



SAARTHI • सारथी

करियर मार्गदर्शन पोर्टल • Career Guidance Portal

"सही मार्गदर्शन, उज्ज्वल भविष्य।"

करियर शीट • CAREER SHEET

पायलट

Pilots fly aircraft carrying passengers or cargo, either in civil aviation (airlines) or in defence forces like the Indian Air Force. It is a career of technical skill, discipline and calm decision-making under pressure.



Scan for everything on this career

Salary, exams, colleges, the routes in and the steps after — all on the portal.

career.gsssjethantri.in/#/career/eng-4700

राजकीय उच्च माध्यमिक विद्यालय, जेठन्तरी

Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Jethantri • ब्लॉक समदड़ी • बालोतरा (Block Samdari • Balotra)

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सुशील कुमार शर्मा

प्रधानाचार्य, रा.उ.मा.वि. जेठन्तरी • मास्टर ट्रेनर
Principal, GSSS Jethantri • Master Trainer



श्री चेनाराम चौधरी

प्रधानाचार्य, डाइट बाड़मेर
Principal, DIET Barmer



श्रीमती संघमित्रा

वरिष्ठ व्याख्याता, डाइट बाड़मेर (सहयोग)
Sr. Lecturer, DIET Barmer (Support)



भरत चौधरी

अभिकल्पना व विकास • व्याख्याता (इतिहास)
Designed & developed • Lecturer (History)

विशेष धन्यवाद • SPECIAL THANKS



सुरेन्द्र सिंह राठौड़

व्याख्याता (इतिहास) • रा.उ.मा.वि. कानाना



सुरेश कुमार सैन

व्याख्याता (भूगोल) • रा.उ.मा.वि. रामसीन मूंगड़ा



वनिता कुमारी

व्याख्याता (इतिहास) • रा.उ.मा.वि. रामसीन मूंगड़ा



कमलेश चौधरी

व्याख्याता (राजनीति विज्ञान) • रा.उ.मा.वि. टापरा

करियर मार्गदर्शन कार्यशाला, डाइट बाड़मेर (14-17 जुलाई 2026) में विकसित व लोकार्पित
Developed & unveiled at the Career Guidance Workshop, DIET Barmer (14-17 July 2026)

यह एक स्वतंत्र परियोजना है, जो सरकार की आधिकारिक करियर-मार्गदर्शन सामग्री पर आधारित है। • An independent project based on the Government's official career-guidance content.

1 About this career

Pilots fly aircraft carrying passengers or cargo, either in civil aviation (airlines) or in defence forces like the Indian Air Force. It is a career of technical skill, discipline and calm decision-making under pressure.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	Class 12 (Physics-Maths) + CPL licence
Work mode	Cockpit duty, shifts and irregular hours, stays away from home
Demand	Very high — driven by huge aircraft orders of Indian airlines
Top earning	Senior captains ₹5,00,000+ per month

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- Deep interest in aircraft and flying
- Excitement for travel and new places
- Liking for maths and physics

ABILITIES

- Staying calm and deciding under pressure
- Excellent communication skills
- Sharp attention to detail

KEY SKILLS

- Aircraft operation and navigation
- Radio telephony and English proficiency
- Teamwork and crew coordination
- Understanding of aviation meteorology
- Emergency handling
- Physical and mental fitness

4 How to get there

- 1 After Class 10, complete Class 12 Science with Physics and Maths
- 2 Clear the DGCA Class-1 medical examination
- 3 Join an approved flying school, get SPL/PPL and complete about 200 flying hours
- 4 Pass DGCA exams to obtain the Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL)
- 5 Get selected as a co-pilot in an airline and complete type-rating training
- 6 Defence route: join the Air Force via NDA after Class 12, or AFCAT/CDS after graduation

MAIN EXAMS

- NDA exam (UPSC) — Air Force after Class 12
- CDS exam (UPSC)
- IGRUA entrance test (written + interview + medical)
- AFCAT — Air Force flying branch after graduation
- DGCA CPL papers (air navigation, meteorology, regulations)

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) — Fursatganj, Uttar Pradesh (<https://igrua.gov.in>)
- Government Aviation Training Institute — Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- Air Force Academy (NDA/AFCAT route) — Dundigal, Hyderabad

PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- Banasthali Vidyapith Gliding & Flying Club — Banasthali (Tonk), Rajasthan (<https://bvgfc.in>)
- Ahmedabad Aviation & Aeronautics — Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- Bombay Flying Club — Mumbai, Maharashtra

FEES

Total flying training up to CPL costs about ₹35-60 lakh; the defence route (NDA/AFCAT) is free and trainees are paid.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- National Scholarship Portal (<https://scholarships.gov.in>)
- Vidya Lakshmi Education Loan Portal (<https://www.vidyalakshmi.co.in>)
- Buddy4Study (<https://www.buddy4study.com>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

Commercial airlines, cargo and charter companies, Indian Air Force/Navy/Army, flying schools.

WORK CULTURE

Fatigue and jet lag on long flights; several days away from home; strict medical and discipline rules.

WHO HIRES

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| • IndiGo | • Air India Group |
| • Akasa Air | • SpiceJet |
| • Indian Air Force | • Cargo/charter operators (Blue Dart etc.) |

DEMAND (2026)

Indian airlines have ordered over 1,000 new aircraft; thousands of new pilots will be needed over the next decade — demand is very high.

7 Career growth

- 1 Trainee/cadet pilot
- 2 First Officer (co-pilot)
- 3 Senior First Officer
- 4 Captain (commander)
- 5 Training captain/chief pilot

EARNINGS

Starting	₹80,000-1,50,000
Mid level	₹2,50,000-4,50,000
Senior level	₹5,00,000-8,00,000+

Monthly estimates (2026); depend on airline, aircraft type and flying hours. Air Force pay plus allowances follow a separate structure.

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- Very high salary and a respected profession
- Opportunity to travel the world
- Rapidly growing airline hiring

The challenges

- Training is very expensive (except the defence route)
- Irregular hours, fatigue and time away from family
- Strict medical standards — losing fitness risks the career

9 Real-life journeys

Anny Divya

World's youngest woman commander of a Boeing 777

Daughter of a modest family from Vijayawada, Anny Divya took an education loan at 17 to train at IGRUA. By age 30 she became the world's youngest woman captain to command a Boeing 777.

The Better India · <https://thebetterindia.com/108181/youngest-woman-captain-boeing-777-pilot-anny-divya/>

Gopichand Thotakura

Commercial pilot and India's first space tourist

Born in Andhra Pradesh, Gopichand Thotakura is a pilot by profession who flies bush, aerobatic and seaplanes. In 2024 he became the first Indian space tourist aboard Blue Origin's NS-25 mission.

Business Standard · https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/gopi-thotakura-makes-history-becomes-1st-indian-to-go-to-space-as-tourist-124052000282_1.html

10 Sources & further reading

1. Rajasthan Career Guidance Portal — Pilot — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/hi/career/%e0%a4%aa%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%af%e0%a4%b2%e0%a4%9f-pilot/>
2. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) — <https://www.dgca.gov.in/digigov-portal/>
3. Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) — <https://igrua.gov.in>
4. National Career Service (NCS) — <https://www.ncs.gov.in>



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