



Key Takeaways from
India Land & Development Conference
(ILDC) 2025

Grateful to have attended a few sessions at the meaningfully curated ILDC 2025, held on 18 - 20 November at the Ahmedabad Management Association, where Innovative Thought Forum (ITF) was one of the Knowledge Partners.

Even in limited time, each interaction was deeply enlightening, educative and thought-provoking.

Sharing some of the insights that stood out the most:

1. Land Footprinting as the Starting Point:

A scientific land-footprinting approach is essential to understand actual demand for agriculture, industry, housing, social infrastructure, mobility, forests and water bodies — and to finally dismantle the myth of land scarcity.

2. Recognising and Mapping Our Commons:

Commons are often misclassified as “wastelands.” Proper inventorisation is critical.

3. Identifying Surplus & Unused Lands:

Large parcels with trusts, temples, Wakf boards, churches, industries, institutions and governments remain underused. Mapping them is a national priority.

4. Utilising Idle Lands Without Changing Ownership:

These lands can be leveraged for public or economic use — including through PPP models — while retaining existing ownership structures.

5. Fungible, Adaptive Land Use:

Land use must evolve with the times, enabling flexible and pragmatic planning.

6. A Strong Rental/Leasing Framework:

Agriculture, housing and commerce all need a fair and equitable leasing ecosystem to unlock participation and productivity.

7. A Big Push for Agrivoltaics:

A practical solution to reduce exclusive solar-land demand while offering farmers dual income from energy and agriculture.

8. Plug-and-Play Spaces for MSMEs:

Developing ready infrastructure on surplus or wasted lands can bring workplaces closer to residences and reduce carbon footprint.

9. Decentralized Development Models:

Renewables, technology and innovative business models can drive balanced, region-level development.

10. A Land Use Efficiency Bureau:

Much like energy and water efficiency frameworks, a dedicated bureau can institutionalise efficient land utilisation across the country.

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