

Ladakh High Court Bench will strengthen justice, constitutional confidence: Adv Devraj Sharma

Hails Cabinet decision, says move reflects Modi Govt's commitment to accessible justice and all-round development

Jammu, August 21: Senior BJP leader and former Sarpanch Adv Devraj Sharma has welcomed the Union Cabinet's approval for establishing a Bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir in Ladakh, describing it as a significant step towards strengthening access to justice, constitutional confidence and institutional development in the Union Territory.

Sharma said the decision reflects the Modi Government's commitment to ensuring that people living in geographically difficult and strategically important regions have convenient access to institutions of justice and governance. He said that for the people of Ladakh, the establishment of a High Court Bench has significance far beyond the creation of a judicial institution, as it addresses the practical difficulties arising from vast distances, challenging terrain and harsh climatic conditions.

"Justice becomes meaningful when it is accessible to the common citizen. For years, residents of Ladakh have had to face considerable difficulties in accessing higher judicial institutions because of distance and difficult geographical conditions. The establishment of a High Court Bench will bring justice closer to the people and reduce the burden of travel, time and expenditure on litigants and lawyers," Sharma said.

The BJP leader said the decision would strengthen people's faith in the rule of law and constitutional institutions, particularly in a region where issues relating to land, environment, development, local interests and administrative decisions assume special importance.

He welcomed Union Home Minister Amit Shah's emphasis on the government's commitment to the all-round development of Ladakh and constitutional safeguards for its people, saying that development and constitutional protection must move together.

"True development is not confined to roads, buildings and infrastructure. It also means creating strong institutions through which citizens can seek justice, protect their legitimate rights and participate confidently in the process of development," Sharma said.

Sharma observed that the High Court Bench could also give a boost to Ladakh's legal ecosystem by creating greater opportunities for local lawyers and legal professionals and promoting legal awareness among the people.

He called for adequate infrastructure, modern digital facilities, efficient registry services and strengthened legal-aid mechanisms to ensure that the new Bench functions effectively and reaches people in remote and economically weaker sections of society.

Highlighting the special developmental requirements of Ladakh, Sharma said the region's fragile ecology, unique cultural heritage and traditional livelihoods must remain central to its development strategy.

"A strong judicial institution can help maintain the necessary balance between development, environmental protection and citizens' rights. As infrastructure, tourism and economic activities expand in Ladakh, a credible and accessible legal mechanism will become increasingly important," he said.

Sharma said the Cabinet decision should be viewed as another important step in the broader process of institution-building in Ladakh, which has witnessed growing attention to connectivity, infrastructure, healthcare, education and economic opportunities in recent years.

He also emphasised that the real impact of the decision would depend on its effective and timely implementation. "The objective should not merely be to establish a Bench on paper. It must become a fully functional, accessible and responsive institution equipped with the necessary infrastructure and technology. The people of Ladakh deserve a judicial system that is within their reach," Sharma said.

Welcoming the decision as a landmark institutional reform, Adv Devraj Sharma said bringing the higher judiciary closer to the people would strengthen the foundations of justice, equality, constitutional governance and public confidence. He said the High Court Bench would not only benefit Ladakh but also reinforce the larger principle that every citizen, irrespective of geographical location, should have meaningful and convenient access to justice.

