

## UPI LAUNCH IN LANKA, MAURITIUS

# PM talks policy of 'neighbourhood 1st'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted India's focus on the government's "neighbourhood first policy" as he launched Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services in Sri Lanka and Mauritius at a virtual ceremony on Monday.

Terming it a "special day" for the three friendly countries of the Indian Ocean Region, Modi said: "Be it a natural disaster, health-related, economic or supporting on the international stage, India has been the first responder, and will continue to be so," he said.

India's RuPay card services were also launched in

Mauritius at the virtual ceremony attended by Modi, his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth and Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Reserve Bank of India Governor, Shaktikanta Das, Bank of Mauritius Governor, Harvesh Seegolam, and Central Bank of Sri Lanka Governor, P Nandalal Weerasinghe were also present on the occasion.

The launch of the Indian services in Sri Lanka and Mauritius came amid New Delhi's increasing attempts to enhance bilateral economic ties.

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