

## Prelim Bits 08-10-2022 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Scheduled Caste Status for Converted Dalits

*The Centre has recently appointed a commission to examine the issue of whether Scheduled Caste (SC) status can be accorded to Dalits who have over the years converted to religions other than Sikhism or Buddhism.*

- [Click here](#) to know about the issue of according the SC status to converted Dalits.
- The three-member commission is headed by former Chief Justice of India K G Balakrishnan, along with Professor Sushma Yadav from UGC and retired IAS officer Ravinder Kumar Jain.
- The committee has been given a **two-year** deadline to submit a report on the issue.
- The commission's inquiry will look into -
  - The implications of adding new persons to Scheduled Castes on the existing Scheduled Caste members.
  - The changes an SC person goes through after converting to another religion.
  - The changes they go through on converting to other religions in terms of customs, traditions, social and other discrimination, and deprivation.
- **Earlier Recommendations**
  - **Ranganath Misra Commission (2004)** - It recommended that SC status should be made fully religion-neutral like Scheduled Tribes.
  - The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and the National Commission for Minorities had also recommended providing SC status to Dalit Muslims and Dalit Christians.

### References

1. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/three-member-commission-to-look-into-granting-sc-status-to-dalits-converted-to-other-religions/article65980113.ece>
2. <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/ex-cji-named-head-of-panel-on-sc-status-for-dalit-converts-8195436/>
3. <https://www.livelaw.in/top-stories/scheduled-caste-status-for-converted-dalits-centre-constitutes-commission-to-examine-the-issue-211078>

### Credit Guarantee Scheme for Start-ups

*The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry has recently notified the establishment of the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Start-ups (CGSS).*

- CGSS is aimed at providing credit guarantee up to a specified limit against loans extended by Member Institutions (MIs) to finance start-ups.
- This scheme provides for the **collateral-free** debt funding to start-ups.

- The MIs include Scheduled Commercial Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC) and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).
- The exposure to individual cases would be capped at Rs. 10 crore per case or the actual outstanding credit amount, whichever is less.
- The credit guarantee cover under the Scheme would be transaction based and umbrella based.
  1. The transaction-based guarantee cover is obtained by the MIs on single eligible borrower basis.
  2. The umbrella-based guarantee cover will provide guarantee to Venture Debt Funds (VDF) registered under AIF regulations of SEBI.
- The Government will setup a trust or fund to guarantee payment against default in loans or debt extended to eligible borrowers.
- The fund is managed by the Board of National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd as the Trustee of the Fund.
- The scheme will be operated by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC).
- DPIIT will be constituting a Management Committee (MC) and a Risk Evaluation Committee (REC) to oversee the scheme.

## References

1. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1865796>
2. <https://www.thehindu.com/business/govt-notifies-credit-guarantee-scheme-for-start-ups/article65981719.ece>
3. <https://indianexpress.com/article/business/startups/credit-guarantee-scheme-for-startups-notified-loans-up-to-rs-10-cr-collateral-free-8196633/>
4. <https://www.livemint.com/companies/start-ups/centre-notifies-credit-guarantee-scheme-for-startups-11665135749592.html>

## Codeine Cough Drugs

*The Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTBA) has recently recommended a ban on certain codeine-based formulations to curb their abuse following concerns about their misuse of narcotics and intoxicants.*

- **Codeine** is a by-product of opium.
- Codeine is a painkiller, mostly used to treat coughs, colds, and pain.
- Codeine-based formulations are under the scanner for misuse of as a narcotic product.
- On the other hand, Pharma industries claims codeine as one of the best antitussive (cold medication) available.
- The final decision on its implementation lies with the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), an organ of the CDSCO.
- DCGI is responsible for approving and licensing of drugs and medical devices in India.

*Codeine formulations contribute 8% to the total cough and cold market and a ban may lead to an impact of around Re 43 crore on this market*

## PRONE TO ABUSE

➤ Codeine is an **opioid-based** analgesic, mostly used to treat **cough, cold and pain**

➤ Its use is **monitored and controlled** in developed markets including the US and Europe due to **high rates of abuse**



➤ The **US restricted** the use of codeine medicines for children

➤ Codeine and its preparations are supposed to be dispensed against prescription, but most are **available over the counter**

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### Drugs Technical Advisory Board

- Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTBA) is the apex body to decide on technical matters related to drugs in the country.
- It functions as part of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- To know more about Drugs Technical Advisory Board, [click here](#).

### References

1. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/codeine-based-cough-syrup-s-face-govt-ban/articleshow/93307776.cms>
2. [https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/dtab-to-review-19-fixed-dose-combinations-drugs-codeine-formulations-today-122092600209\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/dtab-to-review-19-fixed-dose-combinations-drugs-codeine-formulations-today-122092600209_1.html)
3. <https://thehealthmaster.com/2022/08/04/govt-is-set-to-ban-codeine-based-cough-syrups-and-formulations/>

### International Year of Glass 2022

*The United Nations declared 2022 as the International Year of Glass to promote best practices and sustainability in the industry.*

- Glass is an inorganic solid material that is usually transparent or translucent as well as hard and brittle.
- Glass is a poor conductor of heat and electricity and has no sharp melting point.
- Glass decompose very slowly but can be recycled.
- Commercial glass is usually made of sand, limestone, and sodium carbonate that is raised in temperature until it is molten and then cooled quickly.
- Types of glasses
  1. Everyday glass like sheet glass and bottle glass.
  2. Borosilicate glass - It is used for cookware and laboratory glassware.
  3. Specialized glasses include optical, photosensitive, metallic, and fibre-optic.

### References

1. <https://www.thehindu.com/real-estate/glass-building-material-construction-environment/article65979455.ece>

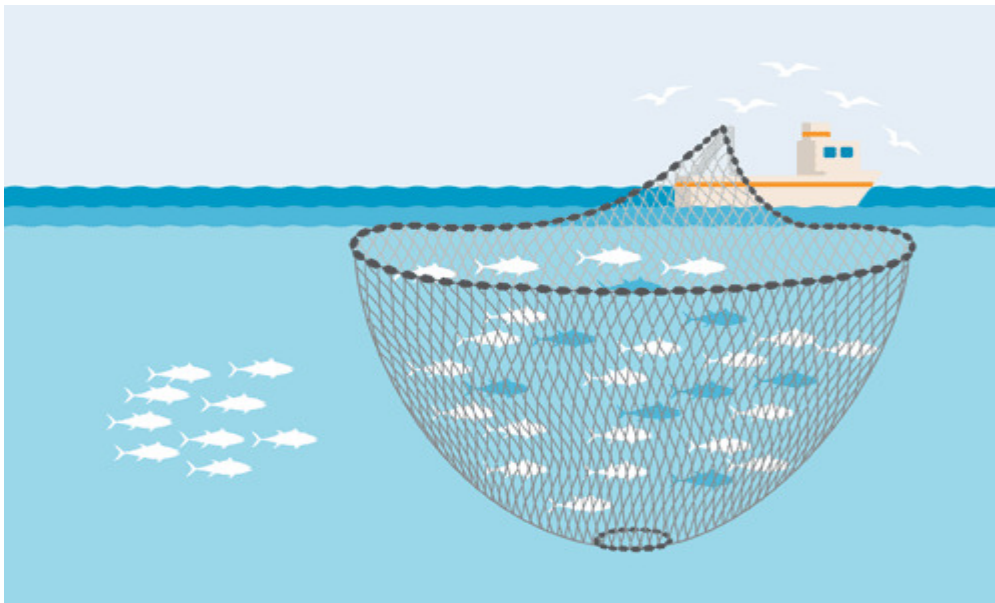
2. <https://www.iyog202org/>

## Purse Seine Nets

*Recently, fishermen of Tamil Nadu protested against the blanket ban of purse seine nets and demanded to regulate it in order to protect the interest of small and traditional fishermen.*

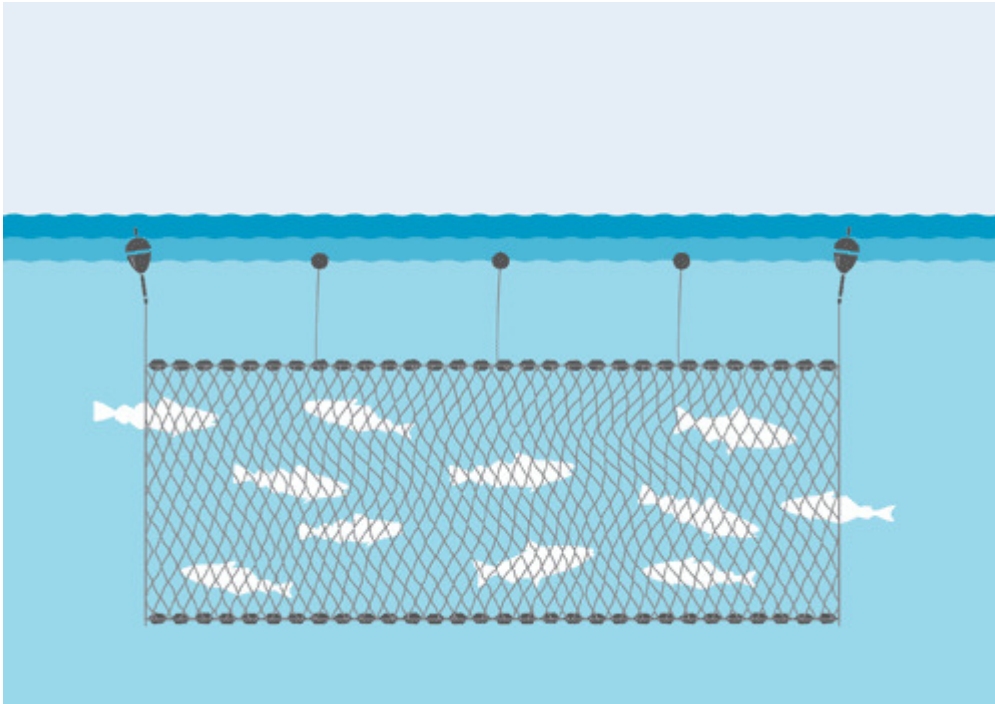
*Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Rules, 2020 enforced the ban of the use of purse seine nets.*

- Purse seine is a non-selective fishing method that captures everything that it surrounds.
- A purse seine net is a large net used in an entire area.
- The seine floats along the top line with a lead line threaded through rings along the bottom.
- Once a school of fish is located, a skiff encircles them.
- The lead line is then pulled in, pursing the net closed on the bottom, preventing fish from escaping.

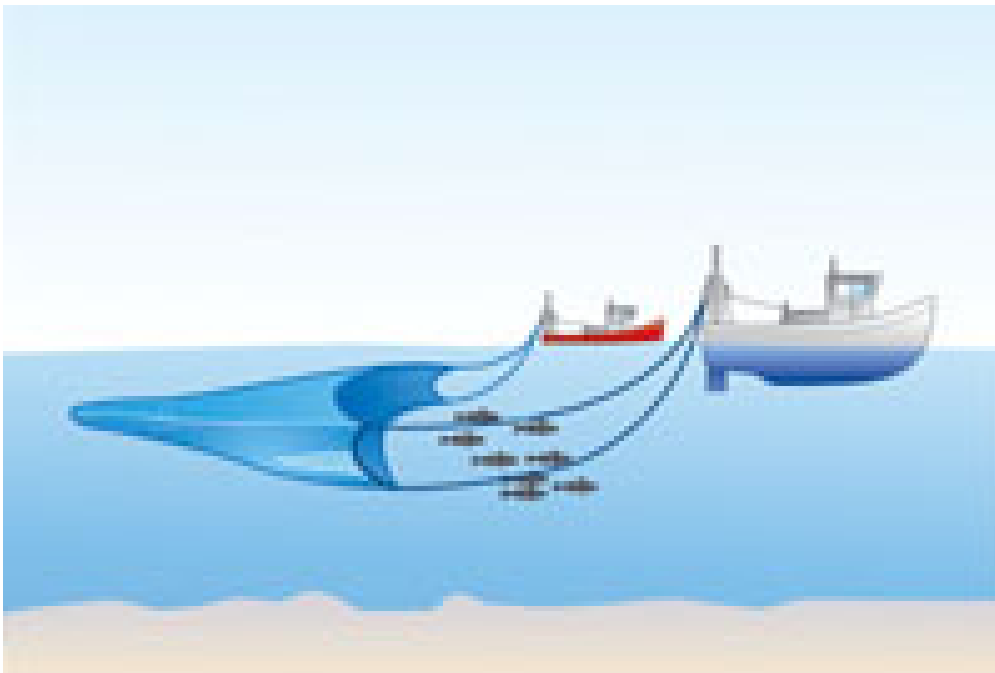


## Other Fishing Types

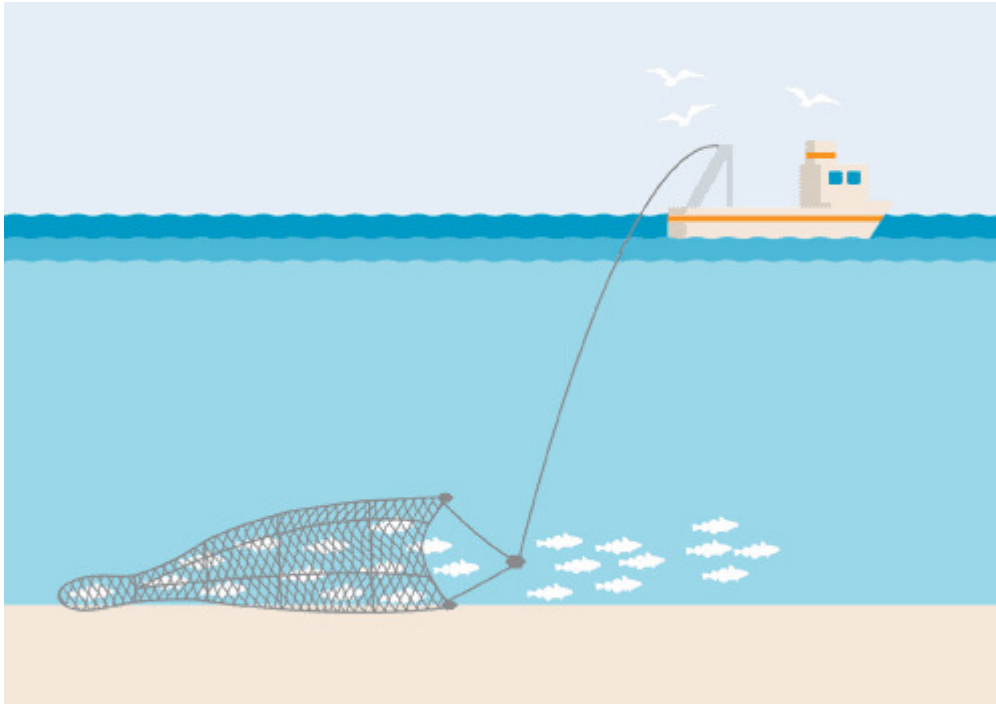
- **Gill nets** - They are set up to be a wall with holes in it. Fish unknowingly swim into it and get stuck.



- **Bull trawling** - In bull trawling or pair trawling, a net is tied between two mechanised boats and it is dragged for some kilometres to catch fish.



- **Bottom trawler** - This involves weighing a net down to the seafloor then dragging it across the bottom to scoop up fish.



## References

1. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2022/oct/08/lift-ban-on-use-of-purse-seine-nets-fishers-in-tamil-nadu-2505854.html>
2. [https://mpeda.gov.in/fishers/?page\\_id=1784#:~:text=Trawl%20can%20be%20operated%20either,%20otter%20trawl%20bull%20trawl.](https://mpeda.gov.in/fishers/?page_id=1784#:~:text=Trawl%20can%20be%20operated%20either,%20otter%20trawl%20bull%20trawl.)