

Why go public, asks former CJI

How did a press conference by four senior judges of the Supreme Court help resolve their discontent against the Chief Justice of India, the former Chief Justice of India T.S. Thakur asked.

“This should have been sorted out within the institution instead of bringing them out in public,” he told *The Hindu* .

“It does not help anybody, particularly the institution if someone was to bring it out in the open. I know each one of these people [judges]. I only hope things are sorted out properly. Roster issues are also matters which can be sorted out,” he said.

The former Chief Justice said the top court was capable of resolving the issue. “People come with complex problems, issues and challenges to be sorted by the Supreme Court. I am sure Supreme Court has enough wisdom and capacity to sort out these issues also,” he said,

However, he was not in favour of the four senior judges, one of whom is in line to become the next Chief Justice of India, discussing the issue in public.

Another former Supreme Court judge, Justice K.T. Thomas, said it “should not become a precedent”.

“Sitting Supreme Court judges interacting with the media especially concerning matters relating to administrative, business and judgment side of the top court have never happened before,” Justice Thomas said.

Justice Thomas said, “The CJI has not reacted to the development and it is also not known whether the four collegium judges had taken the other judges into confidence.”

Court's image

“The image of the institution will not suffer from today's event. The Supreme Court is far above all these,” Justice Thomas added.

Former Chief Justice of India K.G. Balakrishnan said this was an “unfortunate occasion which could have been avoided.”

“The image of the institution has suffered,” Justice Balakrishnan remarked.

Senior lawyer Rebecca John said it must have been the last resort available to the four judges. “I too wish it hadn't come to this. I wish they could have set their house in order by talking to each other and taking correctional measures. I wish there was no press conference,” the senior lawyer said.

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