

IMPORTANT EVENTS IN WORLD AVIATION IN THE LAST 10 DECADES

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The 100 years after the first flight by Wright Brothers in 1903 have seen many important landmarks and achievements in spite of various problems and setbacks. Given below are about 100 important events as milestones (Specific events of interest to India have also been included).

1903 - 1913

- 1903 *First Powered and Manned Flight by Wright Brothers at Kittyhawk USA on Wright Flyer I on 17 Dec 1903*
- 1904 Circular Flights by Wright Brothers on Wright Flyer II
- 1905 Circular Flights by Wright Brothers on Wright Flyer III
- 1906 First flight in a monoplane
- 1907 First attempt at a Helicopter flight
- 1908 Santos Dumont flies around Eiffel Tower
- 1909 *Louis Bleriot crosses the English Channel in a powered aircraft.*
- 1911 First airmail flight in India by Henry Piquet Naini to Allahabad.
- 1913 Flight of Sperry Gyroscope.

1914 - 1923

- 1914 First use of flying machine in aerial warfare. French VOISIN shoots down GERMAN AVIATIK.
First two way radio contact between Pilot and Ground Station.
- 1918 HMS ARGUS commissioned - First Aircraft Carrier.

- 1919 *First nonstop flight over Atlantic by Alcock and Brown.*

First flight of Airship.

1924 - 1933

- 1926 *First use of all-metal Airliner.*
- 1927 *Charles Lindberg flies solo across the Atlantic in a RYAN NYP named Spirit of Saint Louis.*
- 1928 First flight with Auto Pilot.
- 1929 First flight entirely on Instruments by Jimmy Doolittle.
- 1931 Pang Born and Herdon fly nonstop across the Pacific.
- 1932 *Formation of Indian Air Force.*
First ground based NAV BEACONS constructed by USA.
- 1933 Wiley Post flies solo around the world in a Lockheed Vega
Boeing 247 flies - First modern all-metal Airliner.

1934 - 1943

- 1935 First flight of DC-3 - most successful Pre-war Airliner.
- 1937 Amelia Earhart - First woman to fly across the Atlantic.
- 1938 Boeing 307 STRATOLINER flies - First pressurized Airliner.
Pan American World Airways begins scheduled Trans Atlantic Service
- 1939 First flight of a Jet Aircraft - Heinkel HE 178

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- 1940 First practical flight in a Helicopter -VS300 on 13 May 1940
Formation of Hindustan Aircraft Limited (HAL) on 23 Dec 1940.
- 1941 Flight of P51 Mustang - one of the best WW II Fighters.
- 1943 Lockheed 049 Constellation flies - First long range Airliner.
- 1944 - 1953**
- 1944 *Meteor and ME262 - first Jet fighters to enter service.*
- 1947 *Sound barrier broken by Chuck Yeager in the Bell X-1 named Glamorous Glynnis.*
- 1948 *Berlin Airlift - over 15 months, 778 228 flights - carried 2.33 million tons of cargo.*
Vickers Viscount flies first Turbo prop Airliner
- 1949 Introduction of flight refueling test probe and aerial Re-fuelling systems.
- 1950 First Jet to Jet dog fight - Lockheed F80 shoots down MiG-15 over Korea.
- 1951 First flight of Hawker Hunter.
First flight of HAL designed and manufactured trainer HT2.
- 1952 First commercial Jet Service by BOAC - DEHAVILAND COMET 1
- 1953 F-100 Super Sabre flies - First Supersonic Fighter.
Commencement of Naval Air Aviation in Indian Navy.
- 1954 - 1963**
- 1954 Lockheed F104 Star Fighter flies - First Mach II Fighter.
- 1955 Tupolev TU-104 flies - First Twin Jet Airliner.
Sud Aviation Caraville flies - first rear engined Jetliner.
- 1956 *DASSAULT flies Mirage III - First of Mirage Line to produce most modern Jet Combat Aircraft of the present generation.*
MIKOYAN MiG 21 prototype flies.
- 1957 First flight of FAIREY ROTODYNE.
- 1958 Boeing 707 enters service with PanAm
- 1960 *First flight of AVRO 748 manufactured at Kanpur, India.*
- 1961 First flight of P-II 27 - Prototype of Harrier - First VTOL
First flight of HF24 (Marut) - India's HAL designed first fighter Aircraft.
- 1962 DEHAVILAND flies Trident - First TriJet Airliner.
- 1963 First flight of Boeing 727.
- 1964 - 1973**
- 1964 First flight of F-111 - First Variable Geometry Fighter.
- 1965 First flight of CANADAIR CL 84 - concept of Tilt Wing Aircraft.
- 1966 First flight of Hawker Siddeley Harrier - First operational VTOL Aircraft.
- 1967 Boeing flies 737 - highest selling post war Airliner.
- 1968 First flight of Russia's Supersonic Transport Aircraft TU-144.
- 1969 *Aerospatial and BAC fly CONCORDE - First supersonic Airliner to enter service.*
Boeing 747 flies - First Wide Body Airliner.
- 1970 First flight of SAAB, VIGGEN
- 1971 First flight of WESTLAND WG-13 LYNX Helicopter.
- 1972 Airbus A300 flies - First Wide Bodied Twin Jet Airliner.

1973 First flight of SIKORSKY Helicopter - S-64.
First flight of Alpha Jet.

1974 - 1983

1974 First Fly by Wire Fighter - YF-16 flies.

1975 First flight of Aerospatial SA-365 DAUPHIN -2 Helicopter.

1976 *CONCORDE's First Supersonic passenger Service.*

1977 Flight of NASA / ROCKWELL Space shuttle Orbiter.

1978 CANADAIR CL-600 Challenger flies - First Super critical wing Aircraft.

1981 First flight of Boeing 767.

1982 Airbus A-310 flies - First Composite Primary Structure Aircraft.

Lockheed F-117 enters service - First generation STEALTH Aircraft.

Commissioning of Aviation wing of Indian Coast Guard.

First flight of ANTONOV 225 MRIYA, the worlds largest aircraft

1983 First flight of AGUSTA 129 MANGUSTA Helicopter.

1984 - 1993

1984 *First Indian Cosmonaut Rakesh Sharma orbits the earth in SALYUT 7*

1985 First flight of SIKORSKY S-76 Helicopter.

1986 *Induction of CANADAIR BEECH STAR SHIP 2000 - First all composite business Aircraft.*

Formation of Army Aviation Corps of Indian Army.

Voyager Aeroplane flies around the world nonstop without re-fuelling.

1987 *Airbus A320 flies - First Fly by Wire Airliner.*

1988 First flight of SCWEIZER 330 Helicopter.

First flight of TBM 700 - First single Turbo Prop Business Aircraft.

1989 *First flight of BELL Boeing V22 OSPREY - First Tilt Rotor Aircraft.*

1990 Lockheed YF-22 flies - First Stealthy Supercruise fighter.

1991 First flight of Mc Donnell Douglas C-17 GLOBMASTER III

1992 *First Flight of India's indigenously designed Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) on 23 Aug 1992 in Bangalore, India. Later named "DHRUV", it is designed, developed and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and is a state of art modern Helicopter to enter service.*

1993 First flight of Citation X - Fastest Business Jet (0.92 Mach).

1994 - 2003

1994 First flight of Boeing 777.

1995 *Global Positioning System (GPS) becomes operational.*

GULF STREAM V flies - First ultra long range Business Jet.

1996 First flight of Boeing-SIKORSKY YRAH-66 CO-MANCHE Helicopter.

1999 *First flight of HANSA developed by NAL India in Bangalore on 10 May 1999.*

First flight of TU334.

2001 *First flight of India's Indigenously designed Light Combat Aircraft (Christened TEJAS)*

Lockheed Martin X 35 performs Short take off, Supersonic Dash and vertical landing.

2002 Boeing X45 flies - First unmanned combat Air vehicle.

2003 *First flight of India's Indigenously designed Jet Trainer (IJT)- Designed by HAL.*

The events given above have been compiled on the basis of information collected from various websites and library sources. The author has made every effort to verify the correctness of the same. In spite of this, if any error/incorrectness is observed the same may please be brought to the notice of the author.

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