

# PM lauds women battling triple talaq

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**New Delhi:** Days before Supreme Court is to give its verdict on the legality of triple talaq, Prime Minister Narendra Modi once again came out openly in support of Muslim women who have challenged the constitutionality of oral or instant talaq, pledging support to them and saying that their success will be a boost for women empowerment.

“I heartily commend those sisters who have launched this movement, who have been fighting against ‘triple talaq’ and I am confident that the country will help them in this struggle,” said Modi, who has supported the campaign against the controversial practice of oral and instant divorce while electioneering in UP early this year.

Expressing solidarity with “victims of triple talaq”, Modi said they had to launch the campaign because there was no recourse for them. “They shook the conscience of the intellectual class of the country”, the PM said.

The Supreme Court is expected to give its verdict by August 27 when Chief Justice J S Khehar, who heads the bench, retires. Centre has opposed the practice in court in the face of the argument of

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Prime Minister

Muslim bodies and clerics that the issue be left for the community to handle.

Supporting the demand for the scrapping of triple talaq and polygamy among Muslims, the Centre argued in court that these practices were not protected by fundamental right to practice religion and that these made women insecure socially and financially.

It countered the argument that the matter be left to the Muslim community. It emphasised that Muslim personal law has not been reformed in the last 65 years, and Muslim women, who constitute 8% of the total population, “remain extremely vulnerable, both socially and financially” because of the fear of instant divorce through triple talaq.