

## SUCCESS STORY- CHEMBUR CHILDREN'S HOME



Prajwal Pansare, a sixteen-year-old batsman, who crushes balls for fours and sixes has been elevated to a demigod status at the Chembur Children's Home in Mankhurd, where he lives. Pansare lost his mother at birth. When he was only five-years-old he was brought to the Chembur Children's Home by his maternal aunt, who was unable to look after him. In 2017, he had an incredible, life-changing experience in England, to perfect his cricketing skills. He stayed in England for 30 days and played 14 matches, including T20 tournaments and 45-over games. "Cricket has changed the mindset of the children here. My dream is to wear the blue Indian team jersey with my name on it. Until a few years ago, many of us were not sure about our future, or where we would land up after we turned 18. But, after training in London, I feel more positive about my future", Prajwal Pansare said.

The boys, who used to take cricketing sessions coolly, found a new goal. Pansare has now become an inspiration of hope for many other boys like him. Naeem

Kalu Khan, 14, an excellent spinner, is also currently being trained in cricket at the shelter home. In 2015, Rupesh Borade, then 16, was the 1<sup>st</sup> child from the Home who was competent enough to play cricket at Durham School, England, a 603-year-old institution where cricket is considered a high-profile sport.

All this was possible because of Sahil Kukreja, a former Ranji player, who communicated his love for cricket to the boys at the Chembur Children's Home.