

Hero Women's Indian Open set to tee off

GOLF

Uthra Ganesan
GURUGRAM

With overcast conditions and a course that the organisers had to race against time to get ready, the Hero Women's Indian Open will tee off on Thursday with few players willing to risk a prediction.

With 111 golfers from 31 countries vying for a \$75,000 winner's purse, the DLF Golf and Country Club that has hosted the event for 14 of its 16 iterations so far will test both patience and tactical nous of some of the top names in the fray.

That includes current LET Order of Merit leader Mimi Rhodes who already has three titles and two top-10 finishes in 10 starts



Getting ready: Tan practising her drive on the eve of the tournament. LADIES EUROPEAN TOUR

in her first full year on the tour.

A win here will give her a huge advantage in winning the Order of Merit Trophy with Singapore's

Shannon Tan and Sara Kousskova of the Czech Republic in close pursuit. A win for either of them can help them leapfrog Mimi into top position.

Also hoping to defend her title and become only the second golfer to do so here would be Liz Young, in her 10th appearance in the event, with the advantage of knowing both the course and conditions well.

Indian challenge

Leading the Indian challenge will be Diksha Dagar, who came closest among the current lot to the trophy with a third-place finish in 2023 and would be hoping to add to her two LET titles.

Diksha, who has had five Top-10 finishes, will be joined by fellow LET travellers Tvesa Malik, Pranavi Urs Hitaashee Bakshi and Avani Prashanth and local hopefuls Sneha Singh, Hitaashee Bakshi, Amandeep Drall and Vani Kapoor.