



India's international golfers Rahil Gangjee, Anirban Lahiri and Vikrant Chopra unveiling with the winner's trophy for the PGTI's Ahmedabad masters 2014 on Tuesday

ON THE GREENS | Rs50 lakh as prize purse; 120 players vie for honours at PGTI season opener

Top Indian golfers tee off at KBG today

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Ahmedabad: Next four days are going to be big for golf aficionados as the country's top professionals tee off at Kalhaar Blues and Greens (KBG) in PGTI's maiden competition in Gujarat.

KBG will be hosting the first of the seven Super Series events of the year. The PGTI season opener has 120 players in the fray with Rs50 lakh as prize purse. India's top golfers — Anirban Lahiri, Vikrant Chopra and Rahil Gangjee — will showcase their skills in the four-day event, which would be followed by the Pro-Am on Sunday.

Gangjee, who played on the Asian Tour last year, has lots of expectations. He aspires to win the PGTI opener in Ahmedabad and dedicate the victory to his father, who passed away last month. "Ahmedabad is like a second home for me. Along with my coach, I have set a few goals for 2014

NEHA TRIPATHI STARTS AS FAVOURITE

Winner of the 2013 Hero Order of Merit (OOM) and local girl Neha Tripathi starts favourite at the season's opening leg of the Hero Women's Pro-Golf Tour 2014 to be played at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club in Kolkata from Wednesday. Neha was in stupendous form last year, winning five of the 13 legs. Vani Kapoor, who finished second in the Hero OOM 2013 and tied at 34th at the HWIO 2013, is another player to watch out for this season. Sharmila Nicollet, the lone Indian at the Ladies European tour who struggled with injuries last year, is eyeing an injury-free 2014.

including preparations for the 2016 Rio Olympics, where golf makes a debut," remarked Gangjee. The Kolkata-based golfer had finished runners-up at the Gujarat Kensville Golf Open, a European Challenge event, a couple of years ago.

Gangjee might consider Ahmedabad as his second home, but first-timer Lahiri is ready to spoil his party. "This is a wonderful opportunity for domestic golfers to hit the greens. But I wish that the government also becomes a little pro-active

in promoting the game, especially after knowing that it will be part of the Olympics," said Lahiri.

The Bangalorean, back from yet another top-three finish at Thailand Open in Hua Hin 10 days ago, is riding high on confidence.

So, Amdavadis can expect a thrilling competition with top professionals like SSP Chowrasia, Rolex Rankings champion Rashid Khan and Asian Tour regulars Himmat Rai and Chiragh Kumar swinging their arms at the KBG.

Money spinning series

- Super Series comprises seven events across India
- PGTI makes debut in Gujarat
- It is three-year contract between PGTI and KBG
- The seven events of PGTI will carry a prize money of Rs3.5 crore
- The player with the highest points at the end of the seven events will earn a bonus of Rs30lakh