

Growing up in a military family, Rahul faced frequent relocations. His cricket training, initiated at age 9, in Lucknow, was temporarily halted when his father was assigned to Srinagar as part of Operation Parakram. The challenging conditions forced Rahul to take a hiatus from cricket at the age of 10.[3] Upon relocating to Pune in 2003, Rahul's cricket journey resumed under his father's guidance. Enrolled in Pune's Deccan Gymkhana on 20 September 2003, he trained under the mentorship of Kedar Joglekar and Hemant Athalye, establishing this as his cricket alma mater. Achieving notable success in junior cricket, he garnered attention with three consecutive centuries at the U-19 level.[4]