Central administrative tribunal

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What is the Central Administrative Tribunal?

- 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.
- About Central Administrative Tribunal
- The CAT exercises **original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of public servants covered by it**. Its jurisdiction extends to the all-India services, the Central civil services, civil posts under the Centre and civilian employees of defence services. However, the members of the defence forces, officers and servants of the Supreme Court and the secretarial staff of the Parliament are not covered by it.
- Members are drawn from both judicial and administrative streams and are appointed by the president. They hold office for a **term of five years or until they attain the age of 65 years**, in case of chairman and 62 years in case of members, whichever is earlier.
- In pursuance of Article 323-A, the Parliament has passed the Administrative Tribunals Act in 1985. The act authorises the Central government to establish one Central Administrative Tribunal and the state administrative tribunals. **There are 17 Benches and 21 Circuit Benches in the Central Administrative Tribunal all over India**. The CAT is not bound by the procedure laid down in the Civil Procedure Code of 1908. It is guided by the **principles of natural justice**. These

principles keep the CAT flexible in approach.

- A person shall not be qualified for appointment as the Chairman unless he is, or has been, a Judge of a High Court, provided that a person appointed as Vice-Chairman before the commencement of this Act shall be qualified for appointment as Chairman if such person has held the office of the Vice-Chairman at least for a period of two years.