



# Empowering the Margins: A Decade of Dalit and Indigenous Upliftment in India and the Role of All India Sustainable Development Council (AISDC)



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## Indigenous Empowerment, Dalit Inclusion & Sustainable Legacy

A Decade of India's Commitment to the  
Rights of Indigenous Peoples under  
The Modi Government



### Introduction: A Sustainable Vision for Social Justice

**VIGIL KANETHARA**  
CHAIRMAN - ALL INDIA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The All India Sustainable Development Council (AISDC), a UN-affiliated national NGO working across 30+ global platforms, including the United Nations, Asian Development Bank, and the European Commission, has been at the forefront of India's sustainable development, indigenous empowerment, and social equity agenda.

Under the visionary leadership of Mr. Vigil Kanethara, a direct descendant of the ancient Chera Dynasty—India's historical maritime and eco-governance pioneers—AISDC champions inclusive policy frameworks that integrate climate resilience, human rights, and grassroots sustainability. AISDC's advocacy is deeply aligned with global platforms such as the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) and SDG Goal 10 (Reduced Inequality).

United Nations Special Accreditation to Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) Id: 113-0167058259  
(United Nations Human Rights, Office of the Commissioner)



### Reflecting on a Decade of Impact: Modi Government & EMRIP-Aligned Achievements (2014-2024)

- Forest Rights Act (Implementation Acceleration): Title distribution and record digitalization for tribal land rights across Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Maharashtra.
- Van Dhan Yojana: Promoting minor forest produce entrepreneurship by tribal self-help groups.
- Eklaya Model Residential Schools: Expansion of quality education infrastructure in tribal belts.
- Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana: Revitalizing tribal villages with sustainable housing, sanitation, and livelihood support.
- Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM): Support for Dalit and tribal youth-led startups.
- TRIFED & GI Tag Promotion: Reviving traditional tribal products and integrating them into international markets.

These initiatives complement EMRIP's call for technical cooperation, capacity building, and the application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in development planning for indigenous peoples.

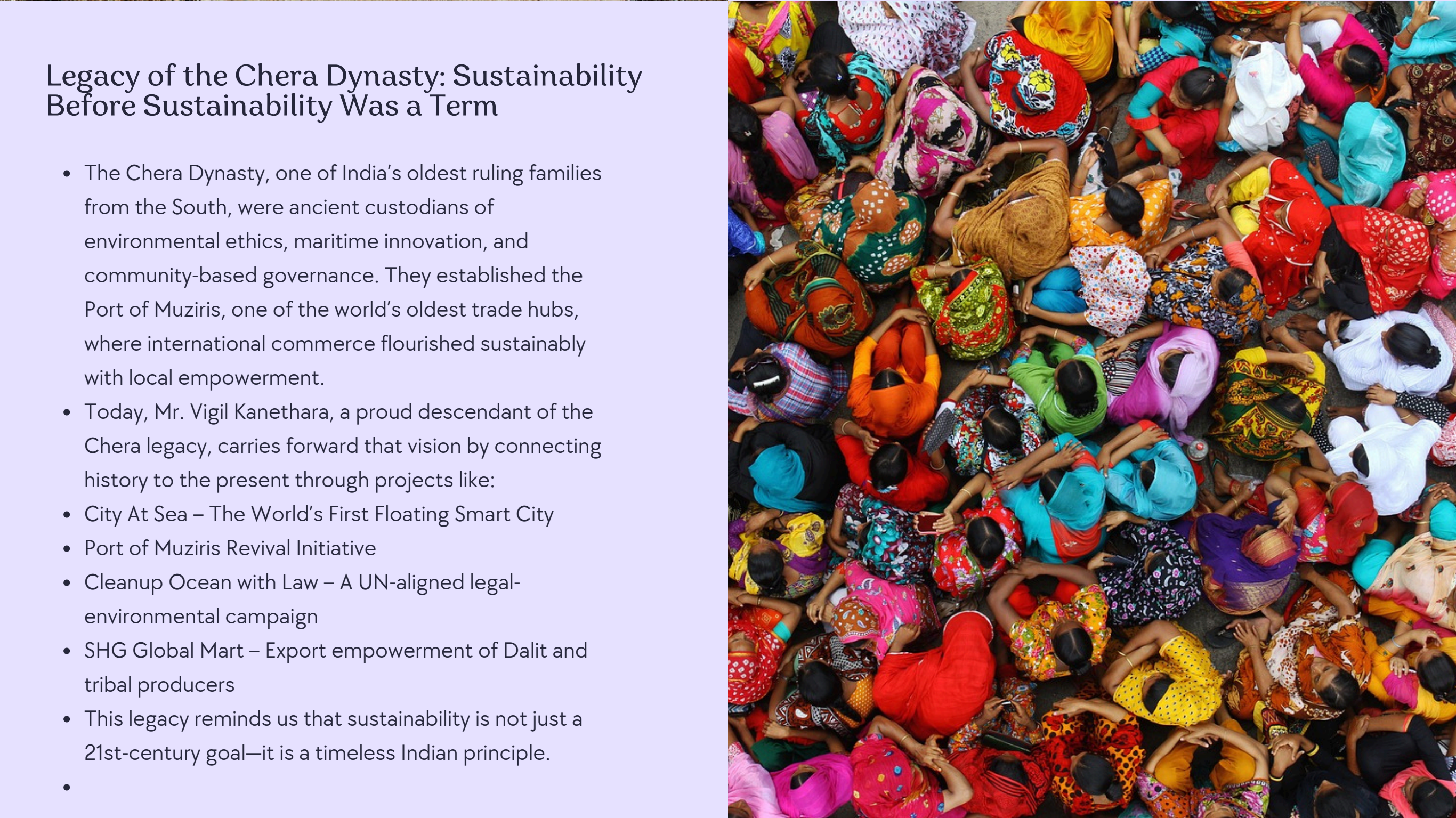


### Dalit Empowerment for a Sustainable World

AISDC's Thematic Advocacy: Social Justice Meets Sustainability  
AISDC, through its program "Dalit Empowerment for a Sustainable World," is addressing historical injustices with a future-facing approach. The program uplifts Dalit communities through:

- Vocational skill-building in green sectors (solar, organic farming, blue economy)
- Legal aid clinics for caste-violence survivors and land rights awareness
- Digital inclusion & education access in SC/ST majority districts
- Sustainable livelihoods for Dalit women through self-help groups (SHGs)
- Inclusion in climate action planning and village-level disaster preparedness

AISDC works in convergence with national schemes like Stand-Up India, MUDRA Yojana, and Skill India Mission to promote sustainable social mobility among historically oppressed groups.



### Legacy of the Chera Dynasty: Sustainability Before Sustainability Was a Term

- The Chera Dynasty, one of India's oldest ruling families from the South, were ancient custodians of environmental ethics, maritime innovation, and community-based governance. They established the Port of Muziris, one of the world's oldest trade hubs, where international commerce flourished sustainably with local empowerment.
- Today, Mr. Vigil Kanethara, a proud descendant of the Chera legacy, carries forward that vision by connecting history to the present through projects like:
- City At Sea – The World's First Floating Smart City
- Port of Muziris Revival Initiative
- Cleanup Ocean with Law – A UN-aligned legal-environmental campaign
- SHG Global Mart – Export empowerment of Dalit and tribal producers
- This legacy reminds us that sustainability is not just a 21st-century goal—it is a timeless Indian principle.
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### The Way Forward: From Legacy to Leadership

As India stands at the crossroads of global climate negotiations and social justice movements, the work of organizations like AISDC becomes central to ensuring no community is left behind. The last 10 years of inclusive governance under the Modi Government have laid a strong foundation. Now, with UN-aligned frameworks like EMRIP and SDG 16+, India must continue to:

- Strengthen indigenous representation
- Expand tribal-dalit access to sustainable enterprise
- Integrate traditional knowledge into climate resilience policies
- Promote constitutional values of dignity, equity, and justice

- India's vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" must now evolve into "Sabka Adhikaar, Sabka Samman" — a model of inclusive development where Dalits, tribals, and indigenous communities are equal architects of a sustainable world.
- AISDC, under the leadership of Vigil Kanethara, is committed to this journey—where ancient values meet global action, and where the forgotten become the future.

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## Our Global Partnerships

The All India Sustainable Development Council (AISDC) is a leading UN-affiliated organization in India dedicated to promoting sustainability, social justice, and economic development and working with over 30 global agencies, AISDC actively contributes to mental health, well-being, sustainable tourism, MSME growth, ESG practices, and climate resilience. It supports rural and urban development, supply chain enhancements, and sustainable trade, ensuring local communities benefit from global opportunities. Through its policy research, capacity-building programs, and grassroots initiatives, AISDC remains committed to fostering a sustainable and inclusive future for India.

AISDC collaborates with international bodies like the

United Nations with UN ID: UNGM: 860053

European Commission PIC No: 883838490 (Global Sustainable Council)

EuropeAid ID: GB-2025-GFR-0160408097

Asian Development Bank CMS ID:045264

European Bank for Reconstruction d Development ID: 36229451

And EC Member of Expert Committee EX2023D728053

International Labour Organization (ILO) ID: 709209/860053

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) ID 1200475467

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Niti Aayog-UID KL/2020/0263800

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment NGO ID: DL/00042501 (National Human Rights Commission )

Ministry of Ayush NGO ID 330/IV/16

Ministry of Tribal Affairs NGO ID: DL/00013815

12A-AADTK9178NE20213

80G-AADTK9178NF20211

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Royal Family of the Chera Dynasty (Chera Samudyam) is a historical and cultural Community dedicated to preserving the ancestry and legacy of the Chera Dynasty, one of the most influential ruling families in South India. With a presence in both in India and the United Kingdom, The organization works closely with the All India Sustainable Development Council (AISDC) to protect the rights, heritage, and cultural identity of the Chera community. Committed to uplifting isolated and discriminated communities, Chera Samudyam focuses on historical research, cultural preservation, and social empowerment. The organization actively supports initiatives in education, heritage conservation, and sustainable development, ensuring that the legacy of the Chera Dynasty continues to inspire future generations.

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