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## Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)

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### Why in News

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The annual All India Conference of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) was held in New Delhi on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.

- The Conference was presided over by the Union Minister for Law and Justice.
- Apart from central services issues, the CAT will soon have jurisdiction to handle disputes and other issues related to the non-central services in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

### Central Administrative Tribunal

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- **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.
- **Benches:** 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.
- **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.

**Source: PIB**