

# I was just off, but Vani & Zara sparkled

**Diksha Dagar**

**I**t was great day for India as two players, one professional Vani Kapoor and one amateur Zara Anand occupied the top two spots. Both did a great job. Vani is right on top and Zara is tied with two others Shannon Tan and Verena Gimmy.

While it was a nice day for India with four players inside Top-10, I was just off and did not have the feel. I have also been a little under weather and the result was a 78. That means a lot of work to do to get into the weekend.

I was very happy for Vani Kapoor, whose five-under 67 was a great round. Anytime you shoot five-under on this course, it is very creditable. She plays here a lot but even then to do it in a big tournament is very good.

Another great performance came from amateur Zara. Her fightback from three-over on the first nine was excellent and shows how much talent we have in India. With Durga Nittur and Hitaashee (Bakshi) also in Top-10, the Indian show was superb.

The DLF golf course is never easy. It may have given some

good scores, but there are challenges all around. You need to navigate around it smartly. This time with the rains and the softer grounds, the staff has done a great job and for the players it has been a different experience. Yet, the joy of golf is in experiencing different conditions even while playing on the same



course. It's been a long time since an Indian won the title – it happened way back in 2016 – and who knows this week may bring some happy news for us. Vani has got a great start and raised all our hopes.