



## Denotified, Nomadic, 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?

The Parliamentary panel on Social Justice and Empowerment has asked the government to expedite categorisation of **Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes** under either the [SC/ST/OBC](#) lists. Delay would increase their suffering and deprive them of welfare schemes.

### Who are Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes?

- These are communities that are the **most vulnerable and deprived**.
- DNTs (Denotified) 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  - These Acts were repealed by the **Independent Indian Government in 1952**, and these communities **were "De-Notified"**.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**Ananthasayanam Ayyangar Committee in 1949** (it was based on the report of this committee the Criminal Tribes Act was repealed),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 Challenges Faced by Nomadic Tribes?

- **Lack of Basic Infrastructure Facilities:** Like drinking water, shelter, and sanitation facilities are not available to the communities. Healthcare and education facilities are also not available.
- **Bad Treatment by Local Administration:** Due to the stigma of Criminals bestowed upon them in the past, they are still treated as criminals and tortured by the local administration and police.
- **Lack of Social Security Cover:** Since they are on move frequently, they do not have a permanent settlement. As a result, they lack social security cover and are not issued [Ration Cards](#), [adhar Card](#), etc. and hence, they are not getting benefits under the government welfare schemes.
- The **caste categorization is not very clear** for these communities, in some states some of the communities are included under the SC category, in some other states they are included under OBCs.
  - However, most of the groups from these communities do not have caste certificates and hence are not able to avail the benefits of government welfare programs.

## What are the Related Developmental Efforts for These Tribes?

- **Dr. Ambedkar Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for DNTs:**
  - This Centrally Sponsored Scheme was launched in 2014-15 for the welfare of those DNT students who are not covered under SC, ST or OBC.
  - The scheme of Pre-matric Scholarship for DNT students is helpful in spreading education amongst DNT children especially the girl child.
- **Nanaji Deshmukh Scheme of Construction of Hostels for DNT Boys and Girls:**
  - This Centrally Sponsored Scheme, launched in 2014-15, is implemented through State Governments/UT Administrations/Central Universities.
  - The aim of the scheme is to provide hostel facilities to those DNT students; who are not covered under SC, ST or OBC; to enable them to pursue higher education.
- **[Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs:](#)**
  - It aims to provide free competitive exam coaching, health insurance, housing assistance, and livelihood initiatives.
  - It ensures **expenditure of Rs. 200 crores to be spent over five years beginning 2021-22.**
  - The DWBDNCs (Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities) has been **tasked with the implementation of this scheme.**
- **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 21st February 2019, under the chairmanship of Bhiku Ramji Idate.

[Source: TH](#)