

HERO WOMEN'S INDIAN OPEN

# Young Aditi eyes encore

AGE CORRESPONDENT

✓ Young Aditi Ashok shot into the limelight at the Hero Women's Indian Open last year. Aditi was in joint lead in the opening round before eventually signing off at the eighth place — the top finish by an Indian on the final day.

This year, as the tournament has been shifted for the first time to the tree-lined Delhi Golf Course, Aditi — the country's top junior — is hopeful to turn out yet another impressive show on one of her favourite courses.

"Last year's Indian Open performance is still fresh in my mind. I hope I can come up with another such great show this time.

"I am happy to return to my favourite course where I have got my career-best round of four-under. I have played here so many times, and with my dad on my bag, I am confident to do well here," said Aditi, who though didn't open up with an impressive round on the first day of the 2013 women's Indian Open at the DGC.

She carded a four-over 76 on the day, which had three birdies against two bogeys and two doubles.

"Overall I played well today. The only blemish on my card were two bad shots on the 17th and the sixth holes, where I had bad club selections. But the way I played today was a good sign of my short game. I putted well," the 15-year-old Bengalurean



**My game is more structured now, as I am following a routine**

**ADITI ASHOK  
GOLFER**

said of her round on Thursday. "Anything can happen at the DGC, so I am hopeful to turn around my fortunes tomorrow."

After a year's training under the Australian-born Malaysian Steven Givilliano, her current coach, Aditi feels that her game has improved and she can finish as the number one amateur this season. "I have been playing

almost the same like last year. The only change in my game is that I am hitting longer now. I have changed the way I used to practice.

"My game is more structured now, as I am following a routine," said the country's no. 2 amateur, who had pulled off a couple of top-3 finishes in the junior circuit this season.

# Thidapa, Valentine share Day 1 honours

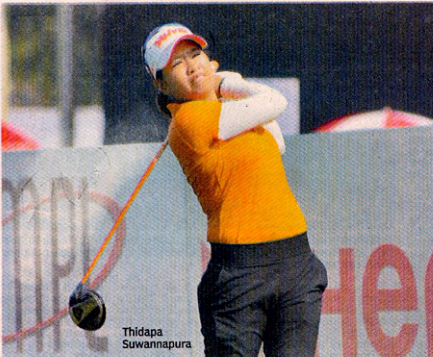
**INDIAN OPEN**
**PRIYANKA SHARMA**  
 NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

Thai ace Pornanong Phatlum might be missing from action at the 2013 Hero Women's Indian Open golf, which she had won thrice including the last year's edition. But her compatriot Thidapa Suwannapura filled the void taking a share of the opening day lead at the \$300,000 tri-sanctioned event here on Thursday.

Thidapa shot into the lead with a sizzling six-under 66, and so did Valentine Derrey of France as the dust settled at the tree-lined Delhi Golf Course, the new host of the event this year.

USA's Hannah Jun (68) also enjoyed a brief stay at the top of the leaderboard, before Valentine and Thidapa leaptroged the former in perfect conditions. Hannah was two strokes off the pace.

Ladies European Tour rookie Charley Hull, the youngest pro in the 107-women field at 17, dominated the morning show with a fine three-under 69. She eventually finished



Thidapa  
Suwannapura

the day fourth.

## HOME GOLFERS FAIL TO IMPRESS

Indian golfers, however, could not capitalise on the home advantage with Vani Kapoor and Gauri Monga carding identical one-over 73s to be tied

13th. Vani, who carded a birdie on the very first hole, could have had a better finish but two bogeys on her back nine spoilt her run. "It was a good round. I am happy that I played steady, though made mistakes on my return. But I am not wor-

ried, as I have two more days to finetune my game. I am loving the speed of the greens here," said Vani, who plans to go with a "calculative approach" on Friday.

Top pro Shamila Nicollet, still recovering from a toe injury, was far

behind at 47th position with a three-over on the day while Neha Tripathi carded two-over to be tied 36th position.

"I will be aiming for more accuracy in my shots. Hopefully, I will come up with more consistent rounds in the next two days," said the lank golfer, who is eyeing a top 10 finish here to secure her LET card. Veteran Simi Mehra managed five-over 77 after a top-turvey round and is likely to miss the cut.

## STRAIGHT HITTING THE KEY

Thidapa, who fired seven birdies against one bogey said she would like to emulate Pornanong and lift her maiden LET title on Saturday.

"We play together on the Ladies Professional Golf Association circuit. I would love to follow in her footsteps and win the title this time," said the Thai who has already retained her card on the LPG Tour.

LET stalwarts Gwladys Nocera (75), Holl Clyburn (78), however struggled to play catch up with the leaders on Day One.

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## वाणी और गौरी ने कायम रखी भारतीय उम्मीद

आज समाज नेटवर्क

नई दिल्ली। पेशेवर खिलाड़ी वाणी कपूर और अमेचर गौरी मोगा ने 3,00,000 डॉलर की हीरो महिला भारतीय गोल्फ प्रतियोगिता के पहले दिन भारतीय उम्मीद को बनाए रखा है। इन दोनों ही खिलाड़ियों ने पहले दिन एक ओवर पर 73 का कार्ड जमा कराया।

दिल्ली गोल्फ कोर्स गुरुवार को शुरू हुई प्रतियोगिता में पहले दिन थाईलैंड के थिडापा सुवान्नापुरा और फ्रेंच गोल्फर वेलेनटाइन डेरी ने सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन किया और शीर्ष स्थान संयुक्त रूप से बांट लिया। इन दोनों ही खिलाड़ियों ने 66 का राउंड खेला। वाणी और स्थानीय खिलाड़ी गौरी ने संयुक्त रूप से 13वां स्थान बांटा।

## Golf Women's Indian Open

# Thidapa, Derrey hit the front

Vani, Gauri tied 13th on day one

**NEW DELHI:** Thailand's Thidapa Suwannapura and Valentine Derrey of France shot identical six-under 66 to lead the field by two strokes on the opening day of the \$30,000 Hero Women's India Open at the Delhi Golf Club on Thursday.

Hannah Jun of the USA was at third place with a four-under 68, while Europe's rising star and youngest professional in the tournament, 17-year-old Charley Hull was three shots behind the leaders at fourth place.

However, none of the Indian women could finish the day in top 10. Gurgaon's Vani Kapoor and local amateur Gauri Monga were the best among the home players with a score of one-over 73 each to finish the day in tied 13th position.

With a warm and sunny day rendering perfect conditions for golf, Thidapa, one of the three Thai girls to play on the US Tour, played with aggression by knocking in seven birdies. A bogey on the seventh hole was the sole aberration in the game of the 21-year-old, who starting from the 10th tee, sunk birdies in 11th, 13th and 16th holes and continued in the same vein in the back nine with birdies at the first, fourth and sixth holes. She evened out her bogey at the seventh by hitting a birdie on the eighth.

"I think it was excellent driving that made my day. The course is very challenging and

you have to be very careful out here," said Thidapa, who is chasing her maiden victory on the Ladies European Tour.

"This is my third attempt at the Indian Open. Last year, I finished 13th. I am expecting to bridge the gap and take away the title," she said.

Breathing down her neck throughout the day was 26-year-old Valentine, who played a flawless round with three birdies on each turn of the course. "I played a practice round yesterday and the course was playing tough. Today, I told myself to just keep control on tee shots. I did the same and all other things fell in place."

Vani, who started off with a birdie, pegged herself back with three bogeys. "It wasn't a bad round. This is DGC, and anything can happen here in the next two days."

Among other Indians, Neha Tripathi shot two over 74 to be tied 36 while Sharmila Nicollet carded a disappointing three over to be at tied 47th.

Veteran Simi Mehra struggled with a five-over 77 to stay further behind.

### DH News Service

**Leading scores: 66:** Valentine Derrey (Fra), Thidapa Suwannapura (Tha); **68:** Hannah Jun (USA); **69:** Charley Hull (Eng); **70:** Titiya Plucksataporn (Tha), Bo-Mi Suh (Kor); **71:** Grace Lee (Kor), Sarah Kemp (Aus), Sophie Gustafson (Swe); **72:** Kylie Walker (Sco), Elna Nummenmaa (Fin), Danielle Montgomery (Eng)



**HITTING STRAIGHT:** With six birdies and, more importantly, a bogie-free round, Valentine Derrey will be looking for an encore on the second day. - PHOTO: RAJEEV BHATT

# Suwannapura, Derrey hold fort on day one

**GOLF** / Favourites fail to cash in on favourable conditions •

Uthra Ganesan

**NEW DELHI:** For a course considered tricky even by the best professionals, the greens at the Delhi Golf Course were quite benign on the first day of the Hero Women's Indian Open on Thursday.

But while the tournament favourites failed to cash in on the bright sunshine and favourable conditions, Thidapa Suwannapura and Valentine Derrey raced ahead in the afternoon with impressive scores of six-under 66 to be tied at the top after Round One.

Suwannapura, who finished tied 13th in the tournament last year, had seven birdies in her round.

Starting on the back nine, Suwannapura birdied the 11th, 13th and 16th holes before moving to the front nine for

three more on the 1st, 4th and 6th before dropping a shot on the par-three 7th hole. But she recovered immediately to birdie the next.

## Good strategy

Her strategy to only keep the ball in play paid off.

"Given the kind of tough course it is, you cannot afford to hit into the trees. You will end up tearing your shirt.

"So I was only thinking of hitting straight. I don't even know my final score, but I didn't expect such low scores," the LPGA regular said after finishing her round.

Hitting straight was the trump card for Derrey as well. The 66 is the lowest ever she has shot in her career so far, and the Frenchwoman was expectedly happy.

With six birdies and, more

importantly, a bogie-free round, Derrey was hopeful of continuing the charge on the second day.

## Unexpected scores

The scores were not expected when the best performance in the morning was a four-under by Hannah Jun of USA. Jun, playing in her second Indian Open, hardly used her driver, just like everyone else.

"I hit a lot of birdie putts but on this course, a driver is hardly useful. It's more about accuracy on the tough and tight fairways than power," she said.

Seventeen-year old Charley Hull of England, in contention for the Ladies European Tour's Rookie of the Year award, was placed fourth with a 69. Veteran Sophie Gustafson of Sweden was one-under for the day while Frenchwoman Gwladys

Nocera shot three-over.

Vani Kapoor and Gauri Monga led the Indian hopes with one-over 73 on the first day to be placed tied 15th.

"I made a couple of mistakes today but I am satisfied with the start I have made.

"There is nothing drastic I need to change, just fine-tune my game a bit for the next round," the Gurgaon girl said.

Amateur Monga was unlucky, shooting a triple bogey on the last hole after having managed to keep her score under par through the day.

**The scores:** 66: Thidapa Suwannapura (Tha), Valentine Derrey (Fra); 68: Hanna Jun (USA); 69: Charley Hull (Eng); 70: Titiya Plucksataporn (Tha), Bo-Mi Suh (Kor); 71: Sophie Gustafson (Swe), Grace Lee (Kor), Sarah Kemp (Aus); 72: Danielle Montgomery (GBR), Elna Nummenmaa (Fin), Kylie Walker (Sco).



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## गौरी और वाणी कपूर संयुक्त 13वें स्थान पर

नई दिल्ली। गौरी मोंगा और वाणी कपूर ने हीरो महिला इंडियन ओपन गोल्फ टूर्नामेंट के पहले दिन एक ओवर 73 का कार्ड खेला और संयुक्त 13वें स्थान पर रहीं।

थाईलैंड की थिडापा सुवानापुरा और फ्रांस की वेलेंटाइन डैरी ने पहले राउंड में जबरदस्त प्रदर्शन करते हुए छह अंडर 66 के कार्ड खेलकर संयुक्त बहुत हासिल कर ली। भारतीयों में पहले दिन वाणी कपूर और गौरी मोंगा का प्रदर्शन सर्वश्रेष्ठ रहा। दोनों ने एक ओवर 73 का स्कोर किया। वाणी ने हालांकि बर्डी के साथ शुरुआत की लेकिन फिर वह छठे होल पर बोगी मार बैठी। सातवें होल पर बर्डी खेलकर उन्होंने फ्रंट नौ एक अंडर के साथ समाप्त किया। (बार्ता)

• वाणी कपूर



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### GOLF: VANI, GAURI TOP INDIANS AT DGC ON DAY ONE

NEW DELHI: Vani Kapoor and amateur Gauri Monga kept the Indian hopes high as they shot one-over 73 each to end the first round in tied 13th position in the \$300,000 Hero Women's Indian Open 2013 here on Thursday. Thailand's Thidapa Suwannapura and French golfer Valentine Derrey stole the limelight with matching rounds of 66 for joint lead at the Delhi Golf Club with 21 other golfers. Neha Tripathi, the winner of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour order of merit list this season, is a stroke behind Vani and Gauri in tied 36th, while Sharmila Nicolle, the only Indian to have a card on Ladies European Tour shot a three-over 75 for 47th place. Amateurs Millie Saroha and Aditi Ashok managed 76 while Smriti Mehra is a stroke behind them in tied 66th place with Ankita Tiwana, Rhea Nair and Gursimar Badhwal.

PTI

# VALENTINE'S DAY

## Frenchwoman shoots 66 to share lead with Thailand's Thidapa after Round 1

By **Shaghit Bilali** in New Delhi

**V**ALENTINE Derrey of France and Thailand's Thidapa Suwannapura made a blistering start at a "challenging" Delhi Golf Club (DGC) as they shot a six-under 66 each to share the lead after the first round of the Hero Women's Indian Open golf tournament on Thursday.

US golfer Hannah Jun was third, two strokes behind the leaders. Ladies European Tour (LET) sensation Charley Hull of England shot 69 to be one stroke ahead of Thai Titiya Phucksatoporn and South Korean Bo-Mi Suh, and two strokes in front of Swede Sophie Gustafson, a multiple winner on LET.

Indians golfers face the make most of the home conditions as none of them shot an under or even-par round in relatively easy conditions. The best Indians were Gurgaon girl Vani Kapoor and local amateur Gauri Mongia, who shot a one-over 73 each to end the day in the tied 13th position.

**Vani & Gauri are tied 13th while Sharmila 47th at Women's Indian Open**

Neha Tripathi, winner of the order of merit on the domestic tour, shot two-over 74 for 36th position while Sharmila Nicolle, India's only golfer to have a card on the LET, failed to live up to her billing. After a card of three-over 75, she is languishing at 47th position, one stroke better than amateur Aditi Ashok and two ahead of a pack of stalwart Smriti Mehra, Anikta Tywana, Rhea Nair and amateurs Gursimar Badhwal and Millie Sarocha.

Valentine, 26, who is yet to register a win on the LET, didn't drop a shot throughout the day in a round that was decorated by birdies. The Frenchwoman found the course to be tough when she practiced on Wednesday but said that patience paid dividends on Thursday. "I practiced yesterday and felt that narrow fairways make this course quite challenging. Today, I told myself not to be aggressive and keep patience. I



### LEADERBOARD

1	THIDAPA S. (THA)	66
1	VALENTINE DERREY (FRA)	66
3	HANNAH JUN (USA)	68
4	CHARLEY HULL (ENG)	69
5	TITIYA P. (THA)	70
5	BO-MI SUH (KOR)	70
7	SOPHIE GUSTAFSON (SWE)	71
7	GRACE LEE (KOR)	71
13	VANI KAPOOR (IND)	73
13	GAURI MONGIA (IND)	73

kept the tee shots on fairways and other things fell in place."

Thidapa, who finished 13th at the Indian Open last year, seemed to start from where he had left, as she made seven birdies while dropping just one shot at the "challenging" DGC. The 21-year-old golfer started from the 10th and dropped just one shot on the seventh hole.

Thidapa, who is chasing her

maiden victory on the LET, said accurate hitting made her day. "Though I putted well, it was excellent driving that made my day. The course is very challenging and you have to be very accurate here," she said.

Among the Indians, Vani made a flying start when she knocked in an opening-hole birdie from 15 feet. She dropped her first shot on the sixth but made a recov-



France's Valentine Derrey and India's Vani Kapoor (left) see off during the first round of the Hero Women's Indian Open in the Capital on Thursday.

ery, sinking a 15-footer for a birdie on seventh. She lost her momentum on back nine and dropped shots on the 14th and 16th, but she was satisfied with her overall performance.

"An even-par round would have been much better but it wasn't a bad round either. I drove and putted well and used my driver a lot. I am seven strokes behind joint leaders, but this is DGC,

and anything can happen here in next two days. So, I am hopeful of a better show in the upcoming rounds," said Vani.

Sharmila said it wasn't a start she wanted to have but is eyeing to make a comeback. "I didn't expect a three-over on the first day. I think I need more accuracy in next two rounds. I am not disappointed and want to recover in next two days."



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### **Vani, Gauri best Indians**

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Thailand's Thidapa Suwannapura and French golfer Valentine Derrey stole the limelight with matching rounds of 66 for joint lead at the Delhi Golf Club (DGC) with 21 other golfers.

Neha Tripathi, the winner of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour order of merit list this season, is a stroke behind Vani and Gauri in tied 36th position, while Hero Moto Corp-sponsored Sharmila Nicolle, the only Indian to have a card on Ladies European Tour, wasn't in her best form and shot a three-over 75 for 47th place.

**PNS**

## गौरी और वाणी संयुक्त 13वें स्थान पर

नई दिल्ली. एमैच्योर गौरी मोंगा और वाणी कपूर ने तीन लाख डॉलर के महिला इंडियन ओपन गोल्फ टूर्नामेंट के पहले दिन गुरुवार को यहां दिल्ली गोल्फ क्लब में एक ओवर 73 का कार्ड खेला और संयुक्त 13वें स्थान पर रही।

थाईलैंड की थिड़ापा सुवानापुंग और फ्रांस की क्लैट्युइन डैवे ने पहले राउंड में जबर्दस्त प्रदर्शन करते हुए छह अंडर 66 के कार्ड खेलकर संयुक्त बहुत हासिल कर ली। अमरीका की हाना जुन उनसे चार शॉट पीछे तीसरे स्थान पर है। इंग्लैंड की चार्ली हुल 69 के स्कोर के साथ चौथे स्थान पर है। भारतीयों में पहले दिन वाणी कपूर और गौरी मोंगा का प्रदर्शन सर्वश्रेष्ठ रहा। दोनों ने एक ओवर 73 का स्कोर किया। वाणी ने हालांकि बर्डी के साथ शुरुआत की, लेकिन फिर वह छठे होल पर बोंगी मार बैटी। सातवें होल पर बर्डी



वाणी कपूर शॉट खेलेते हुए।

खेलकर उन्होंने फ्रंट नौ एक अंडर के साथ समाप्त किया। बेंक नौ में 14वें और 16वें होल पर बोंगी मारना वाणी को भारी पड़ा।

# VALENTINE, THIDAPA SHOOT INTO LEAD

## Indians Find Going Tough At The DGC

Ritu Sejwal | TNN

**New Delhi:** France's Valentine Derrey and Thailand's Thidapa Suwannapura broke away from the pack to be in joint lead after the opening round of the seventh edition of the Hero Women's Indian Open at the Delhi Golf Club on Thursday.

The duo carded a six-under 66 each to go two better than American Hannah Jun, the early leader. England's Charley Hull was fourth with a three-under 69, with



Valentine Derrey hits a shot on Thursday

### WOMEN'S INDIAN OPEN

Thailand's Titiya Plucksataporn and South Korea's Bo-Mih Suh following a further stroke behind.

Derrey never dropped a shot and carded six birdies on Day One. The 26-year-old, who is yet to win a title on the Ladies European Tour, has had third and second-place finishes at the Helsingborg Open (in September) and Lacoste Ladies Open de France (October). "I knew I was playing well the last few months. I made some good putts today," Derrey said. "I played pretty steady and didn't really make any mistakes. I was not thinking about the score and wastaking it one hole at a time. I generally don't keep a goal when I play and just try to enjoy the round," she said.

Even a narrow fairway at the DGC could not discourage Derrey from using her driver. "My driving was good and I used it seven or eight times during the play," she added.

Joint-leader Suwannapura, who carded seven birdies and a bogey on the 7th hole, was pleasantly surprised with her show. "I did not expect to play six-under. I just hit it straight, keeping the ball in play."

Hannah, who played better on the back nine, said: "The course is tight. The greens are really firm right now and if it (greens) were any faster, the course would be much harder to play."

### Vani, Gauri tied 13th

India's Vani Kapoor and Gauri Monga (amateur) shot one-over 73 to be tied 13th. "Even-par would have been much better but it wasn't a bad round. I drove and putted well. I am seven behind the leaders, but this is DGC, and anything can happen over the next two days. I am hopeful," Vani said. Indian Order of Merit leader Neha Tripathi was languishing at tied 36th. Sharmila Nicolle shot a three-over 75 to be 47th.

## Vani, Gauri top Indians at DGC on Day 1

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

Vani Kapoor and amateur Gauri Monga kept the Indian hopes high, both shooting one-over 73 to end the first round in tied 13th position in the \$300,000 Women's Indian Open on Thursday.

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Neha Tripathi, winner of the Women's Pro Golf Tour order of merit list this season, is a stroke behind Vani and Gauri in tied 36th position, while Sharmila Nicollet, the only Indian to have a card on Ladies European Tour, wasn't in her best form and shot a three-over 75 for 47th place.

Amateurs Millie Saroha and Aditi Ashok managed a 76 each, while stalwart Smriti Mehra is a stroke behind them in tied 66th place with compatriots Ankita Tiwana, Rhea Nair and amateur Gursimar Badhwal. — PTI