

WHAT IS THE CHESS GRANDMASTER TITLE?

Recently, Vaishali Rameshbabu and her younger brother Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa have become the first-ever Grandmaster brother-sister duo in history.



About Chess Grandmaster title:

- Grandmaster is the highest title or ranking that a chess player can achieve.
- The Grandmaster title and other chess titles is awarded by the International Chess Federation, FIDE (acronym for its French name Fédération Internationale des Échecs),
- The title is the badge of the game's super-elite, recognition of the greatest chess talent on the planet, which has been tested and proven against a peer group of other similarly talented players in the world's toughest competitions.
- Besides Grandmaster, the Qualification Commission of FIDE recognises and awards seven other titles: International Master (IM), FIDE Master (FM), Candidate Master (CM), Woman Grandmaster (WGM), Woman International Master (WIM), Woman FIDE Master (WFM), and Woman Candidate Master (WCM) are also be given.
- All the titles, including that of Grandmaster, are valid for life, unless a player is stripped of the title for a proven offence such as cheating.

Revocation of title

- The “use of a FIDE title or rating to subvert the ethical principles of the title or rating system may subject a person to revocation of his title”.
- In case it is found after a title has been awarded that the player was in breach of the Anti-Cheating Regulations in one or more of the tournaments on which the title application was based, then the title may be removed by the Qualification Commission”.

WHAT IS WHITE LUNG SYNDROME?

An outbreak of a respiratory illness in northern China and Ohio in the US — the White Lung Syndrome as people are calling it — has sparked speculation online of a new pandemic threat after COVID-19.



About White Lung Syndrome:

- It originates from **distinctive white patches** on chest X-rays in affected children.
- The term includes various respiratory illnesses like acute respiratory distress syndrome, pulmonary alveolar microlithiasis, and silica-related conditions.
- **Causes:** It is believed to be caused by a combination of bacterial, viral, and environmental factors.
- **Signs and symptoms**
 - The patients have symptoms including cough, fever, runny nose, phlegm pileup in sinuses, difficulty breathing and fatigue.
- **Treatment**
 - The treatment is mainly focused on **addressing the symptoms of pneumonia** and ensuring the respiratory health of the patients.
 - Medicines are given to alleviate symptoms like cough and fever. Overall monitoring must be done and oxygen therapy provided if necessary.

Other lungs related infections

- **Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)** is a serious lung condition that occurs **when fluid builds up in the air sacs** in the lungs. This makes it difficult to breathe. ARDS can be caused by a variety of factors, including pneumonia, sepsis, and trauma.
- **Pulmonary alveolar microlithiasis (PAM)** is a **rare lung disease that is caused by deposits of calcium** in the air sacs of the lungs. This can cause shortness of breath, coughing, and chest pain.

- **Silicosis** is a lung disease that is caused by **inhaling silica dust**. Silica dust is found in sand, stone, and other materials. Silicosis can cause shortness of breath, coughing, and chest pain.
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ALLIED CLIMATE PARTNERS

At COP28, Allied Climate Partners joined the International Finance Corporation in a climate financing venture to try to generate \$11 billion in investments in developing countries.



About Allied Climate Partners:

- It is a **philanthropic investment organisation**.
- **Mission:** With a mission to increase the number of bankable, climate-related projects and businesses in emerging markets and developing economies to create significant environmental, economic, and social impact.
- Its initial focus regions are Southeast Asia, the Caribbean and Central America, Africa, and India.

Key points about the International Finance Corporation

- It was founded in 1956 with Washington, DC as its headquarters.
- It is a member of the World Bank Group.
- **Mandate:** Advance economic development and improve the lives of people by encouraging the growth of the private sector in developing countries.
- **Functions:**
 - It helps countries develop their private sectors in a variety of ways
 - Investing in companies through loans, equity investments, debt securities and guarantees.
 - Mobilising capital from other lenders and investors through loan participations, parallel loans and other means.

- Advising businesses and governments to encourage private investment and improve the investment climate.
- **Governance:** The IFC is owned and governed by its member countries. It is a corporation whose shareholders are member governments that provide paid-in capital and have the right to vote on its matters.

WHAT IS A BUOY?

A wave rider buoy, equipped with GPS and various weather-related instruments, was recently found ashore at the Gopalpur Military Station in Ganjam district, Odisha.



About Buoy:

- A buoy is a **floating object anchored at a definite location** to guide or warn mariners, to mark the positions of submerged objects, or to moor vessels in lieu of anchoring.
- Buoys are **often brightly coloured** and have distinctive shapes or patterns, making them **easily visible to ships** and other watercraft.
- Buoys are **commonly found in harbours and ports**, along coastlines, and in rivers and lakes.
- They are **maintained by various organisations, such as the Coast Guard** and other navigational authorities.

Buoyage system:

- For the sake of maintaining uniformity in buoyage systems worldwide, the **International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)** divided the world into two regions: Region A and Region B.
- **Region A** includes Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, the Gulf, and some Asian countries, whereas **Region B** comprises North, South, Central America, Japan, Korea, and the Philippines.

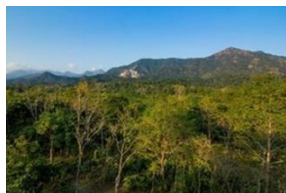
- IALA proposed a system allowing the **use of lateral marks in each region**, but in **Region A**, the **colour red** of the lateral system is used to mark the **port side of channels** and the **colour green** for the **starboard side**.
- In **Region B**, the colours are reversed.
- **Special-purpose buoys** are designed for a variety of uses; they include **cable buoys, anchor buoys, or race buoys**.
- A **mooring buoy** differs from other types in that it is not an aid to navigation but a **point to which vessels may be tied up**.

What are starboard side and port side?

- The **port side** is the **ship's left side** when looking forward towards the **bow** of the ship.
- The **starboard** is on the **right side** of the ship when facing the bow.
- The **bow** is the **part of the ship** that is **generally most forward** when the ship is **moving**. The stern is the back of the ship or its aft-most part.

BUXA TIGER RESERVE (BTR)

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has taken Suo-motu cognisance of a report on the mowing down of three elephants by a goods train at Buxa Tiger Reserve.



About Buxa Tiger Reserve (BTR):

- **Location:** It lies in the Alipurduar sub-division of the Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal.
- Its **northern boundary** runs along the **international border with Bhutan**.
- The **Sinchula hill range** lies all along the **northern side** of BTR, and the **eastern boundary** touches that of Assam State.
- It got its **name from Buxa Fort**, which is located on the Sinchula Range at an altitude of 867 metres.
- The fragile "**Terai Ecosystem**" constitutes a **part of this reserve**.

- It serves as an **international corridor for elephant migration** between India and Bhutan.
- Two rivers, namely the **River Raidak** and the **River Jayanti**, flow through the forest of Buxa.
- **Vegetation:** The forests of the reserve can be broadly classified as the ‘**Moist Tropical Forest**’ of Champion and Seth’s (1968) recent classification.
- **Flora:** Some of the important species are **Sal, Champa, Gamar, Simul**, and Chikrasi.
- **Fauna:** The main species include the **Tiger, elephant, leopard cat, gaur, wild boar, sambar, hog deer, Chinese pangolin**, etc.

WHAT IS FJORDPHANTOM?

Cybersecurity firm Promon has identified a novel Android malware named FjordPhantom that employs virtualization to target applications.



About FjordPhantom:

- It is a new **malware** that **employs virtualization** to elude detection and target applications.
- It **propagates through messaging services** and combines app-based malware with social engineering to **deceive banking customers**.
- It strategically zeroes in on **users within Southeast Asia**, encompassing countries such as Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, and Vietnam.
- **Working:**
 - It **utilises email, SMS, and messaging apps** to **entice users into unwittingly downloading** what appears to be a legitimate banking app, **which contains FjordPhantom**.
 - When this app gets installed, the **attackers, posing as customer service representatives, guide the users through the steps to run the app**.
 - The malware **uses virtualization** to create a virtual container to run this app, and **attackers can monitor the user’s actions and steal their credentials**.

- It facilitates attackers in gaining access to files and memory, conducting debugging, and injecting code into other apps.
 - Additionally, the malware logs various actions performed by the targeted applications, signifying active development and suggesting potential targeting of other apps in the future.
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KEY FACTS THE ABOUT RED SEA

A US warship and multiple commercial vessels were recently attacked in the Red Sea, deepening maritime tension in the Middle East.



About Red Sea:

- It is a semi-enclosed inlet (or extension) of the Indian Ocean between the continents of Africa and Asia. It is one of the world's warmest seas.
 - It is connected to the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean to the south through the Gulf of Aden and the narrow strait of Bab El-Mandeb.
 - The northern portion of the Red Sea is bifurcated by the Sinai Peninsula into the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez, where it is connected to the Mediterranean Sea via the famous Suez Canal.
 - **Bordering Countries:**
 - Yemen and Saudi Arabia border the Red Sea to the east.
 - It is bordered by Egypt to the north and west and by Sudan, Eritrea, and Djibouti to the west.
 - This sea has a surface area of roughly 438,000 km² and is about 2,250 km in length.
 - The maximum width of the sea is 355 km, and the sea's deepest point is 3,040 m at the central Suakin Trough, with the sea's estimated average depth being 490 m.
 - **Islands:** Some well-known islands include Tiran Island, which is located near the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba, and Shadwan Island, which is located at the entrance of the Gulf of Suez.
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ALL INDIA JUDICIAL SERVICE: WHAT THE IDEA IS, WHY HASN'T IT BEEN IMPLEMENTED

Why in News?

- During her inaugural address at the Supreme Court's Constitution Day celebration (November 26), the President of India called for an "all-India judicial service" (AIJS) to recruit judges.
- According to the President, AIJS will help make the judiciary diverse by increasing representation from marginalised social groups.

What is the All-India Judicial Service (AIJS)?

- **Constitutional provision:** Article 312 of the Constitution of India provides for the establishment of an All-India Judicial Service (AIJS), along the lines of the central civil services.
- **How can it be created?**
 - If the Rajya Sabha declares through a resolution, supported by at least two-thirds of its present and voting members, that it is necessary or expedient to create a service in "national interest,"
 - The Parliament may provide for the creation of one or more all India services common to the Union and the States and regulate the recruitment and service conditions of persons appointed to any such service.
- **Posts included under the AIJS:** Article 312 (2) states that the AIJS cannot include any post inferior to that of a district judge, as defined in Article 236.
- **Purpose of creating AIJS:**
 - The AIJS seeks to **centralise the recruitment of judges** at the level of additional district judges and district judges for all states.
 - Just as the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), the recruitment of judges of the lower judiciary is being proposed to be made central, following which they will be assigned to states.

Why hasn't the Idea of AIJS been Implemented Yet?

- **The Centre took various steps towards the constitution of the AIJS**, such as coming up with a “comprehensive proposal”, which was approved by the Committee of Secretaries in 2012.
 - However, it was agreed upon that the issue **needs further deliberation**.
 - Subsequently, the views of state governments and HCs were sought on the proposal, but **no consensus could be reached**.
 - **In 2015**, the agenda of creation of AIJS was included in the agenda for the Chief Justices Conference.
 - However, it was decided that the respective HCs would evolve appropriate methods within the existing system to fill up the vacancies for appointing district judges.
 - **In 2017**, aspects of AISJ, like eligibility, age, selection criteria, qualification, and reservation, were discussed in a meeting chaired by the Minister of Law and Justice, with participation from India's Attorney General.
 - However, the proposal failed to reach the stage of implementation.
 - Recently, when asked about AIJS's implementation in the Lok Sabha, former Union Law Minister said that **owing to diverging opinions amongst the major stakeholders**, there is no consensus on the proposal.
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