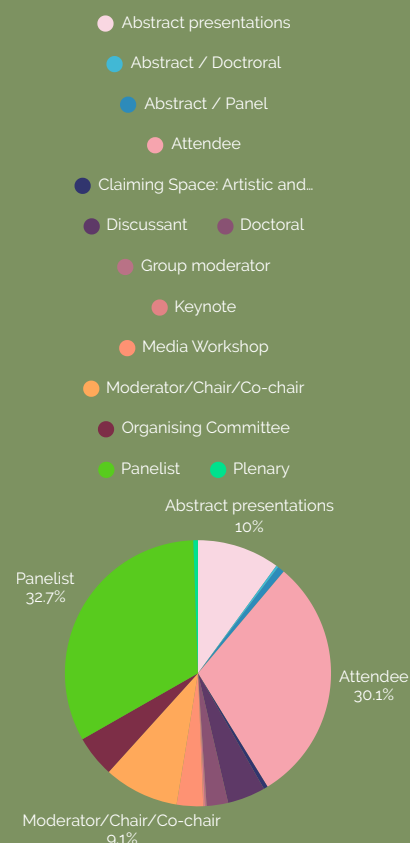
State bodies: YASHADA (Maharashtra), Andhra Pradesh Land Management Board, Kerala Town & Country Planning Dept.

Academic & research institutions: Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Azim Premji University, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi University (DU), University of Melbourne, ITC- University of Twente, among others.

International collaborators: IIED, Land Portal Foundation, IFAD, World Bank, GIZ, and more.

These partnerships have supported thematic sessions, workshops, field visits, and policy-clinic formats, establishing ILDC as a trusted platform for cross-sector collaborations.

Sectoral Representation at 8th ILDC 2024, FLAME University



PARTICIPANT OVERVIEW 2024

ILDC 2024 attracted a diverse group of 450 delegates, including 200 speakers and panelists from 20 Indian states and seven other countries

Country Representation



Media Profile & Coverage

- Featured in policy journals as Land Use Policy, along with a rich annual press release distributed across digital platforms such as Land Portal's ILDC Coverage.
- Visual content (photos/videos) widely shared, enhancing visibility throughout the year and during conference events.
- Publications like the ILDC Annual Book of Abstracts, Book of Proceedings and blog series by thought-leaders underscore ILDC's thought-leadership.

Opportunities for Private & Public Sector

- Government agencies: Influence peer learning, showcase policy innovations, and engage in national reform dialogues
- Private sector / real estate players: Directly address bottlenecks, connect with policymakers, and shape future-ready regulatory frameworks
- Media representation: Raise institutional visibility and highlight sectoral contributions

Next Steps

**CALL FOR
SESSIONS:**

JULY 1; DEADLINE JULY 31, 2025

**CALL FOR
ABSTRACTS &
PAPERS:**

**OPENS AUGUST 10; DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 5,
2025**

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Voices of the Land: What ILDC Means to Us



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A fit for purpose approach [spoken about at ILDC] is very important for bringing tenure security and every country should follow a fit for purpose approach.

-Abebaw Belay, Land Law Expert, Ministry of Agriculture, Ethiopia

Conferences like this are very important because there are many dimensions of land that are being discussed here.

-Ms Bhargavi Rao, Independent Researcher

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Land as a subject has often not been discussed from holistic and sustainable development perspectives. ILDC provides a great platform and opens up new and meaningful dialogues to drive policy-level changes.

-SB Dangayach, Founder Trustee, Innovative Thought Forum, Ex-CEO Sintex

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ILDC has provided a platform for exchange of information, exchange of experiences and lessons learnt.

-Mr M S Shivakumar, Institute for Youth and Development



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For me, it's a big deal that this platform has administrative officers, activists and foreigners present. To be able to platform the ground realities here is also big for me.

-Jacinta Kerketta, Journalist and Poet

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It is heartening to see not only ILDC triggering conversation and collaborations among intersector actors but also germinating thoughts and conviction amongst communities, students and other actors to take ideas forward in their own ways. All this will enrich the whole idea of expanding the land ecosystem.

-Pranab Choudhury, Director, Co-Founder, Landstack





Voices of the Land: What ILDC Means to Us



Azim Premji University has been a knowledge partner of ILDC since its inception. This relationship deepened in 2022 when APU enthusiastically hosted the ILDC in Bengaluru. It was an exciting experience for APU faculty and students, who gained immensely from the opportunity to build strong relationships with a range of stakeholders on land issues and to establish immediate and future partnerships. The new connections made through ILDC have also helped APU better organise our annual Land Governance and Development Workshop series.

Professor A. Narayana, Associate Professor of Governance, APU, Bengaluru



ILDC 2023 at FLAME University marked an extraordinary juncture where global dialogue converged with local context. We are proud to have hosted this platform that not only fostered profound discussions, but also propelled real-world action and collaborative research. As an institution committed to interdisciplinary education, we see ILDC as a catalyst for change and a driving force for addressing the crucial land-related issues of our time. With its diversity, inclusivity, and commitment to nurturing the next generation of land researchers, ILDC 2023 at FLAME University has set to make a lasting impact on the global landscape of land and development.

Dr. Dishan Kamdar, Vice-Chancellor, FLAME University



ILDC, as a unique land convergence platform, must continue to be hosted and owned by academic and other institutions working on land to sustain interdisciplinary land conversations."

Mr. S. Chockalingam, IAS, Chief Electoral Officer, Maharashtra





ILDC Advisories



Dr. Anil Kashyap
President and Chancellor-
NICMAR University



Mr. Deepak Sanan
IAS (Retd), Former Addl
Chief Secretary, HP



Mr. Jagat Basnet
Executive Director, CSRC
Nepal



Dr. Nivedita Haran
IAS (Retd), Former Addl Chief
Secretary, Kerala and Faculty, JNU



Mr. S B Dangayach
Founder Trustee, Innovative
Thought Forum, Ex-CEO Sintex



Dr. Shekhar Gaikwad
IAS (Retd), Former
Commissioner of Sugar, State
of Maharashtra



Dr. Shekhar Shah
Vice Chair, Academic Advisor
Council, Indian School of
Public Policy, New Delhi



Mr. Tim Hanstad
Co founder, Landesa and
CEO, Chandler Foundation,
USA

ILDC Secretariat



Mr. Pranab R. Choudhury
Director, Co-Founder,
Landstack



ILDC Partners



ASVSS



Azim Premji University



Cadasta Foundation



Centre for Grower-centric Eco-value Mechanisms



CMID



Confluence Media



CRDF



Ekta Parishad



Ente Bhoomi



FLAME University



Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts



Foundation for Ecological Security



Global Land Alliance



Gujarat University



HIPA Shimla



HRLN



IHS



IIS



IIM Ahmedabad



ILC ASIA



Innovative Thought Forum



IYD



Landesa



Landstack



Land Conflict Watch



Land Forum India



Land Portal



National Foundation for India



Radhee Disaster and Education Foundation



RNBA



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Tata Institute of Social Sciences



University of Delhi



University of Melbourne



Urban Insights Podcast



WRI India



Womanity



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YASHADA



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