

## Sports Climbing HPC at Kalinga Stadium attracts young climbers

- *Indian team to train for Asian level competitions in October- November*

**Bhubaneswar 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2019:** Training at the Sport Climbing HPC at Kalinga Stadium complex, commenced from 26<sup>th</sup> July and the participation has been very encouraging. In a short span, the HPC has attracted 70-80 young and aspiring climbers, mainly from Sainik School and KISS who have registered and are training daily. Some of them have potential of becoming good climbers and are being coached to achieve the desired results.

Today, Odisha has one of the best climbing facilities in the country. The Climbing Wall at the Stadium offers opportunity for international level climbing. Experts at the HPC provide a safe and controlled environment to help the learners enjoy the sport. The training is conducted under the guidance of professional climbers engaged by IMF.

Technically, 'sound and safe' artificial walls at the stadium facilitate flexi-timing training schedules. To avert any serious injury, trainers use proper climbing gear, which includes crash mat or a climbing harness, tight-fitting shoes, and a belay device.

On the future of Sports Climbing in the State, **IMF National Chairman Brig. M. P. Yadav** shared, "*In partnership with Department of Sports and Youth Services, Odisha, we will hire international coaches and organise trainings in October- November this year, for Indian team to prepare for Asian level competitions. This will also inspire aspiring climbers and mountaineers to take Sports Climbing seriously. With continuous and joint efforts of IMF and the department a good team of Sports Climbing from Odisha will certainly emerge.*"

*'Future of Sport Climbing is extremely bright and the results will show in times to come. Some of the parents are very enthusiastic about their children taking up the sport which is very encouraging for the organisers',* he added.

Sport Climbing is one of the fastest growing sports in the world today. It is now an Olympic Sport and will make its debut in the 2020 Olympic games in Japan.

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