

Indian Open showcases country's talent on Tour

Tvesa Malik

A homecoming, that's what this tournament means to me and many of my fellow Indians on the Ladies European Tour. We spend a lot of time away from our homes and our country and play in different parts of the world. So, to get back home and play in such a big tournament like the Hero Women's Indian Open is a big deal.

No, I am not complaining that we travel—I love that part and have made great friends on the Tour. But coming home for the Indian Open, is an opportunity for all of us to showcase India and give our international friends an idea of how much the game has grown.

Without doubt, Indian cul-



ture and Indian curry and food is top on the list of many of my friends from LET, but they

also have healthy respect for the way golf has grown over the last 15-20 years – we have a flourishing domestic Tour and the Indian Open is now close to two decades old. What's more, we have about half a dozen Indians – more are on the way – who play on the LET. Often our girls are contending, and I have no doubt that we will be winning and contending more often as time goes by.

I think I have played the Indian Open about 10 times, the first time as an amateur. I live in NCR, so I am playing at home, sleeping in my room, and having home food. All these simple things become a luxury when you are a pro golfer on the road.

It is a very strong field. The current Order of Merit leader Mimi Rhodes is here, and the last two Merit winners Chiara Tamburlini (2024) and Trichat Cheenglab (2023) are also going to tee up this week.

There are a lot of winners, including Alice Hewson, with who I had a tight play-off and lost last year in Switzerland. It was a great experience.

