

## Divided opinion

The controversy over the wearing of hijab in educational institutions began early this year in Karnataka and continues to be in the news as the case is heard by the Supreme Court, which has now referred it to a larger Bench

**February 3:** Aishat Shifa and Tehrina Begum, students of Government Pre-University College in Kundapura, were denied entry into their college for refusing to take off their hijabs

**February 4:** They made a representation before the Deputy Commissioner Udupi to direct the college authorities to let them enter their college and



complete their studies

**February 5:** The government issues an order referring to the Karnataka Education Act, 1983 to conclude that prohibiting hijab does not amount to a violation of freedom of religion. The two students move the High Court

**February 8:** Clashes break out among students from two communities in Udupi. Karnataka

Chief Minister orders closure of high schools and colleges

**February 10:** HC passes interim order saying colleges in the State can reopen, but students cannot be allowed to wear any piece of clothing that is religious till the matter is pending

**March 15:** Karnataka HC rules hijab not part of essential Islamic religious practice, upholds the

government order

**July 13:** SC agrees to hear appeals against the Karnataka HC verdict

**September 22:** Supreme Court reserves verdict

**October 13:** SC delivers a split verdict, refers the case to the CJI to be placed before a larger Bench