
Retired judges to decide pending cases in High Court

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Chandigarh : The Punjab and Haryana High Court's idea to encourage retired judges to decide pending cases has been widely appreciated at the National Conference of Chief Justices and Chief Ministers of various states recently held in Delhi.

Chief Justice Tirath Singh Thakur told the media on Wednesday that the initiative received a lot of attention from various senior judges and the Chief Justice of India, Justice K G Balakrishnan.

Impressed with the efficiency displayed by the retired judges in deciding old cases, the Justice Balakrishnan also asked the chief justices of other states including Allahabad and Patna to use the same technique.

“While we have around 60 to 70 retired judges, other High Courts like Allahabad have more than 200 retired judges with a pendency of over 9 lakh cases as compared to 2 lakh cases of our High Court,” said Justice Thakur, who had initiated the exercise of putting retired judges for disposal of old cases. It is pertinent to mention here that ever since Justice Thakur was shifted to Punjab and Haryana High Court, he launched a series of plans to decide old cases. Every month, more than 2,000 cases are decided, he added.

“The number of cases decided every month has exceeded the number of cases being filed,” said Justice Thakur.

It may be mentioned here that Justice Thakur has already decided over 600 public interest litigations (PIL) pending in the High Court. At present, a little more than 100 old PILs remain to be decided. Justice Thakur also informed that the process of elevation of judges to the bench has been initiated. “We have constructed three to four more courtrooms and are well equipped with infrastructure to accommodate more judges,” said Justice Thakur.