

Denotified Tribes Demand Separate Classification

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Why in News?

Recently, the Union Government assured DNT enumeration in Census 2027, but leaders demand a separate Census column and constitutional status due to marginalisation.

- **Denotified Tribes (DNTs)** - Communities labelled “criminal tribes” under the Criminal Tribes Act (CTA), 1871.
 - CTA was repealed in 1952, and communities were denotified.
- In post-Independent India, they were targeted under Habitual Offenders laws.
- **Historical Classification** - Criminal Tribes Act, 1871, made compulsory registration, surveillance, and restrictions on the movement of certain communities labelled as criminal.
- Colonial belief that certain tribes were “addicted to crime”.
- After 1952, many communities were classified under SC, ST, or OBC lists.
- **Enumeration Status** - Enumerated in the 1911 and 1931 Census as criminal tribes.
 - The 1931 Census was the last enumeration of DNTs.
- Post-Independence Census enumerated only SC and ST (not DNTs).
- **Commissions and Reports - Ayyangar Commission (1949)** - Early official study on denotified tribes.
- **Renke Commission (2008)** - First National Commission on Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes.
- **Idate Commission (2017)** -
 - Identified around 1,200 DNT communities assimilated in SC/ST/OBC Lists.
 - Identified 268 unclassified DNT communities.
 - Anthropological Survey of India recommended classification of these communities.
- **Government Initiatives - SEED Scheme (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment)** - Provides support for education, livelihood, housing, and health for DNTs.
 - However, spending was low due to a lack of DNT certificates and beneficiary identification issues.
- **DNT Welfare Board** - Established instead of a permanent constitutional commission for DNTs.
- **Current Status of DNTs** - Many included in SC, ST, OBC categories, others unclassified.
- Continued social, economic, educational, and political backwardness.
- Persistent stigma and discrimination despite denotification.

Reference

[TH | A separate classification for denotified tribes](#)

