



UP to Set Up Welfare Board for Nomadic and Denotified Tribes

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced the creation of a dedicated welfare board for **Vimukt Jati (denotified tribes)** and nomadic tribes during the state-level '[Vimukt Jati Diwas](#)' celebration in Lucknow.

- **31 August** is now observed as **Vimukt Jati Diwas**, commemorating the abolition of the oppressive [Criminal Tribes Act in 1952](#), which unjustly labeled communities as criminals and stripped them of their rights.

Key Points

- **Welfare Board:** The new board is expected to focus on providing **housing, land leases, and [voting rights](#)** for these historically marginalized communities.
- This board will focus on extending benefits similar to the **Shamli** and **Vantangiya** models, including land leases, housing colonies, and various social security benefits.
- Social Welfare Minister **Aseem Arun** has been tasked with constituting the board.
- **Criminal Tribes Act, 1871:** In 1871, the British colonial government passed the **Criminal Tribes Act**, declaring certain tribes as "**criminals by birth**" and subjecting them to **surveillance and discrimination**.
- The Vimukt Jati and nomadic tribes include communities like the Nats, Banjaras, Bawariyas, Sasis, Kanjads, Kalbeliyas, Saperas, and Jogis, have a long history of resistance against foreign invasions.
- It was after the repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act in **1952**, with the efforts of [Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar](#), that these communities were formally freed from this criminal label.

Denotified Tribes (DNTs), Nomadic Tribes (NTs), and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (SNTs)

- **About:** The term De-notified Tribes refers to communities that were once classified under the Criminal Tribes Acts, 1871 which were implemented by the British Government.
 - The Acts **were** abolished by the Government of India in 1952, leading to the De-Notification of **these** communities.
 - 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.
 - While most DNTs are spread across the [SC](#), [ST](#) and [OBC](#) categories, some DNTs are not covered in any of the SC, ST or OBC categories.
- **Distribution:** DNTs encompass a wide range of communities, each with **unique cultural practices, languages**, and socio-economic conditions. Communities include the Kanjar, Nat, Pardhi, and Sapera.
 - **South Asia** is estimated to have the largest nomadic population in the world. In India, approximately 10% of the population comprises NTs, SNTs, and DNTs.
 - While there are around 150 De-notified Tribes, the Nomadic Tribes population includes

about 500 distinct communities.

▪ **Major Committees/Commissions for DNTs, NTs, and SNTs Communities:**

- The Criminal Tribes Inquiry Committee, 1947 constituted in the United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh).
- Ananthasayanam Ayyangar Committee, 1949.
 - Criminal Tribes Act, 1871 was repealed based on the recommendation of this committee.
- [Kaka Kalelkar Commission](#) (also called first OBC Commission), 1953.
- [B P Mandal Commission](#), 1980.
 - The commission also made some recommendations related to the issue of NTs, SNTs, and DNTs Communities.
- 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.
- **Renke Commission (2005):** The commission had estimated their population to be around 10 to 12 crores at the time.

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