IBSF World Snooker: Chennai's Anupama Ramachandran retains her title

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News

At the IBSF (International Billiards and Snooker Federation) World Snooker Championship in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, Chennai's 24-year-old Anupama Ramachandran beat So Man Yan of Hong Kong, China 3–1 in the women's final on 21 November 2026 to retain her title. After losing the first frame 16–58, she won the next three 83–7, 85–26 and 65–37. She became the first Indian to successfully defend an IBSF World Snooker title. On the way she beat India's Keerthana Pandian and England's Tessa Davidson, both 3–1; the final stage was played at the Yeshwant Club, Indore. In November 2025 in Doha (Qatar) she had beaten Hong Kong's Ng On Yee on the final black to become the first Indian woman to win this title. In the men's final Iran's Ali Gharahgozlou beat Tam Yun Fung of Hong Kong, China 5–1; Pankaj Advani (the last Indian men's champion, 2017), who lost to him 3–5 in the semi-final, won bronze.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Event	IBSF World Snooker Championship 2026 (women)
Venue	Indore, Madhya Pradesh
Final	21 November 2026
Winner	Anupama Ramachandran (Chennai), aged 24

Point	Details
Final score	Beat So Man Yan (Hong Kong, China) 3–1
Record	First Indian to successfully defend an IBSF World Snooker title
First title	Nov 2025, Doha – beat Ng On Yee on the final black
Men's title	Ali Gharahgozlou (Iran); Pankaj Advani – bronze

Background

- Snooker was developed in India by British army officers. According to the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) and Madhya Pradesh Tourism, in 1875 Lieutenant Neville Chamberlain (not the British Prime Minister) created it in the officers' mess at Jabalpur (Jubbulpore) by adding coloured balls to the game of Black Pool. When he was later posted to Ootacamund, the game developed further at the Ooty Club (WPBSA). The name comes from 'snookers', the term for rookie cadets at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. The rules were finally consolidated in 1919.
- Rules: a snooker frame uses 15 red balls, 6 coloured balls and one white cue ball. Potting a black after every red and then all six colours gives the maximum break of 147 points.
- India's cue-sport milestones: Wilson Jones won the world billiards title in Calcutta in 1958 – independent India's first world champion in any sport (ESPN). Om Agarwal became the first Indian world amateur snooker champion in 1984. Pankaj Advani, winner of many world titles, received the Padma Bhushan in 2018 (ANI).

Tamil Nadu link: Anupama Ramachandran is from Chennai (DT Next); she has also won gold at the 2023 Women's World Cup and the 2024 Asian Snooker Championship (DT Next). Snooker itself has a Tamil Nadu link: the WPBSA says the game developed further at the Ooty Club in Udhagamandalam, Nilgiris district.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Event: IBSF World Snooker Championship 2026 (women); Venue: Indore, Madhya Pradesh; Final: 21 November 2026; Winner: Anupama Ramachandran (Chennai), aged 24.

What is the background to this news?

Snooker was developed in India by British army officers. According to the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) and Madhya Pradesh Tourism, in 1875 Lieutenant Neville Chamberlain (not the British Prime Minister) created it in the officers' mess at Jabalpur (Jubbulpore) by adding coloured balls to the game of Black Pool.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. In which city was the 2026 IBSF World Snooker Championship, where Anupama Ramachandran retained her title, held?

A) Indore

B) Bhopal

C) Doha

D) Bengaluru

Answer: A – Explanation: Indore (Yeshwant Club), Madhya Pradesh; final on 21 November 2026. Her first title came in 2025 at Doha (Qatar).

2. Snooker is said to have been devised in 1875 in an army officers' mess at which present-day Madhya Pradesh city?

A) Jabalpur

B) Indore

C) Gwalior

D) Mhow

Answer: A – Explanation: Jabalpur (then Jubbulpore) – the WPBSA credits Lt Neville Chamberlain with devising it there; the game later developed further at the Ooty Club.

3. How many red balls are racked at the start of a frame of snooker?

A) 15

B) 10

C) 21

D) 6

Answer: A – Explanation: 15 reds, 6 colours and 1 white cue ball. A black after every red, then all colours, gives the maximum break of 147.

4. Which Indian cue-sports (billiards and snooker) player received the Padma Bhushan in 2018?

A) Geet Sethi

B) Pankaj Advani

C) Aditya Mehta

D) Sourav Kothari

Answer: B – Explanation: Pankaj Advani – this time he lost the men's semi-final 3–5 to Iran's Ali Gharahgozlou and took bronze.

5. Who became the first Indian to win the World Amateur Snooker Championship, in 1984?

A) Yasin Merchant

B) Om Agarwal

C) Michael Ferreira

D) Rafat Habib

Answer: B – Explanation: Om Agarwal (1984); Pankaj Advani was the second Indian, in 2003 (ESPN). In the women's event the first Indian winner was Anupama (2025, Doha).

Sources: ThePrint (PTI), 21 Nov 2026; The Bridge, 21 Nov 2026; DT Next (2025); ESPN (Wilson Jones; Om Agarwal 1984, Advani 2003); WPBSA – wpbsa.com (history, rules); MP Tourism; Business Standard (ANI, Padma Bhushan 2018). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.