HOME, PROHIBITION AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

POLICY NOTE 2026-2027

DEMAND No. 3

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Minister for Energy Resources and Law

©
GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
2026

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- Theerpu Thirattu is the bi-monthly Tamil law journal published by the Madras High Court, priced at **Rs.205** a copy, with **Rs.1.81 crore** provided in **2026-27**.

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HOME, PROHIBITION AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

DEMAND NO.3

POLICY NOTE 2026-2027

- Administration of Justice is Demand No.3, under the Home, Prohibition and Excise Department.

Introduction

From the time immemorial ensuring impartial, easy and speedy access to justice for all citizens as enshrined in the constitution of India are the prime concerns of the State.

The growth and development of judiciary and performance have been significant in the State of Tamil Nadu. By ensuring the suitable climate, the State is very keen to maintain the independence of the judiciary by providing adequate facilities

in terms of buildings, manpower and other infrastructure.

2. Organisational Hierarchy of the Judiciary

The Supreme Court of India in New Delhi is the Apex Court of our Country. It has control over all the High Courts functioning in the States. The hierarchy of Judiciary at State level is given in Annexure-I.

3. High Court, Madras and its Bench at Madurai

The Madras High Court stands to be the highest Court of Justice in the State. The High Court of Madras has an approved strength of 75 Hon'ble Judges and now it is functioning with 66 Hon'ble Judges inclusive of Hon'ble Judges in the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court.

The Madras High Court has a sanctioned strength of 75 judges and works with 66, including the Madurai Bench. The vacancy figure is the one examiners ask for.

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The High Court exercises original jurisdiction, special original jurisdiction (writ jurisdiction) in civil matters and appellate jurisdiction both in civil and criminal matters and pecuniary jurisdiction in suits above the value of Rs.1 crore arising within the city of Chennai.

- The High Court's ordinary original civil jurisdiction covers suits above **Rs.1** crore arising in Chennai city - one of only a few High Courts in India retaining original side jurisdiction.

The Principal Seat of the Madras High Court at Chennai exercises its jurisdiction over the following 24 districts:-

- 24 districts fall under the Principal Seat at Chennai and 14 under the Madurai Bench. Learn the split - it is a standard objective question.

Sl. No.	Districts	Sl. No.	Districts
1.	Chennai	2.	Krishnagiri
3.	Tiruvallur	4.	Dharmapuri
5.	Kancheepuram	6.	Salem
7.	Vellore	8.	Namakkal
9.	Tiruvannamalai	10.	Erode
11.	Cuddalore	12.	Tiruppur

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13.	Villupuram	14.	Coimbatore
15.	The Nilgiris	16.	Tiruvarur
17.	Nagapattinam	18.	Ariyalur
19.	Perambalur	20.	Tirupathur
21.	Mayiladuthurai	22.	Ranipet
23.	Kallakurichi	24.	Chengalpattu

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court at Madurai exercises its jurisdiction over the following 14 districts:-

Sl. No.	Districts	Sl. No.	Districts
1.	Madurai	2.	Ramanathapuram
3.	Dindigul	4.	Virudhunagar
5.	Pudukkottai	6.	Tirunelveli
7.	Thanjavur	8.	Thoothukudi
9.	Tiruchirappalli	10.	Kanniyakumari
11.	Karur	12.	Theni
13.	Sivagangai	14.	Tenkasi

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Except original jurisdiction in civil matters, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court exercises jurisdiction in all other matters as in the case of the Principal Seat of Madras High Court.

The Madras High Court also exercises extended jurisdiction over Union Territory of Puducherry. The expenditure of officers and staff attending to Puducherry matters in the High Court is initially incurred by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the same is got reimbursed by the Government of Puducherry subsequently.

Besides dispensing justice, the High Court of Madras exercises full administrative control over the entire subordinate judiciary in the State of Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

- The Madurai Bench exercises every jurisdiction of the Principal Seat except original civil jurisdiction - the precise legal distinction between the two seats.

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4. Tamil Law Journal (Theerpu Thirattu)

The bi-monthly Law Journal "Theerpu Thirattu" is published in Tamil by Hon'ble High Court of Madras and made available to the Advocates and the Public at a price of Rs.205/- per copy.

In the Revised Budget Estimate, for the year 2026-2027, a sum of Rs.1.81 crore has been provided by the Government for this purpose.

5. Details of Institution, disposal and pendency of cases in the High Court of Madras at Chennai including Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court at Madurai.

The details are given in Annexure-II.

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6. Classification of Expenditure

The expenditure of the High Court of Madras and the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court at Madurai is classified as "CHARGED" and the expenditure for the Subordinate Judiciary is classified as "VOTED" under Demand No.3-Administration of Justice.

- Expenditure of the High Court is 'Charged' on the Consolidated Fund and is not voted; the subordinate judiciary is 'Voted'. This is a direct Article 202 illustration.

The provision made under the Revised Budget Estimate, 2026-2027 for the Administration of Justice under "Charged" is Rs.449.28 crore and the "Appropriation" is Rs.2037.21 crore.

- Demand No.3 in **2026-27**: **Rs.449.28** crore charged and **Rs.2,037.21 crore** appropriation.

7. Strength of Subordinate Courts in the State

Totally, 1378 Subordinate Courts, including 328 Special Courts are functioning in the State, as detailed below:-

- 1,378 subordinate courts including 328 special courts - 150 in Chennai and 1,228 in the other districts.

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Sl. No.	Districts	No. of Courts
1.	Chennai District	150
2.	Other Districts	1228
Total		**1378**

The particulars of the number of Courts / Tribunals functioning in the City of Chennai and in other Districts are given in Annexure-III, IV, V and VI respectively.

8. Strength of Judicial Officers in the State

Name of the Post	Sanctioned strength	Working strength	Posts remaining vacant
District Judge	369	269	100
Senior Civil Judge	378	350	28
Civil Judge	656	577	79
Total	**1403**	**1196**	**207**

- Judicial officer strength: 1,403 sanctioned, 1,196 working, 207 vacant. District Judge posts alone carry 100 vacancies - the pendency argument's starting point.

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9. Judicial Academy

The Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy has been established at Chennai with its two regional centres at Madurai and Coimbatore to impart training to the Judicial Officers such as District Judges, Senior Civil Judges and Civil Judges and staff of the Judiciary and induction training to the new recruits.

- The Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy sits at Chennai with regional centres at Madurai and Coimbatore, funded at **Rs.11.66** crore in **2026-27**.

In the Revised Budget Estimate, for the year 2026-2027, a sum of Rs.11.66 crore has been provided by the Government towards salary, allowances and other expenditure of the academy.

10. Civil Courts

10.1. City Civil Court, Chennai

The territorial jurisdiction of the City Civil Court extends over the whole City of

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Chennai. The pecuniary jurisdiction for the cases of the Assistant Judge is up to Rs.10 lakh and that of Principal Judge is above Rs.10 lakh not exceeding Rs.1 crore. The City Civil Court is also functioning as the Sessions Court for the Chennai Sessions Division.

- City Civil Court, Chennai: Assistant Judge up to **Rs.10 lakh**, Principal Judge above **Rs.10 lakh** to **Rs.1** crore. It also acts as the Sessions Court for Chennai.

10.2. Presidency Small Causes Court

The Court of Small Causes was originally established in the Madras Presidency in the year 1882.

- The Presidency Small Causes Court dates from 1882 and works under the Presidency Small Causes Courts Act, 1882 - one of the oldest surviving colonial courts.

The Court of Small Causes is vested with powers to try cases under the Presidency Small Causes Courts Act, 1882.

The Court of Small Causes are also empowered to try the following cases:-

Sl. No.	Name of Courts	Functions
1.	The Chief Judge and Judges of II, III and IV Courts	To try the cases filed under Motor Vehicles Act, 1988
2.	Judges of V and VI Courts	Functioning as Tribunals for trial of cases filed under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988

10.3. District Courts

There are 110 District Courts including Additional District Courts functioning in the State. The District Judges have pecuniary jurisdiction where the amount of value of subject matter exceeds Rs.10 lakh without any limitation.

- 110 District Courts, with unlimited pecuniary jurisdiction above **Rs.10** lakh, also sitting as special tribunals under the **ESI Act 1948**, the Estate Abolition **Act 1948** and the Motor Vehicles **Act 1988**.

The District Courts are also functioning as Special Tribunals under certain special enactments such as the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, the Estate Abolition Act, 1948 and the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

The District Judges also act as the Sessions Judges of their respective Sessions Divisions. They exercise civil appellate jurisdiction over the district and inspect the Subordinate Courts in their respective divisions. The District Judges, while acting as Sessions Judges, may pass any sentence authorized by law. But any sentence of death passed by them shall be subject to confirmation by the High Court.

10.4. Subordinate Courts

There are 184 Subordinate Courts inclusive of Additional Subordinate Courts, functioning in the State in the cadre of Senior Civil Judge and have pecuniary jurisdiction in all civil proceedings exceeding Rs.1 lakh, but not exceeding Rs.10 lakh.

- The civil hierarchy by value: District Munsif up to **Rs.1 lakh** (216 courts), Subordinate Court **Rs.1-10 lakh** (184 courts), District Court above **Rs.10** lakh (110 courts).

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These Courts also function as Motor Accident Claims Tribunals. They also exercise appellate powers in respect of appeals arising from and out of the orders of the District Munsif Courts functioning in their respective territorial jurisdiction.

Post coming into force of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, due to abolition of the post of Assistant Sessions Judge, the Additional District and Sessions Judges are now exercising the powers, hither to exercised by the Assistant Sessions Judges.

- The **BNSS**, **2023** abolished the post of Assistant Sessions Judge; Additional District and Sessions Judges now exercise those powers. A live criminal-law reform to cite.

10.5. District Munsif Courts

District Munsif Courts are exercising pecuniary jurisdiction up to Rs.1 lakh.

Each District Munsif Court has a defined territorial jurisdiction and exercises small

- District Munsif Courts also exercise small causes jurisdiction up to **Rs.20,000,** in addition to ordinary civil jurisdiction up to **Rs.1 lakh**.

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causes jurisdiction up to Rs.20,000/-.

There are 216 District Munsif Courts functioning in the State in the cadre of Civil Judge (Junior Division).

10.6. District Munsif–cum-Judicial Magistrate Courts

There are 96 District Munsif–cum-Judicial Magistrate Courts functioning in the State.

The Presiding Officer of this District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court will deal with both civil and criminal cases.

The concept behind constitution of Combined Court comprising of Civil and Criminal jurisdiction at the lowest level is to ensure accessibility of Courts to the general public at Taluk level.

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11. Criminal Courts

11.1. Metropolitan Magistrate Courts, Chennai

Post coming into force of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 with effect from 01.07.2024, the concept of metropolitan areas and Metropolitan Magistrate Courts have been abolished in the urban areas and they are now uniformally aligned with the structure and concept of Judicial Magistrate Courts both in the urban and rural districts.

The nomenclature of Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate and Metropolitan Magistrate Court has therefore been changed as Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate / Chief Judicial Magistrate and Metropolitan Magistrate Court / Judicial Magistrate Court respectively.

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In the city of Chennai, Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate / Chief Judicial Magistrate, Court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate / Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate and Courts of Metropolitan Magistrate / Judicial Magistrate are functioning now.

All the Metropolitan Magistrate Courts including the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate and Court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate are presided by Judicial Officers in the respective cadres of Senior Civil Judge and Civil Judge.

They exercise jurisdiction within the specified Police Station limits in Chennai City.

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11.2. Chief Judicial Magistrate Courts

Under Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, Chief Judicial Magistrate Courts are competent to try cases, if the offence is punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years.

- Under the **BNSS**, **2023** a Chief Judicial Magistrate may try offences punishable up to seven years; a Judicial Magistrate up to three years or a fine of **Rs.10,000**.

There are 37 Chief Judicial Magistrate Courts functioning in the State having administrative control over the Courts of Judicial Magistrate in the Districts.

11.3. Judicial Magistrate Courts

Judicial Magistrate Courts are competent to try cases, if the offence is punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or with fine not exceeding Rs.10,000/- or with both.

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There are 244 Judicial Magistrate Courts in the cadre of Civil Judge (Junior Division) functioning in 317 Taluks of the State.

244 Judicial Magistrate Courts serve 317 taluks - the base of the criminal court pyramid.

12. Special Courts

12.1. Special Courts for POCSO Act, 2012

For exclusive trial of cases filed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, Special Courts in the cadre of District Judge are functioning in the following 20 districts:-

POCSO Act, 2012 special courts run in 20 districts, with six more sanctioned at Tenkasi, Erode, Tiruppur, Tiruchirappalli, Kallakurichi and an additional one at Chennai.

Sl. No.	Districts	Sl. No.	Districts
1.	Chennai	2.	Sivagangai
3.	Coimbatore	4.	Thanjavur
5.	Cuddalore	6.	Tirunelveli
7.	Chengalpattu	8.	Tiruvannamalai

9.	Kanniyakumari @ Nagercoil	10.	Thoothukudi
11.	Madurai	12.	Vellore
13.	Nagapattinam	14.	Villupuram
15.	Salem	16.	Virudhunagar@ Srivilliputhur
17.	Dindigul	18.	Theni
19.	Dharmapuri	20.	Tiruvallur

6 more such exclusive Special Courts sanctioned, one each at Tenkasi, Erode, Tiruppur, Tiruchirappalli, Kallakurichi Districts including one Additional Special Court at Chennai for exclusive trial of cases filed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, are yet to commence functioning.

In districts, where no Special Courts for trial of cases filed under POCSO Act, 2012 are there, Mahila Courts and Fast Track Mahila Courts in the cadre of District Judge

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have been designated as Special Courts / Additional Special Courts for trial of POCSO Act cases, in addition to the trial of cases relating to crime against women.

Wherever there are no Special Court for trial of cases filed under POCSO Act, 2012, Mahila and Fast Track Mahila Courts in districts like Tenkasi, Kallakurichi, Kancheepuram, Ranipet, Tiruppattur and Mayiladuthurai, the Principal District and Sessions Courts / District and Sessions Courts have been designated as Special Courts for trial of cases filed under the POCSO Act, 2012.

12.2. Mahila Courts, Fast Track Mahila Courts and Additional Mahila Courts

Mahila Courts, otherwise called as "Magalir Neethi Mandrangal".

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They try the following offences against women including the cases filed under other special acts enacted by the Central and State Government for the protection of women:-

- Dowry Death
- Cruelty
- Rape
- Murder
- Abetment of suicide
- Outraging the modesty of women
- Acid Attack
- Molestation
- Other offences against Women which are also of heinous in nature

10 Mahila Courts (Magalir Neethimandrangal) and 22 Fast Track Mahila Courts in the cadre of District Judge are functioning in the State for exclusive trial of

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cases of “Crime against Women”, as detailed below:-

Sl. No.	District Name	Sl. No.	District Name
1.	Chennai	2.	Pudukkottai
3.	Ariyalur	4.	Ramanathapuram
5.	Coimbatore	6.	Salem
7.	Cuddalore	8.	Sivagangai
9.	Dharmapuri	10.	Thanjavur
11.	Dindigul	12.	Theni
13.	Erode	14.	Thoothukudi
15.	Kancheepuram	16.	Tiruchirapalli
17.	Kanniyakumari	18.	Tirunelveli
19.	Karur	20.	Tiruppur
21.	Krishnagiri	22.	Tiruvallur
23.	Madurai	24.	Tiruvannamalai
25.	Nagapattinam	26.	Tiruvarur
27.	Namakkal	28.	Vellore
29.	The Nilgiris	30.	Villupuram
31.	Perambalur	32.	Virudhunagar

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32 Additional Mahila Courts in the cadre of Judicial Magistrate are functioning in the State for exclusive trial of cases of "Crime against Women", as detailed below:-

Sl. No.	District Name	Sl. No.	District Name
1.	Chennai	2.	Pudukkottai
3.	Chengalpattu(2)	4.	Ramanathapuram
5.	Ariyalur	6.	Salem
7.	Coimbatore	8.	Sivagangai
9.	Cuddalore	10.	Thanjavur
11.	Dharmapuri	12.	Theni
13.	Dindigul	14.	Tiruchirapalli
15.	Erode	16.	Tirunelveli
17.	Kanniyakumari	18.	Tiruppur
19.	Karur	20.	Tiruvallur
21.	Krishnagiri	22.	Tiruvannamalai
23.	Madurai	24.	Tiruvarur
25.	Nagapattinam	26.	Vellore
27.	Namakkal	28.	Villupuram
29.	The Nilgiris	30.	Virudhunagar
31.	Perambalur		

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One Additional Mahila Court sanctioned in the cadre of Judicial Magistrate for Thoothukudi is yet to commence functioning.

In districts, where there are no Mahila Courts, the cases of "Crime against Women" are tried by the respective Principal District and Session Courts.

12.3. Special Courts for Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985

5 Special Courts in the cadre of District Judge are functioning exclusively for trial of cases filed under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985:-

- Five exclusive **NDPS** courts, plus six Essential Commodities Act courts designated to try **NDPS** cases.

Place	No. of courts
Chennai	2
Madurai	2
Villupuram	1
Total	**5**

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One Special Court, for exclusive trial of cases filed under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 to have jurisdiction over the Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari districts sanctioned in the cadre of District Judge for Tirunelveli District is yet to commence functioning.

6 Special Courts for trial of cases exclusively filed under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, have also been designated as Special Courts to try the cases filed under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, as detailed below:-

Place	No. of Courts
Chennai	1
Madurai	1
Coimbatore	1

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Pudukkottai	1
Salem	1
Thanjavur	1
Total	**6**

The present jurisdiction of the exclusive and designated Special Courts for Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 is as follows:-

Sl. No.	Exclusive / Designated Special Court at	No. of Courts	Jurisdiction Districts
1.	Chennai	3	Chennai, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu and Tiruvallur.
2.	Coimbatore	1	Coimbatore, Erode, The Nilgiris and Tiruppur.
3.	Salem	1	Salem, Dharmapuri, Karur, Krishnagiri, Namakkal, Ranipet, Vellore and Tirupathur.
4.	Villupuram	1	Villupuram, Cuddalore, Kallakuruchi and Tiruvannamalai.

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5.	Thanjavur	1	Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai.
6.	Pudukkottai	1	Pudukkottai, Tiruchirappalli, Ariyalur, and Perambalur.
7.	Madurai	3	Madurai, Dindigul, Theni, Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari.

12.4. Family Courts

42 Family Courts in the cadre of District Judge are functioning in the State, as detailed below:-

- 42 Family Courts under the Family Courts **Act, 1984**, constituted to promote conciliation and speedy settlement of marriage and family disputes.

Sl. No.	District	No. of Courts	Sl. No.	District	No. of Courts
1.	Ariyalur	1	2.	Chennai	8
3.	Coimbatore	2	4.	Ramanathapuram	1
5.	Cuddalore	1	6.	Salem	1
7.	Dharmapuri	1	8.	Sivagangai	1
9.	Dindigul	1	10.	Thanjavur	1
11.	Erode	1	12.	Theni	1

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13.	Chengalpattu	1	14.	Thoothukudi	1
15.	Kanniyakumari	2	16.	Tiruchirappalli	2
17.	Karur	1	18.	Tirunelveli	1
19.	Krishnagiri	1	20.	Tiruppur	1
21.	Madurai	1	22.	Tiruvallur	1
23.	Nagapattinam	1	24.	Tiruvannamalai	1
25.	Namakkal	1	26.	Tiruvarur	1
27.	The Nilgiris	1	28.	Vellore	1
29.	Perambalur	1	30.	Villupuram	1
31.	Pudukkottai	1	32.	Virudhunagar	1

One Additional Family Court at Madurai in Madurai District, sanctioned in the cadre of District Judge is yet to commence functioning.

These Courts are constituted with a view to promote conciliation and secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage, family affairs and matters connected therewith under the Family Courts Act, 1984.

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12.5. Special Courts for Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955

- Four Additional Sessions Courts - Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli and Madurai - are designated special courts under the Protection of Civil Rights **Act, 1955**.

For exclusive trial of cases filed under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, the following four Additional Sessions Courts are functioning as Special Courts:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Jurisdiction of the Court
1.	I Additional Sessions Court, Tiruchirappalli	Tiruchirappalli
2.	I Additional Sessions Court, Thanjavur	i) Thanjavur ii) Tiruvarur
3.	II Additional Sessions Court, Tirunelveli	i) Tirunelveli ii) Kanniyakumari
4.	III Additional Sessions Court, Madurai	Madurai

In respect of the remaining districts, the Principal District and Sessions Courts

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concerned are designated to try the cases filed under the aforesaid Act.

12.6. Special Courts for Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989

18 exclusive Special Courts for exclusive trial of cases filed under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, are functioning in the State, as detailed below:-

- 18 exclusive special courts try cases under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) **Act, 1989**.

Sl. No.	Districts	Sl. No.	Districts
1.	Villupuram	2.	Tiruvannamalai
3.	Sivagangai	4.	Perambalur
5.	Dindigul	6.	Thoothukudi
7.	Ramanathapuram	8.	Vellore
9.	Virudhunagar @ Srivilliputhur	10.	Cuddalore
11.	Pudukkottai	12.	Tiruppur
13.	Namakkal	14.	Salem

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15.	Coimbatore	16.	Kanniyakumari @ Nagercoil
17.	Theni	18.	Tiruvarur

In addition to the above, the following 4 Additional Sessions Courts constituted as exclusive Special Courts for trial of cases filed under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, have also been designated as Special Courts to try the cases filed under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989:-

Sl. No.	**Districts**
1.	I Additional Sessions Court, Tiruchirappalli
2.	I Additional Sessions Court, Thanjavur
3.	II Additional Sessions Court, Tirunelveli
4.	III Additional Sessions Court, Madurai

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Two exclusive Special Courts sanctioned in the cadre of District Judge for trial of cases filed under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, at Chengalpattu and Tenkasi are yet to commence functioning.

In respect of the remaining districts, the Principal District and Sessions Courts concerned are designated to try the cases filed under the aforesaid Act.

12.7. Special Courts for trial of criminal cases involving elected Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly

Pursuant to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 01.11.2017 in W.P. (Civil) No.699 of 2016, 3 Sessions Courts in the cadre of District Judge have been constituted

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as Special Courts for trial of criminal cases involving elected Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly in Chennai.

The Principal District and Sessions Courts / District Courts in every Sessions Division in the State, have been designated as Special Courts to try all the criminal cases at Sessions level including the cases filed under the following Acts:-

i. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989,

ii. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) 2012,

iii. Exclusive trial of cases of offences against Women,

iv. Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988,

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v. Cases relating to communal clashes,

vi. Bomb Blast cases,

vii. Cases filed under other Central and State Special Acts.

Similarly, the following Courts of Judicial Magistrates have been designated as Special Courts to try all the magisterial level cases against them and the Judicial Magistrates concerned are functioning as Presiding Officers of the respective Special Courts:-

Name of the District	Name of the Court	Name of the Magistrate's Division
Ariyalur	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Ariyalur	Ariyalur
Coimbatore	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Coimbatore	Coimbatore
Cuddalore	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Cuddalore	Cuddalore

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Dharmapuri	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Dharmapuri	Dharmapuri
Dindigul	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Dindigul	Dindigul
Erode	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Erode	Erode
Kancheepuram	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Chengalpattu	Chengalpattu
Kanniyakumari	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Nagercoil	Nagercoil
Karur	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Karur	Karur
Krishnagiri	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Krishnagiri	Krishnagiri
Madurai	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Madurai	Madurai
Nagapattinam	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Nagapattinam	Nagapattinam
Namakkal	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Namakkal	Namakkal
The Nilgiris	Judicial Magistrate Court, Uthagamandalam	Uthagamandalam
Perambalur	Judicial Magistrate Court, Perambalur	Perambalur

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Pudukkottai	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Pudukkottai	Pudukkottai
Ramanathapuram	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Ramanathapuram	Ramanathapuram
Salem	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Salem	Salem
Sivagangai	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Sivagangai	Sivagangai
Thanjavur	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Thanjavur	Thanjavur
Theni	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Theni	Theni
Thoothukudi	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Thoothukudi	Thoothukudi
Tiruchirappalli	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Tiruchirappalli	Tiruchirappalli
Tirunelveli	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli
Tiruppur	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Tiruppur	Tiruppur
Tiruvallur	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Tiruvallur	Tiruvallur
Tiruvannamalai	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Tiruvannamalai	Tiruvannamalai

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Tiruvarur	Judicial Magistrate Court, Tiruvarur	Tiruvarur
Vellore	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Vellore	Vellore
Villupuram	Judicial Magistrate Court No.I, Villupuram	Villupuram
Virudhunagar	Judicial Magistrate Court No.II, Srivilliputhur	Srivilliputhur

12.8. Commercial Courts

Commercial Courts have been established under the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 for adjudicating commercial disputes of specified values and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, like disagreement or conflict arising from business, trade, or commercial transactions between merchants, traders, or corporate entities.

7 Commercial Courts are functioning exclusively to deal with the cases filed under

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the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, as detailed below:-

District Judge cadre	Subordinate Judge (Senior Civil Judge) cadre
Chennai	---
Salem	Salem
Coimbatore	Coimbatore
Chengalpattu	Chengalpattu

All the Principal District Courts / District Courts except in the Districts of Coimbatore, Chengalpattu and Salem have been designated as Commercial Courts for the respective Districts.

All the Principal Subordinate Courts / Subordinate Courts, except in the District headquarters of Coimbatore, Chengalpattu and Salem, have been designated as Commercial Courts for the respective District headquarters.

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Cadre of Judicial Officer	Territorial limits	Commercial disputes having pecuniary jurisdiction	Appellate Jurisdiction
Civil Judge (Senior Division)	Territorial limits of the respective district headquarters	Not less than Rs.3 lakh and not more than Rs.25 lakh.	---
District Judge	Territorial limits of the respective district headquarters	More than Rs.25 lakh	Function as Commercial Appellate Courts to deal with the appeal arising from the Commercial Courts at Civil Judge (Senior Division) level in the respective districts.
District Judge	The entire Judicial District of Chennai as its local limits	Not less than Rs.3 lakh and not more than Rs.1 crore.	

12.9. Labour Courts

17 Labour Courts in the cadre of District Judge and One Industrial Tribunal in

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the cadre of District Judge at Chennai, having Statewide jurisdiction, to adjudicate labour disputes and claim petitions filed by parties, as detailed below:-

Sl. No.	Districts	Labour Courts
1.	Chennai	5*
2.	Coimbatore	2
3.	Cuddalore	1
4.	Kancheepuram	1
5.	Krishnagiri	1
6.	Madurai	1
7.	The Nilgiris	1
8.	Salem	1
9.	Thanjavur	1
10.	Tiruchirappalli	1
11.	Tirunelveli	1
12.	Vellore	2
Total		18

(* Including one Industrial Tribunal)

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12.10. Special Court for Communal Clashes

One District and Sessions Judge's Court at Madurai is functioning as Special Court for trial of communal clash cases arising in the southern districts such as Madurai, Dindigul, Virudhunagar, Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari.

12.11. Fast Track Courts

There are 40 Fast Track Courts functioning in the State with the primary objective to expedite the judicial process and ensure timely delivery of justice and to clear the pendency of criminal cases in the Judicial Magistrate Courts. Details are given below:-

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District	Place and No. of Fast Track Courts	District	Place and No. of Fast Track Courts
Chennai (including 1 FTC for exclusive trial of NI Act, 1881 cases)	Egmore-2 Saidapet-2 George Town-1	Villupuram	Kallakurichi-1
Kancheepuram	Alandur-1	Theni	Theni-1 Uthama-palayam-1
Tiruvallur	Poona-mallee-1 Tiruvallur-1 Ambattur-1	Karur	Karur-1
Vellore	Vellore-1	Thanjavur	Thanjavur-1 Pattu-kkottai-1
Krishnagiri	Hosur-1	Tiruvarur	Thiruthurai-poondi-1
Dharmapuri	Dharmapuri-1	Nagapattinam	Naga-pattinam -1 Mayiladu-thurai-1
Salem	Attur-1 Omalur-1	Sivagangai	Karaikudi-1
Namakkal	Tiruchen-gode-1	Virudhunagar	Srivilli-puthur-1
Erode	Erode-2	Madurai	Madurai-2
Tiruppur	Tiruppur-1	Dindigul	Palani-1
Coimbatore	Coimbatore-2	Thoothukudi	Thoothu-kudi–1 Kovilpatti - 1

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The Nilgiris	Coonoor-1	Kanniyakumari	Nagercoil-1 Eraniel-1
Tiruvannamalai	Tiruvanna-malai-1		

A Fast Track Court in the cadre of Judicial Magistrate at Chengalpattu sanctioned for exclusive trial of cases filed under the Negotiable Instrument Act, 1881, is yet to commence functioning.

12.12. Special Court for Domestic Violence Act, 2005

One Judicial Magistrate Court at Coimbatore District is functioning exclusively as a Special Court for trial of cases filed under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

In the remaining districts, the Additional Mahila Courts in the cadre of Judicial Magistrate are dealing with the cases filed under this Act.

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12.13. Special Courts for Economic Offences

The following Courts are functioning exclusively as Special Courts for trial of Economic Offences in the State:-

District Judge cadre at Chennai	**Subordinate Judge (Senior Civil Judge) cadre at Madurai**
Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate / Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Economic Offences-I, Chennai	Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Madurai
Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate / Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Economic Offences-II, Chennai	---

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12.14. Special Court for Indian Currency and Fake Stamp papers cases

For trial of cases of Fake Indian Currency and Fake Stamp papers at Chennai, one Metropolitan Magistrate Court / Judicial Magistrate Court in the cadre of Senior Civil Judge is functioning exclusively as Special Court.

12.15. Special Court for Tamil Nadu Protection of Interests of Depositors (in Financial Establishments) Act, 1997

For trial of offences under the Tamil Nadu Protection of Interests of Depositors (in Financial Establishments) Act, 1997, 3 Special Courts in the cadre of District Judge, i.e., one each at Chennai, Madurai and Coimbatore, are functioning exclusively, as detailed below:-

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Name of the District	Jurisdiction / District	
Chennai	Chennai	Krishnagiri
	Tiruvallur	Villupuram
	Kancheepuram	Cuddalore
	Vellore	Nagapattinam
	Tiruvannamalai	Tiruvarur
	Dharmapuri	Perambalur
Madurai	Madurai	Thanjavur
	Theni	Ramanathapuram
	Dindigul	Sivagangai
	Tiruchirappalli	Virudhunagar
	Karur	Tirunelveli
	Pudukkottai	Thoothukudi
	Kanniyakumari	
Coimbatore	Coimbatore	Erode
	Namakkal	Salem
	The Nilgiris	

12.16. Special Court for trial of cases filed under BUDS Act, 2019

The 3 Special Courts in the cadre of District Judge, i.e., one each at Chennai, Madurai and Coimbatore constituted for trial

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of cases filed under the Tamil Nadu Protection of Interests of Depositors (in Financial Establishments) Act, 1997 have also been designated as Special Courts for exclusive trial of cases filed under the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act, 2019 for the respective jurisdiction of those Courts.

12.17. Special Courts for Essential Commodities Act, 1955

For exclusive trial of cases filed under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, 6 Courts in the cadre of District Judges are functioning, as listed below:-

Sl. No.	Districts	Sl. No.	Districts
1.	Chennai	2.	Pudukkottai
3.	Madurai	4.	Salem
5.	Coimbatore	6.	Thanjavur

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The Metropolitan Magistrate Court / Judicial Magistrate Court at Chennai and Judicial Magistrate Courts at various places are also functioning as Special Courts for trial of cases filed under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, in addition to their regular work, as detailed below:-

Name of the Court functioning as Special Court	**Place**	**Jurisdiction / District**
XXI Metropolitan Magistrate's Court/ Judicial Magistrate Court	Chennai	Chennai
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.I	Kancheepuram	Kancheepuram
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.I	Tiruvallur	Tiruvallur

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Judicial Magistrate's Court No.I	Vellore	Vellore
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.I	Cuddalore	Cuddalore
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.I	Villupuram	Villupuram
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.I	Tiruvannamalai	Tiruvannamalai
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.I	Dharmapuri	Dharmapuri
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.II	Salem	Salem
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.II	Namakkal	Namakkal
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.III	Erode	Erode
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.IV	Coimbatore	Coimbatore

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Judicial Magistrate's Court	The Nilgiris	The Nilgiris
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.I	Karur	Karur
Judicial Magistrate's Court	Perambalur	Perambalur
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.VI	Tiruchirapppalli	Tiruchirapppalli
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.II	Thanjavur	Thanjavur
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.I	Nagapattinam	Nagapattinam
Judicial Magistrate's Court	Thiruvarur	Thiruvarur
Judicial Magistrate's Court	Pudukkottai	Pudukkottai
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.III	Dindigul	Dindigul

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Judicial Magistrate's Court No.I	Sivagangai	Sivagangai
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.III	Madurai	Madurai
Judicial Magistrate's Court	Theni	Theni
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.I	Virudhunagar	Virudhunagar
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.II	Ramanatha-puram	Ramanatha-puram
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.I	Thoothukudi	Thoothukudi
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.II	Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli
Judicial Magistrate's Court No.III	Nagercoil	Kanniyakumari
Judicial Magistrate's Court	Krishnagiri	Krishnagiri

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12.18. Special Courts for CBI cases

8 Courts in the cadre of District Judge are functioning as Special Courts for exclusive trial of Central Bureau of Investigation cases in the State, as listed below:-

Sl. No.	Judges	Special Judges	Areas (Sessions Divisions)
1.	VIII Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Chennai	Principal Special Judge, Chennai	1. Chennai 2. Vellore 3. Tiruvannamalai 4. Kancheepuram 5. Tiruvallur 6. Cuddalore 7. Villupuram 8. Nagapattinam 9. Tiruvarur
2.	IX Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Chennai	I Additional Special Judge, Chennai	To try the cases assigned by the Principal Special Judge, Chennai

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3.	X Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Chennai	X Additional Special Judge, Chennai	To try the cases assigned by the Principal Special Judge, Chennai
4.	XII Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Chennai	II Additional Special Judge, Chennai	To try the cases assigned by the Principal Special Judge, Chennai
5.	XIII Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Chennai	III Additional Special Judge, Chennai	To try the cases assigned by the Principal Special Judge, Chennai
6.	XIV Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Chennai	IV Additional Special Judge, Chennai	To try the cases assigned by the Principal Special Judge, Chennai
7.	II Additional District and Sessions Judge, Madurai	Special Judge, Madurai	1. Madurai 2. Thiruchirapalli 3. Karur 4. Perambalur 5. Thanjavur

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			6. Pudukkottai 7. Dindigul 8.Ramanathapuram 9. Sivagangai 10. Virudhunagar 11. Thoothukudi 12. Tirunelveli 13. Kanniyakumari 14. Theni
8.	II Additional District and Sessions Judge, Coimbatore	Special Judge, Coimbatore	1. Coimbatore 2. The Nilgiris 3. Dharmapuri 4. Krishnagiri 5. Erode 6. Salem 7. Namakkal

XXIV Additional Judge Court (CBI cases relating to Banks and Financial Institution Scam) in Chennai is functioning as Special Court for exclusive trial of cases relating to Banks and Financial Institutions which are investigated by the Delhi Special Police establishment for the entire State of Tamil Nadu.

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12.19. Special Court for CCB and C.B.C.I.D. Metro cases

One Metropolitan Magistrate Court / Judicial Magistrate Court in the cadre of Senior Civil Judge at Egmore in Chennai is functioning as Special Court exclusively for trial of cheating cases registered by the Central Crime Branch of the Greater Chennai Police and the Metro Wing of Crime Branch, C.I.D.

One Metropolitan Magistrate Court / Judicial Magistrate Court in the cadre of Senior Civil Judge at Egmore in Chennai is functioning as Special Court exclusively for trial of cases registered by the Central Crime Branch, Greater Chennai Police.

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12.20. Special Courts for Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002

8 Court of Sessions have been designated as Special Courts for trial of criminal cases filed under Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, i.e., 6 at Chennai and 2 at Madurai, as detailed below:-

Sl. No.	Court of Session designated as Special Court under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002	Area specified for trial of offence punishable under section 4 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002
1.	Principal Judge, Chennai	Districts of Ariyalur, Chennai, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Erode, Kancheepuram, Krishnagiri,
2.	VIII Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Chennai	
3.	IX Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Chennai	

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4.	XII Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Chennai	Namakkal, The Nilgiris, Perambalur, Nagapattinam, Salem, Tiruppur, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruvarur, Vellore, Villupuram and any other proposed new districts.
5.	XIII Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Chennai	
6.	XIV Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Chennai	
7.	Principal District Judge, Madurai	Districts of Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Madurai, Dindigul, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Theni, Sivagangai, Pudukkottai, Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli and Karur
8.	II Additional District and Sessions Judge, Madurai	

12.21. Special Courts for Income Tax Act, 1961 and the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015

3 Courts at Chennai, Madurai and Coimbatore have been designated as Special Courts for trial of cases filed under section 280A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 and

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section 84 of the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, as detailed below:-

Sl. No.	Court	Jurisdiction Districts / Areas
1.	I Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate / Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Economic Offences-I, Chennai and II Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate / Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Economic Offences-II, Chennai	Districts of Ariyalur, Chennai, Chengalpattu, Cuddalore, Kancheepuram, Kallakurichi, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, Perambalur, Ranipet, Tiruvallur, Tiruvarur, Tiruvannamalai, Tirupathur, Vellore and Villupuram
2.	Court of Additional Chief Judicial	Districts of Dindigul, Kanniyakumari, Karur, Madurai, Pudukkottai,

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	Magistrate, Madurai	Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai, Thanjavur, Theni, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Tiruchirapalli, Tenkasi and Virudhunagar
3.	Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Coimbatore	Districts of Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Erode, Krishnagiri, Namakkal, The Nilgiris, Salem and Tiruppur

12.22. Special Courts for trial of Customs Act

For exclusive trial of Customs Act and other related cases, one Special Court in the cadre of Judicial Magistrate is functioning at Alandur in Chengalpattu District.

12.23. Special Courts for Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988

For exclusive trial of cases filed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, 8 Special Courts in the cadre of District

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Judge are functioning, as listed below:-

Sl. No.	Districts	Sl. No.	Districts
1.	Chennai	2.	Villupuram
3.	Madurai	4.	Salem
5.	Coimbatore	6.	Sivagangai
7.	Tiruchirappalli	8.	Tirunelveli

In respect of other districts, the respective Principal District and Sessions Judges are designated to try the cases filed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

12.24. Special Court for Sandalwood Offences / Forest Offences

One Judicial Magistrate Court is functioning exclusively as a Special Court to deal with sandalwood offence cases at Tirupathur in Tirupathur District for trial of

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cases filed in the erstwhile Vellore District and Tiruvannamalai District.

One Subordinate Court in the cadre of Senior Civil Judge is also functioning exclusively as a Special Court for trial of forest offences cases at Nagercoil in Kanniyakumari District.

12.25. Special Courts for Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987

Two Special Courts in the cadre of District Judge are functioning at Chennai (i.e., I Additional Judge and V Additional Judge) for trial of cases filed under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987 (since repealed).

12.26. Special Courts for trial of Bomb Blast cases

Two Special Courts in the cadre of District Judge are functioning for trial of

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bomb blast cases, one each at Chennai and Coimbatore.

The Special Court in Chennai at Poonamallee for trial of bomb blast cases is also trying cases arising out of the offences under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 (since repealed).

12.27. Special Courts for Land Acquisition Original Petition cases

All the District and Sessions Judge's Courts are now notified as Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Authority (LARRA) under section 51 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, to entertain and decide the references made under section 64 of the said Act or the applications made by the applicant

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under second proviso to section 64 of the said Act.

12.28. Special Courts for Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881

A Court of Judicial Magistrate at Tirunelveli is functioning as a Special Court to deal specifically with cases relating to the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

Two Metropolitan Magistrate Courts / Judicial Magistrate Courts at Egmore and one at Saidapet in Chennai are functioning for disposal of cases filed under section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

12.29. Special Courts for trial of MCOP and MACT cases

34 Special Courts are now functioning in the State as Motor Accidents Claims Tribunals to deal with the cases of Motor

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Accident Claims Original Petition (MCOP) as detailed below:-

District Judge cadre		Senior Civil Judge cadre	
Coimbatore (2)	Cuddalore (2)	Chennai (2)	Coimbatore (1)
Dharmapuri (1)	Erode (1)	Cuddalore (1)	Dharmapuri (1)
Madurai (1)	Krishnagiri (1)	Dindigul (1)	Erode (1)
Salem (1)	Thanjavur (1)	Krishnagiri (1)	Madurai (1)
Tiruchirappalli (2)	Tiruppur (1)	Salem (2)	Thanjavur (1)
Tiruvallur (1)	Villupuram (1)	Tiruchirappalli (1)	Tirunelveli (1)
Kancheepuram (1)	--	Tiruvallur (1)	Tiruvannamalai (1)
		Villupuram (2)	

In addition, 5 Motor Accident Claims Tribunals have been constituted to deal with the cases of Motor Accident Claims Original Petition (MCOP) filed under the Motor

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Vehicles Act, 1988, as detailed below:-

District Judge cadre		Senior Civil Judge cadre	
Tiruppur (1)	Pudukkottai (1)	Namakkal (1)	Tirupathur (1)
---	---	Villupuram (1)	---

12.30. Mobile Courts to try cases filed under Motor Vehicles Act, 1988

Fourteen Mobile Courts are functioning to deal with petty cases filed under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the cases filed under other enactments, as listed below:-

Place in which Mobile Court in the cadre of Metropolitan Magistrates / Senior Civil Judge is functioning	No. of Courts	Place in which Mobile Court in the cadre of Civil Judge/Judicial Magistrate is functioning	No. of Courts
Chennai	4	Kancheepuram	1
		Villupuram	1
		Coimbatore	1

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	Tiruchirappalli	1
	Madurai	1
	Namakkal	1
	Salem	1
	Erode	1
	Dindigul	1
	Tirunelveli	1

12.31. Special Court for Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957

A Special Court in the cadre of District Judge functions at Madurai to deal with the cases of offences filed under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

12.32. Special Courts for Idol Theft cases

The Court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Kumbakonam in Thanjavur District is functioning as a Special Court for trial of Idol Theft cases.

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The Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate / Chief Judicial Magistrate in the cadre of District Judge at Chennai and Court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Madurai in the cadre of Senior Civil Judge, are functioning as Special Court for trial of idol theft cases in the following districts:-

Name of the Court designated as Special Court	**Jurisdiction of the Court**		
Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate / Chief Judicial Magistrate at Chennai	Chennai	Dharmapuri	Kallakurichi
	Chengal-pattu	Salem	Cuddalore
	Kanchee-puram	Namakkal	Perambalur
	Tiruvallur	Erode	Ariyalur
	Vellore	Tiruppur	Naga-pattinam
	Ranipet	Coimbatore	Mayiladu-thurai
	Tirupathur	Tiruvanna-malai	Tiruvarur
	Krishnagiri	Villupuram	The Nilgiris

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Court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Madurai	Tiruchira-ppalli	Virudhunagar	Thoothukudi
	Karur	Ramanatha-puram	Tenkasi
	Dindigul	Pudukkottai	Kanniyakumari
	Theni	Sivagangai	Madurai
	Tirunelveli		

12.33. Rent Courts and Rent Tribunals

Court of Small Causes Nos.X to XVI, Chennai and all Principal District Munsif Courts / District Munsif Courts / Additional District Munsif Courts for the urban areas of the other respective districts have been constituted as Rent Courts under section 32 of the Tamil Nadu Regulation of Rights and Responsibilities of Landlords and Tenants Act, 2017.

Principal Courts / Additional Courts (except I, V, VIII to XIV Additional Courts) in Chennai and all Principal District Courts /

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District Courts / Additional District Courts for the other respective districts have been designated as Rent Tribunals under section 35 of the Tamil Nadu Regulation of Rights and Responsibilities of Landlords and Tenants Act, 2017.

12.34. Additional Master Courts

The Additional Master Courts are Courts which summon the litigant and record evidence in the original side jurisdictional cases and send the cases for hearing before the Courts concerned.

The retired District Judges or retired Registrar of High Courts is appointed in the Additional Master Courts in the Madras High Court. In the remaining Courts, retired District Judges are appointed in the Additional Master Courts.

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There are 10 Additional Master Courts functioning in Chennai City, of which four Courts are for Madras High Court, four for City Civil Court and two Courts for Presidency Small Causes Court.

13. Details of Institution, disposal and pendency of cases in the District and Subordinate Courts in the State.

The details are given in Annexure-VII.

14. Infrastructure for Subordinate Courts / Residential Units for Judicial Officers

Subordinate Courts are functioning in the following buildings:-

Sl. No.	Categories of Court Buildings	Number of Court Buildings	Number of Residential Units
1.	Building owned by Judiciary	1089	713

- Court infrastructure: 1,089 court halls and 713 residential units in judiciary-owned buildings, against 67 and 664 in private rented buildings.

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2.	Government Rented Buildings	120	24
3.	Private Rented Buildings	67	664
Total		**1276**	**1401**

Infrastructure and other facilities are provided by the Government as and when required by the High Court of Madras for its Principal Seat at Chennai, its Madurai Bench and Subordinate Judiciary in the districts.

15. Centrally Sponsored Scheme

15.1. Scheme for setting up of Fast Track Special Courts

The scheme was originally formulated by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India for expeditious Trial and Disposal of Rape and POCSO Act cases, pursuant to the

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implementation of the provisions stated in "The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018".

Under the above scheme, the Government of India earlier reimbursed to the State of Tamil Nadu towards setting up and functioning of 14 Fast Track Special Courts in respect of staff cost for one Judicial Officer and 7 Court staff per Court at an annual cost of Rs.10.50 crore i.e. Rs.75 lakh per Court / Year under the sharing pattern of 60:40.

- 14 Fast Track Special Courts were funded on a 60:40 Centre-State pattern at **Rs.75 lakh** per court a year, **Rs.10.50 crore** in all.

Now, the above scheme is extended to 20 Special Courts for POCSO Act cases from 14 Courts in the same pattern.

The details of reimbursement so far made by the Government of India towards staff cost of the above Courts for as given below:-

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Sl. No	Financial Year	Fund Sanctioned		Total	Expenditure incurred by State
		Central Share	State Share		
Single Nodal Agency					
1.	2023-24	6.49	4.33	10.83	16.40
Unmapped from SNA					
2.	2024-25	6.92	-	6.92	15.09
3.	2025-26	7.32	-	7.32	15.15

15.2. Judicial Infrastructure

The Government of India, Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Justice is implementing a "Centrally Sponsored Scheme", to augment the resources of the State Governments / Union Territory Administrations for development of infrastructure facilities of the District Courts and Subordinate Courts, shared between Central and State Government in the ratio of 60:40 from the year 2015-2016 for the following components:-

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- Construction of Court Halls
- Construction of Judicial Officer quarters
- Construction of Lawyer's Halls
- Construction of toilet complex
- Construction of Digital Computer room

The following are the details of funds so far received under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS):-

Financial Year	Schemes		Rupees in Crore		
	Ongoing	New	Central Share (60%)	State Share (40%)	Total (100%)
2024-2025	28	10	61.27	40.85	102.12
2025-2026	31	---	46.15	30.77	76.92
2026-2027	23	--	23.65	15.77	39.42

The following are the ongoing projects funded by Centrally Sponsored Schemes:-

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Sl. No.	Name of the projects	No.of Court Hall	No. of Quarters	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in crore)
1.	Construction of Combined Courts Building in the premises of the Old Labour Court (Kuthiraivandi Court) at Avinashi Road, Coimbatore in Coimbatore District	12	---	54.96
2.	Construction of Combined Court Building at Panchetty in Ponneri Taluk in Tiruvallur District	6	---	49.28
3.	Construction of Combined Courts Buildings and Judicial Officers Quarters at Sathyamangalam in Erode District	5	5	41.00
4.	Construction of Courts Building and Judicial Officers Quarters at Uthiramerur in Kancheepuram District	1	2	22.61
5.	Construction of Combined Court	2	2	19.71

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	Building and Judicial Officers Quarters at Sendurai in Ariyalur District			
6.	Construction of Combined Court Buildings at Kurinjipadi in Cuddalore District	2	2	15.62
7.	Construction of Combined Court Buildings at Neyveli in Cuddalore District	3	---	13.95
8.	Construction of Court and Quarter at Kamuthi in Ramanathapuram District	1	1	12.01
9.	Construction of Combined Court Buildings and Officers Quarters at Aundipatti in Theni District.	2	2	11.70
10.	Construction of Court existing Court Campus at Mettupalayam in Coimbatore District	1	---	11.23
11.	Construction of Judicial Officer		5	8.70

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	Quarters at Master Plan Complex in Namakkal District			
12.	Construction of law chambers in the Combined courts building premises at Salem in Salem District	---	---	8.65
13.	Construction of Judicial Officers Quarters at Neyveli in Cuddalore District	---	3	4.30
14.	Construction of Judicial Officer Quarters at Bhavani in Erode District	---	2	3.89
15.	Construction of Subordinate Judge Quarters at Ulundurpet in Kallakurichi District	---	1	1.34

16. e-Courts Mission Mode Project

The e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project is one of the National e-governance Projects being implemented in the

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High Courts and District / Subordinate Courts across the Country.

The project aims to digitize the Judicial Infrastructure and provide wide range of citizen centric services through 7 platforms of service delivery channels providing real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc., to lawyers / litigants, e-Payments, e-Filing, virtual courts to handle traffic challans, hearings using Video Conferencing etc.

The details of funds received directly by the High Court of Madras from the Government of India under e-Courts Mission Mode Project are as follows:-

Stage	Period	Rupees in crore
Phase - I	2011-2015	9.71
Phase-II	2015-2022	70.15
Phase-III	2023-2027	90.69

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The key objectives of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project Phase-III commencing from 2023 onwards for a period of 4 years are as follows:-

- To build upon the gains achieved in the earlier phases.
- To establish a robust governance framework and a judicial system that is more accessible, efficient and equitable for every individual who seeks justice.
- To introduce and facilitate various new features, which will serve as a game changer for last mile justice delivery.
- To realize foundational vision of Phase-III of the e-Courts Projects

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towards digital courts by combining Gandhian philosophy of access and inclusion with the objectives of equity and efficiency in the judicial system.

As part of the project, tripartite agreements are being signed between Department of Justice, High Courts and respective State Governments. Under these agreements, the State Government will have to extend necessary support to the Third Party (High Court of Madras) to ensure sustainability of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project.

16.1. e-Sewa Kendras

Setting up of a e-Sewa Kendra is one of the key objective of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project aimed to serve as a digital

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bridge, help reducing the digital divide and ensure accessibility to Justice for all in the emerging digital legal system.

- Totally, 299 e-Sewa Kendras are now functioning across the State of Tamil Nadu.
- These centres will provide assistance to litigants in relation to
  - i. Information about their case status;
  - ii. Obtaining Judgement / orders;
  - iii. e-filing of cases and
  - iv. Access to court / case related information.

299 e-Sewa Kendras across Tamil Nadu under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project help litigants with case status, judgments, e-filing and court information.

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17. e-Stamping for Payment of Court fees

e-Stamping is a system of payment of court fees through digitization mode as per the Tamil Nadu Court Fees and Suits Valuation Act, 1955.

- e-Stamping for court fees runs under the Tamil Nadu Court Fees and Suits Valuation **Act, 1955**, implemented by Stock Holding Corporation of India.

It has been implemented in the High Court of Madras and its Madurai Bench and all Principal District Courts and Subordinate Courts in the State of Tamil Nadu.

The services are offered through online mode and off line mode through the authorised collection centres and authorised banks by filing application.

e-Stamping system is implemented by M/s. Stock Holding Corporation of India and for this purpose, the Inspector General of Registration, on behalf of the State, has

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entered into an agreement with the corporation.

The High Court of Madras has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State Bank of India for enabling e-payment of court fee by integrating the Case Information System with SBI e-Pay payment gateway.

The following are the details of amount collected as e-Court fee through e-stamps in Principal Seat at High Court of Madras, Madurai Bench of Madras High Court and District Judiciary:-

Period	Name of the Court	Amount (Rs. in crore)
01.04.2025 to 31.03.2026	Principal Seat at High Court of Madras	44.12
	Madurai Bench of Madras High Court	8.10
	District Judiciary	257.73
	Total	**309.95**

- Court fee collection from **01.04.2025** to **31.03.2026**: **Rs.309.95 crore**, of which the district judiciary contributed **Rs.257.73 crore**.

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18. Administrator-General and Official Trustee

The Administrators-General Act, 1963 has been enacted by the Central Government to provide a legal framework for appointing a state official, i.e. Administrator-General so as to enable him to manage, protect, and distribute the estates of any person died leaving assets within any State when the High Court for that State is satisfied that there is imminent danger of misappropriation, deterioration or waste of such assets, requiring immediate action.

- The Administrator-General of Tamil Nadu holds 1,148 fixed deposits of 39 trust estates worth **Rs.169.78 crore**; the Official Trustee holds 4,476 deposits of 158 estates worth **Rs.173.52 crore**.

Under the said act, the Administrator-General and Deputy Administrator-General are appointed by the Government.

The Administrator-General is empowered whenever directed by the High

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Court of Madras upon application made by him or person interested in the asset;

a) To collect and take possession of such assets, and

b) To hold, deposit, realise, sell or invest the same according to the directions of the High Court, and, in default of any such directions, according to the provisions of this Act so far as the same are applicable to such assets.

The Administrator-General of Tamil Nadu is maintaining 1148 fixed deposits of 39 trust estates for a total value of Rs.169.78 crore and also administering 39 trust estates.

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The Official Trustee of Tamil Nadu is maintaining 4476 fixed deposits of 158 trust estates for a total value of Rs.173.52 crore and also administering 158 trust estates.

The rental income and fixed deposit interest income derived from the Trust Estates are spent by the Administrator-General and Official Trustee towards philanthropic activities like, Charities and maintenance to the beneficiaries, Scholarship to the students, Salary to Estate Staff etc.

19. Tamil Nadu Advocates' Welfare Fund

i. Tamil Nadu Advocates' Welfare Fund is instituted for granting financial assistance of Rs. 10 lakh to the legal heirs / nominees of the deceased advocates.

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ii. The fund is governed by Tamil Nadu Advocates' Welfare Fund Act, 1987 and administered by the Tamil Nadu Advocates' Welfare Fund Trustee Committee headed by the Advocate General of Tamil Nadu.

iii. Rs.10 crore is given as annual grant to the fund every year by the Government.

iv. Apart from the above Annual Grant, the balance amount for the fund is generated through following sources as mandated in the Act:-

- ❖ Fee for Annual Subscription,
- ❖ Life-time Subscription,
- ❖ Re-admission fee,
- ❖ Registration fee,

The Advocates' Welfare Fund pays **Rs.10 lakh** to the heirs of deceased advocates, is chaired by the Advocate General, and receives a **Rs.10 crore** annual Government grant.

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- ❖ Receipt evidencing payment,
- ❖ Advocates' Welfare Fund Stamps and
- ❖ Vakalatnama Stamps

v. The act provides for making the availability of the above scheme of financial assistance to those who actually enrolled in the younger age aiming only for that legal profession.

vi. The Advocates' Welfare Fund Stamp is also implemented through "e-Stamp".

vii. The details of disbursement made to the legal heirs / nominees of the deceased advocates from the Tamil Nadu Advocates' Welfare Fund are furnished below:-

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Sl. No.	Year	No. of Claims	Amount Disbursed (Rs.)
1.	2022-2024	969	53,65,00,000/-
2.	2024-2025	557	53,89,75,000/-
3.	2025-2026	540	52,30,50,000/-

20. Tamil Nadu Advocates' Clerks Welfare Fund

Tamil Nadu Advocates' Clerks Welfare Fund is instituted for the purpose of providing financial assistance of Rs.7 lakh to the nominee / dependent of the deceased Advocates' Clerks who are members of the Tamil Nadu Advocates' Clerks Welfare Fund Scheme.

It is governed by the Tamil Nadu Advocates' Clerks Welfare Fund Act, 1999 and administered by the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

- The Advocates' Clerks Welfare Fund, under the Act of **1999**, pays **Rs.7** lakh to a deceased clerk's nominee and is administered by the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

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For admissibility as a member of the fund, an Advocate Clerk has to pay an admission fee of Rs.500/- and subscription fee of Rs.5,000/-.

Rs.20/- has been collected as Tamil Nadu Advocates' Clerks Welfare Fund Stamp to augment the resources for the above fund.

The details of disbursement made to the legal heirs / nominees of the deceased advocates from the Tamil Nadu Advocates' Clerks Welfare Fund are furnished below:-

Sl. No.	Year	No. of Claims	Amount Disbursed (Rs.)
1.	2022-2023	32	1,22,00,000/-
2.	2023-2025	45	1,80,00,000/-

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21. Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority

The Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority at State level, District Legal Services Authority at District level and Taluk Legal Services Committees in every area where there is a court, throughout the State have been constituted in the State in accordance with the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to fulfill the following objectives of the Act:-

i. To provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society,

ii. To ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities,

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iii. To organize Lok Adalats on a statutory basis as an Alternative Disputes Resolution Forum,

iv. To educate poor sections of the society about their rights and;

v. To enable them to get the benefits and privileges given to them in various social welfare legislations and administrative orders.

The High Court Legal Services Committee has been constituted by the State Legal Services Authority.

At present, there are 38 District Legal Services Authorities, 202 Taluk Legal Services Committees and 2 High Court Legal Services Committees functioning in the State.

- The legal services network: 38 district authorities, 202 taluk committees and 2 High Court committees, funded at **Rs.41.78 crore** in **2026-27**.

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In the Revised Budget Estimate, for the year 2026-2027, a sum of Rs.41.78 crore has been provided by the Government towards salary, allowances and other expenditure of the Tamil Nadu Legal Services Authorities.

21.1. Eligibility Criteria

Persons who satisfy all or any of the criteria specified with section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 are entitled to receive legal services provided that the Authority concerned is satisfied that such person has a prima facie case to prosecute or to defend.

- Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities **Act, 1987** sets who is entitled to free legal services - the eligibility provision to quote by number.

21.2. Legal Aid Counsel Scheme

Legal Aid counsels strive to provide legal assistance to the under-trial prisoners produced for remand before Magistrates,

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pleading no means to engage counsel under the Legal Aid Counsel Scheme.

This scheme lays emphasis on providing legal aid to the persons in custody for receiving release on bail and opposing remand applications, during trial for defence and for preferring appeals or revision against adverse orders.

The details of the performance of the Legal Aid Counsel Scheme are furnished as below:-

Year	Number of persons provided with legal assistance at remand stage	Number of bail applications filed at remand stage	Number of cases in which bail is granted
2024	6,710	1,522	1,013
2025	9,733	1,889	1,146
2026 (up to 31.03.2026)	1,615	594	387

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21.3. Legal Assistance

The Legal Services Authorities / Committees provide assistance to the weaker segments of the society for getting welfare benefits and free legal assistance to the persons affected in criminal cases and victims in motor vehicle accident cases.

21.4. Lok Adalat

Permanent Lok Adalats have been established in 38 districts under section 22B of the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987.

- Permanent Lok Adalats operate in all 38 districts under Section 22B of the Legal Services Authorities **Act, 1987**.

The Lok Adalat is being organized to facilitate a settlement between the parties to a dispute in respect of any case pending before or any matter which is falling within the jurisdiction of any court.

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National Lok Adalats are being conducted in all the courts in the country right from the Supreme Court of India to the Taluk.

In addition to the Regular Lok Adalats, the State Legal Services Authority also conducts National Lok Adalats services.

The details of number of cases settled and the award amount passed are as follows:-

Financial year	Number of cases settled	Award amount (in Rs.)
2023-2024	3,68,256	3191,46,23,092
2024-2025	3,40,183	2601,86,60,758
2025-2026	4,30,848	3520,10,12,721
Total	19,10,129	15,410,95,83,601

- National Lok Adalats settled 4,30,848 cases in **2025-26** with awards of **Rs.3,520.10 crore**; the cumulative figure is 19,10,129 cases and **Rs.15,410.96 crore**.

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21.5. Prison Adalat

The Prison Adalat and Legal Aid Cell are functioning in Central Prisons at Chennai, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Vellore, Cuddalore, Salem, Tirunelveli and Coimbatore and in Special Prison for Women at Vellore.

A Legal Aid Clinic is functioning in the Central Prison at Puzhal in Chennai. The Prison Adalat functions every Friday.

The Prison Legal Aid Cells, receive petitions from the prisoners, register the same in the register maintained in the Legal Aid Cell and take necessary follow up action.

As per the direction of the Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority, the District Legal Services Authorities and the Taluk Legal Services Committees have also

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extended their services to the Under-Trial Prisoners.

The performance of the scheme is as detailed below:-

Year / Period	Number of Benches constituted	Cases referred	Cases disposed
2024	187	1,497	758
2025	99	522	269
2026 (up to 31.07.2026)	88	583	347

The details of petty offences settled by the Prison Adalats are as given below:-

Year	Number of Benches constituted	Cases referred	Cases disposed	Released on the Enquiry day itself	
				Male	Female
2024	178	1458	736	485	5
2025	99	522	269	178	3
2026	88	583	347	280	10

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21.6. Mobile Van

As a part of publicity campaign for propagating legal aid schemes / programmes framed under the Legal Services Authorities Act, Mobile Vans are used for conducting Mobile Lok Adalats and legal awareness camps, and screening publicity films using LCD projector in the State.

21.7. Village Legal Care and Support Centre

Under the guidance of National Legal Services Authority, 555 Village Legal Care and Support Centres were established with the help of District Legal Service Authorities in villages or for a cluster of villages especially where people face geographical and social barriers for access to the Legal Services Institutions.

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Village Legal Care and Support Centre are manned by one panel Lawyer or one Para-Legal Volunteer. They will give suggestions and advice to the public who approach the Centres and they will advise the public to approach the nearest Legal Services Institution, if they need Legal Aid.

21.8. Legal Aid Help Line

A Legal Aid Help Line is functioning in the Satta Udhavi Maiyam Building in Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority, Chennai.

Advocates are deputed on all working days to attend the calls and to give legal opinions both in the morning and evening on rotational basis.

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The litigants can contact the helpline number 15100.

The legal aid helpline numbers are 15100 and 1800-4252-441; calls rose from 1,612 in **2024** to 5,903 in **2025**.

The call details of the Legal Aid Help Line are furnished below:-

Year	Number of calls received and attended in the Legal Aid Help Line Number
	1800-4252-441 and 15100
2024	1612
2025	5903
2026 (up to 31.07.2026)	4508

21.9. Alternative Disputes Resolution Centres

There are 31 Alternative Disputes Resolution Centres functioning in the State and they act as hubs for all mediation

31 **ADR** Centres act as hubs for mediation and Lok Adalats under Section 89 of the Code of Civil Procedure, alongside 190 mediation centres for pre-litigative settlement.

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activities such as Lok Adalats and other alternative disputes resolution mechanism, as specified under section 89 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

21.10. Counseling and Mediation Centres

190 Mediation Centres are functioning in the State as an instrumentality for pre-litigative settlements. They provide an alternative system of dispute resolution at the grass-root level.

Year	Number of Cases referred	Number of cases settled
2024	26,963	3,203
2025	73,201	6,569
2026 (up to 30.04.2026)	33,219	2,723

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228 Counseling Centres are functioning in the State and the number of cases settled by them is given below:-

Year	Number of cases settled
2024	606
2025	636
2026 (up to 31.07.2026)	240

In the Revised Budget Estimate, for the year 2026-2027, a sum of Rs.4.21 crore has been provided by the Government towards grants-in-aid for supporting Mediation and Conciliation Centre under Alternative Disputes Resolution Centres.

22. Directorate of Prosecution

- Plays an integral and essential part in the administration of Criminal Justice

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System by acting as a vital bridge between investigators and the courts to ensure fair trials.

- ❖ Ensuring effective control over proper conduct of prosecution of criminal cases in the State.
- ❖ Responsible for all proceedings under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

The Directorate of Prosecution functions under the administrative control of the Home Department and is headed by the Director of Prosecution. He is supported by one Joint Director (Administration), 16 Deputy Directors of Prosecution (Regional Level), 19 Assistant Director of Prosecution (District Level).

- The Directorate of Prosecution is the bridge between investigators and courts, now working entirely under the **BNSS**, **2023**.

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22.1. Powers and functions under Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Powers and functions of the post
1.	Director of Prosecution	To monitor cases in which offences are punishable for 10 years or more, or with life imprisonment or with death; To expedite the proceedings and To give opinion on filing of appeals
2.	Deputy Director of Prosecution	To examine and scrutinize police reports and To monitor cases in which offences are punishable for 7 years or more but less than 10 years, for ensuring their expeditious disposal

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3.	Assistant Director of Prosecution	To monitor cases in which offences are punishable for less than 7 years

The total cadre strength of Prosecuting Officers (from the cadre of Director of Prosecution to Assistant Public Prosecutor Grade-II) in the Department of Prosecution as on 14.08.2026, as detailed below:-

Name of the Post	Sanctioned Strength	Actual Strength	Vacancy
Director of Prosecution	1	--	1
Joint Director (Admin)	1	1	--
Deputy Director of Prosecution	16	3	13
Assistant Director of Prosecution	19	12	7
Additional Public	90	88	2

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Prosecutor			
Assistant Public Prosecutor Grade-I	160	156	4
Assistant Public Prosecutor Grade-II	218	129	89
Total	**505**	**389**	**115**

Selection of candidates for filling up of 61 posts of Assistant Public Prosecutor Grade-II for the year 2025-2026 by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission is under process.

The Organizational Structure of the Directorate of Prosecution is given in Annexure-VIII.

The cadre Public Prosecutors are conducting prosecution of the cases in the following Courts of Magistrate:-

Name of the Post	Court to which they attached to
Additional Public Prosecutor	Chief Judicial Magistrate Courts
Additional Public Prosecutor in the cadre of Special Public Prosecutors	Special Court for POCSO Act cases
	Special Court for cases against MPs / MLAs
Assistant Public Prosecutor Grade-I	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Courts
Assistant Public Prosecutor Grade-II	Judicial Magistrate Courts

23. The Tamil Nadu Prosecutors Journal

The Tamil Nadu Prosecutors Journal is published by the Directorate of Prosecution every month.

This journal carries important, sensational judgements of the Supreme Court of India and the High Court of the States.

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This is very useful for the Law Officers of the Directorate in conducting prosecution in criminal cases.

In the Revised Budget Estimate, for the year 2026-2027, a sum of Rs.2.92 lakh has been provided by the Government for this purpose.

24. Department of Government Litigations, High Court, Chennai

The Department of Government Litigations is functioning under the Home Department of the Government and it is headed by the Advocate General of Tamil Nadu.

It is an amalgamation of the Offices of the Advocate General, State Government Pleader and State Public Prosecutor functioning in the High Court of Madras and its Bench at Madurai.

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16 Unit Offices are functioning under the Department of Government Litigations. 10 Unit Offices of the Additional Advocates General, the State Government Pleader and the State Public Prosecutor are functioning at High Court, Chennai and 6 unit offices of the Additional Advocates General, Government Pleader and Additional Public Prosecutor are functioning at Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court.

The Department of Government Litigations works with a sanctioned strength of 239 Law Officers and 391 staff members both in Civil and Criminal Sides at Principal Seat of High Court of Madras and its Bench at Madurai.

The Department of Government Litigations runs 16 unit offices with 239 law officers and 391 staff at the Principal Seat and Madurai Bench.

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25. Legal Cell in Tamil Nadu House, New Delhi

The Legal Cell, Tamil Nadu House, New Delhi is functioning under the administrative control of the Home Department of the Government with required staff to handle and co-ordinate the cases pertaining to the Government of Tamil Nadu filed in the Supreme Court of India.

Six Advocates-on-Record and two Senior Advocates as Counsel for Government of Tamil Nadu in the rank of Additional Advocate Generals have been appointed to represent and protect the interest of the State of Tamil Nadu before the Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.

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26. Empanelment of Senior Counsels

Government have empanelled Senior Counsels to protect the interest of the State Government in the Supreme Court of India in important and sensitive cases involving the following:-

a) Where constitutional validity of Acts or Rules is challenged.

b) Matters in which the Governor, the Chief Minister, the Chief Justice, Judges, the Chief Secretary and Secretaries are made parties by name;

c) Matters which if decided against Government would have far reaching effect on the

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i. Economy of the State;

ii. Service of the State;

iii. Revenue / Tax matters involving more than Rs.5.00 lakhs;

27. Law Officers in the District Courts

Law Officers are appointed for representing the cases on behalf of the Government on tenure basis, for a term of three years in every district in the State, as detailed below:-

Sl. No.	Civil Side	Criminal Side
1.	District Government Pleader, District and Sessions Court	District Public Prosecutor, District and Sessions Courts
2.	Additional Government Pleaders, Additional District Court	Additional Public Prosecutor, Additional District Courts

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3.	Additional Government Pleader, Sub Court	Additional Public Prosecutor, Sub Court
4.	Pleader doing Government Work, District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate's Court	---
5.	Pleader doing Government Work, District Munsif's Court	---

The above Law Officers are appointed as per the norms / eligibility prescribed in G.O. (Ms.) No.4054, Home Department, dated 18.11.1961 and section 18 (3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 based on the recommendations of the District Collector, the Principal District Judge and the Commissioner of Police / the Superintendent of Police concerned.

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28. Special Public Prosecutors

Likewise, in the districts, Special Public Prosecutors are appointed by the Government on tenure basis for conducting prosecution in the Special Courts constituted for trial of cases filed under the following acts:-

- The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989,
- The Tamil Nadu Protection of Interests of Depositors (In Financial Establishments) Act, 1997 (Tamil Nadu Act 44/1997),
- The Essential Commodities Act, 1955,
- The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985,

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- The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993,
- The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957,
- The Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987 and
- The Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002.

Similarly, Special Public Prosecutors / Special Government Pleaders are also appointed by the Government on tenure basis, for a term of three years to conduct trial of cases registered in Mahila Court, Special Court for Exclusive trial of Bomb Blast cases, Special Court for Forest offences and Special Court for Land Acquisition cases.

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In respect of the above Law Officers, for their appointment, the eligibility is as per the norms prescribed in G.O. (Ms.) No.4054, Home Department, dated 18.11.1961, section 18 (3) and 18 (8) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and the Special Acts concerned, as the case may be. Appointment of Special Public Prosecutors for specific cases Special Public Prosecutors are also appointed by the Government under section 18 (8) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, for the purpose of any case or class of cases considering the importance and sensitivity of those cases. The person so appointed should have a practice as an Advocate for not less than 10 years as required.

- Special Public Prosecutors are appointed under Section 18(8) of the **BNSS**, **2023** for particular cases or classes of case.

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29. Usage of Tamil Language in the proceedings of the High Court of Madras

Usage of Tamil being the State official language in the proceedings of the High Court of Madras is one of the long standing aspiration of this State.

- Tamil as an official language of the Madras High Court remains pending: Hindi has been authorised in the Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar High Courts, but the request for Tamil awaits the Chief Justice of India's response.

But, this demand was not favourably considered by the Supreme Court of India despite repeated request by the State.

However, the State has made a request to the then Chief Justice of Supreme Court and Hon'ble Prime Minister of India during May 2022 to take appropriate steps to declare Tamil as the Official Language of the High Court of Madras and its Madurai Bench in addition to English, since in four High Courts, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh,

Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, Hindi has been authorized as the official language in addition to English.

Consequent to this, the then Union Minister for Law and Justice, Government of India informed the State Government that the Department of Official language, Ministry of Law and Justice, has requested the then Chief Justice of India to reconsider the proposal for use of Tamil Language in the proceedings of Madras High Court and convey his views / comments at the earliest and his response is awaited.

However, it is being reiterated by the Government of Tamil Nadu to the Union Government persistently and periodically.

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30. Constitution of Supreme Court Bench

Request for establishment of permanent Regional Branch of Supreme Court in New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai including one Constitutional Bench in New Delhi as well is also another long standing demand of this State.

This request also has been rejected by the Supreme Court of India stating that there are no valid reasons for setting up a Bench of the Supreme Court outside Delhi.

However, this matter has been a subject matter of the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 36/2016 and the same has been referred to the Constitution Bench by the Supreme Court to obtain an authoritative pronouncement.

- The demand for regional Supreme Court benches at Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai was rejected, but is now before a Constitution Bench in Writ Petition (Civil) No.36/**2016**.

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31. Conclusion

For upholding the rule of law and strengthening public confidence in democratic institutions, an efficient, independent, and accessible justice system is essential. Therefore, the Government of Tamil Nadu will continue to support the Judiciary by providing adequate infrastructure, resources and administrative assistance so as to create a climate to maintain independence of Judiciary.

C.T.R. NIRMAL KUMAR
Minister for Energy Resources and Law

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ANNEXURE – I

ORGANISATIONAL HIERARCHY OF THE JUDICIARY IN TAMIL NADU

Principal Seat of High Court at Madras and
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court at Madurai

Civil Courts	
Chennai City	**Mofussil**
Principal Judge, City Civil Court	District and Sessions Courts
Assistant Judge, City Civil Court	Subordinate Courts
	District Munsif Courts
Court of Small Causes	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Courts

Criminal Courts	
Chennai City	**Mofussil**
Principal Judge (Sessions Division)	District and Sessions Courts
Chief Metropolitan Magistrate / Chief Judicial Magistrate Courts	Chief Judicial Magistrate Courts
Metropolitan Magistrate / Judicial Magistrate Courts	Judicial Magistrate Courts

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ANNEXURE – II

Details of institution, disposal and pendency of cases in High Court of Madras at Chennai including Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court at Madurai

Year	CIVIL CASES			
	Opening Balance	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
Principal Seat of Madras High Court at Chennai				
2021	163567	46400	59192	151203
2022	151990	54715	71144	134796
2023	133954	60084	73166	120708
2024	121157	64950	75828	110459
2025	110462	79333	79654	110139
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court at Madurai				
2021	78621	32608	30698	82380
2022	82380	38327	45548	73022
2023	73022	42704	48581	67145
2024	67145	44556	50049	61656
2025	61656	51674	52481	60219

Year	CRIMINAL CASES			
	Opening Balance	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
Principal Seat of Madras High Court at Chennai				
2021	19395	30002	33718	15679
2022	15679	41084	40943	15820
2023	13922	35969	37153	12738
2024	12738	40134	39874	12998
2025	12998	74704	57247	15743
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court at Madurai				
2021	7834	24756	22636	9954
2022	10718	27684	27568	10834
2023	10907	27866	26443	12330
2024	12330	27469	26802	12997
2025	12997	31360	27329	17658

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ANNEXURE – III

DETAILS SHOWING THE NUMBER OF COURTS / TRIBUNALS FUNCTIONING IN THE CITY OF CHENNAI

Sl. No.	Name of Courts / Tribunals	District Judge		Senior Civil Judge		Civil Judge / Judicial Magistrate
		District Courts	CBI Courts	CMM / ACMM	Others	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1.	City Civil Courts	18	7	--	28	1
2.	Court of Small Causes	1	--	--	8	8
3.	Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Courts including Special Courts for Economic Offences	2	--	2	30	7
4.	Labour Courts	4	--	--	--	--
5.	Family Courts	8	--	--	--	--
6.	Mahalir Neethimandram	1	--	--	--	--
7.	Commercial Court, Chennai	1	--	--	--	--
8.	Sessions Judge, Special Court for exclusive trial of Criminal Cases related to elected MPs and MLAs	3	--	--	--	--
9.	Sessions Judge, Special Court for exclusive trial of Criminal Cases under POCSO Act	1	--	--	--	--
10.	Special Courts for MCOP cases	--	--	--	2	--
11.	Special Court for trail of cases under Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988	--	--	--	1	--
12.	Special Court under Essential Commodities Act	1	--	--	--	--
13.	Special Court under TNPID (in Financial Estt.,) Act, 1997	1	--	--	--	--
14.	Additional Special Courts under NDPS Act	2	--	--	--	--

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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
15.	Sessions Court for trial of Bomb Blast Cases	1	--	--	--	--
16.	Industrial Tribunal	1	--	--	--	--
17.	Sales Tax Appellate Tribunal	1	--	--	1	--
18.	State Transport Appellate Tribunal	1	--	--	--	--
19.	Administrator General and Official Trustee	1	--	--	--	--
20.	Deputy Administrator General and Official Trustee	--	--	--	--	1
21.	Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority, Chennai	1	--	--	--	--
22.	Secretary, High Court Legal Services Committee, Chennai	1	--	--	--	--
23.	Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Chennai	--	--	--	1	--
24.	Deputy Secretary, Tamil Nadu Legal Services Authority	--	--	--	1	--
25.	Chairman, Permanent Lok Adalat	1	--	--	--	--
26.	Chairman, Tamil Nadu Waqf Tribunal	1	--	--	--	--
	Total	**52**	**7**	**2**	**72**	**17**

[District Judges - 59] **[Senior Civil Judges - 74]** **[Civil Judges - 17]**

Total Number of Courts including 55 Special Courts – 150

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ANNEXURE – IV

DETAILS SHOWING NUMBER OF COURTS FUNCTIONING IN THE DISTRICTS OF TAMIL NADU EXCEPT CHENNAI

Sl. No.	Districts	District Judge	Senior Civil Judge		Civil Judge			Total
		District Courts	Chief Judicial Magistrate Courts	Subordinate Judge's Courts	District Munsif Courts	Judicial Magistrate Courts	District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Courts	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1.	Ariyalur	2	1	3	4	4	1	15
2.	Chengalpattu	2	1	5	5	9	5	27
3.	Coimbatore	5	1	7	10	13	3	39
4.	Cuddalore	4	1	9	10	10	4	38
5.	Dharmapuri	2	1	5	4	5	2	19
6.	Dindigul	3	1	7	6	7	5	29
7.	Erode	5	1	8	8	9	2	33
8.	Kallakurichi	2	1	5	9	6	2	25
9.	Kancheepuram	2	1	2	3	3	1	12
10.	Kanniyakumari	4	1	7	9	8	1	30
11.	Karur	1	1	3	4	4	2	15
12.	Krishnagiri	3	1	6	3	4	3	20
13.	Madurai	6	1	8	10	11	2	38
14.	Mayiladuthurai	1	1	3	3	3	1	12
15.	Nagapattinam	1	1	1	1	2	3	9
16.	Namakkal	3	1	6	7	7	--	24
17.	The Nilgiris	1	1	3	3	3	2	13
18.	Perambalur	1	1	1	2	2	2	9
19.	Pudukkottai	2	1	5	4	5	8	25

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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
20.	Ramanathapuram	3	1	3	4	5	3	19
21.	Ranipet	3	1	2	2	4	3	15
22.	Salem	6	1	7	10	13	3	40
23.	Sivagangai	2	1	3	5	5	4	20
24.	Tenkasi	2	1	3	7	4	1	18
25.	Thanjavur	4	1	5	6	7	4	27
26.	Theni	3	1	4	5	5	--	18
27.	Thoothukudi	3	1	4	6	10	3	27
28.	Tiruchirappalli	3	1	9	11	10	2	36
29.	Tirunelveli	5	1	5	9	10	2	32
30.	Tirupathur	1	1	3	4	5	1	15
31.	Tiruppur	5	1	7	7	10	2	32
32.	Tiruvallur	5	1	7	8	9	4	34
33.	Tiruvannamalai	3	1	8	8	7	3	30
34.	Tiruvarur	1	1	3	3	4	4	16
35.	Vellore	3	1	4	4	7	1	20
36.	Villupuram	4	1	6	7	6	2	26
37.	Virudhunagar	4	1	7	5	8	5	30
Total		**110**	**37**	**184**	**216**	**244**	**98**	**887**

- Outside Chennai the districts have 887 courts: 110 District, 37 Family, 184 Subordinate, 216 District Munsif, 244 Judicial Magistrate and 96 others.

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ANNEXURE – V

DETAILS SHOWING NUMBER OF SPECIAL COURTS FUNCTIONING IN THE DISTRICTS OF TAMIL NADU

Sl. No.	Name of District	Bomb Blast / Communal Clash	Mobile Court to try Motor Vehicle Act	NDPS	CBI	Banks and Financial Institution Scam	TNPID	TADA	Economic Offences (ACMM)	EC (NDPS)	Mahila Court / FTMC	SC / ST & PCR	POCSO	Industrial Tribunal	Commercial Court	Labour Court	Family Court	MP&MLA	Mines & Minerals	MCOP/MACT	MCOP/MACT	Prevention of Corruption Act	Idol Theft (ACJM)	Forest Offence	Fake Indian Currency	CBCID / CCB	LAOP	Economic Offences (ACJM)	Commercial Courts	Domestic Violence Act	Customs Act / Prize Chits	Sandalwood	NI ACT / FTC / MM Courts	Additional Mahila Court	Mobile Court to try Motor Vehicle Act	Total
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)
		DISTRICT JUDGE CADRE																			SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE CADRE									DMcJMC / MM / JM CADRE				
1.	Chennai	1	4	2	6	1	1	2	2	1	1		1	1	1	4	8	3			2	1			1	2					1*		8#	1		55
2.	Ariyalur										1						1										2							1		5
3.	Chengal-pattu										1		1		1		1												1		1			2		8
4.	Coimbatore	1			1		1			1	1	1	1		1	2	2			2	1	1							1	1			2	1	1	22
5.	Cuddalore										1	1	1			1	1			2	1						1							1		10
6.	Dharmapuri										1		1				1			1	1												1	1		7
7.	Dindigul										1	1	1				1				1												1	1	1	8
8.	Erode										1						1			1	1												2	1	1	8
9.	Kallakurichi																																1			1
10.	Kanchee-puram															1				1															1	2
11.	Kanniya-kumari										1	1	1				2							1									2	1		10
12.	Karur										1						1																1	1		4
13.	Krishnagiri										1					1	1			1	1												1	1		7
14.	Madurai	1@		2	1		1			1	1	1	1			1	1		1	1	1	1						1					2	1	1	20
15.	Mayiladu-thurai																																1			1

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		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)
16.	Naga-pattinam										1		1				1															1	1		5
17.	Namakkal										1	1					1				1											1	1	1	7
18.	Nilgiris										1					1	1															1	1		5
19.	Perambalur										1	1					1																1		4
20.	Pudukkottai									1	1	1					1			1													1		6
21.	Ramanatha-puram										1	1					1																1		4
22.	Ranipet																										1									1
23.	Salem									1	1	1	1		1	1	1			1	2	1							1			2	1	1	16
24.	Sivagangai										1	1	1				1					1										1	1		7
25.	Tenkasi																																			0
26.	Thanjavur									1	1	1	1			1	1			1	1		1									2	1		12
27.	Theni										1	1	1				1															2	1		7
28.	Thoothukudi										1	1	1				1															2			6
29.	Tiruchira-ppalli										1	1				1	2			2	1	1											1	1	11
30.	Tirunelveli										1	1	1			1	1				1	1										1#	1	1	10
31.	Tirupathur																				1										1					2
32.	Tiruppur										1	1					1			2												1	1		7
33.	Tiruvallur										1		1				1			1	1						1					3	1		10
34.	Tiruvanna-malai										1	1	1				1				1											1	1		7
35.	Tiruvarur										1	1					1															1	1		5
36.	Vellore										1	1	1			2	1										1					1	1		9
37.	Villupuram			1							1	1	1				1			1	3	1										1	1	1	13
38.	Virudhunagar										1	1	1				1															1	1		6
	Total	**3**	**4**	**5**	**8**	**1**	**3**	**2**	**2**	**6**	**32**	**22**	**20**	**1**	**4**	**17**	**42**	**3**	**1**	**18**	**21**	**8**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**6**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**44**	**32**	**10**	**328**
																																Excluding Chennai			**273**

3 NI ACT Courts at Chennai and one at Tirunelveli. * Court of Prize Chits and Money Circulation Scheme (Banning) Act, 1978. @ Court of Communal Clashes.

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ANNEXURE – VI

DETAILS SHOWING NUMBER OF PERMANENT LOK ADALAT / DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY FUNCTIONING IN THE DISTRICTS OF TAMIL NADU EXCEPT CHENNAI

Sl. No.	Districts	Permanent Lok Adalat	District Legal Services Authority
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	Ariyalur	1	1
2.	Chengalpattu	1	1
3.	Coimbatore	1	1
4.	Cuddalore	1	1
5.	Dharmapuri	1	1
6.	Dindigul	1	1
7.	Erode	1	1
8.	Kallakurichi	--	1
9.	Kancheepuram	--	1
10.	Kanniyakumari	1	1
11.	Karur	1	1
12.	Krishnagiri	1	1
13.	Madurai	1	1
14.	Mayiladuthurai	--	1
15.	Nagapattinam	1	1
16.	Namakkal	1	1
17.	The Nilgiris	1	1
18.	Perambalur	1	1

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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
19.	Pudukkottai	1	1
20.	Ramanathapuram	1	1
21.	Ranipet	--	1
22.	Salem	1	1
23.	Sivagangai	1	1
24.	Tenkasi	--	1
25.	Thanjavur	1	1
26.	Theni	1	1
27.	Thoothukudi	1	1
28.	Tiruchirappalli	1	1
29.	Tirunelveli	1	1
30.	Tirupathur	--	1
31.	Tiruppur	1	1
32.	Tiruvallur	1	1
33.	Tiruvannamalai	1	1
34.	Tiruvarur	1	1
35.	Vellore	1	1
36.	Villupuram	1	1
37.	Virudhunagar	1	1
Total		**31**	**37**

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ANNEXURE – VII

Details of Institution, disposal and pendency of cases in the District and Subordinate Courts in the State

Year	CIVIL CASES			
	Opening Balance	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
District and Subordinate Courts				
2021	717749	280456	242102	756113
2022	757354	310868	318254	749968
2023	749362	293685	320296	722751
2024	720992	277206	281647	716551
2025	716244	283538	305181	695493

Year	CRIMINAL CASES			
	Opening Balance	Institution	Disposal	Pendency
District and Subordinate Courts				
2021	546042	433293	404490	574845
2022	574481	552650	488651	638480
2023	638540	560993	545623	653910
2024	652405	495748	479081	669072
2025	670392	735731	556825	849298

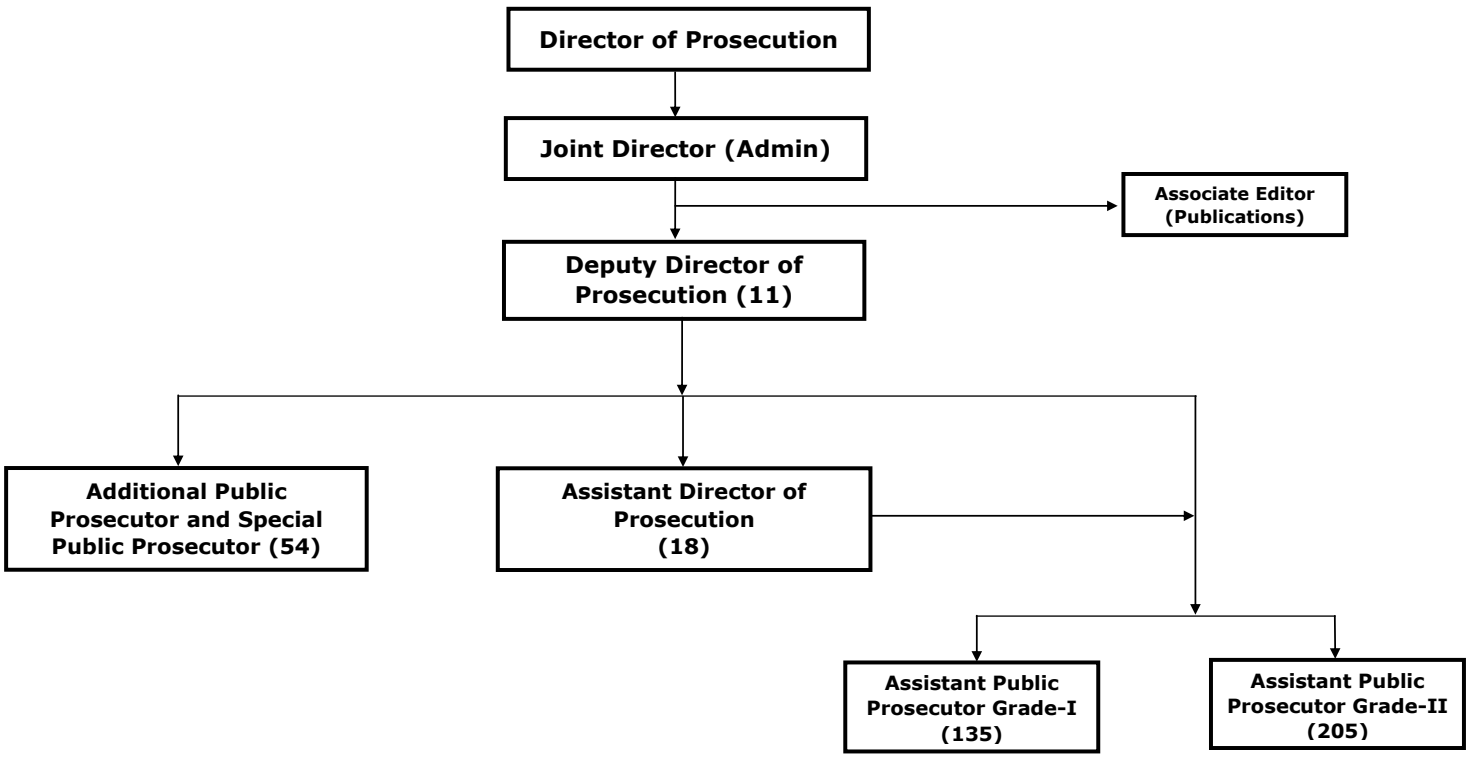
- Civil pendency in district and subordinate courts fell from 7,56,113 in **2021** to 6,95,493 in **2025** - disposal has run in institution.

Criminal pendency rose sharply to 8,49,298 in **2025**: 7,35,731 cases instituted against 5,56,825 disposed. The contrast with falling civil pendency is the analytical point.

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ANNEXURE – VIII

Organization Structure for Directorate of Prosecution



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