PilotsPathway

How to Become a Commercial Pilot in India: Cost, Steps and Courses After 12th (2026)

A pilot career looks glamorous from the outside, but the path is built on paperwork, exams, medicals and a large budget. Many students start with scattered advice and lose months or money on avoidable mistakes. This guide explains **How to become a commercial pilot in India**, what it costs, which courses to consider after Class 12, and how to choose a school wisely. The advice comes from **PilotsPathway**, an aviation institute in Jaipur, Rajasthan, that has guided more than 800 student pilots across India and abroad.

How to Become a Commercial Pilot in India: Step by Step

Here is **How to become a commercial Pilot in India step by step**, in the order the DGCA expects:

1. **Class II medical** with a DGCA-empaneled examiner. Do this first, before paying for any training.
2. **Board Verification Certificate** for your 10th and 12th marks.
3. **DGCA Computer Number** from the Pariksha portal, which takes about one to two months.
4. **Ground classes** and DGCA written exams, including Radio Telephony.
5. **Student Pilot License**, available from age 16 after Class 10.
6. **Private Pilot License**, then flying until you reach at least 200 hours.
7. **Class I medical** and CPL issuance at 18 or older.

Ground classes take about 3 to 6 months and flying about 12 to 15 months. Most students finish in roughly 18 to 24 months, depending on weather, aircraft availability and exams.

How Much Money Is Required to Become a Pilot in India?

How much money required to become a pilot in India is the first question for most families, and the honest answer is that the total depends on the school, aircraft, location and how many hours you actually need. A realistic budget includes:

- Ground school and DGCA exam fees
- Flying hours, single-engine and multi-engine
- Simulator sessions
- Medicals and license fees
- Accommodation, food, travel and study material
- Extra hours and repeat exams, if needed



For the first flying stage, PilotsPathway's PPL page lists an estimated ₹7.60 lakh to ₹10.35 lakh, including ground coaching, 40 to 50 flying hours, DGCA fees and medicals. For a full CPL, one private flying school's own 2026 fee sheet lists ₹56 lakh plus a ₹1 lakh registration fee, covering 185 single-engine hours, 15 multi-engine hours, 20 simulator hours and two years of

accommodation. That is one example, not an average, so always ask for a current written breakdown.

Looking for the Cheapest Commercial Pilot Training in India?

Many families search for the **Cheapest commercial pilot training in india**. There is no verified "cheapest" school, and a low headline fee does not mean a low total cost. Delays, extra hours and weather breaks can quickly change the bill. Government institutes often charge less, but seats are limited. IGRUA's official course page lists its ab-initio to CPL course at ₹55,00,000, while a parliamentary reply in December 2024 listed the same training at ₹45 lakh, so fees clearly change.

Practical ways to reduce the total:

- Complete your medical first, so you never pay for training you cannot finish.
- Prepare well for DGCA exams, since repeat attempts delay flying.
- Use simulator sessions before costly aircraft hours.
- Compare total cost, including accommodation, extra hours and exam attempts.
- Compare education loans on interest rate, moratorium and collateral.
- Look into scholarships and government schemes for eligible categories.

After 12th: Where to Start

Class 12 is the natural starting point. Many students search **How to become a commercial pilot in india after 12th** and also look for the **best pilot training in india after 12th**. You need 10+2 with Physics and Mathematics. Commerce and Arts students can clear these subjects through NIOS or another recognized open schooling board while they begin ground training. Book your Class II medical, apply for your DGCA Computer Number, and join ground classes. Do not pay for a large flying package until your medical is cleared.

How to Become a Commercial Pilot in India for Girls

Students asking **How to become a commercial pilot in india for girl** will find that the path is the same. DGCA applies the same medical standards, exams and flying requirements to girls and boys. The steps, eligibility and license are identical. What matters more is the environment. Visit the school, meet current female students if possible, and ask about hostel facilities, instructor behavior and complaint processes before you decide.

Aviation Course After 12th

A pilot license is not the only option. An **Aviation course after 12th** can also be a useful first step if you are still exploring. PilotsPathway's Aviation Foundation Course offers live online classes,

recorded lectures, weekly doubt clearing and 18 months of portal access, so you can learn how the industry works before you commit your budget.

If you are comparing the **Best aviation courses after 12th**, the main career routes are:

- **Commercial pilot:** the DGCA path described above.
- **Cabin crew:** airline-specific requirements for age, height and education.
- **Air traffic control:** usually through government or approved selection routes.
- **Aircraft maintenance engineering:** a separate DGCA-approved route.
- **Airport and ground operations:** diploma and degree programs.

Eligibility and rules differ for each route, so check the official notice for the one you choose.

Aviation Courses After 12th for Girls

Aviation courses after 12th for girls follow the same eligibility and exams as for boys in most routes. Airline cabin crew roles may have their own age and height rules, so check each employer's current notice.

Aviation Courses After 12th Salary

Aviation courses after 12th salary depends heavily on the career route, airline, base and experience. For pilots, third-party estimates conflict. One 2026 guide puts junior first officer pay during a bond period at ₹60,000 to ₹1.2 lakh per month, while another puts cadet-level pay at ₹1.5 to ₹2 lakh per month. I could not find official salary scales, so do not base a loan decision on a blog estimate. For cabin crew, air traffic control and maintenance roles, check current job notices.



Aviation Courses After 12th Fees

Aviation Courses after 12th fees vary even more widely, from short diplomas to full flying programs. Ask every institute for a written breakdown and check what is excluded.

Commercial Pilot Training in India

Commercial pilot training in India covers ground classes, the Private Pilot License, at least 200 flying hours, and DGCA exams. Many students also search for the **Best commercial pilot training in india**. The best option for you is the one that fits your budget, timeline and goals. PilotsPathway does not directly operate flight training. It guides students to verified flight schools in India, New Zealand, Canada, the USA, South Africa and the UK, and helps with license conversion for those who train abroad.

Best Flying School in India: DGCA Approved

When you look for the **Best flying school in India DGCA approved**, verify approval on official DGCA sources, not only on the school's own brochure. Then compare these points:

1. Total fee in writing, and what is excluded
2. Aircraft condition and simulators
3. Airfield, weather and airspace delays
4. Instructor experience

5. Student feedback from current and recent students
6. Support after the license: exams, cadet programs and airline interviews

A Word on "Top 10" and "Best" Lists

Students often search for the **Top 10 pilot training institute in India with fees** or the **Top 10 best pilot training in india**, hoping for a ready-made ranking. Treat these lists carefully. Many are copied from old forum posts or include paid placements, and fee tables are often a year or two behind.

The same applies to claims about the **best pilot training in india**. The right school depends on your budget, city, timeline and career goal. Shortlist three or four schools, and verify approval and fees directly with each one.

How PilotsPathway Helps

PilotsPathway offers DGCA-focused ground classes, simulator training, airline preparation and cadet pilot coaching, with classroom, hybrid, weekend and online formats. Students get experienced faculty, small batches, mock exams and 1-on-1 mentorship with a senior captain, plus help with education loan documentation.

How to Contact PilotsPathway

Call or WhatsApp +91 9257047450 or +91 9257047451. You can also email counsellor@pilotspathway.in or admissions@pilotspathway.in. The academy is at First Floor, A-25, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Sector 9, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302017. You can book a free demo class or a video call with a senior captain through the website.

Final Thoughts

Becoming a pilot rewards careful planning. Start with your medical, follow the steps in order, and ask every school for a written fee breakdown. Verify every claim yourself, and treat rankings as a starting point. With the right plan and a partner like PilotsPathway, your dream of flying can become a profession.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How can I become a commercial pilot in India after 12th?

Complete 10+2 with Physics and Mathematics, take your Class II medical, apply for a DGCA Computer Number, join ground classes, clear the DGCA exams, complete 200 flying hours, and get your Class I medical to receive your CPL.

2. How much money is required to become a pilot in India?

It depends on the school, aircraft and hours. PilotsPathway's PPL page lists ₹7.60 lakh to ₹10.35 lakh for the private license stage. For a full CPL, one private school's 2026 fee sheet lists ₹56 lakh plus a ₹1 lakh registration fee, while IGRUA's official page lists ₹55 lakh. Ask each school for a current written breakdown.

3. Can girls become commercial pilots in India?

Yes. DGCA applies the same eligibility, medical standards, exams and flying requirements to girls and boys.

4. What is the cheapest way to become a commercial pilot?

There is no verified cheapest school. Compare total cost, not headline fees, and consider government institutes, simulator practice, and education loans. Seats at government institutes are limited and competitive.

5. Which aviation courses can I do after 12th?

Options include commercial pilot training, cabin crew, air traffic control, aircraft maintenance engineering and airport operations. Eligibility, fees and salary differ for each route.

6. What is the salary after an aviation course?

It depends on the route, airline and experience. Third-party pilot salary estimates conflict widely, and I could not find official scales. Check current job notices.

7. How do I check whether a flying school is DGCA approved?

Verify approval on official DGCA sources, not just the school's brochure, and ask for the approval documents in writing.

8. Does PilotsPathway provide flight training?

No. PilotsPathway offers ground classes, simulator training, airline preparation and cadet preparation. For flying hours, it guides students to verified flight schools in India and abroad.