
Takaichi Poised to Become Japan's First Female Prime Minister



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Tokyo, October 20—Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Monday sealed a coalition deal with the opposition Japan Innovation Party (JIP), clearing the path for Sanae Takaichi to become the country's first female prime minister.

The agreement was signed in Tokyo by LDP leader Takaichi and JIP chief Hirofumi Yoshimura,

marking a decisive step toward political stability after weeks of uncertainty. Lawmakers are set to vote for the new premier on Tuesday, with Takaichi now almost certain to secure victory.

Takaichi, a 64-year-old staunch conservative and Japan's first female LDP president, praised the coalition as a "big step for Japan's future." The partnership comes after the LDP's long-time ally, the Komeito party, ended its 26-year alliance, forcing Takaichi to seek new parliamentary backing.

The LDP holds 196 seats in the 465-member lower house, while the JIP adds 35 more, bringing her total to 231—just two votes short of the 233 needed for an outright majority. Support from smaller parties and independents is expected to push her over the line.

In the 248-member upper house, Takaichi would need four additional votes beyond the JIP's 19 to confirm her leadership. Should no united opposition emerge, a second-round vote would likely secure her win.

If elected, Takaichi will lead a minority government with external JIP support, as the two parties agreed on a 12-point agenda that includes reducing parliamentary seats by 10%.

The LDP has dominated Japanese politics for nearly 75 years, interrupted only briefly by opposition governments. General elections are due by October 2027 unless the new coalition opts for early polls.