

UAE honours PM with top award Modi launches RuPay card

Abu Dhabi: Cementing growing ties with UAE, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Saturday honoured with the "order of Zayed", the Gulf nation's highest civilian award, even as he told a local newspaper that revoking Jammu and Kashmir's special status will end its isolation that led to radicalisation of the youth in the state.

In an interview, Modi has said J&K's special status under Article 370 had created conditions that allowed some youth to be "misguided, get radicalised and take to violence and terrorism". Defending his government's moves, Modi said it was India's "internal steps" which was taken in a "completely democratic, open, transparent and constitutional" manner.



PM Narendra Modi with his Bahraini counterpart Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa at Manama on Saturday

Modi also launched the RuPay card here, making the UAE the first country in the middle east to initiate the Indian indigenous system of electronic payment. RuPay card scheme was launched in 2012 to fulfill the Reserve

Bank of India's vision to have a domestic, open and multi-tiered system of payments. RuPay facilitates electronic payment at all Indian banks and financial institutions.

The order of Zayed award has earlier been bestowed on