



## Puneite leads Army officers' parade in Chennai academy

**TIMES NEWS NETWORK**

Pune: Lt Apurva Dabhade, a Puneite, has won the rare honour of leading the passing out parade of the officers training academy (OTA) in Chennai on Sunday.

Dabhade has been awarded the sword of honour for his allround achievements and a gold medal for his performance in OTA this year.

Total 219 officers passed out from the academy's 91st batch of the Short Service Commission (SSC) on Sunday. The batch had 159 men and 60 women. Dabhade termed his experience of leading the parade as "fabulous." "It was my childhood dream to become an Armed forces officer. It came true when I joined OTA and successfully completed the training."

A student of Nutan Marathi Vidyalaya (Nu Ma Vi), Dabhade comes from a bussiness family. His father Kishor and and mother Ayesha run a shop in Tulishibaug for last 25 years. He took his training from Fergusson college and after graduation qualified for the OTA.


"We wanted him to continue with our business. But his interest was towards Armed forces so we allowed him to pursue his dream. Today, we are really proud of what he has achieved," said mother Ayesha Dabhade.

Apurva was part of the national cadet corps (NCC) and was selected for the prestigious Republic Day parade in Delhi. He was adjudged 'best cadet' at the scuba diving camp and was sent to Singapore via NCC's youth exchange programme.



When he was an NCC cadet, Dabhade was selected for the prestigious Republic Day parade in Delhi

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