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करियर शीट • CAREER SHEET

ड्रोन पायलट

A drone pilot (remote pilot) controls drones from the ground for survey, mapping, film shoots, delivery, inspection and disaster-relief work. Flying drones commercially in India needs the DGCA Remote Pilot Certificate, which you...



Scan for everything on this career

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

career.gsssjethantri.in/#/career/drone-pilot

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श्रीमती संघमित्रा

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



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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

A drone pilot (remote pilot) controls drones from the ground for survey, mapping, film shoots, delivery, inspection and disaster-relief work. Flying drones commercially in India needs the DGCA Remote Pilot Certificate, which you can earn through just a 5-7 day course once you have passed Class 10 and turned 18. It is a fast-growing new career with real opportunities for rural and small-town youth too.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	Class 10 pass, age 18-65, DGCA Remote Pilot Certificate
Work mode	Outdoor field work - survey sites, construction sites, film sets; frequent travel
Demand	High and rising - across survey, delivery, inspection and cinema
Top earning	Specialist pilots (mapping, inspection) earn above ₹1 lakh/month

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- Flying and operating machines, gadgets and remote-controlled devices
- Photography, videography, maps and views from above
- Working outdoors on technology-based tasks at different sites

ABILITIES

- Good hand-eye coordination and accurate sense of direction and distance
- Staying calm and focused at the controls without rushing
- Strict rule-following and a safety-first habit

KEY SKILLS

- Drone flying, battery management and basic repairs
- Preparing data with GIS and mapping software
- Handling flight data on computer and making reports
- Knowledge of DGCA rules, airspace maps and flight permissions
- Aerial photography and videography techniques
- Client communication and small-business basics

4 How to get there

- 1 Pass Class 10 (any subjects) - this is the minimum educational requirement; studying till Class 12 helps in jobs.
- 2 During school, build basics of computers, maps and photo-video work.
- 3 After turning 18, do the 5-7 day small-class course at a DGCA-approved RPTO and pass the written and flying tests.
- 4 Get your Remote Pilot Certificate through the Digital Sky portal (valid for 10 years).
- 5 Add one specialisation - survey-mapping, filming, inspection or delivery - and build your logbook with flying hours.
- 6 Start with a job in drone-service companies; later get the medium-class certificate to fly bigger drones or start your own drone service.

MAIN EXAMS

- No national competitive exam - you must pass a written test and a flying skill test at a DGCA-approved RPTO

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) — Amethi, Uttar Pradesh (<https://igrua.gov.in/>)
- RPTO at Agriculture University, Jodhpur — Jodhpur, Rajasthan (<https://aujodhpur.ac.in/>)

PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- Dronum India Aviations (DGCA RPTO) — Jaipur, Rajasthan (<https://dronum.in/>)
- Drone Rangers India (DGCA RPTO) — Jaipur, Rajasthan
- Drone Destination (multi-city RPTO chain) — Gurugram and other cities

ONLINE

- Digital Sky - DGCA drone portal (registration, certificates) — Online (<https://digitalsky.aai.aero/>)
- Skill India Digital (drone-related awareness courses) — Online (<https://www.skillindiadigital.gov.in/>)

FEES

Small-class RPTO course (5-7 days): about ₹25,000-65,000. Medium-class (bigger drones) course costs up to ₹80,000-1.5 lakh. Some government schemes offer subsidies on training fees.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- National Scholarship Portal (NSP) (<https://scholarships.gov.in/>)
- Skill India Digital - free/subsidised skill courses (<https://www.skillindiadigital.gov.in/>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

Survey and mining sites, construction projects, film and ad sets, power lines and solar plants, delivery hubs, disaster-relief zones - mostly outdoor work across different towns and villages.

WORK CULTURE

Small teams with early-morning starts; plans depend on weather and battery limits. Strict compliance with flight rules and no-fly zones is a must. Besides jobs, freelance project-based earning is common.

WHO HIRES

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Drone survey and mapping companies (land records, mining, rail-road projects) | • Drone manufacturers - as test pilots and instructors |
| • Film, advertising, news and wedding shoot studios | • Drone delivery and logistics startups |
| • Inspection teams of power, oil-gas, solar and telecom tower companies | • Government departments - survey, police, disaster management and city bodies |

DEMAND (2026)

By 2026 India has about 40,000 certified remote pilots and over 38,000 registered commercial drones, yet skilled pilots remain in short supply. Government estimates project a need of over 1 lakh drone pilots in the coming years, with demand rising across survey, insurance, delivery, mining, film and disaster management.

7 Career growth

- 1 Trainee / assistant drone pilot (right after certification)
- 2 Certified drone pilot - on survey, filming or inspection projects
- 3 Senior pilot / data specialist (GIS, medium-class certificate)
- 4 Chief pilot, project manager or RPTO instructor
- 5 Owner of your own drone-services company

EARNINGS

Starting	₹1.8–3.6 लाख/वर्ष
Mid level	₹4–7 लाख/वर्ष
Senior level	₹9–15 लाख/वर्ष

Starting pay is ₹15,000-30,000/month; specialists in mapping, inspection or training can cross ₹1 lakh/month. Freelance income depends on projects and season.

8 The good parts · The challenges

The good parts

- Low entry barrier - Class 10 pass and one short course is enough
- Fast-growing field with varied work to choose - from surveys to cinema
- Freedom to freelance or start your own business alongside jobs

The challenges

- Early income depends on projects and seasons, not fixed every month
- Outdoor work in sun and rain; weather and battery limits can ground flights
- Strict rules - no-fly-zone violations or negligence risk fines and losing the certificate

9 Real-life journeys

Rinsha Pattakal

Drone pilot (survey, mapping and cinematography)

Rinsha Pattakal from Malappuram, Kerala, was the only girl in her training batch. In a 96-hour government skill-programme course she learnt drone flying along with 3D mapping, aerial survey and cinematography, and became Kerala's first woman to earn the DGCA Remote Pilot Certificate. She believes drones are transforming everything from surveillance and rescue work to photography and delivery.

ASAP Kerala (Government of Kerala) · <https://asapkerala.gov.in/articles/soaring-high-in-the-world-of-drones-a-success-story-of-rinsha-pattakal-from-malappuram/>

Uddesh Pratim Nath

Certified drone pilot (mapping and asset inspection)

Uddesh Pratim Nath, 23, used to design drones, then took just a five-day course to earn his DGCA certification. The certificate immediately opened doors to work in survey mapping, asset inspection, agriculture and more. He now flight-tests drones used for mapping and wants to master flying heavier, more complex models.

BBC News · <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-62966802>

10 Sources & further reading

1. DGCA official portal — <https://www.dgca.gov.in/digigov-portal/>
2. Digital Sky - drone registration and remote pilot certificates — <https://digitalsky.aai.aero/>
3. IGRUA (Ministry of Civil Aviation) - DGCA certified drone training — <https://igrua.gov.in/>



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