

KNOW THE SWIMMER

Name: Aditya Jitendra Desai

Age: 23

Date of Birth: 06/03/2001

Place of Birth: Kolhapur

Educational Institutes Attended:

1. S.M. Lohiya High school
2. The New College, Kolhapur

Educational Qualification: BSc in Chemistry from The New College, Kolhapur

Currently Working as: - In Indian Army



Introduction to Swimming: I began my journey in swimming at a young age, driven by a passion for the water and the thrill of competition. My early experiences in the pool were filled with excitement and determination, as I quickly realized that swimming was not just a hobby, but a calling. The discipline and perseverance required in swimming helped shape my character and instilled in me a sense of purpose and direction. From local competitions to national championships, my dedication to the sport has only grown stronger over the years.

First Coach: My first coach was Mr. Prabhakar Dange, who introduced me to the fundamentals of swimming and instilled in me a love for the sport.

Your current coach: Currently, I am being coached by Mr. Neelkanth Akhade, who has been instrumental in refining my techniques and helping me achieve new heights in my swimming career.

Your favorite Indian swimmer (if any & why): My favorite Indian swimmer is Virbhawal Khade, He is India's first Asian Games medalist in swimming. He was honored with the Arjuna Award by the Government of India in 2011.

Your favorite International swimmer (if any & why): Internationally, my favorite swimmer is Michal Phelps, Phelps is widely regarded as one of the most accomplished athletes of all time. He captured more Olympic medals, World Championships, US National Titles, and world records than any other swimmer in history.

Your main swimming event : My main swimming event is Individual Medley & Butterfly

Turning Point in Life: The turning point in my life was when I qualified for my first National Games. It was a moment of realization that my hard work and dedication were paying off, and it motivated me to push myself even further. This experience opened doors to advanced training opportunities and exposed me to a higher level of competition, which significantly improved my performance and confidence.

Most Cherished moment is life: My most cherished moment in life was winning my first gold medal. The feeling of standing on the podium, hearing the national anthem, and seeing the pride in my coach's and parents' eyes was indescribable. It was a culmination of years of

hard work and sacrifice, and it reinforced my commitment to the sport.

Major Achievements:

1. All Indian university Games 2019
2. Khelo India University games 2020

Awarded Arjuna Award/ Major Award/ Recognition in the year:

I give credit of my success to: I give credit for my success to my family, coach, and friends. Their unwavering support, encouragement, and belief in my abilities have been the backbone of my journey. My family has always been there to provide emotional and financial support, my coach has guided and trained me to reach my full potential, and my friends have been a constant source of motivation and cheer.

How can Indian Swimming Progress: Indian swimming can progress by improving infrastructure and providing better training facilities across the country. Increased funding and sponsorship opportunities for swimmers can help alleviate financial burdens. Additionally, implementing more grassroots programs to identify and nurture young talent, providing international exposure and competition experience, and enhancing coaching standards through certification and training programs will contribute significantly to the growth of the sport.

What all has changed for good in Indian swimming since you started swimming: Since I started swimming, there have been several positive changes in the Indian swimming environment. There has been an increase in the number of swimming pools and training centers with modern facilities. The quality of coaching has improved, with more coaches receiving advanced training and certifications. There has also been greater media coverage and recognition of swimming events, which has helped raise the profile of the sport. Furthermore, there has been more support from sports organizations and the government, leading to better opportunities for swimmers to compete internationally.

How are you contributing currently to Indian Swimming: Currently, I am contributing to Indian swimming by mentoring young swimmers, participating in swimming clinics, and promoting the sport through various platforms. I am actively involved in community outreach programs to encourage children to take up swimming and provide guidance on training and nutrition. My goal is to inspire the next generation of swimmers and help them achieve their dreams.

How you see yourself five years from now: Five years from now, I see myself continuing to compete at the highest levels of the sport, possibly representing India in international competitions like the World Championships or the Olympics. Additionally, I aim to contribute more significantly to the development of swimming in India by taking on coaching roles, organizing training camps, and advocating for better support and facilities for swimmers

Message: To all aspiring swimmers and supporters of the sport, I would like to say: Believe in yourself and stay committed to your goals. The journey may be challenging, but with dedication, perseverance, and the right support, you can achieve great things. Keep pushing your limits and never lose sight of your dream.

MEENAKSHI PAHUJA