

Lahiri stares at fourth win

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Ahmedabad: With a four-shot advantage, Anirban Lahiri has put himself in line to collect the winner's cheque of the PGTI Ahmedabad Masters at the Kalhaar Blues & Greens (KGB). In the third round of the Rs50-lakh event on Friday, he carded a sedate one-under-71 to take his tally to -11. In the process, he went four shots clear of his nearest rival SSP Chowrasia (-7), who had shot the day's best score of 67.

The Bangalorean (64-70-71), the overnight leader by two shots, started with a tricky seven-foot birdie putt on the second. He picked up another shot on the fifth before losing some momentum after missing the green and subsequently missing a five-footer for par on the eighth. The ace golfer has won the last three PGTI tournaments he has appeared in.

Chowrasia (68-74-67), meanwhile, climbed from overnight tied ninth to second place after shooting the day's best score of five-under-67. SSP, a two-time winner on the European Tour, started on a false note, hitting a bogey on the second and fourth. He put his disappointment behind to make a roaring comeback with birdies on the fifth and sixth. And then, SSP was unstoppable on the back-nine, making four straight birdies from the 12th through the 15th.

"I had my best round of the tournament today. I set up many birdie opportunities for myself. I sank two long birdie putts and was on a



SSP Chowrasia in action on Friday

roll from the 12th onwards. I know I'll be up against some really tough competition in the final round as Anirban is playing extremely well at the moment. However, I feel I can put up a good fight in the last round," said SSP, who displaced Faridabad's Abhinav Lohan from the second spot. Lohan came up with a 74 in round three to end at six-under-210 on the penultimate day.

Angad Cheema was a further shot back in fourth place. Rahil Gangjee of Kolkata was seventh at three-under-213. Reigning Rolex Rankings champion Rashid Khan of Delhi lies 10th at even-par-216 while Himmat Singh Rai is placed 12th at two-over-218. Fifteen-year-old amateur Varun Parikh (75-75-79) of Ahmedabad was tied 46th place after his third round of 79 that took his total score to 13-over-229.