

This transman pilot chased his dream

Kerala government sanctions over ₹23 lakh to help him pursue aviation studies

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He had confusions about his gender since childhood but never ever about his dream career – to become a pilot and fly aeroplanes criss-crossing the vast skies.

He was beaten by his orthodox parents, confined to the four walls of his home and dragged to counselling centres for saying he was a man trapped in the body of a woman.

Finally, he had to run away from home to escape endless torture.

But, the determination to chase his dream has helped this Keralite, Adam Harry, to become the first transman pilot of the country to get a private pilot licence, two years ago.

Now, at the age of 20, his dream of becoming a commercial pilot is set to be a reality as the Kerala government has sanctioned over ₹23 lakh to help him pursue



Helping hand: Transman Adam Harry with Kerala Health Minister K.K. Shylaja in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday.

further studies at a reputed institution here. Harry is all gratitude towards the Social Justice Department and its secretary Biju Prabhakar for understanding his struggles and helping him in realising his dream.

"I am really grateful to the government for helping me. Otherwise my dream will never have become a reali-

ty." The fund of ₹23.37 lakh was sanctioned on Thursday.

"I am planning to join the Rajiv Gandhi Academy for Aviation Technology here for the three-year studies and training to get a commercial pilot licence," said Harry.

Hailing from an orthodox Muslim family of Thrissur district, Harry, after completing plus two, had joined

an aviation academy attached to the Lanseria International Airport in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Though his family had initially supported him in joining the academy and get an education loan for his foreign studies, it stopped all the assistance after he continued to talk about his real gender.

The youngster said he had to undergo severe struggles during the final months of the training in South Africa as his parents stopped all help abruptly.

He had to sleep on streets and do odd jobs to find money for his fees and living expense.

"But, I completed my training and received the private pilot licence in 2017. I returned to India but my parents continued their pressure on me to suppress my gender. Finally, I had to run away from my home last year," he said.