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Yogi's pitch to Muslim women ahead of UP polls

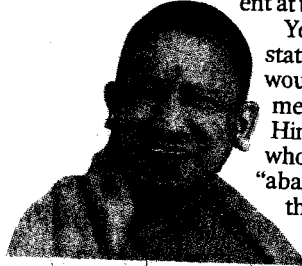
LUCKNOW, DHNS: ^{D.H. 26/9/19} In an apparent bid to reach out to Muslim women ahead of the forthcoming bypolls in 11 Assembly seats, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday announced financial assistance to the victims of triple talaq.

Speaking at a function here which was attended by several victims of triple talaq, Adityanath said that his government would soon come up with a scheme to provide Rs 6,000 a year to triple talaq victims and other benefits, including insurance cover.

The chief minister said that the police had been directed to ensure that FIRs were registered in cases relating to triple talaq and added, "there are clear orders to police to book offenders in all such cases."

Adityanath's announcement is being seen as an attempt to counter the critics after triple talaq was criminalised. Many Muslim scholars had said that making it a criminal offence would prove to be counter-productive in tackling the menace.

Political analysts also viewed the announcement as the BJP's attempt to reach out to Muslims and convey that the party was not against them. "We are not against Muslims... Our opponents try to brand us anti-Muslim so that they continue to electorally exploit the community," said a BJP leader, who was present at the function.



Yogi also said the state government would initiate measures to help Hindu women, who had been "abandoned" by their husbands without giving them divorce.