

Gauri finishes on a high

WOMEN'S INDIAN OPEN

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 30

Delhi Golf Club (DGC) amateur Gauri Monga made the Hero Women's Indian Open memorable for local fans as she finished a creditable tied fifth, while overnight leader Thidapa Suwannapura of Thailand shot a three-under final round to secure the title with a total of eight-under 208.

In the benign course conditions at the DGC, 20-year-old Monga shot a two-under 70 for the second consecutive day to aggregate three-under 213. She finished tied fifth place with Ladies European Tour (LET) sensation Charley Hull of England, who shot a 72, and US veteran Beth Allen, who carded day's best round of six-under 66.

This is the second-best performance by an Indian at the Hero Women's Indian Open as Meghna Bal and Irina Brar finished tied fourth in the first edition of the tournament in 2007.

Among other Indians in the fray, Neha Tripathi, who is the winner of the order of merit on the Hero Women's Professional Golf Tour 2013, shot an even-par 72 to finish as the next best Indian after Gauri in tied 24th position.

Veteran Smriti Mehra (73), youngster Vani Kapoor (72) and amateur Gurbani Singh (70) ended tied 34th, with a total of nine-over 223 each. — PTI

Gauri eyes Asiad berth

PRIYANKA SHARMA

THE ASIAN AGE

For home golfers, the Hero Women's Indian Open is the only tournament that gives them a chance to rub shoulders with top players from Asia and Europe.

Over the years, the event has also witnessed several Indian juniors making a mark on the Ladies Asian and European Tours.

If Bengalurean amateur Aditi Ashok surprised everyone taking a share of the lead on the first day of the event last year, Gauri Monga impressed all with her consistent game at this year's edition, that concluded on the day.

Aditi finished eighth, the best among Indians last year, while Gauri signed off even better at tied fifth with a total score of three-under 213.

"It feels great to finish in the top-10. I never expected to come up with such a score and luckily that too on my home course. It's a big tournament and playing alongside all these players from Europe is a great experience. They are so focused and their fitness levels add to their game. It's a great experience," Gauri told this paper.

"I am happy to keep my calm and match the top players. I think if I had played as a pro there would have been more pressure on me. Next time, I hope to compete as a pro," said the Delhi lass, who was accompanied by her mother and aunt Bubble Suneja, also DGC captain, on all three days.

After a brilliant season, in



Gauri Monga

Last time, I missed the trials. So, I am working hard to be part of the Indian team.

**GAURI MONGA
INDIAN GOLFER**

which she had four wins including the Sri Lankan Open, Gauri is keenly looking ahead to the next year, an important one for athletes considering the Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games are lined up.

Gauri, who is pursuing BBA from one of the top institutes in the country, says she aims to participate in the 2014 Asian Games before turning pro.

"I am 20 and am playing well. But I want to give myself a chance to play in the big events. I want to take part in the Asian Games next year. I have waited for the event so long.

"Last time, I missed the trials. So, I am working hard to be part of the Indian team," said the Delhi girl, who will be playing in Pune and Mumbai next.

Ahead of the tournament, there was a lot of buzz about the home golfers holding an edge at the challenging course.

"Yes, it's an advantage for our game but at the same time, it adds pressure. I am happy that I could hold my nerves and was not affected by the cheering of the crowd," said the promising star.

Flawless Thidapa bags title

INDIAN | OPEN

PRIYANKA SHARMA
NEW DELHI, NOV. 30

Amateur Gauri Monga lived up to the expectations of home crowd, even as Thidapa Suwannapura of Thailand played a flawless final round of four-under 68 to lift the 2013 Hero Women's Indian Open golf title at the Delhi Golf Course here on Saturday.

It was a wire-to-wire finish for Thidapa, who also lifted her maiden Ladies European Tour title besides taking home a prize purse of \$45,000 with a total of eight-under 208, three strokes clear of her Day One co-leader Valentine Derrey of France (211) who closely followed the leader under ideal conditions.

England's Hannah Burke (68) and Thidapa's compatriot Saraporn Chamchoi (69) shared the honours for the third spot on four-under 212.

Gauri, meanwhile, was the toast for the hosts as she took a share of the fifth place with a total on three-under 213. She finished alongside USA's Beth Allen — the best scorer of the day at 66 — and England's Charley Hull (72), frontrunner of LET Rookie of the Year.

Thidapa, starting the day with a one-shot lead, stayed on top throughout the final day, thanks to her focus. She, however, was challenged by Valentine (early in the day), and Saraporn (later) who were making a surge in the leaderboard. The duo, on two different occasions, was even tied for the lead with Thidapa. But Thidapa's consecu-



Thailand's Thidapa Suwannapura in action during the final day of the Hero Women's Indian Open at the Delhi Golf Course on Saturday.

tive birdies on the 13th and 14th holes nearly ended the challenge, as she went three strokes better. "That was the turning point of my round today," said a delighted Thidapa, who posted birdies on the first, ninth, 13th and 14th holes.

"I think I played my best game today. I couldn't have asked for a better

score in this challenging golf course. But I never thought I could win. I just concentrated on my game and did not look at anybody or even the leaderboard," said Thidapa.

Before Thidapa, country woman Pornanong Phatlum had won the event thrice in 2008, 2009 and 2012.

Meanwhile, Valentine (70) — who caught up

with the leader with her sixth and eight holes birdies — said she knew she lost the grip when Thidapa birdied the 13th and 14th holes. Saraporn, who found five birdies including three in a row from the 13th, gave up the fight after her par-4 16th hole bogey.

GAURI BEST AMONG INDIANS

Gauri came with another two-under score, thanks to her brilliant driving. Her day was laced with four birdies and two bogeys.

Pleasantly surprised to manage a top-5 finish, she said, "I came into the tournament without any expectation and that worked. I told myself to not to take pressure."

Order of Merit leader Neha Tripathi was the best pro among the Indians at tied 24th place with a total of five-over 221, two better than seasoned Simi Mehra and youngster Vani Kapoor who languished at tied 34th. Bengaluru pro Sharmila Nicollett finished further down in tied 44th with nine-over 225.

LEADERBOARD TOP-10

- 208 - Thidapa Suwannapura (THA)
- 211 - Valentine Derrey (FRA)
- 212 - Hannah Burke (ENG), Saraporn Chamchoi (THA)
- 213 - Charley Hull (ENG), Gauri Monga (IND), Beth Allen (USA)
- 215 - Elna Nummenmaa (FIN), Ye Na Chung (KOR)
- 216 - Pennapa Pulsawath (THA)

Among Indians:

- 213 - Gauri Monga (A)
- 221 - Neha Tripathi (A)
- 223 - Smriti Mehra, Vani Kapoor, Gurbani Singh (A)
- 224 - Ridhima Dilawari (A)
- 225 - Sharmila Nicollett
- 226 - Rhea Nair
- 230 - Gursimar Badhwal (A)
- 231 - Aditi Ashok (A)

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नई दिल्ली. थाईलैंड की थिडापा सुवानापुरा ने तीन लाख डॉलर की होठे महिला इंडियन ओपन गोल्फ स्पर्धा जीत ली। उन्होंने तीसरे और अंतिम राउंड में चार अंडर 68 का शानदार कार्ड खेला। फ्रांस की बेलेंटाइन डेरी ने पांच अंडर 211 के स्कोर के साथ दूसरा स्थान हासिल किया।

Golf Women's Indian Open

Thidapa completes fine win

Thai youngster cards four-under 68; France's Derrey finishes second

NEW DELHI: Thailand's Thidapa Suwannapura carded an impressive four-under 68 to clinch the 2013 Hero Women's Indian Open by three strokes at the Delhi Golf Club here on Saturday.

Thidapa, who has been on pole since the opening day, had started with one-stroke lead over England's Charley Hull and Valentine Derrey, but was quick to surge ahead with a birdie on the opening hole.

All through, Thidapa was challenged by her first-round co-leader Valentine, who twice shared the lead with her after sixth and eighth holes but the Frenchwoman couldn't match her rival's consistency. The Thai, who dished out a bogey-free final round, made a downhill 18-foot putt for a birdie on the ninth hole to once again go a stroke ahead at the turn.

The 21-year-old, who finished tied-13 in the last edition, signed off with a total of eight-under 208 and was followed by Valentine at second place and Hannah Burk of England and compatriot Saraporn Chamchoi, the two sharing the third place.

"I never thought I was going to win this tournament. This is like the biggest tournament that I've won and it's a part of my dream," said Thidapa, whose only other professional victory was the Vidalia Tour Championship on the US



ALL SMILES Thailand's Thidapa Suwannapura poses with her spoils after winning the Women's Indian Open.

Symetra Tour in 2012. She walked away with the prize cheque of \$45,000.

"My dad told me this morning, if I could win this tournament, he would be very proud. The course here is very hard but I tried to play my best," added Thidapa.

Before Thidapa, Thailand's

Pornanong Phatlum won this event three times (2008, 2009, 2012).

India's Gauri Monga continued to win hearts for the second day straight, finishing tied fifth. She was the only home bred golfer to be in top-10 and was tied with Charley, who was at shared second place on Fri-

day, and Beth Allen, who played a superb final round to earn the best card of six-under, comprising seven birdies and one bogey.

Gauri, who was tied fourth place on second day, shot birdies on 5th, 9th, 11th and 16th holes. She dropped a shot each on the third and 10th holes. The 20-year-old amateur was satisfied with her performance and wished to play in the Asian Games next year.

"I didn't think that I will finish as high as fifth. Playing at the home course worked into my favour, and except a triple bogey on the first day, I had a tremendous outing," said Gauri, whose mother also plays golf and her aunt is the captain of DGC.

Among other Indians, Neha Tripathi finished as the top Indian pro at tied 24 while Smriti Mehra and Vani Kapoor were tied 34. Bengaluru pro Sharmila Nicolett finished further down in tied 44th with nine-over 225.

DH News Service

Leading scorers (after 54 holes. Indians unless mentioned): 208: Thidapa Suwannapura (Tha, 66, 74, 68); 211: Valentine Derrey (Fra, 66, 75, 70); 212: Hanna Burke (Eng, 73, 71, 68); Saraporn Chamchoi (Tha, 73, 70, 69); 213: Beth Allen (US, 74, 73, 66); Gauri Monga (73, 70, 70); Charley Hull (Eng, 69, 72, 72); 215: Ye Na Chung (Kor, 73, 72, 72); Elna Nummenmaa (Fin, 72, 73, 70); 216: Pennapa Pulaasawath (Tha, 73, 72, 71).

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गोल्फ में पांचवें स्थान पर रही शैरी मोंगा

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली गोल्फ क्लब की एमेच्योर गौरी मोंगा ने हीरो इंडियन ओपन 2013 में पांचवां स्थान हासिल करके स्थानीय गोल्फ प्रेमियों के लिये इसे यादगार बना दिया। बीस वर्षीय गौरी ने लगातार दूसरे दिन दो अंडर 70 का कार्ड बनाया। वह लेडीज यूरोपियन टूर में खेलने वाली इंग्लैंड की चार्ली हल और अमेरिका की बेथ एलन के साथ संयुक्त पांचवें स्थान पर रही। बेथ ने दिन का सर्वश्रेष्ठ छह अंडर 66 का कार्ड बनाया। गौरी ने अपने करियर का सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन किया।

Suwannapura wraps up the title in style

GOLF / The Thai recovers from her second-round lapse to shoot four-under and win by three strokes



ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT: There was no bubbly at hand, but Thidapa Suwannapura's fans were happy enough to settle for mineral water to souse the champion with. — PHOTO: RAJEEV BHATT

Ultra Ganesan

NEW DELHI: Thidapa Suwannapura shot a four-under 68 in the final round on Saturday to win the seventh Women's Indian Open in style at the Delhi Golf Club, her tally of eight-under 208 seeing her beat Frenchwoman Valentine Derrey by three shots.

The Thai's impressive recovery from a two-over on Friday saw her claim her first title on the Ladies European Tour. The victory also made Suwannapura the second Thai to win the title, after three-time winner and defending champion Phatlum Pornanong, and brought her \$45,000 in the \$300,000 event.

England's Hannah Burke and Thailand's Saraporn Chamchoi were tied third at 212.

Local amateur Gauri Monga was tied fifth at 213 — the best show by an Indian in the tournament.

Suwannapura, who led the leader-board every single day, started with a birdie; she had four in the final round.

"I did not expect to do this well today because the course was very tough, and it was getting very difficult to keep the ball on the fairways," Suwannapura said.

Her birdies — on the first, ninth, 13th and 14th holes — came off long putts. The first was a 20-footer and the one on the ninth hole, came from 26 feet.

The only time she was in trouble was on the 16th hole, when her drive rolled off the fairway and landed very close to the bushes.

"That was the toughest shot for me today. There were high trees in the path and I was not sure if I could shoot past them, and even if I did, it the ball would land on the green. I was lucky to par that hole," she said.

Monga, meanwhile, said she was proud of her effort — the second best performance by an Indian in the competition behind Irina Brar's and Meghna Bal's fourth-place finish in the inaugural edition in 2007.

"I am happy with my consistency. On all three days, I was two-under after 17 holes, but

the first day's triple bogey on the last hole cost me.

"If someone had told me before the tournament that I would finish tied fifth I would have believed them. I never really expected to finish so high in such a big tournament, so this has given me a lot of confidence," she said.

Playing on her home course was a great advantage, she said, but added that she was also under pressure since everyone knew her and expected her to do well.

"But I had no expectations, and I think it actually helped since I was not at all stressed out. I just wanted to go out and play shot by shot. I guess I would have been more nervous if I were a pro," she added.

The scores: 208: Thidapa Suwannapura (Tha) 66, 74, 68. 211: Valentine Derrey (Fra) 66, 75, 70. 212: Hannah Burke (Eng) 73, 71, 68. Sara porn Chamchoi (Tha) 73, 70, 69. 213: Beth Allen (USA) 74, 73, 68. Gaun Monga (Ind) 73, 70, 70. Charley Hull (I) 69, 72, 72. 215: Ye Na Chung (Kor) 73, 72, 70. Elna Nummenmaa (Fin) 72, 73, 70. 216: Pennapa Pulsawath (Tha) 73, 72, 71.

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महिला इंडियन ओपन में पांचवें स्थान पर रहीं गौरी मोंगा

नई दिल्ली | भाषा

दिल्ली गोल्फ क्लब की एमेच्योर गौरी मोंगा ने हीरो इंडियन ओपन 2013 में शनिवार को यहां पांचवां स्थान हासिल करके स्थानीय गोल्फ प्रेमियों के लिए इसे यादगार बना दिया।

बीस वर्षीय गौरी ने लगातार दूसरे दिन दो अंडर 70 का कार्ड बनाया। वह लेडीज यूरोपियन टूर में खेलने वाली इंग्लैंड की चार्ली हल और अमेरिका की बेथ एलन के साथ संयुक्त पांचवें स्थान पर रहीं। बेथ ने दिन का सर्वश्रेष्ठ छह अंडर 66 का कार्ड बनाया।

गौरी ने अपने करियर का सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन किया। वह टूर्नामेंट की विजेता थाईलैंड की थिडापा सुवानपुर से पांच स्ट्रोक पीछे रहीं। यह किसी भारतीय का महिला इंडियन ओपन में दूसरा सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन है। इससे पहले वर्ष 2007 में पहले टूर्नामेंट में मेघना बल और इरिना बगर संयुक्त चौथे स्थान पर रहीं थीं।

Gauri ends on a high at home course

Sharmistha Chaudhuri

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NEW DELHI: She just couldn't stop grinning. If someone had told her this week that she would have the best finish among Indians in the Hero Women's Indian Open, Gauri Monga would have probably laughed it off.

"This was really unexpected," gushed the 20-year-old amateur after ending the tournament tied fifth (three-under 143) on Saturday. She was in elite company, having tied with Ladies European Tour rookie sensation Charley Hull and American Beth Allen, who carded the day's best round of six-under 66.

If last year young amateur Aditi Ashok stole the limelight from the Indian pros finishing tied eighth, it was Gauri's turn this time. In fact, in the tournament's seven-year history, it was the second-best finish by an Indian behind Meghna Bal and Irina Brar (tied fourth in 2007).

STAYING CALM

Having played consistently, Gauri didn't really have a strategy in mind before the final round. "The Delhi Golf Club is my home course. Of course, there were expectations but I just played

**I PLAYED MY GAME...
I THINK IF I HAD BEEN
A PRO, I WOULD HAVE
BEEN NERVOUS**

GAURI MONGA, Finished tied fifth

I think if I had been a pro, I would have been nervous," she laughed.

Having missed the last Asian Games, the 2014 mega event at Incheon, South Korea is on her mind. "There's no pressure to turn pro immediately and I really want to play the Asian Games once. So if I've waited so long, I can wait a few more months."

Taken up the sport in 2006 thanks to her mother's influence, she had lost count of her score in the middle of the final round in which her 'putting and driving was good'. Four birdies in a final round of two-under 70 bear testimony to that.

In the same group with Hannah Burke and Saraporn Chamchoi, Gauri remained calm when it mattered. While the other two finished a stroke ahead of her, the Indian knew what matters in the sport. "The aim is to beat the course, not the player," was her mature answer before she headed off to celebrate the finish

Self-effacing route for Thidapa

WOMEN'S INDIAN OPEN A picture of perfect composure, Thai youngster wins maiden Ladies European Tour title

Robin Bose

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NEW DELHI: It's human, performance does cause expectation to soar. Much as she kept chirping through this week, "You cannot expect anything on this course, what's going to happen, will happen," a crack did show up late on Friday. "This could be my tournament." It was perhaps a moment of weakness, but in no way could Thidapa Suwannapura be blamed for feeling so.

In joint lead on the first day of the Hero Women's Indian Open and ahead by a shot by the end of the second, the adrenalin would have been rushing. But for that rare peek, the 21-year-old Thai had been a picture of composure.

Back in her hotel room, she may have even chided herself for "trying to get ahead", for when she teed off for the last time at the Delhi Golf Club on Saturday, not an iota of emotion was on view.

DEFLECTING PRESSURE

In fact, the demeanour was almost defeatist. "If someone else played well and won, I would have told myself that she deserved it."

The lead was hers, yet Thidapa kept muttering all the while that the trophy seemed like a distant dream. It wasn't without reason. Her dislike for the dense bushes had surfaced early on when an encounter left her complaining about the damage to the apparel. The round of two-over 74 on Friday bruised her spirit.

Such was the impact that



■ A victorious Thidapa Suwannapura at the DGC.

HT PHOTO

FINAL SCORES

- **208:** Thidapa Suwannapura (66, 74, 68)
- **211:** Valentine Derrey (66, 75, 70)
- **212:** Hannah Burke (73, 71, 68); Saraporn Chamchoi (73, 70, 69)
- **213:** Beth Allen (73, 74, 66); Gauri Monga (A) (73, 70, 70); Charley Hull (69, 72, 72)

devotion to her craft. Even after it was over, she could not place a finger on what worked. "All I know is that the focus was on staying out of trouble," she said.

Thidapa did succeed, on the way even discarding the habit of throwing frequent glances at the leaderboard, but surprisingly the intimation came from her nearest rival, Valentine Derrey, who fell short by three shots. "On the 18th green she whispered that I'd missed the fairway just twice today."

The piece of statistic stirred Thidapa but realisation dawned when her man on the bag informed that it was a bogey-free round of four-under 68 that had heralded her maiden triumph on the Ladies European Tour.

through Saturday, the thought "it's tough to keep the ball on the fairway, and make birdie" kept coming back.

It could have been counter-productive but for the single-minded

THIDAPA TORIUS

Thai pro wins Indian Open. Local amateur Monga finishes fifth

By Shaghil Bilal in New Delhi

THAILAND'S Thidapa Suwannapura overcame the challenges of the tough Delhi Golf Club (DGC) to win her maiden Ladies European Tour (LET) title while India's Gauri Monga finished tied fifth at the Hero Women's Indian Open here on Saturday.

The 21-year-old outright leader carded a brilliant bogey-free four-under 68 in the final round to score a three-stroke victory over Valentine Derrey of France, who shot a two-under in the final round.

Thailand's Saraporn Chamchoi (69) made a late charge, but eventually settled for tied third place, with Hannah Burke (68) of the United States, four strokes behind Thidapa.

For Indians, it was a big day, as Gauri, a 20-year-old DGC amateur shot a two-under 70 in the final round to finish tied fifth with English rookie Charley Hull (70) and US veteran Beth Allan, who shot the day's best round of six-under 66.

The trio totalled three-under 213 to finish five strokes behind the winner. Gauri's performance was the second-best final for an Indian after Meghna Bai and Irina Brar finished tied fourth in the first edition of the Indian Open in 2007.

Most of the Indians in the fray also improved on last day, but didn't finish up the leaderboard. The next best Indian after Gauri was Neha Tripathi, the winner of the order of merit on the domestic tour, who carded an even-par 72 to finish tied 24th. Veteran Smriti Mehra (73), Vani Kapoor (72) and amateur Gurbani Singh (70) ended tied 34th, with a total of nine-over 223 each. They were one stroke in front of amateur Ridhima Dilwari (73), who was 41st. Sharmila Nicollet, the only Indian to have an LET card, shot a 72 to finish 44th.

Gauri said she was amazed to finish on

Valentine Derrey of France



Thailand's Thidapa Suwannapura in action and with the Women's Indian Open golf trophy (below) in New Delhi on Saturday.

LEADERBOARD

1	THIDAPA S. (THA)	66-74-68-208
2	VALENTINE DERREY (FRA)	66-75-70-211
3	HANNAH BURKE (ENG)	73-71-68-212
3	SARAPORN C. (THA)	73-70-69-212
5	GAURI MONGA (A) (IND)	73-70-72-213
24	NEHA TRIPATHI (IND)	75-75-72-221
34	SMRITI MEHRA (IND)	77-73-73-223
34	VANI KAPOOR (IND)	73-78-72-223
44	GURBANI SINGH (A) (IND)	78-75-72-225
44	SHARMILA NICOLLET (IND)	75-78-72-225

such a high note. "I didn't think that I will finish as high as fifth. Playing on my home course worked in my favour, and except a triple bogey on the first day on the last hole, I had a tremendous week," she said.

Asked if she felt nervous in front of her home crowd, the winner of two amateur events this year, said: "I was nervous since the people I know were on the course to watch me play. I told myself not to take pressure and just remain calm. I didn't even look at the leaderboard and played my natural game."

While Gauri was banking on home conditions, the tussle for the possession of top spot became intense between Thidapa, Valentine and Saraporn.



Thidapa was off to a flying start as she picked up birdies on the first and ninth holes. Valentine, who started the round one stroke behind Thidapa, caught up with the Thai with birdies on the fourth and sixth. The Frenchwoman dropped a bogey on seventh, but knocked in a birdie on the eighth. She, however, scored no birdie thereafter



and was reduced to the bridesmaid's role.

Saraporn almost caught Thidapa, firing three birdies in a row on the 13th, 14th and 15th, but the former bogeyed the next hole never to recover.

Thidapa didn't lose her focus and fired birdies on the 13th and 14th holes to ensure victory.

"I was so focused on my game that I

didn't know I had missed only one fairway today and also missed no bogey. I knew it only when Valentine and my caddie told me. I didn't make a lot of mistakes today and that helped me win here," said Thidapa.

Thidapa has also retained her LPGA card for next year, but she wants to play on the LET as well. "I will prefer LPGA to LET, but will play on the European tour whenever I have a week off," she said.

France's Valentine Derrey by 3 shots.

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Gauri sets her sights on medal at Asian Games

Indian golfer Gauri Monga in action at the Delhi Golf Club on Saturday.



By **Shaghil Bilal** in New Delhi

IN A Ladies European Tour (LET) event, those are professional golfers who are expected to shine, but at the Hero Women's Indian Open, it was 20-year Delhi Golf Club (DGC) amateur Gauri Monga who showed pros the way the course should be navigated. In a field where Indians vied with players from the LET and the Ladies Asian Tour, Gauri aggregated a score of three-under 213, finishing tied fifth in a field of 106.

It could be a turning point for Gauri, who hasn't turned pro even at the age of 20 since her aim is to win a medal at the Incheon Asian Games next year.

"It's a big achievement for me. If at the start of the tournament, somebody had told me I would finish fifth, I wouldn't have believed it. The performance on my home course has given me immense confidence," she said.

"But my main aim is to win a medal for India at the Asian Games. I wasn't called for the trials in 2010. But I have improved since then and am confident of making it to the squad next year," said Gauri.

The Delhi golfer first garnered attention, when she finished third in

**Says she wants to
turn pro only after
Incheon event**

the individual category at the 2011 Queen's Sirikit Cup, one of the most prestigious amateur tournaments in the world, at her home course. A regular feature on the domestic amateur tour, she has won two titles this year.

Gauri said the Indian Open is a big

platform where she learnt a lot from seasoned LET golfers.

"They are physically much fitter than us. Their approach to game is different and how they conduct themselves on the course is something golfers like me should follow," she said.

Gauri started playing golf in 2006 after watching her mother Aashna, who used to play at the DGC. She said she was unnerved playing alongside famous players at her home course.

"In golf, you play against the course, and I didn't think about the big players. Had I thought about them, I would have come under pressure. I just told myself to stay calm and not make mistakes. Second, it was my home course and a lot of people were following me. I took that as encouragement and not as pressure. The rest fell into place and I had a high finish," said Gauri, who will play in Pune and Mumbai this month.

थिडापा को खिताब, गौरी पांचवें स्थान पर

नेशनल दुनिया

नई दिल्ली। थाईलैंड की थिडापा सुवानपुरा ने शानदार प्रदर्शन का क्रम जारी रखते हुए शनिवार को यहां महिलाओं का हीरो इंडियन ओपन गोल्फ खिताब जीत लिया। थिडापा ने तीसरे व अंतिम दौर में चार अंडर 68 सहित कुल आठ अंडर पार 208 स्कोर कर खिताब जीता। 21 वर्षीय थिडापा का यह पहला लेडीज यूरोपियन टूर खिताब है।

इस बीच, दिल्ली गोल्फ क्लब की अमेच्योर गौरी मोंगा ने पांचवां स्थान हासिल कर संकेत दे दिया कि वह भविष्य की स्टार गोल्फर होंगी। 20 वर्षीय गौरी लगातार दूसरे दिन दो अंडर 70 सहित कुल तीन अंडर 213 स्कोर कर लेडीज यूरोपियन टूर में खेलने वाली इंग्लैंड की चाली हल और अमेरिका की बेथ एलन के साथ संयुक्त पांचवें स्थान पर रही। बेथ ने दिन का सर्वश्रेष्ठ छह अंडर 66 स्कोर किया। फ्रांस की वेलेटाइन डेरे दो अंडर 70 सहित कुल पांच अंडर 211 स्कोर कर दूसरे स्थान पर, जबकि



विजेता ट्रोफी के साथ थाईलैंड की थिडापा सुवानपुरा।



थाईलैंड की सारोपोन चमचोई तीसरे स्थान पर रही। गौरी ने अपने करियर का सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन किया।

यह किसी भारतीय का महिला इंडियन ओपन में दूसरा सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन है। इससे पहले 2007 में पहले टूर्नामेंट में मेघना बल और इरिना बरार

संयुक्त चौथे स्थान पर रही थीं। उधर, थिडापा ने कहा, 'हीरो इंडियन ओपन जीतना वाकई अद्भुत है। यह कोर्स काफी कठिन है इसलिए मैंने नहीं सोचा था कि खिताब जीतने में सफल रहूंगी। लेकिन मैंने अपने खेल पर ध्यान केंद्रित रखा।'

Thidapa claims Indian Open

New Delhi: Thailand pro Thidapa Suwannapura maintained outright lead to win her maiden Ladies European Tour (LET) title at the seventh Hero Women's Indian Open golf tournament at the Delhi Golf Club (DGC) on Saturday.

The 21-year-old Thidapa didn't lose her concentration and led throughout the day to shoot a bogey-free four-under 68 in the final round for an aggregate of eight-under 208. She scored a three-stroke victory over first-day joint leader Valentine Derrey of France, who ran short of her maiden LET victory after a two-under 70 on Saturday.

"It's an amazing thing to win at the Women's Indian Open. I didn't think that I am going to win this tournament since this course is very tough. Even in the beginning of the round, I thought I didn't have a strong chance. But I concentrated more on my game than other factors and won eventually," said Thidapa.

Thidapa also ensured that



Thidapa Suwannapura with the trophy the trophy remained in Thailand as last year it was her compatriot Pornanong Phatlum, who won her third title.

Another Thai Saraporn Chamchoi made a late charge but a bogey on 16th crushed her title hopes as she finished third with Hannah Burke of England, who shot a fine 68.

DGC amateur Gauri Monga entertained the local crowd with her consistent round of two-under 70 to finish tied fifth in the company of US vet-

eran Beth Allen, who shot the day's best round of six-under 66, and England sensation Charley Hull (70). They ended their campaign five strokes behind the winner Thidapa.

Gauri's finish is India's second-best performance at the Hero Women's Indian Open after Meghna Bal and Irina Brar finished tied fourth in the first edition in 2007.

Earlier in the day, Thidapa, one of the three Thai golfers to play on the Ladies Professional Golfers Association (LPGA), received challenge from Derrey and Saraporn, but she didn't let the lead slip away from her hands.

LEADERBOARD

- 208:** Thidapa Suwannapura (66 74 68).
211: Valentine Derrey (66 75 70).
212: Hannah Burke (73 71 68).
213: Saraporn Chamchoi (73 70 69).
213: Charley Hull (69 72 72).
 Gauri Monga (73 70 70), Beth Allen (74 73 66).
215: Elina Nummenpaa (72 73 70), Ye Na Chung (73 72 70).

Gauri finishes creditable fifth as Thidapa wins the title

statesman news service

NEW DELHI, 30 NOV: Promising amateur Gauri Monga carded two under 70 to finish a creditable tied fifth while Thailand pro Thidapa Suwannapura maintained outright lead to win her maiden Ladies European Tour (LET) title at the seventh Hero Women's Indian Open golf tournament at the Delhi Golf Club (DGC) here today.

This is the second-best performance by an Indian at the Hero Women's Indian Open as Meghna Bal and Irina Brar finished tied fourth in the first edition of the tournament in 2007.

The 21-year-old Thidapa didn't lose her concentration and led throughout the day to shoot a bogey-free four-under 68 in the final round for an aggregate of eight-under 208. She scored a three-stroke victory over first-day joint leader Valentine Derrey of France, who carded two-under 70.

In the benign course conditions at the DGC, the 20-year-old Gauri shot 70 for the second consecutive day to aggregate three-under 213. Hannah Burke of England and Saraporn Chamchoi (Thailand) were tied third with 212.

Among other Indians in the fray, Neha Tripathi, shot an even-par 72 to finish as the next best Indian after Gauri in tied 24th position. Veteran Smriti Mehra (73), youngster Vani Kapoor (72) and amateur Gurbani Singh (70) ended tied 34th, with a total of nine-over 223 each. A stroke further behind was amateur Ridhima

Dilawari (73) in the 41st position. Sharmila Nicolle, shot a 72 to finish 44th.

Gauri, who shot a 73 and 70 on the first two days, started her third and final round on a wrong foot when she missed a putt from four feet to drop a bogey on the third hole. She recovered to pick her first birdie of the day on the ninth hole when her 15-footer found the target. She fumbled a bit when she dropped a shot on 10th after a bad chip, but soon made amends by holing an eight-footer for a birdie on 11th. She carried her momentum and went two-under after one more birdie on 16th, after she sank a putt from six feet.

She said she was amazed at her performance on her home course. "I didn't think I would finish as high as fifth. Playing at the home course worked in my favor, and except a triple bogey on the first day, I had a tremendous week."

Another Thai Saraporn Chamchoi made a late charge but a bogey on 16th crushed her title hopes as she finished third with Hannah Burke of England, who shot a fine 68.

Thidapa was off to a flying start when she picked a birdie on the very first hole. The steady golfer continued her excellent form, firing another birdie on nine. Playing in her group, Valentine emerged as a strong threat to Thidapa. The Frenchwoman started the day one stroke behind Thidapa but caught up with the Thai girl with birdies on fourth and sixth.

It's a Thai girl again

Thidapa Suwannapura Wins With Ease; India's Gauri Monga Excels With Fifth-Place Finish

Ritu Sejwal | TNN

New Delhi: Thailand's Thidapa Suwannapura lived up to expectations to take her maiden Ladies European Tour (LET) title - \$300,000 Hero Women's Indian Open golf title - as Indian amateur Gauri Monga finished a creditable fifth at the Delhi Golf Club here on Saturday.

Thidapa, who enjoyed a one-stroke cushion, shot four-under 68 for a total score of eight-under 208 which was three strokes clear of first round joint leader Valentine Derrey of France. Valentine carded five-under 211, including a two-under 70 on the final day.

England's Hannah Bruke, with four-under 68, and Thailand's Saraporn Chamchoi, with three-under 69, finished tied third at 212.

Gauri finished tied fifth on the leaderboard with a score of three-under 213. The 20-year-old Indian shared the spot with US's Beth Allen and England's 17-year-old rookie Charley Hull. Beth closed the final round with a sizzling six-under-par 66.

"I'm very happy. I never thought I was going to win. This is the biggest tournament that I've won and it's a part of my dream. My dad told me this morning, if I could win this tournament, he would be very proud. I will go back to Thailand and hang out with my dad and mum," Thidapa said later.

Thidapa, who teed off on the final day with a stroke's advantage, soon extended her lead to two strokes at five-under-par after a birdie on the first hole. She had three more birdies - on 9th, 13th and 14th holes - for a card of 68.

Talking about her game, Thidapa said: "Today I was concentrating on my game all day and was not looking at anyone else. I didn't see them at all. My mind was on golf. I played my game and tried to make it good, play my best. I knew that I was leading but I didn't know by how much," Thidapa, who finished



ON A HIGH: Thidapa Suwannapura with the Hero Women's Indian Open trophy on Saturday

13th in the previous edition, said.

Thidapa's win is the fourth for Thailand at the Open - Pornanong Phatlum won it in 2008, 2009 and 2012.

Valentine tired to catch up after a birdie on the fourth and sixth holes but soon dropped a shot on the seventh to settle for the second place. "I didn't make the putts on 11, 12 and 14 and she made birdies on 14 and 15 and was already one ahead of me, so that made a three shot difference. I'm satisfied. I've finished second twice and third in the last three months so I hope that Dubai will be my week. If not, I'll wait until 2014. I'm gaining experience every week and I'm sure that my day will come," Valentine said. Local girl Gauri who tried to remain calm said she was happy with her performance. "I didn't think I would finish as high as fifth. Playing on the home course worked in my favour, and except for that triple bogey on the first day, I had a tremendous week."

Among other Indians, order of merit leader Neha Tripathi shot an even-par 72 to finish next best Indian in tied-24th position. Veteran Smriti Mehra (73), Vani Kapoor (72) and amateur Gurbani Singh (70) finished tied 34th with a total score of seven-over 223. A stroke behind was amateur Ridhima Dilawari (73) in the 41st position.