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Possible to replicate success of Swachh in other plans: PM

'Credit To Citizens, Panchayats, Officials For Toilet Mission Success'

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New York: PM Narendra Modi on Tuesday said it was possible to replicate the success of Swachh Bharat Mission in several other schemes including the eradication of tuberculosis, tackling anaemia, Jal Shakti and getting rid of single use plastic.

Modi, who received the Global Goalkeepers award from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation here, credited the efforts of citizens, panchayats, districts, states and the central machinery for construction of toilets across the country.

"For an empowered democracy it is important to have people at the centre. The Swachh Bharat Mission is an example of cooperative federalism... States involved at every level, from training to



PM Narendra Modi with co-founders of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Bill Gates and Melinda Gates in New York on Tuesday

funding. We are now moving on to competitive cooperative federalism where states are competing in the Swachhata Sarvekshan," he said, listing the gains of the campaign that was started five years ago.

He said the world could learn from India's experi-

ence. "For sanitation and hygiene, India wants to play an important role. We are willing to share our learnings," he said, adding that through preventative healthcare and Fit India movement, efforts were underway to improve the overall quality of life.

Modi said the Swachhata campaign may have been started by the government but saw massive public participation and cited the examples of a woman who sold her goats and a teacher who donated his pension for building toilets.

Modi said women were the biggest beneficiaries of the scheme, especially the poor who were denied the benefit.

Modi said the massive campaign had also generated jobs and demand in rural areas. He cited a WHO report to say that the Swachh Bharat Mission had helped save 3 lakh lives while Unicef had estimated savings of Rs 50,000 crore in rural households after toilets were built.

(The reporter is in New York on an invitation from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)