



# Vaishali Rameshbabu Wins FIDE Women's Grand Swiss 2025

## Why in News?

**Prime Minister** Narendra Modi congratulated **Indian Grandmaster Vaishali Rameshbabu** on her remarkable victory in the **FIDE Women's Grand Swiss 2025** in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.



## Key Points

- Vaishali won **\$40,000** in prize money and secured a place in the **2026 Candidates Tournament**, the event that will determine the next challenger for the **Women's World Chess Championship**.

- Her victory in the FIDE Women's Grand Swiss is historic, making her the **first player** in the event's history to **win it twice**.
- With this win, Vaishali joins **Koneru Humpy** and **Divya Deshmukh** as the **third Indian woman** to qualify for the prestigious **2026** Candidates Tournament.
  - The **Candidates tournament** will decide the challenger for the current **Women's World Chess Champion, Wenjun Ju of China**, with players from China, Russia, and India **already securing spots**.
- In her previous performances, Vaishali finished 5th at the **Norway Women's Chess Tournament** in May 2025 and was eliminated in the quarterfinals by Tan Zhongyi at the **Women's World Cup**.

## FIDE Grand Swiss

- The FIDE Grand Swiss, launched in 2019 (with the **women's event starting in 2021**), is a key tournament in the World Chess Championship cycle, featuring top global players and **held biennially** with 11 rounds in a Swiss system.
- Considered as one of the most difficult and unpredictable chess events, given its open nature, the top two finishers in both categories **qualify directly for the World Candidates tournament**, where a challenger for the title of world champion is chosen.
- The **2025 edition** ran from 4th to 15th September at the EXPO Centre in Samarkand, **Uzbekistan**.
  - There were 116 players taking part in the Open and 56 players in the Women's competition.
  - The total prize fund for the event is \$855,000 – \$625,000 for the Open and \$230,000 for the Women's event.

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