

# Cool Chinnappa clinches crown

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**Bangalore:** Trishul Chinnappa survived some tense moments before scripting a last minute victory in the Tata Steel Southern India Amateur that culminated at the Karnataka Golf Association course here on Friday.

Leading by four shots in the final round, Chinnappa gave seemed to give away the advantage as he shot a four-over 76. Delhi lad Ankur Chadha, starting nine behind the leader, caught up with the Bangalore lad by the 16th and, after a brilliant shot from the trouble on the final hole, Chadha three-putted for a bogey which avoided a play-off situation.

The 19-year-old Chinnappa finished the tournament with an aggregate of four-under 284 to wear the crown and grab his maiden title on the Tata Steel IGTU Indian Amateur Golf Tour, while Chadha had to settle for the second place, with just a shot behind. Another Bangalore youngster Udayan Mane, who trailed the leader by four, was way off his form and shot a five-over 77 to end up third.

Ainesh Ahluwalia finished fourth at

290, while Jaibir Singh and Manu Gandas shared the fifth place at 292. Aman Raj was seventh at 293 while Vikram Rana was eighth at 294.

Chinnappa did begin with a flourish when he birdied the second. However, two bogeys in the next three holes gave a ray of hope to Chadha, who made two birdies on the same holes (third and fifth). A chip-in from the green-side bunker for a birdie on the ninth reposed the confidence of young Chinnappa. While he found the going tough, especially with his hitting, Chadha made three birdies on the first four holes of his back nine against Chinnappa's consecutive bogeys on the 11th and 12th. Meanwhile, Mane gave up the chase after being two-over for his front nine.

Chadha, playing ahead of Chinnappa, was safely on the green in two on the finishing hole after both were tied at four-under. Missing his long birdie putt, Chadha missed a three-footer for par from the left, admittedly due to the pressure. Chinnappa, who hit his tee shot on the right on the 18th, hit a brilliant second on to the green and two putted for a par.

"I am thrilled to win my maiden title. I

am elated that I achieved the feat in front of my home crowd," said Chinnappa. "I had not envisaged a threat from Ankur. I thought Udayan would go all out and was considering a late charge from him," said the winner. "I felt my game was shattering a bit but the chip-in birdie on the ninth gave me the confidence," he added.

## Top scores (after 72 holes):

284 - Trishul Chinnappa (69, 72, 67, 76); 285 - Ankur Chadha (72, 76, 69, 68); 289 - Udayan Mane (71, 71, 70, 77); 290 - Ainesh Ahluwalia (72, 75, 69, 74); 292 - Jaibir Singh (74, 77, 67, 74); Manu Gandas (74, 72, 73, 73); 293 - Aman Raj (71, 72, 74, 76); 294 - Vikram Rana (72, 75, 70, 77); 295 - Samarath Divedi (72, 78, 74, 71); 296 - Pratap Atwal (75, 71, 75, 75); 297 - Hemendra Chaudhary (73, 75, 70, 79); Nikhil S Sekhawat (71, 78, 71, 77); 299 - Syed Saqib Ahmed (75, 72, 74, 78); 299 - Piyush Sangwan (73, 78, 74, 74); 300 - Advait Luthra (72, 78, 73, 77); Lokesh Lakshman (74, 74, 78, 74).

