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Daily News Analysis

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1. Pendency of Cases in Indian Judiciary

- **Prelims** - Government Initiatives
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Polity

Why in the news?

- The pendency of cases in the Supreme Court has reached an all-time high of 88,417, even when the court is currently functioning with its full sanctioned judicial strength of 34 judges.

Pendency of Cases in Indian Judiciary

- **Causes of Pendency:**
 - **Vacancies in Judiciary:** High vacancy rate in both High Courts (~30%) and lower courts.
 - **Inadequate Infrastructure:** Shortage of courtrooms, digital tools, and support staff.
 - **Low Judge-to-Population Ratio:** India has around 21 judges per million people (ideal is 50+).
 - **Procedural Delays:** Frequent adjournments, lengthy procedures, and misuse of PILs.
 - **Government as the Biggest Litigant:** Around 50% of cases involve government departments.
 - **Lack of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Usage:** Underutilization of Lok Adalats, arbitration, mediation.
 - **Poor Case Management:** Absence of proper scheduling and tracking systems.
- **Consequences**
 - Erosion of Public Trust in the legal system.
 - Delayed Justice = Denied Justice – affects citizens' rights and livelihoods.
 - Negative Economic Impact – affects business confidence and contract enforcement.
 - Overcrowded Prisons – many undertrials await hearings for years.
- **Recent Initiatives:**
 - **e-Courts Project:** Digital filing, virtual hearings, and National Judicial Data



Grid (NJDG).

- **Fast Track Courts & Special Courts:** For crimes against women, children, and corruption.
- **Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR):** Promoting Lok Adalats and mediation centers.
- **Mission Mode Projects:** Timely disposal of specific categories of cases.
- **Judicial Appointments Reform:** Proposals like the NJAC (struck down), continuing debate over collegium vs. commission.

- **Way Forward:**

- Filling Vacancies Promptly
- Increasing Judicial Strength
- Improving Infrastructure & Technology
- Encouraging ADR Mechanisms
- Judicial Accountability & Transparency
- Reducing Government Litigation
- Case Management Reforms



2. Romania

- Prelims - Location of Romania
- Mains - GS 2 - International Relations

Romania

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Why in the news?

- Russian drones violated the airspace of Romania which is a NATO member country.

Romania

- **Location:** Located at the crossroads of Central, Eastern and Southeast Europe.
- **Capital:** Bucharest
- **Border Countries:** Ukraine, Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Moldova.
- **Bordering Waterbodies:** Black Sea
- **Climate:** Continental Climate
- **Associated River:** Danube River

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3. Manki-Munda System

- Prelims - Manki-Munda System
- Mains - GS 1 - Modern History

Why in the news?

- Ho community in Jharkhand protesting over government intervention into tribes Manki-Munda System.

Manki-Munda System

- What is it?
 - It is a Traditional Governance of Ho tribe (Kolhan, Jharkhand).
 - ★ Munda → hereditary village head; resolves local disputes.
 - ★ Manki → head of 8–15 villages (pidh); appellate authority.
 - Pre-colonial: purely social & political, no tax/revenue role.
- Colonial Transformation
 - **British Expansion:**
 - ★ Post-Battle of Buxar (1764) and Treaty of Allahabad (1765), Company gained tax collection rights.
 - ★ Permanent Settlement Act (1793): Introduced zamindars, high revenue demand → led to land alienation, tribal dispossession, and revolts (Ho revolt 1821–22, Kol revolt 1831).
 - **Wilkinson's Rules (1833):**
 - ★ Drafted by Capt. Thomas Wilkinson; codified 31 rules for Ho governance.
 - ★ Recognised Manki-Munda system under colonial law, integrating it into the Kolhan Government Estate (1837).
 - ★ Outcome:
 - ❖ Preservation of tribal leadership but co-opted as agents of the British.
 - ❖ Influx of dikkus (outsiders) due to railways and land pattas.
 - ❖ Introduced private property & raiyat (tenant) system, replacing communal ownership.



- **Post-Independence Developments**

- Kolhan Government Estate dissolved (1947), but Wilkinson's Rules continued.
- Courts upheld them as customary practice (e.g., Mora Ho vs State of Bihar, 2000).
- Attempts to reform: Nyay Manch draft law (2021) stalled → no updated framework.
- Currently: Wilkinson's Rules still operational in Kolhan.