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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Talk with PM Modi left me 'more optimistic than ever' about India's progress: Gates

TNN | Mar 5, 2023, 06.41 AM IST



NEW DELHI: Billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates said his conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi left him “more optimistic than ever” about the progress that India is making in health, development, and climate.

In his ‘dispatch’ notes, Gates said “I’ve been in India this week, learning about the innovative work going on in health, climate change, and other crucial areas. At a time when the world has so many challenges, it’s inspiring to visit a dynamic and creative place like India”.

PM Modi had met Gates on Friday in New Delhi. In response to a tweet by Gates, where he shared his ‘note’ on his recent visit to India, the PM on Saturday tweeted, “Delighted to meet @BillGates and have extensive discussions on key issues. His humility and passion to create a better as

well as more sustainable planet are clearly visible”.

Terming his meeting with the PM the highlight of his visit, the Microsoft co-founder said: “PM Modi and I have stayed in touch, especially about developing Covid-19 vaccines and investing in India’s health systems. India has an amazing ability to manufacture lots of safe, effective, and affordable vaccines, some of them supported by the Gates Foundation. Vaccines produced in India have saved millions of lives during the pandemic and prevented other diseases around the world”.

Gates praised India’s stride in digital payments. “India was also able to transfer emergency digital payments to 300 million

people, including 200 million women, during the pandemic. This was only possible because India has made financial inclusion a priority, investing in a digital ID system (Aadhaar) and creating innovative platforms for digital banking”.



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