

ADANI'S POWER PLAY IN A REMOTE GUJARAT VILLAGE

From a thin airstrip to a green energy park five times the size of Paris

AMMAR ZAIDI Khavda (Gujarat), April 11

A NARROW AIRSTRIP that doesn't even have an air traffic controller to guide incoming airplanes and whose only infrastructure is a portable toilet and a make-shift office in a container in the midst of miles of barren land bordering Pakistan is an unlikely gateway to the world's largest renewable energy park.

The airstrip was even smaller in December 2022, when Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani, who was then the second-richest person in the world, first used a small aircraft to reach the barren area that didn't even have a pincode and got its name from a village 80 kilometre away.

The land hardly had any vegetation due to its highly saline soil, leave alone any habitation. But the area with second-best solar radiation in the country after Ladakh and wind speeds five times of plains, served as an ideal location for a renewable energy park.

An 18-km drive from the airstrip through dusty arid land is the site for his group's Khavda renewable energy park spread over 538 sq km (roughly five times the size of Paris).

When Adani first landed at Khavda, he joked if anyone could even find a mosquito in the area, his executives said. But since then, his group has not just laid solar panels that will convert sun rays into electricity and windmills to harness wind blowing at the speed of 8 metre per second, but also built colonies for workers, put up desalination plants to make saline water pumped out of 700 m below ground portable and utilities such as mobile phone repair shops.

Adani Green Energy (AGEL), India's largest renewable energy company, will invest about ₹1.5 trillion to generate 30 megawatts of clean electricity at Khavda in Gujarat's Kutch, its managing director Vneet Jaain said. "We have just now commissioned 2,000 MW (2 GW) of capacity at Khavda and plan to

AT THE WORLD'S BIGGEST RENEWABLE ENERGY PARK. Adani Green Energy to invest about ₹1.5 trillion to generate 30 MW clean electricity at Khavda in Gujarat's Kutch. Khavda, at its peak, to generate 81 billion units that can power entire nations such as Belgium, Chile and Switzerland. The 30 GW planned at Khavda to comprise 26 GW of solar and 4 GW of wind capacity. Adani Green's existing operational portfolio comprises 7,393 MW solar, 1,401 MW wind and 2,140 MW wind-solar hybrid capacity.

add 4 GW in the current fiscal (financial year ending March 2025) and 5 GW every year thereafter," he said. The airstrip is used to ferry group executives from Mumbai or Ahmedabad a few times a week. Air traffic controller or ATC at Bhuj, some 160 km away, is the last guide post for airplanes going to Khavda. But it's only till "Tent City" and pilots are virtually on their own for the last leg of 80 km or so, including the landing.

"We use visual aids and airplanes' navigation systems to land. When taking off, we convey to Bhuj about the plans over phone," a pilot flying the Adani Group-owned plane said. The outer flange of the energy park is just 1 km from the international border with Pakistan. The 1-km buffer is manned by the BSF.

Executives said the airstrip was built in just 35 days in an area where even tractors had to be modified so they could operate in land that doesn't easily absorb water. The area has its own set of challenges — heavy dust storms during March to

June, no communication and transport infrastructure, the nearest habitable area being 80 km away, water not seeping under soil during rainy season, even ground water being saline and it being a restricted zone. Executives said while some workers from Khavda village, accommodation are being built to house 8,000 workers. Adani Group's renewable energy plans are the most ambitious by any corporate in the country which is targeting to generate 500 GW of electricity from non-fossil sources by 2030, as part of a broader plan of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

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While Khavda region witnesses 2,060 kWh/m2 of high solar irradiation and one of the best wind resources in India, with speeds of 8 m per second, frequent sandstorms necessitate cleaning of solar panels several times in a day. The project will be entirely covered with waterless robotic module cleaning systems, executives said. The Khavda land belongs to the government, which leased out the site to Adani Group for 40 years. Executives said over the last five years, Adani Green conducted geotechnical investigations, seismic studies, a centrifuge study by Cambridge, resource assessment and land studies, Environment and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Environmental and Social Due Diligence (ESDD), and a detailed feasibility study, among several others, before embarking on the development of this site. Construction started in 2022. The comprehensive infrastructure development effort included construction of 100-km roads, 50 km of drainage, establishment of desalination and three reverse osmosis plants with a total capacity of 70 cubic metre per hour to meet the drinking water requirements of the project staff, laying optical fibre cables for 180 km for connectivity, and concrete batching plants. —PTI

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RTI plea: SBI refuses to disclose poll bond details

STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI) has refused to disclose under the RTI Act the details of the electoral bonds furnished to the Election Commission (EC), claiming that it is personal information held in a fiduciary capacity, even though the records are in the public domain on the poll panel's website.

RTI activist Commodore (retired) Lokesh Batra had approached the SBI on March 13 seeking the complete data of the electoral bonds in the digital form, as provided to the EC after the Supreme Court's order in the matter.

The bank denied the information citing two exemption clauses given under the Right to Information (RTI) Act — section 8(1)(e) that is related to records held in a fiduciary capacity and section 8(1)(j) that allows withholding personal information. —PTI

Last entrant Akshay lives Augusta dream

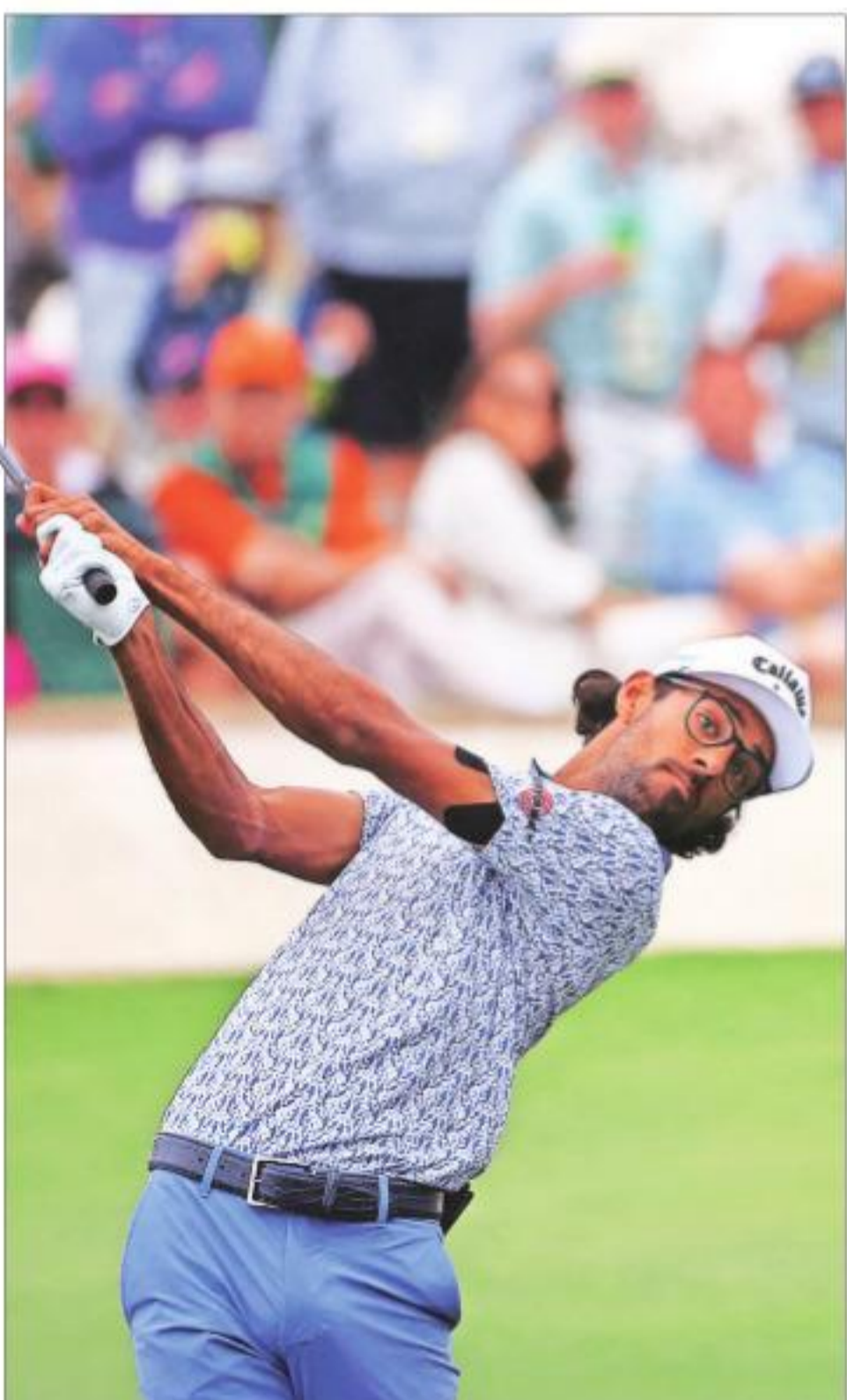
NITIN SHARMA Chandigarh, April 11

IT HAS BEEN a week to remember for Akshay Bhatia and his parents as the 22-year-old Indian-American sealed the last available spot for the Augusta Masters by winning the Texas Open. It allowed 64-year-old Sunil Bhatia and his wife Renu to drive from their home in Raleigh, North Carolina, to Augusta to be with their son at the year's first golf Major. Akshay had been marked as a prodigy for years and was even part of the Drive, Chip and Putt Competition, the informal event held earlier in the Masters week in 2014, finishing sixth before watching the practice rounds from the stands.

"Those memories are fresh in our minds. Akshay was as excited as anybody to get a chance to play at the course. When he watched the practice rounds from outside the ropes, he wanted to get inside and play with the world's best golfers. To walk all the 18 holes to watch Akshay play at the same course is a special feeling for all of us," Sunil told The Indian Express on his way to Augusta.

A young Akshay often accompanied his father to Wakefield Golf Club, where he is now an honorary member, and played with his plastic drivers and putter before getting his first golf set at the age of 10. Rhea played collegiate golf at Queens University in Charlotte and the family would drive to nearby clubs to let the kids play full rounds.

"When your kids want to play golf, your job is to support them and make whatever sacrifices you can make. The average monthly membership fee for one golfer was \$200 apart from the \$80-100 for every tournament they played. Sometimes, we spent more than 13 hours in



Indian-American golfer Akshay Bhatia won Texas Open and will hope form continues as he makes his debut at the first Major of the year

a day with Akshay as he played two rounds of golf and then drove him back home," remembers Renu. He even shifted to home-schooling in sixth grade so he could focus on golf.

Sunil remembers his son waking him up at 1 am once to ask how he could become the best golfer in the world. "I told him to sleep as he had school the next day. At breakfast, I told him that if he was the first person at practice and the last one to leave the golf club, it would make him a better golfer and a better person," shared the father.

Success doesn't come easy. In 2016, Akshay became the American Junior Golf Amateur champion before achieving the rare feat of winning the PGA Junior Championship two years in a row in 2017 and 2018. Being part of US teams for the Junior Presidents Cup and Junior Ryder Cup, Akshay also won the Youth Olympics silver medal in Argentina in 2018. His

first appearance on the PGA Tour came in 2017 as an amateur before turning pro in 2019, at the age of 17, with a sponsor exemption at the Valspar Open in Florida. Success didn't come instantly and all seven starts with the exemption ended in missed cuts. It was only last year that he won his maiden PGA Tour title at the Baracuda Championship, pocketing a cheque of \$6,84,000. Last week's win at the Texas Open brought the biggest prize money of his career — \$1.6 million.

In 2021, Akshay had spent a couple of days training with Phil Mickelson and shared his thoughts about spending time with the golfing great. "To train and to be under the mentorship of Phil is tremendous. I see him as a mentor, friend and big brother and he does a lot for me... He has helped with my chipping and my understanding of the short game and course management," Akshay had said.

COASTAL PROJECTS LIMITED. Invitation for Expression of Interest towards sale of Coastal Projects Limited as a Going Concern under Liquidation / Sale of set of assets collectively. Corporate Office Address: Plot No. 305-B, Road No. 78, Film Nagar, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad 500033. Further to the directions of Hon'ble NCLT, Cuttack towards sale of Coastal Projects Limited as a going concern & Sale of set of assets collectively under Liquidation through E-Auction Process, I, as the Liquidator, hereby invite Expressions of Interest (EOI) from interested parties under Regulation 32 of the Liquidation Process Regulations, IBC, 2016.

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF ASSETS OF EXCEL GLASSES LIMITED (In Liquidation). Registered Office: Udaya Nagar, Pathirappally, Alappuzha, P. O. Alleppey, Kollam - 688521, Kerala. The undersigned Liquidator of Excel Glasses Limited (Corporate Debtor in Liquidation) appointed by the Hon'ble NCLT, Kochi Bench, vide order dated 21.10.2019, intends to sell the following immovable properties forming part of the Liquidation Estate of the Corporate Debtor through E-auction on "as is where is basis", "as is what is basis", "whatever there is basis" and "without recourse basis".

INVITATION TO THE RESIDUAL PUBLIC SHAREHOLDERS TO AVAIL THE EXIT OPPORTUNITY UNDER THE EXIT OFFER OF THAMMBI MODERN SPINNING MILLS LIMITED. Corporate Identification Number (CIN): L17111TZ1977PLC000776. Registered Office: Omalur Road, Jagir Annapalayam, Salem - 636 302, Tamil Nadu, India. Dear Residual Public Shareholder: This public invitation shall be read in continuation of and in conjunction with the Detailed Public Announcement dated November 21, 2023 published on November 22, 2023 ("DPA") in Financial Express (English-All Editions), Jansatta (Hindi - All Editions) and Pratahkal (Marathi - Mumbai Edition), the Letter of Offer dated November 21, 2023 ("LOF"), the Corrigendum to the DPA and LOF dated December 08, 2023 published on December 09, 2023 ("Corrigendum"), the post offer public announcement dated December 14, 2023, published on December 15, 2023 ("Post Offer PA"), the Exit Offer Public Announcement dated February 14, 2024 published on February 15, 2024 ("Exit Offer PA") and the Exit Letter of Offer dated February 20, 2024 ("Exit Letter of Offer").

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS OF SPRINGFORM TECHNOLOGY LIMITED. Registered office: 5B, Duthia Industrial Estate, 2nd Floor, Opp. S. V. Road, Dahisar East, Mumbai - 400068, Maharashtra, India. Telephone No. 022-28488089, Email ID: sales@springformtech.com, Website: www.springformtech.com. OPEN OFFER FOR ACQUISITION OF 13000 (THIRTEEN THOUSAND) EQUITY SHARES OF ₹10 EACH FROM THE SHAREHOLDERS OF SPRINGFORM TECHNOLOGY LIMITED ("SPRINGFORM") / "TARGET COMPANY" BY MR. AMANDEEP SINGH ("ACQUIRER 1"), MR. PARAMJEET SINGH CHHABRA ("ACQUIRER 2") AND MRS. AMARJEET KAUR SACHDEVA ("ACQUIRER 3") (HEREIN AFTER COLLECTIVELY REFERRED TO AS "ACQUIRERS") PURSUANT TO AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS 3(1) & 4 OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA (SUBSTANTIAL ACQUISITION OF SHARES AND TAKEOVERS) REGULATIONS, 2011, AS AMENDED ("SEBI (SAST) REGULATIONS").