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PM lauds judiciary for safeguarding rights

Supreme Court judge hails Modi as 'popular, vibrant and visionary' leader

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday lauded the judiciary for safeguarding people's rights and personal liberty even during the most challenging times and prioritising national interests whenever the occasion demanded.

Releasing a postage stamp to mark the diamond jubilee of the Gujarat High Court, Mr. Modi said the Supreme Court had conducted the highest number of hearings



Narendra Modi

via videoconference in the world during the pandemic.

'Stood for people'

"Our judiciary has always interpreted the Constitution

positively and creatively to strengthen it further. Be it safeguarding the rights of the people of the country or when any situation arose where national interest needed to be prioritised, the judiciary has always performed its duty," he said.

Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Justice M.R. Shah of the Supreme Court, Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court Vikram Nath, Solicitor-General of India Tushar Mehta were among the attendees at the online event.

Justice Shah, who referred to the Gujarat High Court as his *karmabhoomi*, described the Prime Minister as a "visionary" leader.

"I feel proud and privileged to participate in this function of release of a commemorative stamp of Gujarat High Court, on completion of its 60 years, by our most popular, loved, vibrant and visionary leader, Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

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Stressing that the Gujarat High Court had always stood for the independence of the judiciary and respected the principle of separation of powers, Justice Shah said, "Even in the dark days of Emergency, judges of this court stood for the protection of human rights and in-

dependence of the judiciary."

Apart from highlighting the role of technology in delivering justice during the pandemic, Mr. Prasad reiterated the government's commitment towards independence of judiciary as "total and absolute".