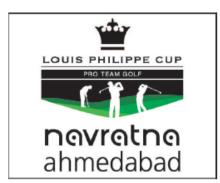# Ahmedabad team to join new IPL-style golf tourney

Rishi Narain

When the Rs. 1.20 crore Louis Philippe Cup golf tournament was announced by the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) two months ago, excitement among India's top pro golfers was tremendous. A tournament with 8 teams consisting of the three best pro golfers aroused the interest of players and sports fans across the country.

An interesting development soon after was the addition of a 9th team to the tournament in the form of Navratna Ahmedabad. Ahmedabad is the fastest growing centre for golf in India with some 5 new golf courses having been built in the past four years and more on the cards. Navratna Developers' 18 hole championship golf course opening in February is designed by none other than the legendary American player Jack Nicklaus, who's record of 18 major titles, is still being chased by Ti-

ger Woods. Jack Nicklaus' 300 championship courses have hosted more major professional tournaments worldwide than those designed by any other golf architect in the world and his new course in Ahmedabad will be a new venue for international quality events in India – something sorely required.

With the country's top professional players having confirmed participation in the Louis Philippe Cup, being held at KGA, Bangalore from March 5th to 8th, fans can watch three time Indian open champ Jyoti Randhawa and Singapore Classic winner Himmat Rai both representing Gurgaon, European Tour member Shiv Kapur representing Delhi, Panasonic Open champion Anirban Lahiri representing Bangalore, Avantha Masters winner SSP Chowrasia representing Kolkota, Indonesian Masters winner Gaganjeet Bhullar representing Chandigarh and of course the top 18 ranked Indian players on the 2011 PGTI rankings are all guaranteed to play on one of the 9 teams.

The Ahmedabad team is likely to see at least two players being imported from Delhi and the third player will be the sponsor's choice. Teams are in the process of being finalised and will be announced soon. RN GOLF MANAGEMENT