

# Ahmedabad storm into final

## Take On Bangalore In Title Round Today

R Satya | TNN

TOI

**Bangalore:** Navratna Ahmedabad team, riding on the back of fine performances by Sri Lankan star Mithun Perera defied the odds by storming into the finals of the inaugural city-based Rs 1.24-crore Louis Philippe Cup team championship at the KGA here where they will take on home team Puravankara Bangalore. Perera was the star of the day again for the Ahmedabad team as he won his match against the young but talented Harendra Gupta by a margin of 2-up to give his team the lead. After Vinod Kumar lost his match to Sujjan Singh 2&1, Vikrant Chopra beat the two time Asian tour winner Gaganjeet Bhullar 4&3 to take his team to the finals.

The Ahmedabad team were considered the under dogs when the tournament started, but all that changed with a brilliant performance from Perera on the second day of the tournament where he scored a seven under 65. Perera's efforts were supported by Chopra, who came good with a four under 68 on day two, improving tremendously on his first day's score of one over par 73. Ahmedabad ended the two day qualification stage on Thursday with a two day total score of 15 under par 273.

"Harendra is a tough competitor and he played some good golf, but my



Mithun Perera of Ahmedabad in action during the Louis Philippe Cup team championship at KGA in Bangalore on Friday

### RESULTS

**SEMIFINALS:** Ahmedabad bt Chandigarh 2-1 (Mithun Perera bt Harendra P Gupta 2-up; Vinod Kumar lost to Sujjan Singh 1&2; Vikrant Chopra bt Gaganjeet Bhullar 4&3); Bangalore bt Chennai 2-1 (Abhishek Jha bt Gaurav Ghei 2-up; Manav Jaini lost to SSP Chowrasia 2&3; Anirban Lahiri bt Anura Rohana 2-up).

game stayed steady and my closing shot to just three feet on the final hole sealed the match in my favour. I am really excited about helping my team into the finals," said Perera.

"All of us in the team have become really close this week and we are really determined to give off our best. We are excited to have a shot at the ₹36 lakhs purse and the title on Saturday and even though the Bangalore team will have the home crowd support, if we just focus on our game, we are confident about our chances," added Sri Lankan.

Having been totally out of the picture in the stroke-play segment over the last two days, the lanky Abhishek Jha came into his own in the knockout matchplay on Friday to set up Bangalore's narrow 2-1 win over dark horses Chennai in the semifinals.

