

Takaichi shatters Japan's glass ceiling

Liberal Democratic Party leader Sanae Takaichi has created history – becoming Japan's first female prime minister after securing majority votes from both houses of parliament



■ **1993:** Begins political career when she is elected to parliament as an independent

■ **1996:** Joins **Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)**

■ **2006:** Enters cabinet as part of first administration of late prime minister **Shinzo Abe**

■ **2007:** Is only cabinet member to visit **Yasukuni Shrine** on anniversary of end of World War II

■ **2012:** Becomes first woman to chair LDP's **Policy Research Council** following Abe's return to premiership

■ **2014:** Joins cabinet as minister for internal affairs

■ **2021:** Enters LDP leadership race but loses to **Fumio Kishida**

■ **2024:** Makes second leadership bid, advancing to runoff vote but ultimately losing to **Shigeru Ishiba**

■ **Oct 4, 2025:** Selected as LDP leader following Ishiba's resignation

■ **Mar 7, 1961:** Born in city of Yamatokoriyama in Japan's Nara Prefecture. Plays drums in heavy metal band in her youth

■ **1980s:** Graduates from **Kobe University** with business degree. Spends year in U.S. as part of congressional fellowship before briefly becoming TV host

JAPAN COALITION DEAL (*lower house of parliament*)

Majority: 233

231 seats

Japan Innovation Party (Ishin)

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)

196

35