



Assistant Loco Pilot — the one railway job where the distance you cover is part of the pay



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Clear the RRB ALP with an ITI or an engineering diploma and you start in the cab at Level 2, ₹19,900 basic, which is the lowest entry on this site. What changes the arithmetic is running allowance: loco staff earn by the kilometre, and the rate rises with the class of train you are trusted with. What it costs is a life run by the crew booking office rather than a roster.

Last reviewed 13 August 2026

THE 30-YEAR JOURNEY

You join in the cab as an assistant, and for the first years the job is learning the road, the machine and the discipline that keeps both safe. What happens after that is unusual for a government career. Rank still moves you up the pay matrix, but the trains you are booked on move you up a second scale entirely, because running staff are paid partly by the kilometre. The fork late in the career is whether you stay on the footplate or step off it.

SALARY PROJECTION

If you joined today

Figures as of August 2026

7th CPC pay matrix. Running allowance is described but deliberately NOT added into these figures, because the reported per-kilometre rates conflict and the amount depends on links worked.. This table is honest about being incomplete. The pay matrix part of a loco pilot's income can be shown; the part earned by distance cannot, not without a confirmed rate and an assumption about how much you run. So read the levels here as the floor of the career rather than its shape, and read the running-allowance note as the thing that actually separates two drivers on the same grade. Intermediate levels are unsourced and are marked where they appear.

YEAR	MILESTONE	ON THE FOOTPLATE Driving, on rising links and rates	SUPERVISORY Off the train, on a schedule you can plan
0	Assistant Loco Pilot	L2 · ₹30k Both paths identical so far · Assistant Loco Pilot	
8	Mail and express links	L6 · ₹58k Both paths identical so far · Loco Pilot, mail and express Excludes running allowance, which at this stage is at its highest rate and is a substantial part of what a driver on premier links takes home.	

YEAR	MILESTONE	ON THE FOOTPLATE Driving, on rising links and rates	SUPERVISORY Off the train, on a schedule you can plan
18	The fork	Senior · ₹58k Senior Loco Pilot Plus the top running rates, which is where the real difference sits. The level for Senior Loco Pilot is not sourced, so this row holds the Mail/Express level rather than claiming a higher one.	Supervisor · ₹58k Loco Supervisor or Inspector Quoted up to ₹78,000 in secondary sources without a level or basis. Whether supervisors keep running allowance is unconfirmed and decides whether this pays more or less than staying on the footplate.

Figures exclude running allowance entirely. Level 2 entry and Level 6 for mail and express links are the only rungs with a sourced level; the rest are marked. Snapshot dated August 2026.

Sarkari Job Guide does not claim this salary structure. The figures come from the verified sources listed on the career page.

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Visual career maps for government jobs in India. Each map shows the full 30-year path: pay at every stage, promotion timelines, and the costs nobody mentions.

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