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# Golfers ready to strut their stuff

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As the fifth edition of the \$3,00,000 Hero Women's Indian Open approaches, as many as 108 golfers from 26 countries keenly await the opportunity to ply different strategies they have arrived with, at the DLF Golf and the Country Club from December 9.

A few, including the USA's Cristina Kim and Swede Caroline Hedwall, who landed in the country only on Sunday, are yet to get a feel of the course. The duo are on their maiden visit to India.

"I got my visa only on Saturday. So I was really worried about everything, but made it here at the last minute. I have not been

able to get a feel of the greens here yet," Kim said.

In the 10th year of her professional career, an optimistic Kim added, "the year so far has been fantastic. I hope things will fall in pace for me here too. I am here to enjoy playing golf, though the competition looks stiff with the likes of Laura (Davies) and Caroline (Hedwall) among others."

Rookie Hedwall, meanwhile, felt that her long game would give her an edge during the Open.

"I have a strong long game. I hit a lot of greens and if I have a good day, then I look to get some good putts as well. I haven't planned anything specific for this event. I will follow the usual strategy, go out

there and play some good golf," said Hedwall, who has three titles to her name.

## YOUNG INDIANS TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE CHANCE

The Indians, meanwhile, hope to make a mark at the event and are excited to compete against top LET and LPGA players.

Veteran Simi Mehra feels that the young brigade had the fire to sparkle. "Look at Nalini, Saaniya (Sharma), Neha (Tripathi), they are so confident. They are now ready to compete anywhere in the world," said Simi, who had recently recovered from an ankle injury.

Sharmila, current leader on the Women's Professional Golf Tour, exuded confidence as well.

"It has been tough year, a bit rusty. I made lot of changes in my game and changed my coach as well. But the last two wins on the WPG Tour has boosted my confidence," said the Bengalurean.

Another promising star Nalini ruled out the presumption that she would be intimidated by the presence of top LET and LPGA golfers.

"Earlier I thought, I would, but the way they played in the skills challenge, I am sure I won't be," she said.

The Asian team, represented by Simi, Nalini, Sharmila and Neha, on Tuesday defeated a star-studded European team to win the Europe v/s Asia Skills Challenge 3-1 here.