Four special benches of Supreme Court

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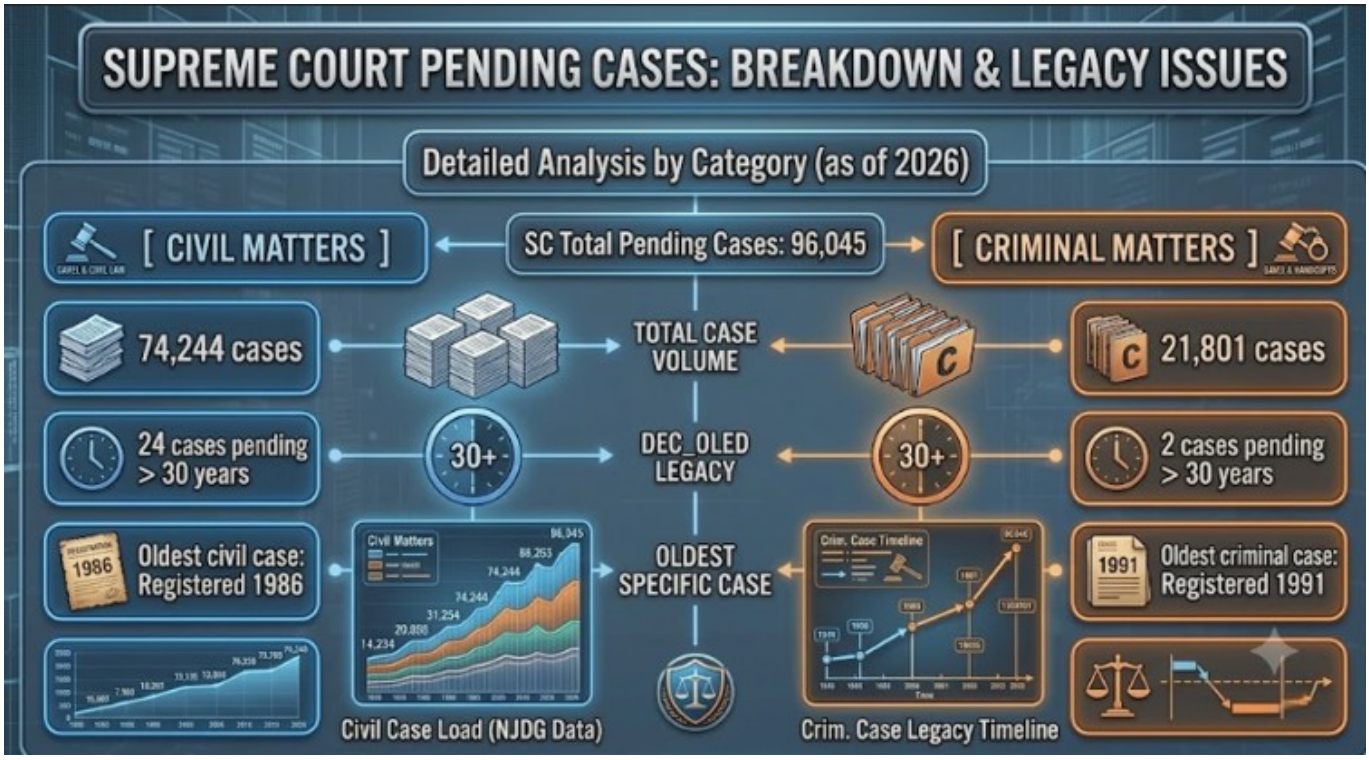
Why in News?

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant has constituted four specialized benches to exclusively hear and resolve the Supreme Court's oldest pending civil and criminal cases.

- Recognizing that legacy disputes are often sidelined by fresh filings, CJI Surya Kant has notified 4 division benches dedicated entirely to clearing the oldest cases on the court's docket.
- The benches will hear these regular, long-pending matters uninterrupted on *non-miscellaneous days (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays).*
- This frees them from the daily deluge of fresh "miscellaneous" filings heard on Mondays and Fridays.
- **The Allocation**
  - **Civil Benches -** Two benches, headed by *Justice P K Mishra* and *Justice S V N Bhatti*, will focus entirely on old civil disputes.
  - **Criminal Benches -** Two benches, led by *Justice Manoj Misra* and *Justice Ujjal Bhuyan*, will be dedicated to legacy criminal cases.



- **The "Pendency Paradox" -** Over the last 5 years, the Supreme Court has recorded its best-ever case disposal figures, showing a highly active and productive bench.
- However, the overall pendency has continued to rise, recently crossing the 90,000 mark. This paradox is driven by:
    - **Exponential Intake -** Increased physical and digital accessibility (e-filings and virtual hearings) has driven up case filings, reaching an unprecedented 75,402 fresh filings in 2025 alone.
    - **Outpaced Disposal -** The rapid acceleration of incoming litigation has consistently outpaced the court's enhanced capacity to dispose of cases.

Reference

The Indian Express | 4 new special benches of SC

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