**Japanese Prime Minister resigns due to health reasons**

Japanese PM, Shinzo Abe announced resigning from his position due to some health reasons. He stated that he does not wish to let his illness get in between the decision makings, and he also apologized to the citizens for failure in the completion of his term. Mr. Shinzo abe is a 65-year-old man who suffered from ulcerative colitis and inflammatory bowel disease for several years, and he recently stated that his condition has worsened.

He became the longest-serving PM of Japan in 2019, starting his term from 2012 up till now. However, he will stay at his position until the next PM is chosen.

Earlier in 2007, he abruptly resigned from the term due to the ongoing struggles with ulcerative colitis with which he has survived since he was a teenager.

Mr. Shinzo Abe is conservative and nationalist and is also known for ‘Abenomics’, his aggressive economic policies. He worked strengthening the defense of Japan and increased the expenditures on the military during his term.

**Statement of Mr. Shinzo Abe**

Mr. Abe said that his health is degrading with a resurgence made by his ulcerative colitis in mid-July 2020. He has moved on towards a new set of treatments that requires regular administration, and with this, he might not get enough time to fulfill the roles of a PM.

He added that this is a crucial decision making position, and he cannot make any mistakes with this, and thus he decided to step down instead. He said he made a judgment not to continue with the PM’s job.

He also apologized to the Japanese citizens for resigning from the post before the completion of his term (which is in 2021) and amid the Covid-19 crisis when several policies are still under process. He expressed regrets for not fulfilling the pledges he took for forcing North Korea to return the abducted citizens of Japan, sorting out the territorial disputes going on with Russia, and empowering the military more.

**What next?**

Mr. Shinzo Abe stated that he will fulfill his duties until a replacement is chosen, and this announcement of stepping down automatically started a vote in the LDP (Liberal Democratic Party) to choose the right person replacing Mr. Abe as a leader.

In the coming Tuesday, the party will decide on how to hold the elections amid the ongoing pandemic. Later, the election will also be followed by a parliamentary vote for the election of a right PM.

Several potential successors have emerged including Taro Aso (the Deputy PM), Yoshihide Suga (the Chief Cabinet Secretary), and Fumio Kishida (the policy chief of LDP).

The winner will continue with Mr. Abe’s position until September 2021 when his term is to end.