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Ahmedabad snatch win from Chennai's grasp

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In a thrilling finish to the fourth edition of the Louis Philippe Cup, defending champions Navratna Ahmedabad won the trophy for the third time at the Karnataka Golf Association on Saturday. Ahmedabad's Mithun Perera rose to the occasion to snatch victory from Take Chennai, who had headed into the final day with a massive five-stroke lead. Sri Lankan Perera turned in the day's best card of five-under 67. Countryman Anura Rohana turned in one-under 71 for a team total of 13-under-419, which tied them with overnight leaders Chennai. With no play-off to decide the winner, the team with the best total on the final day walked away with the



Navratna Ahmedabad players Mithun Perera (from left), Anura Rohana and Shankar Das celebrate with the Louis Philippe Cup trophy at the KGA on Saturday. — R. SAMUEL

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winner's cheque and Ahmedabad ended up defending their trophy once again. Getting off to a slow start with even par scores on the first two holes and a bogey on the third, Perera did not look threatening. But he upped the ante, setting the course alight with six birdies, one on the front nine (8th hole) and five on the back nine (10th, 11th, 14th, 17th and 18th). Perera was overjoyed as he anchored the win, after being a part of the winning team in both the 2012 and 2014 editions. "I had a really good back nine. We had a good team combination with any of us able to take the game away at any moment and we supported each other through-

out. It's special as we won the first edition here at the KGA," said the Lankan. "Through the week I've played good golf but I wasn't able to read the lines too well the past few days, but thanks to my caddie today I had really good putts." While Perera anchored the win, 41-year-old Rohana added the finishing touch carding a 10-foot birdie on the last hole to level scores with Chennai. Chennai were left dejected as they failed to complete a wire-to-wire finish after being in excellent form over the past two days. Local lad Khalin Joshi managed a card of two-under 70 on the day, with his team-mates S Chikka-rangappa and S.S.P. Chawrasia coming up with identical one-over 73s.

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