

Social, Legal and Historical Perspectives on the status of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities in India

## National Webinar

**Dedicated to**

**Late Professor Vinay Kumar Srivastava**

**Date: March 27, 2021 (Saturday)**

**Organised By:**



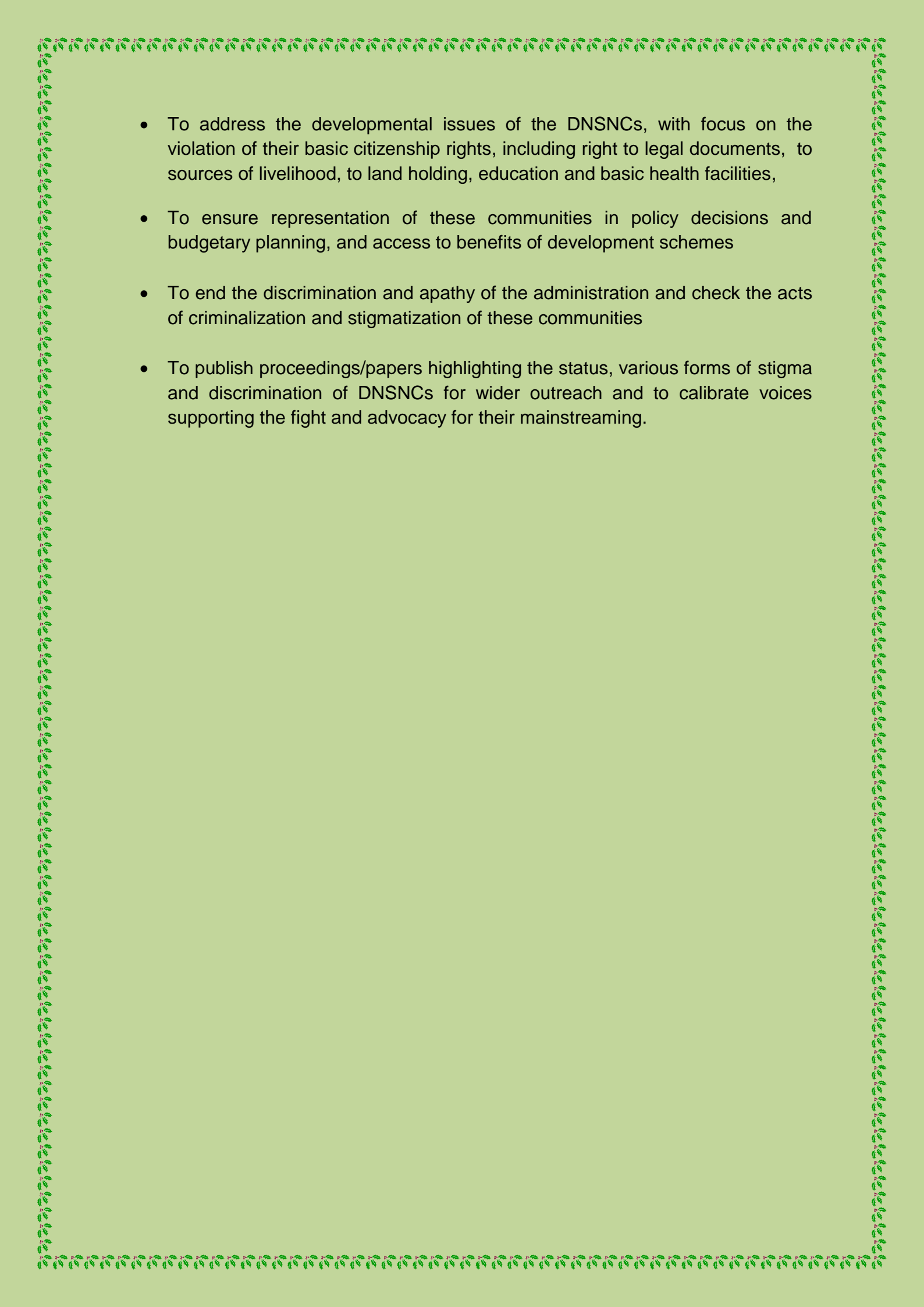
University School of Law and Legal Studies,  
Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Dwarka, Delhi

**Email-id for Abstract/Paper Submission: [dntwebinar2021.ipu@gmail.com](mailto:dntwebinar2021.ipu@gmail.com)**

### **Aim and Objectives:**

The DNTs remain at the bottom of our society and the basic citizenship rights are denied to them, leaving them socially excluded and marginalized. The status of other nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes also remains pathetic (together called DNSNCs). The endeavour of this event is the advocacy for rights and socio-political inclusion of the DNSNCs. Accordingly, the event objectives are:

- To provide an academic forum for deliberations among the Anthropologists, Sociologists, young activists and researchers working on various issues of DNTs as well as the Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities;
- To build national platform for policy advocacy for DNSNCs & for creating alliance between different stakeholders, including both state and non-state actors

- 
- To address the developmental issues of the DNSNCs, with focus on the violation of their basic citizenship rights, including right to legal documents, to sources of livelihood, to land holding, education and basic health facilities,
  - To ensure representation of these communities in policy decisions and budgetary planning, and access to benefits of development schemes
  - To end the discrimination and apathy of the administration and check the acts of criminalization and stigmatization of these communities
  - To publish proceedings/papers highlighting the status, various forms of stigma and discrimination of DNSNCs for wider outreach and to calibrate voices supporting the fight and advocacy for their mainstreaming.

# Concept Note

## BACKGROUND & PREMISES

Down the ages, our society has condemned and alienated people who do not conform to its norms. The De-notified Tribes are such group of people who have been marginalized, ill-treated, disdained and callously neglected by our society. During the British Rule in India, the nomadic communities were treated with lot of suspicion, as they indulged in ambulatory practices and were beyond the control of the administration. The British used many tactics to bring the nomadic people under surveillance and to increase the State revenue. The Criminal Tribes Act was enforced and the category of Criminal Tribes (CTs) was created in October 1871, and the Act was repealed in 1911. The tribes/ communities that were notified under CTA were forced to live in Criminal Tribe Settlements where attempts were made by the Christian Missionaries to 'civilize' these 'barbaric' communities. This leads to detrimental effect on these communities by destroying their cultural belief systems and practices.

The Act was replaced with the Habitual Offenders Act, 1952 as India became independent, and the CTs were denotified. However, the stigmatization and marginalization of the DNTs has continued even after this. The continuous stereotyping by the police, civil society and their negative portrayal by our media has reinforced their image as 'deviant' or 'criminal' in the eyes of the common public.

The basic citizenship rights are denied to them as they indulge in ambulatory practices, thus rendering their socio- economic and political condition very deplorable. These communities continue to face problems with respect to accessibility to basic infrastructure and facilities. They face economic burdens like outstanding debts and lack any legal landholding or ownership of land. Many of them have been experiencing hindrances in getting a job due to the criminal tag associated with them. In such situations they are forced to indulge in activities like prostitution and beggary. They continue to be most marginalized of the marginalized sections of the society. They are also excluded from important policy measures, discourses and budget provision in the State. Over the past years, the government has constituted Renke and Idate commissions for identifying these groups and their major concerns, and now their matter has been handed over to NITI AYOJ.

The present webinar is an attempt to recognise DNTs as a stigmatised and marginalized group, which is linked to the historical discrimination practices held by the British. The condition of other nomadic and semi- nomadic tribes is equally vulnerable. The main purpose of this webinar is to facilitate discussion in the academic forum and exchange of ideas between research scholars working on DNSNCs. It is an attempt to provide insight into their exclusion from citizenship rights, exclusion from education, political

exclusion, exclusion from livelihood resources and exclusion from budgetary allocation in the five-year plans.

### **Call for Papers**

We invite papers from Academia, young Research Scholars, Anthropologists, Sociologists, Administrators, Law and Order Authorities highlighting their interaction and experience with DNTs, and Semi-Nomadic Communities. We are open to all kinds of experience sharing, as we want to portray the real picture/ plight of these groups. The political status of the DNTs is not clear as the Constitution does not give any reference to this category, and the various states have categorized them under SC or ST. Our intention is to get them justice, at least from Human Rights point.

### **Indicative Themes for Paper Submissions:**

1. Origin and historical background of the DNTs: Criminal tribes, CTA, Habitual Offenders Act
2. Role of State and Civil Societies with respect to DNSNCs: National Commissions on DNSNCs, synthesis of welfare schemes, social movements, role of police, NGOs/social activists
3. Political status of the DNTs: A conundrum of tribe, caste and community; status with respect to citizenship rights; scenario of their representation in political decision making and budgetary allocation
4. Socio- economic status of the DNSNCs: Marginal existence, denial of basic civic amenities and infrastructure, economic burden and menial jobs
5. Ethnic status of the DNSNCs: Unique customs and traditions that mark their identity, and how they are perceived by the larger society
6. Portrayal of the DNTs: DNTs as uncivilized, criminals, in media, literature, cinema

### **ORGANIZING SCHOOL AND ORGANIZING UNIVERSITY**

This Webinar is being organised by University School of Law and Legal Studies one of the 12 Schools of Studies of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University in its Dwarka Campus, New Delhi. Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University is one of the five state universities of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi established on 28 July 1998. It is an UGC recognized and NAAC accredited 'A' Grade University. Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University has been imparting professional education leading to Bachelor, Masters and Doctoral research degrees in the emerging fields of

Management, Environmental Management, Biotechnology, Medicine, Pharmacy, Law and Legal Studies and Education.

### **Dates to Remember**

- Deadline for submission of abstracts: 14-Feb-2021
- Acceptance of abstracts: 22-Feb-2021
- Submission for full paper: 15-Mar-2021
- Date for Webinar 27-Mar-2021
- Paper publication Formalities: 30-Apr-2021

### **Chief Patron**

**Padma Shri Prof (Dr.) Mahesh Verma, MD (Dental Surgery)**  
Vice Chancellor, GGS Indraprastha University

### **Advisor**

**Shri Ravi Dadhich**  
Registrar, GGS Indraprastha University

### **Conference Chair**

**Prof. A. P. Singh**  
Dean, USLLS, GGS Indraprastha University

### **Organizing Secretary**

**Prof. Deepshikha Agarwal**  
USLLS, GGS Indraprastha University

### **Organizing Committee**

Prof. Queeny Pradhan Singh, USLLS  
Prof. Anuj Kumar Vaksha, USLLS  
Prof. Shivani Goswami, USLLS  
Dr. Sheetal Arora, Asst. Professor, Sardar Patel Police University, Jodhpur

### **Coordinating Team**

Ms. Sulbha Rai, Research Scholar, USHSS  
Dr. Harshita Harshu  
Ms. Varuni Yadav, Research Scholar, USHSS  
Mr. Anil Kumar Sukumaran, Research Scholar, USHSS