



Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) in Jammu and Kashmir

Why in News?

Recently, [the Supreme Court](#) proposed setting up Benches of [the Armed Forces Tribunal \(AFT\)](#) in **Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh** to address the rising backlog of defence-related cases from these regions.

Key Points

- **Current Burden on AFT Chandigarh:**
 - The SC noted that AFT Chandigarh is handling cases from Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.
 - Setting up **circuit benches in Jammu and Kashmir, Shimla, and Dharamshala** would help reduce the backlog.
- **Supreme Court's Directions to the Centre:**
 - The **court instructed the Centre to compile data** on the total sanctioned strength and vacancies in [tribunals](#).
 - The Centre was asked to **propose a systematic mechanism for filling these posts**.
 - **Details of ongoing recruitment processes** for tribunal posts must be submitted within four weeks.

Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT)

- It is a military tribunal in India. It was established under the **Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007**.
- It has provided the power for the adjudication or trial by AFT of disputes and complaints with respect to commission, appointments, enrolments and conditions of service in respect of persons subject to [the Army Act, 1950](#), [The Navy Act, 1957](#) and [the Air Force Act, 1950](#).
- The Judicial Members are retired **High Court Judges** and Administrative Members are retired Members of the Armed Forces who have held the rank of Major General/ equivalent or above for a period of three years or more, **Judge Advocate General (JAG)**, who have held the appointment for at least one year are also entitled to be appointed as the Administrative Member.