Madurai Bench orders more special courts for corruption cases

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News

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court (Justice B. Pugalendhi, A. Shahul Hameed v. State, Crl.OP(MD) No. 11066 of 2026, reported 10 Nov 2026) found 2,423 Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act cases pending in Tamil Nadu, with exclusive special courts in only 8 districts. It said simply ordering trials to end within two years does not work, and directed that the pending proposal to designate Additional Sessions Courts as PC Act special courts be pursued, and that the State, with the High Court, assess the need for exclusive special courts in other districts and provide infrastructure and staff.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Court	Madurai Bench, Madras High Court
Judge	Justice B. Pugalendhi
Pending PC Act cases	2,423 (Tamil Nadu)
Exclusive special courts	Only in 8 districts
Direction	Designate Additional Sessions Courts; study need for more special courts; give staff and infrastructure

Background

- Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988: Section 3 lets the Central or State Government appoint Special Judges by notification to try PC Act offences. The 2018 amendment made bribe-giving an offence and set a two-year target for trials (extendable).
- High Courts in the Constitution: Article 214 – a High Court for each State; Article 231 – a common High Court for two or more States. The Madras High Court was set up in 1862 under the Indian High Courts Act, 1861, along with Calcutta and Bombay.
- Madurai Bench began functioning on 24 July 2004 to hear cases from the southern districts.

Tamil Nadu link: Corruption cases in the State are probed by the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC); Tamil Nadu set up its Lokayukta under the Tamil Nadu Lokayukta Act, 2018.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court (Justice B. Pugalendhi, A. Shahul Hameed v. State, Crl.OP(MD) No. 11066 of 2026, reported 10 Nov 2026) found 2,423 Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act cases pending in Tamil Nadu, with exclusive special courts in only 8 districts.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Court: Madurai Bench, Madras High Court; Judge: Justice B. Pugalendhi; Pending PC Act cases: 2,423 (Tamil Nadu); Exclusive special courts: Only in 8 districts.

What is the background to this news?

Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988: Section 3 lets the Central or State Government appoint Special Judges by notification to try PC Act offences.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. In which year did the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court start functioning?

A) 2002

B) 2006

C) 2004

D) 2008

Answer: C – Explanation: The Madurai Bench began on 24 July 2004 and hears cases from the southern districts. The Madras High Court itself was set up in 1862.

2. Special Judges who try corruption offences are appointed under which law?

A) PC Act, 1988

B) Lokpal Act, 2013

C) CVC Act, 2003

D) PMLA, 2002

Answer: A – Explanation: Section 3 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 lets the Central or State Government appoint Special Judges by notification.

3. As per the Madurai Bench order reported in November 2026 (figures as on 30.06.2026), how many Prevention of Corruption Act cases are pending in Tamil Nadu?

A) 1,423

B) 3,242

C) 4,232

D) 2,423

Answer: D – Explanation: 2,423 cases are pending, and exclusive special courts exist in only 8 districts, so the court pressed for Additional Sessions Courts to be designated as special courts.

4. Which Madurai Bench judge passed this order on additional special courts?

A) Justice G.R. Swaminathan

B) Justice B. Pugalendhi

C) Justice N. Anand Venkatesh

D) Justice M.S. Ramesh

Answer: B – Explanation: Justice B. Pugalendhi ruled in A. Shahul Hameed's case (reported 10 Nov 2026): ordering trials to finish in two years is not enough; courts need infrastructure and staff.

5. Statements:
1. Art. 214: a High Court for each State.
2. The Madras High Court was set up in 1862.
3. Tamil Nadu's anti-corruption agency is DVAC.
Which are correct?

A) 1 and 2 only

B) 2 and 3 only

C) 1 and 3 only

D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D – Explanation: All three are correct. DVAC = Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption. The Calcutta, Bombay and Madras High Courts began in 1862 under the Indian High Courts Act, 1861.

Sources: Madras High Court (Madurai Bench), Crl.OP(MD) No. 11066 of 2026; LiveLaw and Verdictum (10 Nov 2026). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.