

Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes

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Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes Latest News

Calls are growing for the establishment of a permanent national commission for Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes with the issue finding primacy in discussions at the national conference of Denotified Tribes (DNTs) held recently in New Delhi.

About Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes

- **Denotified Tribes** (DNT) also known as **Vimukta Jati**, are the tribes that were **listed originally under the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871** as criminal tribes.
 - Once a tribe becomes “Notified” as criminal, all its members were required to register with the local magistrates, failing which they would be charged with a ‘crime’ under the Indian Penal Code.
- **After Independence, this Act was repealed in 1952**, and the **communities were “denotified”**, hence the name.
- **Nomadic Tribes** are the communities who usually **do not have land** and **move from one place to another** for livelihood.

- The DNT/NT/SNTs are among the most neglected, marginalised, and economically deprived communities, with most living a life of destitution.
- Historically, these communities never had access to private land or home ownership and used forests and grazing lands for their livelihood and residential use.

Status of DNT/NT/SNTs in India

- In India, roughly **10 percent** 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**.
- In **2014**, the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment constituted a National Commission** for DNT/NT/SNTs under the **chairmanship of Bhiku Ramji Idate** for a period of three years-
 - to **prepare a State-wise list** of castes belonging to DNT/NT/SNTs
 - to **suggest appropriate measures** in respect of Denotified and Nomadic Tribes that may be undertaken by the Central Government or the State Government.
- In **2017**, the commission **prepared draft lists of DNT/NT/SNTs**.
- **Based on the Commission's recommendations**, the ministry **constituted the Development and Welfare Board for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DWBDNCs)** in 2019.
 - The Board has been **mandated** to formulate and **implement welfare** and development **programmes** for these communities.
- The **Renke Commission (2008)** was earlier commissioned to **identify and list the DNT communities**.

Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)

- It was launched by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic (DNT) Communities.
- It has been formulated **for families having income** from all sources of **Rs 2.50 lakh or less per annum** and **not availing any such benefits** from a similar scheme of Centre or state government.
- **Aim:** To provide **free competitive exam coaching, health insurance, housing assistance** and **livelihood initiatives** at the community level, and **financial assistance for construction of houses** will be provided to the members of DNT/NT/SNT Communities.
- An amount of **200 crore** has been allocated for this scheme — to be **spent over five years from FY2021-22 to FY2025-26**.

Source: TH

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