
JAPAN'S RULING, OPPOSITION PARTY BEGIN COALITION TALKS

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Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the opposition Japan Innovation Party (JIP) began coalition talks Thursday as they confirmed common ground in their key policy stances.

The parties confirmed similar views on issues such as constitutional amendment, diplomacy, security, and energy, said LDP policy chief Takayuki Kobayashi after accompanying the party's new leader, Sanae Takaichi, to a meeting with their JIP counterparts, according to the Kyodo News.

The LDP's coalition partner, Komeito, had announced its withdrawal from the government alliance on Friday, leaving the ruling party short of a parliamentary majority, shortly after Takaichi's, the first woman to lead the party, victory.

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