

Ahmedabad ride on Lankan super show

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Bengaluru: Powered by a brilliant back-nine charge by the Sri Lankan combine of **Mithun Perera** and Anura Rohana on the final day, holders Navratna Ahmedabad scored a sensational victory to retain the



LP CUP

Louis Philippe Cup at the KGA course here on Saturday.

Five shots behind pacesetters TAKE Chennai at the start of the day, the diminutive Perera shot a five-under 67, including five birdies on the back-nine, while Rohana returned a card of 71 with two birdies in the second-half, including a nervy 10-foot birdie on the closing hole to go ahead for the first time in the Rs 1.2 crore event.

Although home boy Khalin Joshi birdied the final hole, he could only help Chennai draw level with Ahmedabad. The latter, by

virtue of their better final-round score of six-under 138, edged out Chennai (143) and walked away with the winners' prize amount of Rs 36 lakh with a overall tally of 13-under 419. It was Ahmedabad's third victory in four editions.

With both SSP Chawrasia and S Chikkarangappa failing to fire on the final day, Khalin's heroic effort of 12-under 204 went in vain for Chennai. Despite finishing on 419, the team had to settle for the runners-up purse of Rs 24 lakh. The consolation for Chennai was the individual honours for the in-form Khalin, who was one of the two golfers to shoot sub-par rounds on all three days. The other was second-placed Om Prakash Chouhan (209). While Khalin took home Rs 7 lakh, Chouhan was richer by Rs 4 lakh.

"It feels great to retain the title," Perera said. "It was a brilliant team effort and we knew we could bridge the five-shot deficit if we played to our potential. We (Anura Rohana and Shankar Das) combined well as a team," he added.