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SUPREME COURT

Magistrates Retain Trial Powers, Kerala High Court Clarifies Amid Special Court Debate

Sheikh Rayees • November 19, 2024

PUBLISHED REPORT

In a decisive ruling, the Kerala High Court affirmed that magistrate courts retain jurisdiction to conduct trials even when special courts are established for expedited proceedings. However, the court emphasized that such cases should ideally be transferred to special courts as a matter of judicial propriety. Justice PG Ajithkumar, delivering the judgment, underscored that while magistrates are ordinarily empowered to try offences, the establishment of special courts, such as...

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