

Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal

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About Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal

- It was established by amending the **TRAI Act of 1997 in the year 2000**.
- It was set up to **adjudicate disputes and dispose of appeals** with a view to protect the interests of **service providers and consumers** of the telecom sector and to promote and ensure orderly growth of the telecom sector.

Composition of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal

- It consists of a **Chairperson and two Members** appointed by the Central Government.

Eligibility of Members of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal

- **Chairperson:** The **Chairperson** should be or should have **been a Judge of the Supreme Court or the Chief Justice of a High Court**.

- **Other member:** They should have held the post of **Secretary to the Government of India** or any equivalent post in the Central Government or the State Government for a period of **not less than two years** or a person who is well versed in the field of technology, telecommunication, industry, commerce or administration.
- **Tenure of office:** The Chairperson of the tribunal shall hold office for a term of **maximum four years or till the age of seventy years**, whichever is earlier.
- Other members hold office for **four years** or till the age **sixty-five years**, whichever is earlier.

Powers and Jurisdiction of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal

- It exercises jurisdiction over **Telecom, Broadcasting, IT and Airport tariff matters under** the TRAI Act, 1997, the Information Technology Act, 2008 and the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008.
- It **exercises original as well as appellate jurisdiction** in regard to Telecom, Broadcasting and Airport tariff matters.
- In regard to **Cyber matters** the Tribunal **exercises only** the **appellate jurisdiction**.
- In January 2004, the Government included **broadcasting and cable services** also within the purview of TRAI Act. After coming into force of the relevant provisions of the Finance Act 2017, the jurisdiction of TDSAT stands extended to matters that lay before the Cyber Appellate Tribunal and also the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority Appellate Tribunal.

Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal FAQs

Q1: What is the function of the Appellate Tribunal?

Ans: Appellate Tribunal has been constituted to hear appeals against the orders of the Adjudicating Authority and the authorities under the said Act.

Q2: What is the main function of TRAI?

Ans: TRAI's mission is to create and nurture conditions for growth of telecommunications in the country in a manner and at a pace

Q3: What is the role of TDSAT?

Ans: It is empowered to entertain all telecom disputes

Q4: What is the composition of the TDSAT?

Ans: The Tribunal consists of a Chairperson and two Members appointed by the Central Government.

Source: ET

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