



# Systematic Survey of Wind Tunnel Test facility in India

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## ABSTRACT:

This paper has a theoretical survey about wind tunnels and the tests that can be undergone under each wind tunnel around different organisations in India. The applications and special features of each wind tunnel are also noted down in this survey. Many wind tunnels have been established and some of them are not in use right now, due to their lesser capabilities and the invention of new wind tunnels which has more advanced features than the old ones. India is achieving more than great in Aerospace Industry with a good and minimum budget as compared to other countries. India has more wind tunnel testing facilities to get sufficient and important aerodynamic information on a small-scale model of a large-scale aircraft. It is important to run such tests so that the aircraft is aerodynamically efficient, and safer. With the help of wind tunnel testing, engineers can get a clear-cut idea about how to make the aircraft better by taking note of components such as lift, drag, and pressure acting on the small-scale model. Through this paper, you can get systematic and detailed information about wind tunnels and the tests conducted in India.

## INTRODUCTION:

A wind tunnel is a device that generates different speeds of airflow through a test segment. Wind tunnels are commonly used in aerodynamic research to study the behavior of flows in channels and across solid surfaces under various conditions. Aerodynamicists can utilize the wind tunnel's controlled environment to measure flow conditions and forces on aircraft models as they are being developed. The air is usually moved through the tube by strong fans. The thing to be tested is securely placed in the tunnel, preventing it from moving. A miniature model of an aircraft could be a single component of a vehicle, It might be a full-scale plane or a spacecraft. It may even be something as simple as a tennis ball. The air moving around the static object represents what would happen if the object were in motion. The movement of air can be examined in a variety of ways. Smoke or dye can be thrown into the air and seen how it is moving about. The force of the air on the object is frequently measured with special devices. Engineers can use diagnostic data from models to adjust designs for better aerodynamic performance without any need to develop a lot of completely functional prototypes. There are several types of wind tunnels ( subsonic, transonic, and supersonic wind tunnels ), and each type of wind tunnel has its own sub types. Many big organizations in India like DRDO, ISRO, and IITs have state-of-the-art facilities for aerodynamic research, which are helping us reach milestones in the aerospace sector.

**SURVEY - 1**

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Title of the Aerospace Test</b> | <b>0.3 m Trisonic Wind Tunnel</b>   |
| Name of the Organisation           | CSIR  |
| Name of the Lab                    | National Aerospace Laboratories - NAL   |
| Place of the Lab                   | Banglore  |
| Category of Aerospace Test         | Wind Tunnel Testing   |
| Sub - Category of Aerospace Test   | NA  |
| Year of Establishment              | 1996  |
| Test Applications                  | Intake studies-buzz control<br>Shock boundary layer interaction studies<br>PSP Studies<br>Density field studies   |
| Test Special Features              | Test section size: 0.3x0.3 m Supersonic<br>0.381x0.3 m-Transonic<br>Mach number range:0.2-4.0.<br>Operation Intermittent blow down type<br>Reynolds number range 8 x 10 <sup>6</sup> to 60 x 10 <sup>6</sup> / meter<br>Model support Sting, Wall-mounted   |
| Other Test Information             | Measurement capability:<br>Conventional Digital manometer. 32 port ESP scanner. 35 channel simultaneous unsteady pressure DAQ<br>Flow Visualization: Surface oil flow. Dynamic Schlieren<br>Flow Diagnostic: Pressure Sensitive Paint (PSP).<br>Background Oriented Schlieren (BOS)<br>Experimental Aerodynamics Division - EAD |

**SURVEY - 2**

|                                    |                                      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Title of the Aerospace Test</b> | <b>0.3 m Hypersonic Shock Tunnel</b> |
| Name of the Organisation           | ISRO                                 |
| Name of the Lab                    | Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre - VSSC  |
| Place of the Lab                   | Thiruvananthapuram                   |
| Category of Aerospace Test         | Wind Tunnel Testing                  |
| Sub - Category of Aerospace Test   | Hypersonic Wind Tunnel               |

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|------------------------|---|
| Year of Establishment  | 1980  |
| Test Applications      | Aerospace, R&D<br>Types of test performed:<br>Heat transfer measurements  |
| Test Special Features  | Test Section size and shape: 0.3 m diameter - Enclosed jet<br>Speed range/ Mach number range: 6 to 10<br>Total Enthalpy range: 3 MJ/kg<br>Test Control Parameters:<br>Typical duration: 4 ms<br>Stagnation pressure: 40 bar driver pressure<br>Temperature range: 3000K |
| Other Test Information | Type of Tunnel: High speed, Intermittent blow down type. and Horizontal<br>Instrumentation:<br>Fast response transducers. Heat flux gauges.<br>Thermocouple<br>12 channel high-speed DAS  |

### SURVEY-3

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|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Title of the Aerospace Test</b> | <b>5" x 7" supersonic wind tunnel</b>   |
| Name of the Organisation           | IISc ( Indian Institute of Science )  |
| Name of the Lab                    | Department of Aerospace Engineering   |
| Place of the Lab                   | Bangalore   |
| Category of Aerospace Test         | Wind Tunnel Testing   |
| Sub-Category of Aerospace Test     | Supersonic Wind Tunnel  |
| Year of Establishment              | 1980  |
| Test Applications                  | Aerospace,  |
| Test Special Features              | Test Section size and shape: 5" X 7"<br>Mach number range: 2D convergent-divergent nozzle of M=1.2 to 4<br>Reynolds number range (per m: 1.3x10 <sup>10</sup><br>Test Control Parameters:<br>Test duration 605<br>Constant stagnation pressure (ambient)<br>Constant stagnation Temperature (ambient)<br>Vacuum tank volume of 300m <sup>3</sup> at 1 Torr<br>Pressure measurement capabilities with ESP scanner,<br>Kulite, individual chip-based transducer like Honeywell<br>Measurement Computing, etc. |

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|------------------------|---|
|                        | 350mm dia vacuum isolation knife edge gate va   |
| Other Test Information | Type of Tunnel: Intermittentindraft type.<br>Instrumentation: Color Schlierenvideo recording system<br>Data Acquisition System:<br>1616 FS Measurement computing US8 based data acquisition system DasyLab software for data capture. |

**SURVEY-4**

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|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Title of the Aerospace Test</b> | <b>Flight Demonstration Wind Tunnel</b>  |
| Name of the Organisation           | ISRO   |
| Name of the Lab                    | Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology ( IISST )   |
| Place of the Lab                   | Thiruvananthapuram   |
| Category of Aerospace Test         | Wind Tunnel Testing  |
| Sub - Category of Aerospace Test   | Subsonic Wind Tunnel   |
| Year of Establishment              | 1968   |
| Test Applications                  | Primarily for indigenous development testing<br>Testing requirements of R& D organizations and other industries<br>For both aeronautics & non-aeronautical applications<br><br>Types of tests performed:<br>Steady and Unsteady force & moment measurements<br>Steady and fluctuating pressure measurements<br>Wind Engineering<br>Flow visualization<br>Flow diagnostic tests<br><br>Special tests:<br>Ground effect measurements<br>Component loads measurements<br>Efflux trails for ship models<br>Stores release (gravity drop) |
| Test Special Features              | Type of Trunnel: Closed Circuit. Closed jet, continuous flow subsonic wind tunnel<br>Test Section size and shape: 2.74 m x 1.83 m, octagonal<br>speed range/ Mach number range: 10 - 55m/s<br>Reynolds number range (per m): 0.63-3.46 million<br>Free stream turbulence level (If low-speed tunnel): 2%<br>Test control Parameters:   |

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|                        | <p>Pitch angle (normal testing ): 18 degrees to 42<br/>         Yaw angle (normal testing ):- 28 degrees to 28<br/>         Typical test duration: 15 min<br/>         High angle of attack testing:- 90 degrees</p>   |
| Other Test Information | <p>Data Acquisition System:<br/>         Industrial PC based DAS making use of NI simultaneous sampling 16 BIT ADC<br/>         NI DAQ and Lab View platform for Acquisition<br/>         In house developed software for acquisition, processing and presentation</p> <p>Special test rigs and test techniques developed:<br/>         High angles of attack rig<br/>         Smoke trials at very low speeds<br/>         Gravity release technique<br/>         Oil dot technique<br/>         Ejector developments</p> <p>Milestones achieved:<br/>         More than 37 projects and 51 models tested since inceptions<br/>         Completed all the low-speed test requirements for major projects like ALH, IJT. LCH, P-17. P-28, AMCA, HTT-40. FGFA</p> |

### SURVEY-5

| Title of the Aerospace Test    | High-Speed Tunnel                                    |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Name of the Organisation       | DRDO   |
| Name of the Lab                | Defence Research and Development Laboratory - DRDL   |
| Place of the Lab               | Hyderabad  |
| Category of Aerospace Test     | Wind Tunnel Testing                                  |
| Sub-Category of Aerospace Test | Supersonic wind tunnel                               |
| Year of Establishment          | 1980   |
| Test Applications              | Aerospace, Research, and Development, and Industrial |

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Test Special Features  | Test Section size and shape: 300mm x 300mm solid wall test section 340mm dai. Enclosed free jet test section<br>Speed range / Mach number range: Mach 1.4 to 4.0<br>Reynolds number range (per m): $0.3 \times 10^8$ to $3 \times 10^8$<br>Side wall-mounted model testing |
| Other Test Information | Type of tunnel: High speed and Wind<br>Ranges of Pitch, Roll and Yaw: Pitch(-15 degree to 15 degrees)<br>Typical test duration: 100 seconds<br>Stagnation pressure & Temperature range: 20 bar, 300 K  |

### SURVEY-6

| Title of the Aerospace Test    | Hydrodynamics Test  |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Name of the Organisation       | DRDO  |
| Name of the Lab                | Naval Science and Technological Laboratory - NSTL   |
| Place of the Lab               | Vishakhapatnam  |
| Category of Aerospace Test     | Wind Tunnel Testing   |
| Sub-Category of Aerospace Test | NA  |
| Year of Establishment          | NA  |
| Test Applications              | A wind tunnel to study the aerodynamic characteristics of surface and submerged platforms and underwater weapons with a test section of 1.5 x 1.5 x 4m. This wind tunnel can produce a maximum speed of 60 m/sec with a 125 kW fan. The Wind Tunnel is equipped with projection manometers, differential pressure transducers, velocity measuring probes, vertical cathetometers, hot film anemometers, 48 port Scanivalve traversing gear, PC BASED DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM, and analysis software packages. |
| Test Special Features          | Flow visualization and boundary layer studies for underwater vehicles.<br>Wake survey and velocity distribution behind a body for propulsor development.<br>Pressure and velocity distribution over axis-symmetric body.<br>Estimation of forces and moments on control surfaces of a submerged body. etc.  |
| Other Test Information         | Test Section Size: 1.5 m x 1.5 m x 4.0 m long   |

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|  | <p>Plenum Chamber: 4.3 m x 4.3m x 4.0 m long<br/>         Contraction Nozzle: Varying from 4.3m x 4.3 m square to 1.5m x 1.5 m square; 4.0 m long<br/>         Diffuser: Varying from 1.5 m x 1.5 m square to 3.5 m dia; 7.8 m long<br/>         Fan Size: 3.04 m dia made of CFRP<br/>         Drive Motor: 125 KW dc motor at 750 rpm<br/>         Maximum Speed at Test Section: 60 m/sec</p> |
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### SURVEY-7

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| <b>Title of the Aerospace Test</b> | <b>Low-Speed Wind Tunnel</b>   |
| Name of the Organisation           | Others   |
| Name of the Lab                    | Jaypee Wind Engineering Application Centre - JWEAC   |
| Place of the Lab                   | Guna   |
| Category of Aerospace Test         | Wind Tunnel Testing  |
| Sub-Category of Aerospace Test     | Subsonic wind tunnel   |
| Year of Establishment              | 2013   |
| Test Applications                  | Non-Aerospace and primary for Civil Engineering applications, Industrial and Research and Development  |
| Test Special Features              | <p>Test Section size and shape: 3.5 m X 3.0 m X 22.0 m - Rectangular<br/>         Speed range: 0.5 m/s to 40 m/s<br/>         Reynolds number range (per m): <math>3.3 \times 10^4</math> to <math>2.67 \times 10^6</math><br/>         Expected free stream turbulence:<br/>         Typically around 10% at a height of about 90 cm under simulated open terrain condition.<br/>         Terrain Simulation:<br/>         Simulation of atmospheric boundary layer including the profile of mean velocity, turbulence intensity, and spectrum of horizontal wind speed.<br/>         Special features of the tunnel:<br/>         Twin-turn table facility</p> |
| Other Test Information             | <p>Type of tunnel: Closed-circuit, low speed, boundary layer wind tunnel<br/>         instrumentation:<br/>         Hot-wire anemometry system: (normal and XY - wire probe)<br/>         Multi-channel high scan dynamic pressure system (512 channels; 2 Initiators; Scanners with DTC)<br/>         Standard Pitot tub<br/>         Six-component base balance</p>  |

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|  | Strain gauges and accelerometers<br>Special arrangements for the control of turn-table position:<br>3D-traverse system and fan speed.<br>Data acquisition system/software:<br>Labview, Matlab; PSI pressure measurement systems; In house development GUI software |
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### SURVEY-8

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|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Title of the Aerospace Test</b> | <b>Low-Speed Wind Tunnel</b>   |
| Name of the Organisation           | IIT  |
| Name of the Lab                    | Department of Aerospace Engineering - IITM   |
| Place of the Lab                   | Chennai  |
| Category of Aerospace Test         | Wind Tunnel Testing  |
| Sub-Category of Aerospace Test     | Subsonic wind tunnel   |
| Year of Establishment              | 2012   |
| Test Applications                  | Aerospace/Non- Aerospace<br>Industrial/Fundamental Research<br>Type of tests performed:<br>Unsteady aerodynamics<br>Velocity measurements<br>Flow diagnostic tests |
| Test Special Features              | Test Section size and shape:<br>750 mm x 750 mm x 2000 mm<br>Parameter Range:<br>Speed: 25 m/s   |
| Other Test Information             | Type of tunnel:<br>Continuous suction type<br>Instrumentation:<br>Flow visualization   |

### SURVEY-9

|                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Title of the Aerospace Test</b> | <b>National Wind Tunnel Facility</b>  |
| Name of the Organisation           | IIT                                   |
| Name of the Lab                    | Indian Institute of Technology - IITK |
| Place of the Lab                   | Kanpur                                |
| Category of Aerospace Test         | Wind Tunnel Testing                   |
| Sub-Category of Aerospace Test     | Subsonic wind tunnel                  |



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|------------------------|--|
| Year of Establishment  | 1999   |
| Test Applications      | <p>Aerospace &amp; Non-aerospace, Research &amp; Development, and Industrial.</p> <p>Full-model testing with sting support system</p> <p>Half-model testing with external balance</p> <p>Turntables system for aeronautical and non-aeronautical applications</p> <p>Moving belt ground plane for ground effect simulation</p> <p>Gust and crosswind simulation</p> <p>Aero-acoustic testing</p> <p>Laser light sheet generation system for flow visualization</p> <p>3D Stereoscopic PIV system</p>   |
| Test Special Features  | <p>Steady and Unsteady force &amp; moment measurements</p> <p>Steady and Unsteady pressure measurements</p> <p>Aeroelastic tests</p> <p>Ground effect simulation studies</p> <p>Wind effect on structures including interference effect</p> <p>Low Reynolds number airfoils studies</p> <p>Low-speed air-intake studies</p>  |
| Other Test Information | <p>On model pitch, roll and yaw sensors</p> <p>Roll, Pitch and Yaw (0.01 degree) and Y&amp;Z motion (- 0.1mm)</p> <p>Flex-motion eight axis closed-loop control system</p> <p>PSI scanners(11 Nos. 32 port each)</p> <p>10. 20 and 70-inch WC with 0.05% accuracy</p> <p>DANTAC streamline CTA system for velocity measurements</p> <p>Hot-wire probes and calibrator</p> <p>RTD, SS sensors and thermocouples for temperature</p> <p>B &amp; K microphone sensors and amplifier for noise measurements</p> <p>3D Stereoscopic PIV system</p> <p>Light-sheet generation using 6W Ar-Ion Laser</p> <p>Image monitoring and recording system</p> |

### SURVEY-10

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Title of the Aerospace Test</b> | <b>Supersonic Wind Tunnel</b>                      |
| Name of the Organisation           | BIT  |
| Name of the Lab                    | Department of Space Engineering and Rocketry - BIT |
| Place of the Lab                   | Ranchi   |

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Category of Aerospace Test     | Wind Tunnel Testing  |
| Sub-Category of Aerospace Test | Supersonic wind tunnel   |
| Year of Establishment          | 2013   |
| Test Applications              | Aerospace and Non-aerospace<br>R & D<br>Sponsored projects<br>Thesis for ME and Ph.D.<br>Laboratory classes for students   |
| Test Special Features          | Test Section size: 100 mm X 150 mm<br>Mach number range: 2- 3.5<br>Reynolds number range (per m): $2 \times 10^7$ - $10^8$<br>Type of tests performed: Calibration in progress<br>Test control parameters:<br>Angle of attack: 0-50<br>Test duration: 20-sec<br>Stagnation pressure & Temperature range: 8 bar, 300 K  |
| Other Test Information         | Type of Tunnel:<br>Supersonic Wind Tunnel (4 inch x 6 inch)<br>(Intermittent)<br>Sponsored by AR & DB, Ministry of Defence<br>Instrumentation<br>Multi-tube mercury manometer<br>Pressure Transducers.<br>Electronic pressure scanner<br>Signal conditioners<br>3 component Strain gage balance<br>Unsteady pressure pickups (Kulite Make)<br>Schlieren system, Digital Camera, NI Cards<br>Data Acquisition Systems used:<br>PC-based low and high-speed NI DAQ & Labview |

## CONCLUSION:

The systematic survey of 10 wind tunnels across India has been successfully done. It has been found that all types of wind tunnels have a vast number of features. Government organizations have big facilities and Indian Institutes also have a lot of wind tunnels for research purposes such as velocity measurements, diagnostic tests, Aeroelastic tests, Density field studies, wind engineering, flow visualization, etc. Throughout this paper, the type of tunnel, test section size, and shape, instrumentations, scanners, Mach number range, Reynolds number range, duration of the test, pressure, temperature, angle of attack, and force estimations have been surveyed. Each and every tunnel has some special features for some special purpose, for example, the low-speed wind tunnel of JWEAC has a Twin-turn table facility. This survey is very much useful to get information about what facilities are there in some of the wind tunnels across India.

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