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Japan's New Prime Minister

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Why in News

Japan recently elected **Yoshihide Suga** as its new Prime Minister. He belongs to the ruling **Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)** of Japan.

Key Points

- **Key Challenges Ahead:** The new PM has to battle with the **Covid-19 pandemic**, rebuild the economy and also plan the **Olympics** scheduled to take place in Tokyo in 2021.



- **Political System of Japan :**

- Japan has a **multi-party, bicameral, parliamentary, representative democratic constitutional monarchy**.
- **Constitution:** It has a **unitary model** with **supremacy of constitution**.
 - The Constitution of Japan is the fundamental law of Japan, enacted on 3rd May 1947.
 - It is one of the very few democratic constitutions in the world having fundamental duties, apart from India.

- **Government:** The Government of Japan consists of a legislature, executive and judiciary.
 - The **Emperor is the Head of State** and the **Prime Minister is the Head of Government and the Head of the Cabinet (executive).**
 - The Emperor holds **nominal ceremonial authority.** For e.g. The legislature is known as the **National Diet.** Its members are directly elected by the people.
 - The Diet has two houses- upper **House of Representatives** and lower **House of Councillors.**
 - The Prime minister is **designated by the National Diet** but only the Emperor has the authority to appoint the Prime Minister.
- **Feature Borrowed in Indian Constitution:** The Indian Constitution derives its “**Procedure established by Law**” component from the Japanese constitution.
 - The expression occurs in **Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty).**
 - It means that law duly enacted by the legislature or the concerned body is valid **only if** the correct procedure has been followed to the letter.
 - Hence, the validity of a law that has prescribed a procedure cannot be questioned on the ground that the law is unreasonable, unfair or unjust.
 - It is different from the expression ‘**due process of law**’ contained in the **American Constitution,** which not only checks if there is a law to deprive the life and personal liberty of a person but also ensures that the law is made fair and just.
 - With the Supreme Court pronouncement of “due process of Law “in the **Maneka Gandhi case** (1978), the court asserted the **principle of reasonableness while deciding a case.** It now means that the procedure must satisfy certain requisites in the sense of being fair and reasonable. The procedure **cannot be arbitrary, unfair or unreasonable.**

- **Recent Developments in India-Japan Relations**

- Recently, India and Japan signed a **logistics agreement** that will allow armed forces of both sides to coordinate closely in services and supplies. The agreement is known as **Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)**.
- **Indian and Japanese warships conducted naval exercises** in the Indian Ocean.

India and Japan defence forces organize a series of bilateral exercises namely, **JIMEX (naval exercise)**, **SHINYUU Maitri (air force exercise)**, and **Dharma Guardian (military exercise)**. Both countries also participate in **Malabar exercise** with the USA.
- Japan has mooted the **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)** as a **trilateral approach** to trade, with India and Australia as the key-partners.

Supply chain resilience is an approach that helps a country to ensure that it has **diversified its supply risk across a clutch of supplying nations instead of being dependent on just one** or a few.
- The **President of India visited Japan in 2019**. The visit was the first presidential visit to Japan after a gap of 29 years.