

Vani Kapoor Takes Lead at Hero Women's Indian Open 2025 on Day 1

Gurugram:

Home favourite Vani Kapoor made a strong start to her campaign at the Hero Women's Indian Open 2025, carding a flawless 5-under 67 to take the outright lead after Round 1 at the DLF Golf and Country Club on Thursday (October 9).

The experienced Indian golfer, who has consistently performed well at her home course over the years, struck the perfect balance between aggression and control. Despite an early bogey on the second hole, she regrouped quickly and produced a series of well-crafted birdies to close with an impressive back nine.

"After today's round, I definitely feel more confident," said Vani. "It's good to get some good numbers and ensure that I'm on the right track and working on the right things. I just want



Vani Kapoor shines, takes early lead at Hero Women's Indian Open

to repeat what I did today, one shot at a time, enjoy this week, and not get overwhelmed." On what it takes to master the challenging DLF layout, she added, "The key here is to keep the ball in play - easier said than done. But the person who does that and holes putts will be the winner at the end. DLF

was my friend today, so I hope it continues to be my friend."

Trailing her by just one shot was 17-year-old amateur Zara Anand, who impressed with a composed 4-under 68, sharing second place with Singapore's Shannon Tan and Germany's Verena Gimmy. Diksha Dagar Eyes Glory At

Hero Women's Indian Open 2025 - Exclusive Diksha Dagar Eyes Glory At Hero Women's Indian Open 2025 - Exclusive Anand, currently in Class 12, showed remarkable poise beyond her years, combining discipline and precision on a course that has challenged many seasoned professionals.

"I was just sticking to my process and game plan," said Zara, who had her long-time coach Amit Dubey on the bag. "We had marked out the slots in the practice round, and I feel this course is a lot about playing shot by shot - just staying patient." Zara, whose home course is Jaypee Greens in Greater Noida, credited the rain for slightly softening conditions but admitted DLF remained as testing as ever. "The rain has made it better, but this is DLF - every hole is different, every day is different."

The key is staying in the present," she explained. Despite juggling golf and academics, she finds balance through an online school setup. "It's actually easy because I don't have board exams," she laughed. "My parents keep me on track, and my mom, Gurika, travels with me. My favorite subject is