



## De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Tribes

**For Prelims:** De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Tribes, Related commissions and committees, Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DWBDNC), Schemes for DNT

**For Mains:** Issues Related to SCs & STs, Government Policies & Interventions, State of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Tribes in India.

### Why in News?

Recently, the **standing committee of Parliament** has criticised the functioning of the development programme for **de-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes**.

- The committee noted that the Scheme for **economic empowerment of Denotified Tribes (DNTs) communities** has total outlays of Rs 200 crore for the period of **five years from 2021-22** and the **Department could not spend even a single rupee in 2021-22**.

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## DENOTIFIED TRIBES - MEANING

- **DE notified Tribes (DNTs)**, also known as **Vimukta Jati**, are the tribes that were originally listed as "Criminal Tribes" and "addicted to the systematic commission of non-bailable offences."
- Once a tribe became "notified" as criminal, all its members were required to register with the local magistrate, failing which they would be charged with a "crime" under the Indian Penal Code.



### Who are De-Notified, Nomadic And Semi-Nomadic Tribes?

- These are communities that are the **most vulnerable and deprived**.
- DNTs are communities that were '**notified**' as being '**born criminals**' during the British regime under a series of laws starting with the **Criminal Tribes Act of 1871**.

- These Acts were repealed by the **Independent Indian Government in 1952, and these communities were "De-Notified"**.
- A few of these communities which were listed as **de-notified were also nomadic**.
  - **Nomadic** and semi-nomadic communities are defined as **those who move from one place to another rather than living in one place all the time**.
- Historically, **Nomadic Tribes and De-notified Tribes** never had access to private land or home ownership.
- While most DNTs are spread across the [Scheduled Castes \(SC\)](#), [Scheduled Tribes \(ST\)](#) and [Other Backward Classes \(OBC\)](#) categories, some DNTs are not covered in any of the SC, ST or OBC categories.
- Many **commissions and committees** constituted since Independence have referred to the problems of these communities.
  - These include the **Criminal Tribes Inquiry Committee, 1947** constituted in the United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh),
  - **Ananthasayanam Ayyangar Committee in 1949** (it was based on the report of this committee the **Criminal Tribes Act was repealed**),
  - **Kaka Kalelkar Commission** (also called **first OBC Commission**) constituted in 1953.
  - The **B P Mandal Commission** constituted in 1980 also made some recommendations on the issue.
  - The **National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC), 2002** held that DNTs have been **wrongly stigmatised as crime prone and subjected to high handed treatment** as well as exploitation by the representatives of law and order and general society.
    - The NCRWC was established under the chairmanship of **Justice M N Venkatachaliah**.
- It has been estimated that **South Asia has the world's largest nomadic population**.
  - In India, roughly 10% of the population is Denotified and Nomadic.
  - While the number of Denotified Tribes is about 150, the population of Nomadic Tribes consists of about 500 different communities.

## What are the Developmental Efforts Regarding DNT?

- **Background:** A **National Commission for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT)** was constituted in 2006 by the then government.
  - It was headed by **Balkrishna Sidram Renke** and submitted its report in 2008.
  - The commission held that "It is an irony that these tribes **somehow escaped the attention of our Constitution makers**."
  - They are deprived of Constitutional support **unlike Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**".
  - The Renke commission estimated their population at **around 10.74 crores based on Census 2001**.
- **Schemes for DNT:** The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the **following schemes for the welfare of the DNTs**.
  - **Dr. Ambedkar Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for DNTs**.
    - This Centrally Sponsored Scheme was launched w.e.f. 2014-15 for the welfare of those DNT students who are not covered under SC, ST or OBC.
  - **Nanaji Deshmukh Scheme of Construction of Hostels for DNT Boys and Girls**.
    - This Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched w.e.f. 2014-15 is implemented through State Governments/ UT Administrations/ Central Universities.
  - From the year 2017-18, the scheme "**Assistance to Voluntary Organization working for the Welfare of OBCs** " has been extended for DNTs

## What is the Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DWBDNC)?

- A new Commission was constituted in February 2014 to prepare a **state-wise list**, which submitted its report in 2018, identified 1,262 communities as de-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic.

- The commission recommended the setting up of a permanent commission for these communities.
- The government set up the **Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DWBDNC)**.
- DWBDNC was established under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860** under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the purpose of implementing welfare programmes.
  - The DWBDNC was constituted on **21<sup>st</sup> February 2019, under the chairmanship of Bhiku Ramji Idate.**

**[Source: IE](#)**

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