

DPS Bopal hosted X biennial Sports Day for senior wing on 15 Dec 2016. Arjun awardee and legendary table tennis player Kamlesh Mehta graced the occasion as a chief guest.

# Ahmedabad team in Indian TT League?

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**W**ith the likes of promising juniors Manav Thakkar and Manush Shah leading the future – and a robust structure in place – it was not a surprise as murmurs are on the rise for a team from the state in the upcoming Indian Table Tennis League.

The league – planned on the lines of Indian Premier League – will have teams from various cities owned by a franchisee and will take off in June 8-30 next year. With the table tennis' international body (ITTF) also giving it a dedicated window, some of the top line paddlers of the world are expected to take part in the event.



Kamlesh Mehta interacting with the kids from a prominent city school

Kamlesh Mehta, one of the men behind the idea and the sporting di-

rector of the company that will run the league, shared

that they are also looking for a team from Ahmedabad.

"Yes, we are looking for a team from Ahmedabad. However, for that we will need someone to come forward and own the franchisee," said the Arjuna Awardee, who has a long association with the state, told *Mirror* on the sidelines of a sports day function in a prominent city school.

Confirming the news, Gujarat State Table Tennis Association (GSTTA) secretary Hareesh Sanghani said, "Yes, we are looking for a team. We have so many talented players in the state and if some of them get a chance to take part in the League it will be a big boost to them. They will get a chance to see, observe and learn from some of the best players in the business."

However, sources told *Mirror* that

finding a franchisee would be tough. "It all depends on the support we get.

It will be a big ticket affair and I am not sure how many from the state will come forward to support it financially," the source said, adding, "But we should not give up hope. There is still time."

One of the players, who wished not to be named, felt that a team from state could be a big boost for the local players.

"I am actually surprised to hear that. If that happens it will be great for the local players as they got to get up, close and personal with some top players in the game. However, I have my doubts as how many local players can actually get a chance?" said the player.

(WITH INPUTS FROM PRANJAL PROTIM BORUAH)