



# Central Administrative Tribunal

## Why in News?

Recently, [Central Administrative Tribunal](#) (CAT) conducted a special drive across all the **19 Benches of the Tribunal** for disposal of cases of most **vulnerable section of applicants** like the senior citizens / pensioners.

## What is Central Administrative Tribunal?

- **About:** It had been established under **Article 323 - A of the Constitution**.
  - It **provides 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.
- **Legal Framework:** In pursuance of Article 323-A, Parliament passed the **Administrative Tribunals Act in 1985**.
  - The act authorizes the Central government to establish one CAT 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.
  - CAT was set up during the Prime Ministership of **Rajeev Gandhi**.
- **Benches:** There are **19 Benches in the CAT 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.
  - A **Chairman** who has been a sitting or **retired Judge of a High Court** heads the CAT.
- **Operating Principles:** 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**.
- **Appeals against Orders:** The orders of the CAT are challenged by way of a [Writ Petition](#) under **Article 226/227 of the Constitution** before the respective High Court in whose territorial jurisdiction the Bench of the Tribunal is situated.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### Q. Consider the following statements: (2009)

1. Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) was set up during the Prime Ministership of Lal Bahadur Shastri.
2. The Members for CAT are drawn from both judicial and administrative streams.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (b)**

**[Source: PIB](#)**

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