RASHTRA JYOTI

ANALYSIS BRIEF
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Hijab Imposition · From the reporting archive

Karnataka Hijab Debate Through Fatwas on Distinctive Muslim Dress

Original analysis by **Swati Goel Sharma**

The author argues that religious injunctions to dress differently from non-Muslims may help explain opposition to Karnataka's school uniform rules. The evidence includes rulings by Barelvi and Deoband scholars and writings by Maududi on distinctive dress, while the petitioners argued in court that covering the head and neck was an essential religious practice.



The hijab debate.

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- In March 2022, the Karnataka High Court held hijab was not an essential Islamic practice and upheld the institution's uniform requirement.
- Arun Shourie's account of a Barelvi fatwa describes requiring Muslims to fasten an angarkha on the opposite side from Hindus.
- Maududi argued that Muslim dress needed a distinguishing mark so Muslims could recognise one another and strengthen their collective social bonds.
- A quoted Deoband ruling allowed trousers and shirts in India because they no longer exclusively signified outsiders, while still discouraging their use.

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Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma in April 2022. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.