



**Title: India's Grandmaster R. Vaishali Wins FIDE Women's Candidates 2026 in Cyprus**

**Description:** India's Grandmaster R. Vaishali delivered a standout performance to win the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2026 in Cyprus, finishing with 8.5 points from 14 rounds. The 24-year-old secured the title with a decisive final-round victory over Russia's Kateryna Lagno, earning the right to challenge reigning World Champion Ju Wenjun of China later this year. In the Open section, Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov dominated the field, clinching the title with a round to spare and finishing on 9.5 points, two ahead of the Netherlands' Anish Giri. Sindarov will now face reigning World Champion D Gukesh in the upcoming title match.