

"Ever since I was a child, it was my dream to become a pilot. Today, I am one – but I am a pilot who is not allowed to fly. Like a bird, whose wings are clipped off forcefully. Simply because some people are uncomfortable with the person I am,



-----Adam Harry, India's first trans pilot who challenged the DGCA

Harry travelled to South Africa's Johannesburg in 2016 to pursue training at Skylark Aviation Academy to become a pilot. However, when he opened up about his gender identity on Instagram, his parents stopped supporting him financially.

He tried to complete his studies in Johannesburg while also engaging in part-time work, but he was forced to return home due to lack of support.

"Things got bad for me when I returned because my parents refused to acknowledge my gender identity. I was abused verbally, and was forced to undergo a so-called conversion therapy. I was locked inside a room for a long, long time. Finally, I managed to escape my house in 2019."

"I was told that there were only two categories to choose from – male and female. There was no option for him to give a test as a transgender man. So to make sure I cleared the test, I stopped my hormone therapy for six months. This was draining for me physically and emotionally. Any trans person can tell you this is not easy. But despite everything, my testosterone level was high and I did not clear the test."

"They said due to gender dysphoria and hormone replacement therapy (HRT), I am not fit for flying," he said, adding that the officials at Institute of Aerospace Medicine, Bengaluru, were transphobic. Harry was also forced to undergo a psychometric test – something that is not sought from all pilots.

"They were reeking of transphobia. They told me that if they give me license, it would put many people at risk. I will anyway have to quit my hormone therapy to clear the exam under the female category. What is the point if I am not allowed to fly in India? My doctor has clearly advised me against it."

"What is the point of it if I don't get license to fly in the country? I have never flown a plane in India. But I am eligible to fly in USA or South Africa, or the UK. But what is the point? Why are they discriminating me against my fundamental right to get a job?"



"I want the DGCA to stop comparing bodies. Bodies of cisgender people to that of trans persons. Instead, look at a person's qualification. Don't snatch away someone's professional dream, because some other person is uncomfortable," he added.

'Adam Harry Takes DGCA To Kerala High Court Over Transphobic Employment Guidelines Jul 2022

