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India setting up a robust vaccine delivery system: PM

Modi says high recovery rate due to flexible lockdown

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India was one of the first countries to adopt a "flexible" lockdown approach and thereby managed to keep death rates from COVID-19 relatively low, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the launch of the Grand Challenges Annual Meeting, organised by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The three-day programme aims to bring together policy makers and scientific leaders, calling for scientific collaboration in solving global health problems, with emphasis on the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and will feature leaders' talks, panel discussions and virtual informal conversations.

Nearly 1,600 people from 40 countries are expected to participate.

"India is now at the forefront of COVID-19 vaccine development. We are work-



“Thanks to a people-powered approach, we have kept our death rates low

ing on putting a well established vaccine delivery system in place. This digitised network with a digital health ID will be used for securing the health of our citizens,” Mr. Modi said in his address as the key note speaker.

“India's size, scale and diversity has made the global

community curious. Thanks to a people-powered approach we have kept our death rates low. We are seeing a per day decline in growth of cases and we have a high recovery rate of 88% and this was because we adopted a flexible lockdown. We were among the first to encourage use of masks and rapid antigen tests,” the Prime Minister said.

India's vaccine delivery system would be used to ensure immunisation of citizens. “We are known for our capability of making low cost vaccines,” Mr. Modi said. “We want to help other nations enhance their capabilities in vaccine manufacturing and immunisation.”

Along with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the meeting is being hosted by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, the Indian Council of Medical Research and NITI Aayog.