

## **Late 1990s**

- Founders' Early Vision:
- Pimpri Chinchwad Mountaineering Association (PCMA) proposes the idea of a climbing wall to PCMC (Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation).
- Surendra Shelke (Surya), Sagar Palkar (Everester & youth advocate), and Shrikrishna Kaduskar are the driving forces
- Exploratory Step:
- Surya and associates travel to Bikaner to observe the West Zone Sport Climbing Championship, studying infrastructure and format before building PCMC's wall.

## **2000**

- First Competition Wall in PCMC:
- With PCMC's infrastructural support, the first-ever competition-standard climbing wall is built at Annasaheb Magar Stadium.
- Surendra Shelke (Surya) is the backbone of the project - without his persistence, the wall wouldn't have materialized.

## **2002**

- Pioneering Competitions:
- Under the guidance of late Khair Sir and Surya, PCMA hosts the first West Zone Sport Climbing Championship at Annasaheb Magar Stadium.

## **2005**

- National Breakthrough:
- PCMA successfully hosts the National Sport Climbing Championship at Annasaheb Magar Stadium.
- Pune Expansion:
- The championship's success inspires PCMA to propose a second climbing wall in Pune (Raje Shivaji Climbing Wall, Shivajinagar).

## **2005 - 2010**

- Five Years of Struggle:
- Over 150 potential sites for the Pune wall are reviewed; most rejected due to local resistance and lack of political awareness about climbing.
- One site was even finalized with a Bhumi Poojan (groundbreaking ceremony), but cancelled after opposition from locals.
- Relentless Efforts:
- Despite setbacks, Surendra Shelke and Shrikrishna Kaduskar persist with follow-ups until approval is granted.

## **2010**

- Pune Wall Constructed:
- The Raje Shivaji Climbing Wall is built in Shivajinagar, Pune.
- Policy Opportunity:
- Maharashtra announces work on a new Sports Policy.
- Unlike other adventure groups (who asked for tickets/funds), PCMA submits two structured presentations:
  1. Comprehensive proposal covering all adventure sports (Air, Water, Land - with focus on mountaineering & rock climbing).
  2. Dedicated proposal for Sport Climbing.

## **2012**

- Wall Fully Functional:
- The Raje Shivaji Wall becomes operational.
- It sets new national standards by introducing:  
India's first homologated speed climbing wall
- India's first timing device for speed climbing.
- Policy Milestone:
- The 2012 Maharashtra State Sports Policy incorporates PCMA's proposals:
- A separate chapter on Adventure Sports.  
Recognition of Air, Water, and Land-based sports as distinct disciplines.
- . Each discipline is eligible for individual awards.
- . Sport Climbing formally recognized and included in the Shiv Chhatrapati State Sports Awards.
- Historic Acknowledgment: Contributions of Surendra Shelke and Shrikrishna Kaduskar are specifically mentioned in the policy.

## **2000 - 2020s (Grassroots to National Ecosystem)**

- Athlete Development:
- PCMA nurtures National and International medal winners.
- Officials Ecosystem:
- Belayers, route setters, and judges trained in Pune now serve across India.
- Elite Coaches:
- Amol (also National Coach for Asian competitions), Mantu, and Irfan.
- Shiv Chhatrapati Awardees from this ecosystem:
- Hritik Marne (Nanya)
- Shreya Nankar
- Sahil Khan
- Saniva Shaikh
- Empowering the Underprivileged:
- Many climbers come from urban slums and low-income families.

- With support, they rise as athletes -> coaches -> trainers - officials, becoming leaders of the next generation.

### **2020s (Before 2025)**

- World-Class Yoga Park Wall (PCMC):
- A state-of-the-art climbing wall is erected at PCMC's Yoga Park, thanks to Surya's and Kaduskar's tireless efforts.
- Recognized as the best in India and among the top in the world.

### **2025**

- Formation of MSCA (Maharashtra Sport Climbing Association):
- Established to promote Sport Climbing across Maharashtra.
- Founders:
- Surendra Shelke (visionary, backbone of climbing in PCMC).
- Sagar Palkar (Everester, passionate youth advocate).
- Shrikrishna Kaduskar (strategist who translated vision into ground action).
- Strategic Partnership with PCMC:

A 20-year agreement signed for the Yoga Park Climbing Wall.

- MSCA -> Handles day-to-day operations, training, coaching, and events.
- PCMC -> Provides infrastructure and institutional support.
- Future Vision:
- MSCA sets an ambitious target: producing Olympic medalists by 2036, aligned with the Government of India's long-term sports development goals.