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## Simi, Sharmila to lead local challenge at Indian Open

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**NEW DELHI:** Indian golfers Simi Mehra and Sharmila Nicolle will spearhead India's challenge in this year's Hero Women's Indian Open golf tournament to be played at the DLF Golf and

Country Club in Gurgaon from December 9-11.

A total of 108 golfers from 26 countries will participate in the \$300,000 in the fifth edition of event, which is being tri-sanctioned by Ladies European Tour (LET), the Ladies Asian Golf Tour (LAGT) and Women's

Golf Association of India (WGAI).

The 108-golfer field will also have defending champion Laura Davies of England and two-time former winners Phatlum Pornanong of Thailand.

Besides Davies and Pornanong, the field will also

have 37-year-old Sophie Gustafson, a four-time Money List champion and winner of 29 international titles; South African Lee-Ann Pace; Christina Kim of the United States and emerging golfer Caroline Hedwall of Sweden.

The field has been reduced

to 108 from 123 golfers because of the late scheduling of the tournament this year.

The size of the DLF Golf Course has also been reduced by 115 yards for this edition of the event. The changes in the course have been made in Hole 3, 7 and 10.