

PM Modi’s words of praise boosts local hero Mohsin Ali who set Dal ablaze during KIWSF

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Eighteen-year-old Mohsin Ali had been earning accolades ever since he set the Dal Lake ablaze by clinching gold in the 1,000m kayaking event at the inaugural Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) held here recently.

On Sunday, Ali became a local hero after receiving a special mention from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who praised the Srinagar boy for his achievement in the 125th edition of his monthly radio programme ‘Mann Ki Baat’.

Organised from August 21-23 at the iconic Dal Lake, the KIWSF featured six sporting disciplines – rowing, canoeing, kayaking, water skiing, shikara race, and dragon boat race – in which 28 states and Union territories took part.

Ali now has his sights fixed on the ultimate goal – an Olympic gold.

The 18-year-old’s story is proof that greatness can be found anywhere, even on a single-paddled boat across a glinting lake.

“I was thrilled to speak to the prime minister. His words will work as an encouragement not only for me but for the youth in general, who want to represent the country at the highest stage,” Ali told PTI.

In ‘Mann Ki Baat’, the prime minister singled out Jammu and Kashmir for two special achievements – holding the water sports event successfully, and the inaugural day-night cricket match in Pul-



wama. Modi spoke to Ali and another sportsperson – Odisha’s canoeing champion Rashmita Sahu.

The KIWSF was a collaborative initiative of the Jammu and Kashmir government and the Sports Authority of India (SAI), which saw more than 800 participants from across the country, with female athletes almost matching their male counterparts. While Madhya Pradesh bagged the most number of medals, Ali’s triumph triggered a renewed interest in water sports in the Union territory.

Ali, whose father works as a labourer to support his family of seven, said he was motivated to take up kayaking after seeing shikaras (boats) on Dal Lake.

He attributed his achievement

to his coach Bilquis Mir, a prominent canoeist and kayaker from Srinagar, who became the first Indian woman to serve as a jury member at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

According to Mir, Ali’s triumph is a reflection of the talent present in Jammu and Kashmir. She also said his victory at the KIWSF motivated new athletes, with 80 youths enrolling in the training programme at the end of the festival.

“It was a moment of pride for all of Jammu and Kashmir that a local boy won gold at the KIWSF. Ali’s performance will surely boost water sports in J-K, more so as he won in a field where most of his competitors had a lot of foreign exposure and access to state-of-the-art facilities,” Mir said.

Talking to Ali, the prime min-

ister complimented his family and Mir on his success.

After Modi said the youth of Jammu and Kashmir have so much potential, Ali said, “My dream is to win a medal in the Olympics.”

The prime minister replied, “Wow! Well done! Look, I got goosebumps just by hearing that from you. When the son of a labourer’s family dreams so big, it means the country is going to progress a lot.”

Modi concluded the four-minute conversation by saying, “Really enjoyed talking to you. Please convey my special thanks to your father, because he made your life by working as a labourer. On your father’s words, you worked hard for 10 years without taking any rest. I also congratulate your coach, who worked so hard to train you.”

On Srinagar successfully hosting the water sports event, Modi said, “What a special place to organise such a festival. The objective was to make water sports more popular in Jammu and Kashmir. More than 800 athletes from all over India took part in KIWSF. Women athletes were also not far behind... Their participation was almost at par with men.”

The prime minister also mentioned the Royal Premier League cricket tournament in Pulwama, in which 12 teams from Jammu and Kashmir are taking part.

“Thousands of enthusiasts, especially youth, are enjoying cricket at night in Pulwama... It is truly a sight to behold,” Modi said.

Hockey Asia Cup: Harmanpreet’s brace hands India 3-2 win over Japan

RAJGIR (BIHAR): Skipper Harmanpreet Singh continued to play awe-inspiring hockey, scoring a brace as India defeated a fighting Japan 3-2 to qualify for the Super Four stage of the Hero Men’s Asia Cup here on Sunday.

After scoring a hat-trick in the opener against China, Harmanpreet (5th, 46th minutes) converted two penalty corners, while Mandeep Singh struck a fine field goal in the fourth minute to give the hosts a deserving win.

For Japan, Kosei Kawabe (38th, 58th minutes) scored both the goals.

With two wins in as many games, India are leading Pool A with six points and are ahead of Japan and China, who have one win each.

India will conclude their group engagement with the match against Kazakhstan on Monday, while the winner of the tie between Japan and China will decide the other Super Four team from Pool A.

India displayed a much-improved performance from their previous match. They looked more coordinated and played fast-paced hockey, which resulted in frequent forays inside the rival circle.

India go their first chance as early as in the second minute when Har-



manpreet found Manpreet whose shot from just inside the circle went inches wide. It didn’t take India too long to take the lead as they surged ahead a couple of minutes later through Mandeep’s fine field goal.

A brilliant set-up by Harmanpreet, Jarmanpreet Singh and a final feed by Sukhjeet Singh found Mandeep in front of the goal. Mandeep beat two defenders and the goalkeeper with his body movement to push the ball in.

India earned back-to-back penalty corners in the fifth minute and Harmanpreet scored from the second to double India’s lead.

Two minutes before the end of the first quarter, Japan secured their first penalty corner, followed by another but on both the occasions Indian goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak, playing his 150th international match, made fine saves to keep the

lead intact.

Japan had their chances in the second quarter in the form of four back-to-back penalty corners but the Indians defended stoutly.

India too had a chance to extend their lead when they earned another set piece three minutes from half time but missed the opportunity to go into the halfway break with a two-goal cushion.

Minutes after the change of ends, Sukhjeet fed Mandeep inside the circle, whose hit from top of the circle was saved by the Japanese goalkeeper.

Japan pulled one back in the 38th minute through Kawabe with a first-time shot after receiving a pass from Kaito Tanaka.

But India restored their two-goal lead just at the stroke of the third quarter through Harmanpreet who converted another set piece with a powerful low flick.

Blow for Sarfaraz Khan as Mumbai batter ruled out due to quadricep injury

MUMBAI: In a big blow to his aspirations ahead of India’s home Test season, set to kick off against West Indies in October, Mumbai’s middle-order batsman Sarfaraz Khan, who recently cracked two back-to-back centuries in the Buchi Babu Tournament in Chennai, has been ruled out of the Duleep Trophy due to an injury. Sarfaraz was set to turn out for defending champions West Zone in their semifinal clash against Central Zone, starting September 4 at the BCCI’s CoE in Bengaluru. “Sarfaraz is suffering from a quadriceps injury, which he picked up while scoring a century against Haryana in the Buchi Babu

event five days ago. Shivalki has scored 1,087 runs in 18 first-class matches at an average of 43.48, with three hundreds and five fifties. He scored 484 runs in seven matches last season at 44.00, with one hundred and three fifties. The 27-year-old Sarfaraz, who was snubbed from India’s Test tour of England this summer, had shown fine form in the Buchi Babu, scoring a run-a-ball 111 against Haryana and an aggressive 114-ball 138 against TNCA XI in Mumbai’s opening match of the tournament.

Meanwhile, India’s Test wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel, who was named as the captain of the Central Zone side

in the Duleep Trophy but missed the opening match against North East due to a groin injury, has also been ruled out of the semifinal clash against West Zone from September 4, TOI has learnt. Jurel has been replaced by his fellow Uttar Pradesh wicket-keeper Upendra Yadav in the Central Zone side. The other change in the Central side is that India’s chinaman bowler Kuldeep Yadav, set to report to Dubai on India duty for the Asia Cup, has been replaced by Vidarbha pacer Yash Thakur. In another development, South Zone have announced a major change in their squad for the Duleep Trophy semifinal against North Zone from

September 4. Captain Tilak Varma will not be participating, as the match begins on the same day Team India departs for the T20 Asia Cup scheduled in the UAE. Mohammed Azharuddeen of Kerala, who was earlier named the vice-captain of the team, will now lead South Zone in Varma’s absence, with Tamil Nadu’s wicket-keeper-batsman N Jagadeesan, who was recently flown to England as a replacement for the injured Rishabh Pant for the fifth Test against the hosts, as his deputy. Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu’s left-arm spinner Sai Kishore has also been ruled out owing to a finger injury.

You were a reminder of Test cricket’s beauty: PM Modi to Pujara

NEW DELHI: Cheteshwar Pujara’s dogged style of play was a reminder of Test cricket’s beauty, wrote Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a glowing tribute to India’s batting mainstay who recently retired from all forms of cricket.

Pujara had announced his retirement last Sunday, ending a remarkable 103-Test career.

“In an age dominated by shorter formats of cricket, you were a reminder of the beauty of the longer format of the game. Your unflappable temperament and ability to bat long hours with great concentration made

you the fulcrum of the Indian batting line-up,” wrote Modi in a letter to Pujara.

The former India number three posted the copy of the letter on social media and thanked the prime minister for his warm words.

“Your outstanding cricketering career is dotted with moments of remarkable skill and resolve, especially in challenging conditions overseas.

“For example, fans will always remember instances like the Tests in Australia, when you laid the foundation for India’s historic first-ever series win on Australian soil!

“Standing tall against one of the most potent bowling attacks, you showed what it meant to shoulder responsibility for the team,” Modi wrote referring to Pujara’s pivotal role in back-to-back series wins in Australia in 2018 and 2021.

Modi also lauded Pujara’s commitment to domestic cricket.

“Your passion for the game was also reflected in the fact that even while being an international cricketer, you made it a point to play first-class cricket, whether it was for Saurashtra, or abroad.

“Your long association with Saurashtra cricket and your contribution to putting Rajkot on the cricketing map will remain a source of immense pride for every youngster in the region,” added the PM.

Pujara in his response wrote: “I was honoured to receive a letter of appreciation on my retirement from our Honourable Prime Minister. “The warm sentiments expressed are much appreciated. While I venture into my second innings, I cherish every memory on the field, and all the love and appreciation I have received. Thank you Sir.”

India crowned SAFF U17 Women’s champions

THIMPHU: India’s Young Tigresses were crowned champions of the SAFF U17 Women’s Championship 2025 today despite suffering a 3-4 defeat to Bangladesh at Changlimithang Stadium.

The win ensured India maintained an unassailable lead in the points table with a game in hand.

Bangladesh drew first blood within 30 seconds through Purnima Marma, marking the first goal India conceded in the tournament. India responded in the ninth minute with Anushka Kumari’s composed finish. Bangladesh regained the lead in the 34th minute via Alpi Akter and extended it to 3-1 in the

48th minute through Sauravi Prity.

India fought back in the second half, with Pritika Barman reducing the deficit in the 65th minute and skipper Julian Nongmaithem equalising in the 89th minute. However, Prity scored in injury time to hand Bangladesh the 4-3 victory.

The Young Tigresses finished the championship with five wins and one loss, completing one of the most dominant campaigns in SAFF U17 Women’s history under coach Joakim Alexandersson.

India will now return to Bengaluru to prepare for the AFC U17 Women’s Asian Cup Qualifiers in Oc-

tober in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

India U17 Women’s squad: Munni (GK), Taniya Devi Tonambam (Valaina Jada Fernandes 46’), Elizabeth Lakra, Divyani Linda, Julian Nongmaithem (C), Anushka Kumari, Pearl Fernandes (Thandamoni Baskey 13’), Shveta Rani (Pritika Barman 46’), Abhista Basnet, Nira Chanu Longjam (Bonifilia Shullai 77’), Alisha Lyngdoh (Alena Devi Sarangthem 56’).

Match score: India 3 (Anushka Kumari 9’, Pritika Barman 65’, Julian Nongmaithem 89’) lost to Bangladesh 4 (Purnima Marma 1’, Alpi Akter 34’, Sauravi Akanda Prity 49’, 90 5’).

Brook motivates in-form batters for white-ball setup

LONDON: Harry Brook, who was a part of England’s domestic white-ball competition ‘The Hundred’, motivated his fellow Northern Superchargers teammates Zak Crawley and Jordan Cox to back-up their recent performances to push for a place in the ODI and T20I setups for England. England have gotten off to a winning start in their new white-ball era after Harry Brook took over the captaincy in April, defeating West Indies in both the ODI and T20I series.

Both Cox and Crawley, who are the highest and third highest run-getters in this season of the Hundred respectively, haven’t been included in the squads against Ireland and South Africa.

However Brook was full of praises for both batters and stated that every in-form player was still in the mix.

“Everybody’s in the mix: whoever does well,” Brook was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. “Crawley obviously has the

attributes that we’re talking about: putting pressure on the bowlers with their good and bad balls; he can manipulate the field really well; he’s good against fast bowling and he’s good against spin.

“He’s got all the attributes to play white-ball (cricket) for England.

“It’s the same with everybody. Everybody’s been talking about Jordan Cox: he’s obviously an unbelievable player.

“You’ve just got to keep on doing it, and be as consistent as you can for a long period of time, it’s good to have competition (for places).”

While Cox has been a part of three ODI games and two T20Is last year, Crawley has played just the eight ODIs, his last one in December 2023.

After a riveting five-match Test match series against India, England will play white-ball internationals against South Africa at home, the first of which will be played on 2 September at Leeds.

Anthropic to train its AI models on your chats from September

Anthropic has announced that it will be updating its terms of service and privacy policy to permit the use of chat transcripts for training its popular AI chatbot, Claude.

The Amazon-backed AI startup on Thursday, August 28, said that users of all subscription tiers, including Claude Free, Pro, Max, and Code subscribers, will be affected by the change. Anthropic’s revised Consumer Terms and Privacy Policy is said to take effect from September 28, this year.

However, users who access Claude under specific licences such as Claude for Work (Team and Enterprise plans), Claude Gov, and Claude Education, will not be affected. In addition, third-party users who use the Claude API (Application Programming Interface) via Amazon Bedrock and Google Cloud’s Vertex AI are also exempted from the updated policy.

Claude users can delay accepting the updated policy by clicking ‘not now’, but starting September 28, most user accounts will be opted in by default to

share their chat transcripts for AI training.

In July this year, popular filesharing platform WeTransfer faced immediate backlash from users after it revised its terms of service agreement to suggest that files uploaded by users could be used to “improve machine learning models.” The company has since tried to patch things up by removing any mention of AI and machine learning from the document.

With growing backlash over the use of personal data for AI training, many companies are now giving individual and enterprise users the option to opt out of having their content used in AI training or being sold for training purposes. Here’s how you can opt out and avoid having your chat transcripts used to train Anthropic’s Claude chatbot.

New users will be shown an option to ‘Help improve Claude’ when they sign up to use the AI chatbot. They can toggle it off to opt out. Meanwhile, users who have already signed up to use Claude have until September 28 to opt out of

the policy update.

After the deadline, users can still turn the option off by visiting Claude’s privacy settings. Follow these steps:

- If you are using the Claude mobile app, click on the three lines icon at the top left
- Tap the Settings icon > Privacy
- Toggle the ‘Help improve Claude’ option off

- If you are using the web version of the AI chatbot app, click on the user icon at the bottom left
- Tap the Setting icon
- Click on Privacy from the side panel

- Toggle the ‘Help improve Claude’ option off
- If you have accidentally agreed to Anthropic’s updated terms of service, you can still opt out by following the steps above.

For those who have chosen to opt-in, only their new and resumed chat transcripts with Claude will be used for AI training purposes. This means that older chats will not be used.

Healing Ozone layer could trigger 40% more Global Warming

The planet is now expected to heat up more than scientists once predicted, and a major reason lies in the future behavior of ozone. This gas shields life on Earth from dangerous ultraviolet radiation, yet it also acts as a greenhouse gas by trapping heat in the atmosphere.

The ban on ozone-depleting chemicals such as CFCs has allowed the protective layer to steadily recover. But researchers warn that when this rebound is combined with rising levels of air pollution, ozone could drive 40% more warming than earlier estimates suggested.

Research led by the University of Reading shows that between 2015 and 2050, ozone will be responsible for an additional 0.27 watts per square meter of trapped energy. This measurement refers to the amount of extra heat retained per

square meter of the Earth’s surface. By mid-century, this would make ozone the second most important cause of warming, behind only carbon dioxide. However, while this helps repair the protective ozone layer, we have found that this recovery in ozone will warm the planet more than we originally thought. “Air pollution from vehicles, factories, and power plants also creates ozone near the ground, causing health problems and warming the planet.” The research, published on August 21 in Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics, used computer models to simulate how the atmosphere will change by the middle of the century. The models followed a scenario with low implementation of air pollution controls, but with CFCs and HCFCs being phased out as mandated by the Montreal Protocol (1987).

Scientists have uncovered when Jupiter was born, solving a longstanding mystery

About 4.5 billion years ago, Jupiter expanded quickly into the giant planet we see today. Its immense gravity disturbed the paths of countless rocky and icy objects, known as planetesimals, which resembled present-day asteroids and comets.

These disturbances led to violent collisions so energetic that the rock and dust inside the planetesimals melted, producing droplets of molten rock called chondrules. Many of these ancient droplets are still preserved within meteorites that fall to Earth.

In a new breakthrough, scientists from Nagoya University in Japan and the Italian National Institute for Astrophysics (INAF) have uncovered how these chondrules were created and used them to precisely date Jupiter’s formation.

Their research, published in Scientific Reports, reveals that the traits of chondrules, including their size and cooling rates in space, were shaped by the amount of water present in the colliding planetesimals.

This discovery not only matches what scientists observe in meteorite samples but also confirms that the birth of planets directly drove the creation of chondrules.

Chondrules, small spheres approximately 0.1-2 millimeters wide, were incorporated into asteroids as the solar system formed. Billions of years later, pieces of these asteroids would break off and fall to Earth as meteorites. How chondrules came to have their round shape has puzzled scientists for decades.

“When planetesimals collided with each other, water instantly vaporized into expanding steam. This acted like tiny explosions and broke apart the molten silicate rock into the tiny droplets we see in meteorites today,” co-lead author Professor Sin-iti Sirono from Nagoya University’s Graduate School of Earth and Environmental Sciences explained.

“Previous formation theories couldn’t explain chondrule characteristics without requiring very specific conditions, while this model requires conditions that naturally occurred in the early solar system when Jupiter was born.”

The researchers developed computer simulations of Jupiter’s growth and tracked how its gravity caused high-speed collisions between rocky and water-rich planetesimals in the early solar system.

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