

# Afghanistan's 1964's monarchy constitution

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**In news-** The Taliban recently announced that they would temporarily adopt the 1964 constitution to rule Afghanistan but will eliminate it if there is anything that goes against Sharia law.

## **About 1964 Afghan constitution-**

- **Mohammad Zahir Shah, the last king of Afghanistan,** commissioned for drafting the constitution.
- It has 11 chapters and 128 articles.
- The constitution was ratified in 1964 by a **Loya Jirga (grand assembly).**
- The constitution laid rules for a **centralised administration,** divided into a number of administrative units, headed by the ministers.
- The king, which might be applicable for Taliban supremo, held the supreme command of everything, from declaring war to signing international treaties.
  - It created **two houses of the Afghanistan Parliament,** among which the lower house members were to be elected.
  - The Cabinet was supposed to exercise the monarch's powers, while legislators were prohibited from holding ministerial posts.
- **Women had the right to vote.**
- The constitution also gave **freedom of religion** as it said non-Muslim citizens were free to perform their religious rituals as determined by the laws.
- The constitution said **education is the right of every**

**Afghan** and shall be provided free of charge.

- The constitution **was in force between 1964 and 1973**, which is often referred to as Afghanistan's golden age but was then annulled by a coup.
- After the US invasion in 2001, a new constitution was drafted, which the Taliban have rejected claiming that it has western influence.

### **Bonn Agreement**

- It is officially the *Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pending the Re-Establishment of Permanent Government Institutions*.
- It was the initial series of agreements passed on December 5, 2001 and intended to re-create the State of Afghanistan following the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in response to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.
- In December 2001, 25 prominent Afghans met under UN auspices in Bonn, Germany, to decide on a plan for governing the country.
- Under the Bonn Agreement, the **Afghan Constitution Commission** was established to draft a new constitution in consultation with the public.
- It called for the use of the 1964 constitution as the basis for a new constitution.

### **2004 Constitution of Afghanistan-**

- It is the supreme law of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, which served as the legal framework between the Afghan government and the Afghan citizens.
- It evolved out of the Afghan Constitution Commission mandated by the Bonn Agreement.
- The constitution was approved by the consensus in January 2004 after the 2003 loya jirga.
- It consisted of 162 articles and was **officially signed by Hamid Karzai** on January 26, 2004.

- It provided for an elected President and National Assembly.