



WOLFGANG GATZHOEPE/REUTERS

**BOHN IDENTITY:** Viswanathan Anand holds the winner's trophy after clinching the Chess World Championships in Bonn. Anand played a draw in the 11th game on Wednesday to retain his title with a 6.5-4.5 points victory over challenger Vladimir Kramnik of Russia.

## Vishy Anand is king of chess, again

**■ Srikanth**  
Bonn, October 29

VISWANATHAN ANAND on Wednesday gave millions of Indian fans the best Diwali gift they could ask for — the World Chess Championship title.

Anand, who had dominated the 12-game match against Russian challenger Vladimir Kramnik and had taken a commanding three-point lead at the mid-

way stage, overcame hiccups to master the unscalable 6.5 points that helped him retain the world title with a game to spare.

Anand was under a bit of pressure when Kramnik won the 10th game to narrow the margin to two points. In the 11th game, the 38-year-old Indian Grandmaster came out of a difficult position to steer the game to a draw and win the match 6.5-4.5.

"I am more relieved than hap-

py," said Anand. "I knew I needed just half a point and it looked like an easy task. But there was a bit of nerves and Vlado (Kramnik) too put me under some pressure."

This is Anand's third World title — he first won it in Tehran in 2000 when there were two world championship organised by rival bodies. He then bagged the undisputed title at Mexico in September last year.

The retention of the world title could have been an encore for Anand's fans but for many European fans and traditionalists a title won in a one-on-one match was the real McCoy.

Anand has proved he's the best in the world, whatever be the format. Way to go Viswanathan, king of the chess world.

svk@k@bopstata@hindustantimes.com

# Anand goes two up

## Black 'Death' Again For Kramnik As Indian GM Wins In 35 Moves

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** Viswanathan Anand took a major step towards winning the ultimate World chess crown when he inflicted a shattering 35-move defeat on Vladimir Kramnik in the fifth game in Bonn on Monday.

This was Anand's second consecutive win with black pieces and this could drive Kramnik to a desperate situation in the 12-game series as the Indian now leads 3.5-1.5 with seven more games to be played. Kramnik may



have to throw everything into the next couple of games to come out of the Anand spell.

Game 5 was a replay of Game 3 till move 15. If Anand was confident enough to repeat the Slav Defence with black, Kramnik too was equal to the task, offering the Meran variation, the opening that cost him a full point in Game 3.

The players almost blitzed the first 15 moves and Kramnik must have been encouraged by the fact that post-game analysis after Anand's victory in the third game suggested that white was in fact better in the middle game.



Anand: A big step towards winning the big one

However, Anand came up with an improvement by interchanging his move order. His 15th move with the rook taking control of the King-knight file was in fact executed one move later in Game 3. No wonder, Kramnik spent considerable time looking at the board before changing his 16th move from his previous white game.

Kramnik went into deep thought as Anand pushed his pawn on the Kingside. Like in the third game, Kramnik fell behind on the clock and the difference after move 18 was almost 45 minutes.

Anand's rooks looked threatening but Kramnik simplified the position on move 23 by exchanging a rook. After white's 24th move, Anand had one hour and 10 minutes left to Kramnik's 26 minutes.

As Anand took control of the Queen-bishop file after the exchange of the rook, Kramnik first pushed his pawn and then went for a wild sacrifice of his knight for a pawn on move 29.

Anand quickly parried away all the threats, simplified the position, gave back the piece and promoted his pawn to get a Queen by move 35.

Game 6 with Anand having white will be played on Tuesday.