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- **CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL**

- Article 323 - A: The Central Administrative Tribunal had been established under Article 323 - A of the Constitution for adjudication of disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or other authorities under the control of the Government.
- In pursuance of Article 323-A, the Parliament has passed the Administrative Tribunals Act in 1985. The act authorizes the Central government to establish one Central Administrative Tribunal and the state administrative tribunals. This act opened a new chapter in the sphere of providing speedy and inexpensive justice to the aggrieved public servants.

- The annual All India Conference of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) was held in New Delhi on 16th February, 2020.
- The Conference was presided over by the Union Minister for Law and Justice.

MEMBERS

- 65 Members
- The Principal seat of Central Administrative Tribunal is at New Delhi and it has 16 Outlying Benches scattered all over the Country. The Tribunal is headed by the Chairman and 65 Members, 33 from Judicial (including Chairman) and 33 from the Administrative stream.

- Members of Central Administrative Tribunal The CAT consists of a Chairman, Vice – Chairman and other members. The members of CAT are appointed from Judicial and Administrative fields. The right to appoint all the members under CAT is to the President alone. The term of service for the Chairman and Vice- Chairman is 5 years or until the age of 65 – whichever is earlier. The Chairman, Vice - Chairman or any other member of CAT can address his resignation to the President if he wishes to stop serving before the completion of

- A civilian appointed by any Defence services or is appointed by any post connected with the Defence. The members of the Defence forces, officers, the secretarial staff of the Parliament and the staff of Supreme Court do not come under the jurisdiction of Central Administrative Tribunal Members of Central Administrative Tribunal.

- Benches of Central Administrative Tribunal The Principle Bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal is located at the capital city of India – Delhi.
- There are 17 Benches and 21 Circuit Benches in the Central Administrative Tribunal all over India.

OBJECTIVE AND COMPOSITION:

The CAT is a specialist body consisting of Administrative Members and Judicial Members who by virtue of their specialized knowledge are better equipped to dispense speedy and effective justice. It was established in 1985.

- A Chairman who has been a sitting or retired Judge of a High Court heads the Central Administrative Tribunal.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES:

- It exercises jurisdiction only in relation to the service matters of the parties covered by the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.
- The Tribunal is guided by the principles of natural justice in deciding cases and is not bound by the procedure, prescribed by the Civil Procedure Code.
- Under Section 17 of the Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985, the Tribunal has been conferred with the power to exercise the same jurisdiction and authority in respect of contempt of itself as a High Court.

INDEPENDENCE:

The conditions of service of the Chairman and Members are the same as applicable to a Judge of High Court as per the Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Act, 2006.

WORKING OF CAT

- CAT is not bound by the procedure laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but is guided by the principles of natural justice. A tribunal has the same powers as are vested in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. A person making an application to a tribunal may either appear in person or take the assistance of a legal practitioner.

APPEALS AGAINST ORDERS:

The orders of Central Administrative Tribunal are challenged by way of Writ Petition under Article 226/227 of the Constitution before respective High Court in whose territorial jurisdiction the Bench of the Tribunal is situated.

- A person can make an application to CAT either by filing a petition personally or by taking the assistance of a legal practitioner. The appeal against the orders of a tribunal is made in High Court and not in Supreme Court of Law. Rules for Central Administrative Tribunal The Central Administrative Tribunal holds the power to prescribe its own rules of practice for discharging its functions subject to the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 and Rules made there under.

- Under Section 17 of the Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985, the CAT has been given the power to exercise the same jurisdiction and authority in respect of contempt of itself as a High Court. The employees of the Central Administrative Tribunal are required to discharge their duties under the general superintendence of the Chairman.

- The Central Administrative Tribunal is a Growing institution with increasing responsibilities and work.