

Pollution and Its Control:

Introduction: when a foreign particle enters the environment & changes its originality. Such scenario is called Pollution.

& Cause of this will be human activities.

- * Now a days, the air we breathe, the water we drink and place where we live are contaminated with undesirable substances, these alters the natural quality of the environment. These undesirable substances are called pollutants.
- * Pollutants can be gaseous or liquid effluents.
- * These pollutants may contain some valuable / useful products, so we have to recover these by chemical analysis of effluents.

Types

- 1) Air
- 2) Water
- 3) Soil
- 4) Noise.

Air Pollution:

Meaning \Rightarrow Any change in qualitative & Quantitative change in air (air is made up of different type of gases; change in quantity of gas): change in normal composition of

of air, which is harmful to human being plants and animals and property.

* Every individual person breaths 20000 times in a day, & inhaling 15-22 kg of air.

Cause of air pollution:

airborne suspensions of extremely small solid or liq. particles.

1) Suspended particulate matter. (0.002 μ m - 100 μ m).
(Solid, liq, gas) Micron-unit of length).

1) Natural Sources

Ex: Volcanic Eruptions.

- Volcano - liquid.
- Volcanic ashes - solid.
- Radioactive minerals present in earth crust.

2) Manmade sources.
(Anthropogenic sources).

Ex: Industries.

Ex: Dust, smoke, Smog, Asbestos lead, mercury, cadmium.

2) Gaseous pollutants:

Natural Source.

- * Forest fires
- * Wind blown dust.

Ex: SO₂, SO₃, H₂S, NO_x, CO, CO₂, Hydrocarbons.

Man-made Source.
(Anthropogenic source).

- * Burning wood.
- * Fossil fuel burning.

Types of air pollutants:

- 1) Primary air pollutants.
- 2) Secondary air pollutants.

This classification is done on bases of sources from which they are produced.

Sources: Point Sources

→ Single identifiable sources of pollution from which pollutants are discharged.

Ex: - Factory smokes.

Brick kilns.

Thermal power plants.

Fossil fuel consumption

Volcanic eruption

Automobiles.

Non-Point Sources

→ Diffused sources.

Ex: - Excess fertilizers.

- herbicides

- Insecticides

- From agricultural &

residential areas.

1st Type: Primary air pollutants:

The primary air pollutants are directly emitted from the processes. (Point Sources).

The major primary pollutants are oxides of sulphur,

oxides of Nitrogen

Oxides of Carbon.

Particulate matter.

Methane

Ammonia.

Chlorofluorocarbons.

Toxic metals etc.

Secondary air pollutants:

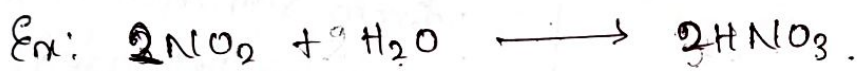
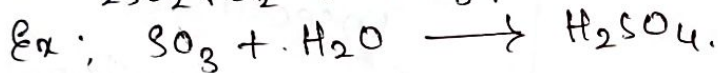
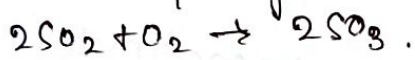
- * Secondary pollutants are not directly emitted.
- * When primary pollutants react with themselves, or with other components of the atmosphere.

Ex: - ~~Smoke~~ Smog. (Smoke + fog).

- Ground level ozone (Tropospheric ozone / Bad ozone).

* Organic pollutants.

- hydrogen cyanide.



Nitrogen dioxide.

primary pollutant.

Nitric acid

Secondary pollutant.

1^o - pollutant \rightarrow CO, NO, SO₂, NO₂, NH₃, volatile org. compounds.

2^o - pollutant \rightarrow SO₃, HNO₃, H₂SO₄, H₂O₂, O₃, NH₄⁺.

Types of air pollutants as per WHO:

6 Common air pollutants according to WHO.

- Carbon monoxide (CO)

- lead

- Nitrogen oxides

- Ground level ozone

- particle pollution

(particulate matter).

- Sulfur oxides.

- These are also called as Criteria pollutants (designated^③ by U.S. - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)).

Criteria pollutants → "Concentrations of these pollutants in the atmosphere are useful as indicators of overall air quality"

Particulate matters : Like lead, Fly ash, metallic oxides nanoparticles.

Gaseous pollutants : CO, CO₂, EFC's, O₃, NO, SO₂, benzene biological pollutants.

* → Gaseous criteria pollutants are observed in urban cities.

Ex: SO₂, NO₂, CO → these are emitted directly into air from fossil fuels (Such as fuel oil, gasoline, natural gas) that are burnt in power plants, automobiles & other combustion sources.

Ex: Ozone (Key component of smog → smoke + fog, is also a gaseous criteria pollutant. - It is formed in atmosphere via complex reactions occurring between nitrogen dioxide & various volatile organic compounds. ex → gasoline vapours)

Ex: Lead fumes → Airborne particulates
- Size less than 0.5 μm.

- They are toxic, & major pollutants.

- Released from diesel fuels.

- In humans, lead damages the Nervous system, digestive tissues, kidney tissues, on brain activity.

Ex: Fly ash. → * Oxides of heavy metals.

Silicate, Silicon dioxide, Calcium oxide.

* Source of fly ash is thermal powerplant.

Ex: Nanoparticles → Diameter. is less than 100 nm.

* Makes clouds of dust particles.

* Due to these ozone depletion will take place.

* Changes temperature in stratosphere.

Air Pollution Control: At Source.

* Most effective way to control the air pollution is to prevent the formation of pollutants.

* And reduce their emission at the source itself.

Source Correction Method: In case of Industrial pollutants, the designing & development of plant may be selected so as to minimize the air pollutants.

- Various air pollution.

Various Air Pollution Control methods:

(4)

Source correction methods:

1st Method: Use of correct grade of raw material.
Ex: low-sulphur oil. & coal is recommended.

2nd Method: If needed, operational changes can be done. [Industrial technology].

Ex: Reduction of atmospheric pollution emission of pollutants.

⇒ H_2S produced can be recycled to recover sulphur.

3rd method: Equipment modification. - also helpful in reducing atmospheric emission pollutants.

Ex: Design modification of tanks, evaporation from petroleum refineries can be minimised.

Particulate Control pollution control:

* Here the removal of pollutants from effluents & are used in conjunction with source correction methods.

* For removal of pollutants from effluents, control devices are used.

* Selection of control devices is based on physical & chemical character of particulate.

- the particle size.

Particulate matter control.

Particulate matter is sum of all solid, liquid particles suspended in air, many of these particulate matter are hazardous.
Ex: dust, soot, smog, etc.

Selection of Controlling devices:

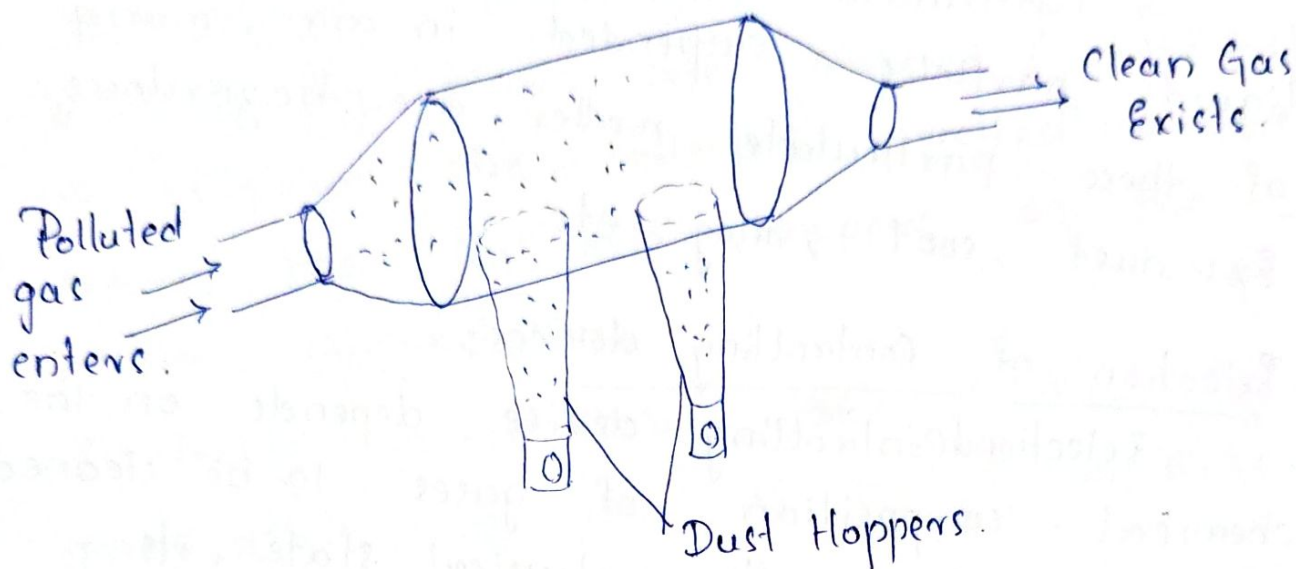
Selection of Controlling device depends on the chemical composition of gases to be cleaned & its temperature. Also physical state, its abrasive property, size, shape, chemical composition & electrical sensitivity is also considered for selection of controlling devices.

5 major group of controlling methods:

1. Settling chambers.
2. Inertial separator / Cyclonic collector.
3. Electrostatic precipitator.
4. Bag houses & filters.
5. Wet scrubbers.

I] Settling Chambers:

- * Simple device, which collects the particles of size greater than $10 \mu\text{m}$.
- * Settling chambers uses gravity force to remove solid particles.



The polluted gas enters the chamber where the velocity of gas is reduced. Large particles drop out of the gas due to gravity & collect in Hoppers. Settling chambers are effective in removing only larger particles.

In settling chamber, the size, shape of particles & density, viscosity are important parameters.

Electrostatic Precipitators:

* In electrostatic precipitators, the polluted air which contains particulate matter was passed between high voltage discharge electrodes.

* Many of particulate matters gets charged & collects on the collecting plates.

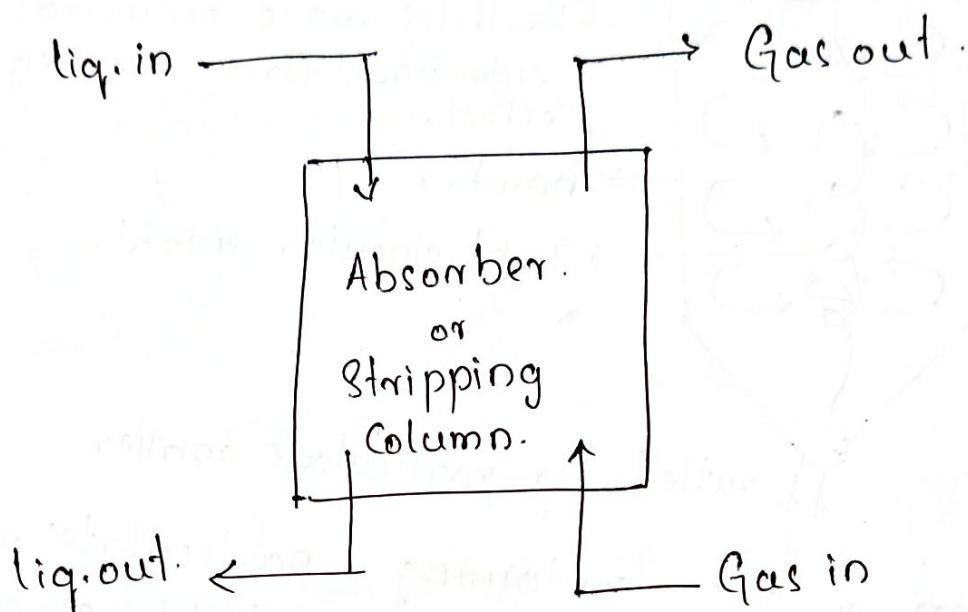
* At regular intervals, the discharge electrodes & collecting plates are rapped (or knock) to dislodge the collected particulate matter, which then fall into hoppers at the bottom of the precipitator.

* Electronic precipitators are efficient for the particulate matter of size below $0.01 \mu\text{m}$, can operate at high temperature

* Precipitators as high as 700°C .

method:

General mechanism of Scrubber:



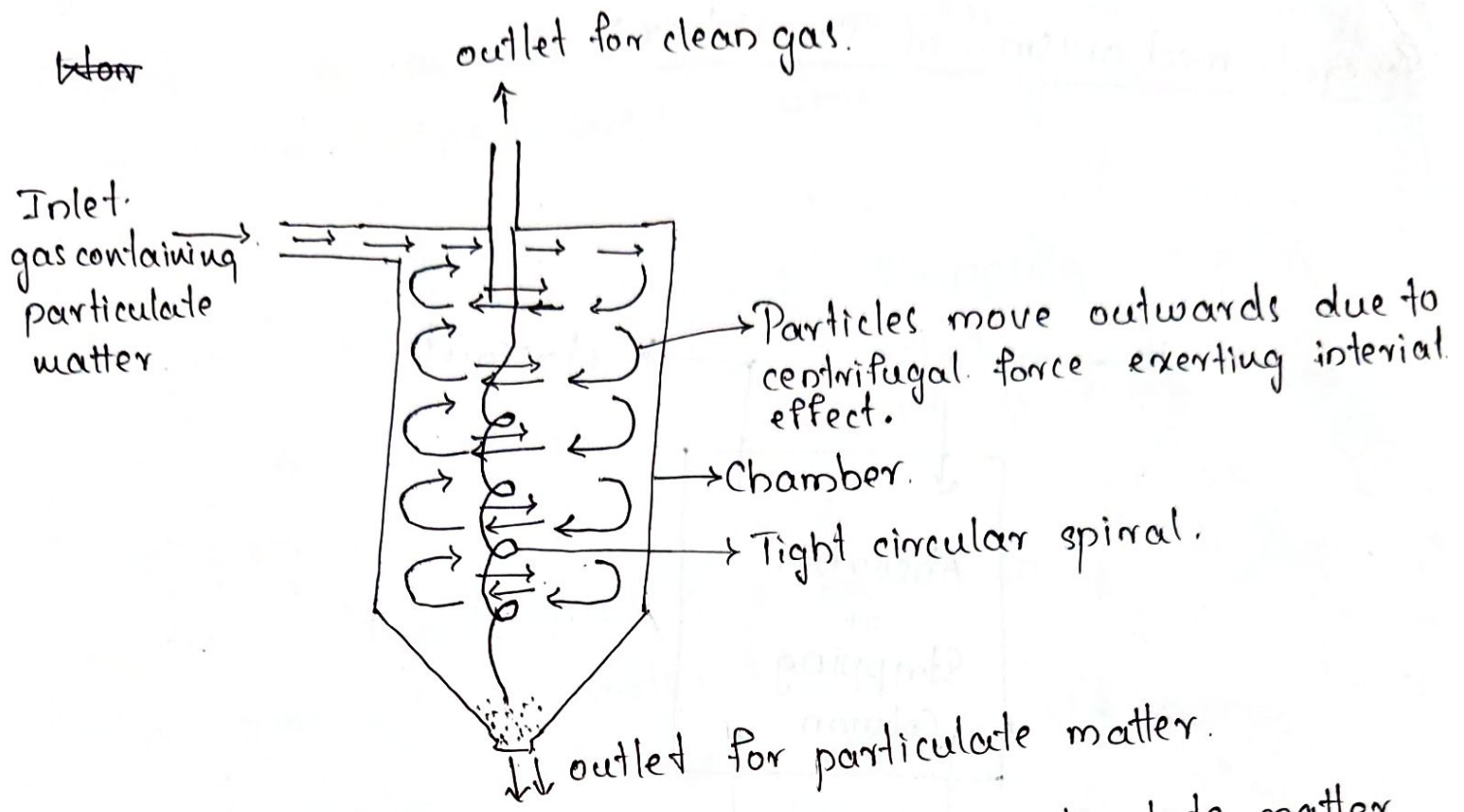
Absorber \rightarrow Can be any solid substance or gel which (Dry Scrubber) can absorb (or) react with pollutant to convert it into less toxic.

Stripping \rightarrow A Column which is used to flow of water. Column (Wet Scrubber).

Arrestors : I. \rightarrow Cyclone Collectors :

- * Cyclone collectors are used to pre-clean the air.
- * These collectors are based on principle that particulate present in gaseous stream possess greater inertia than that of gaseous molecules.

* Set up \rightarrow Consists of Chamber in which a tight circular spiral is fitted.



Working: When a gas containing particulate matter is allowed to flow into a tight circular spiral - fitted chamber.

- The particulate move away from the gas and move towards the chamber.
- From where they settle down due to the force of gravity.
- The collected particulates at the outlet and be taken out.
- And clean gas flows out of the chamber.

Efficiency: Cyclone collector is most efficient for the removal of particulates of size $5 - 20 \mu\text{m}$.

This cyclone collector is more effective than gravitational settling chamber, because the centrifugal force acting on the particles in spinning gas

- stream is much stronger than the force of gravity. ⁶
- Another advantage is it requires less space to handle the same volume of gas.

Scrubbers: Wet Scrubbers: - Stripping Columns are used.

- In Wet Scrubbers the liquid generally used is water.
- The exhaust gas is allowed to pass through a spray of water.
- The stream of water removes the particulates with it along with little gas pollutants.
- It is used to remove.
- Some times the water used can be mixed with lime.
- Lime reacts with sulphur dioxide to form a precipitate of calcium sulphate.

Efficiency ⇒ Efficiency of wet scrubber is greater than 75%.

Disadvantage ⇒ The waste water may cause water pollution.

Gaseous Pollutant Control method:

The removal methods used for gaseous pollutants are designed to concentrate the gaseous pollutants, or direct conversion by combustion. Selection of Process depends on pollutant chemistry, concentration, gas flowrate, temperature.

1. Absorption

4. Redox reactions.

2. Adsorption

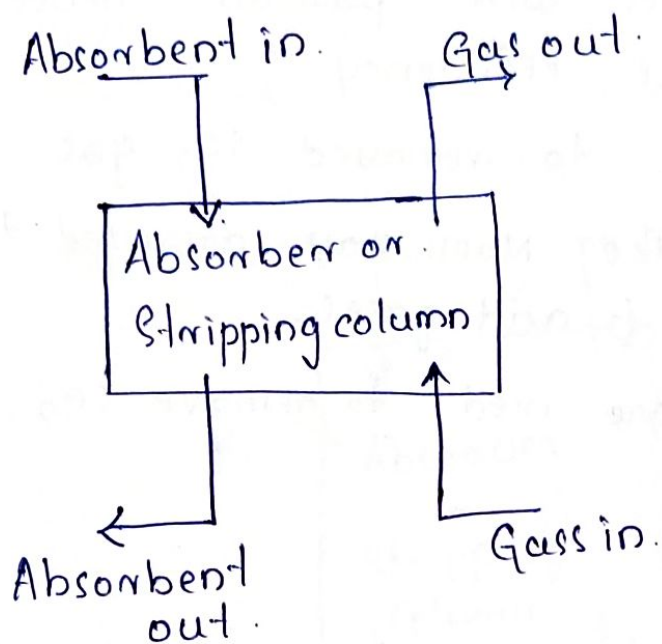
5. Condensation.

3. Combustion.

6. Catalytic processes.

1. Absorption: In this method gaseous pollutants are removed by dissolution into a liquid solvent. such as water, caustic solutions or acidic solutions. (most commonly used)

absorbent is water).



As gas streams is allowed to pass through liquid absorbent, the absorbent absorbs the gas.

Absorption is commonly used to purify the gas streams which contains high concentration of organic compounds.

Important points to be remembered in absorption.

- * Selection of suitable solvent which acts as absorbent.
- * Limits of absorption efficiency.
- * Selection of equipment for liquid-gas contact.
- * Capital cost of the unit.

Types of absorption:

1) Physical absorption: Uses water or any inert solvent as absorbent. Effective for highly soluble gases like NH_3 & HCl .

I. Chemical absorption:

Absorbent reacts with pollutant. hence increases the removal efficiency.

Ex: * Limestone is used to remove SO_2 gas.

* Alkali solutions like NaOH , KOH are used to remove H_2S gas & acid gases.

* Amine solvents are used to remove CO_2 .

II. Adsorption:

The gaseous pollutants. molecules adhere on the surface of the solid adsorbents through weak vanderwaals forces or by chemical bonding.

Common adsorbent used are:-

- ⇒ Zeolites
- ⇒ Activated Carbon
- ⇒ Silicic acid gel
- ⇒ Alumina.

III. Combustion: Combustion method can be used as a source to reduce the pollutant formation.

Important techniques used are.

- ⇒ Low- NO_x burners
- ⇒ Flue gas recirculation
- ⇒ low excess air operation.

: Water Pollution;

97% → In Salt ~~Ocean~~ Water, Oceans, Seas, some lakes & Groundwater.

2.4% ⇒ Glaciers & Ice Caps.

0.5% → Fresh water that is unavailable, or too far, may be underground or polluted.

Only 0.03% → Water to drink.

Defination: Water pollution is defined as the alternation in the physical, chemical or biological characteristics of water so that it either becomes health hazard or unfit for use.

- * Contamination of water bodies, usually as a result of human activities. Water bodies include for example lakes, rivers, oceans, groundwater.
- * Water is typically referred as polluted when it is impaired with antropogenic contaminants
- * Due to these contaminants, it either does not support a human use & undergo shift in its ability to support the biotic communities such as fish.

Types of Water Pollution:

1) Surface water pollution: Water over the surface of earth gets polluted.

2) Underground water pollution: Water below the earth's surface gets polluted.

Sources of Water Pollution:

1) Point Source

Point Source: Contaminants directly enter the water bodies from a single identifiable source, such as pipe or ditch.

Ex: - Sewage treatment plants

- factories.

- City ~~storm~~ storm drains.

2) Non-Point Source: Diffused contaminants that does not originate from a single source.

Ex: leaching out of nitrogen compounds from fertilized agricultural lands.

Point & non-point sources are broadly classified as

1) Domestic effluents

2) Industrial effluents.

3) Surface runoff

4) Waste heat.

1) Domestic Effluents: Waste waters are discharged in a common public sewage.

- Human & Animal Excreta.
- Organic matter in the form of food residue.
- Detergents
- large number of bacteria like faecal coliforms, Salmonella etc.

BOD \Rightarrow Biological Oxygen Demand:

Amount of dissolved oxygen needed by bacteria in decomposing the organic wastes present in water.

BOD increased - water is polluted.

BOD \propto to input of organic wastes.

Pure water BOD < 1 ppm.
Polluted water ≥ 5 ppm.

2) Industrial Effluents:

* Industries usually discharge waste water.

into ponds, lakes & rivers.

* Industrial waste water contains heavy metals

like - Mercury

- Lead

- Arsenic

- Copper

- Cadmium.

* Also contain Inorganic pollutants like.

- acid.

- alkalis

- bleaching liquids.

* Organic Pollutants like.

- Proteins

- Cellulose

- fibres

- putrescible organic matter.

3) Surface Runoff: Surface runoff from the flow of surface of field which contains fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, manures which brings a heavy loads of pollutants to water bodies.

- Fertilizers includes - phosphates
- nitrates
- Sulphates } of potassium.

Effects:

D Eutrophication: / Hypertrophication.

- when a water body becomes overly enriched with minerals & nutrients (nitrates from the fertilizers) which induces the excessive growth of algae.

- This process leads or results the oxygen depletion of the water.

6) Biomagnification: Refers to the condition where, there is an increase in the concentration of chemicals in the bodies of organisms which are present in water. So water becomes unfit.

4) Waste heat / Thermal water Pollution:

- * It is a rise in the temperature of water.
- * Thermal power plants & refineries use water as coolant, & discharge the hot water into nearby lakes, rivers & seas.

Effects of water pollution on Human:

- 1) Source of water borne diseases like diarrhoea, jaundice, cholera, typhoid, amoebiasis etc.
- 2) Mercury compounds in waste water are converted into extremely toxic by bacterial action, which can cause compound like methyl mercury, which can cause numbness of limbs, lips & tongue, deafness, blurring of vision & mental problems.
- Minamata disease (1952) → affects central nervous system.
- 3) Water contaminated with cadmium causes itai itai disease (a painful disease of bones & joints) & cancer of lungs & liver.

- 4) Excess of Nitrates in drinking water, dangerous to human health which reacts with haemoglobin of the blood & forms Methaemoglobin & impairs oxygen, transport. This condition is called blue ~~baby~~ ^{body} syndrome. (or) methaemoglobinaemia.
- 5) Excess of fluorides in drinking water causes neuromuscular disorders, gastrointestinal problems, teeth deformity, hardening of bones & stiff, painful joints. (Skeletal fluorosis).
- 6) Drinking of Arsenic polluted water causes black foot disease. It also causes diarrhoea, peripheral neuritis, hyperkeratosis & also numbness / tingling of hand & feet, lung & skin cancer. (thickening of skin in certain places).

Control Measures of Water Pollution:

- 1) Hot water should be cooled before the release.
- 2) Cleaning in tanks, streams & rivers
- 3) Proper use of ~~agricult~~ agrochemicals which will reduce their runoff & leaching.
- 4) Organic farming & efficient use of animal residues as fertilizers.
- 5) Use of nitrogen fixing plants.
- 6) Planting the tree will reduce the pollution & by sediments & will also prevent soil erosion.

7) The industrial wastes & toxic compounds should be purified before draining.

8) Waste water should be properly treated by primary & secondary treatments.

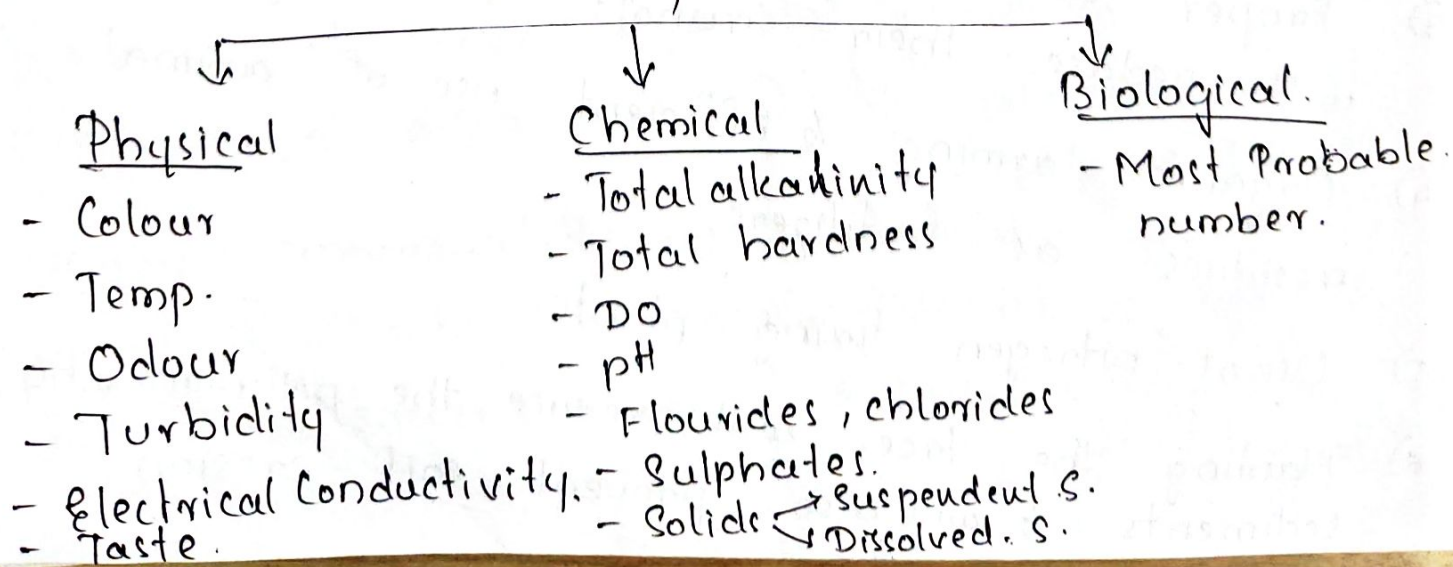
9) An aquatic weed water hyacinth which can purify the water by taking toxic chemicals & heavy metals.

Water Quality Index: Water Quality is checked by considering different parameters like.

- Colour
- Odour
- Taste
- pH
- Hardness etc.

By taking all these n no. of parameters & expressing in a single parameter is called water quality index.

Water Quality Parameters



∴ Each and every parameter has its own.

Std Permissible limit.

- Expressing all. Std permissible limits are expressed in single parameter i.e., called water quality index.

^{ee} The most effective way to describe all quality parameters of water as a single component to express suitability of water resources for human consumption is called WQI."

Water Pollution - Control methods.

I. Ecosystem Stabilization: Refers to restoring the natural balance & self-purifying capacity of aquatic environments after they have been stressed by pollutants. When pollutants enter water bodies, they disturb the biological communities, hence by reducing dissolved oxygen, and damages the food chain.

Ecosystem stabilization focuses on actions that can rebuild ecological structure & function so the ecosystem can once again regulate nutrients, degrade contaminants & support the biodiversity.

Key approaches

- Improving water quality to restore healthy microbial & algal populations.
- Re-establishing vegetation
- Enhancing habitat complexity.
- Increasing dissolved oxygen by aeration.

Overall, ecosystem stabilization strengthens natural resilience, enabling water bodies to maintain long term ecological health & sustain their essential purification processes.

II. Nanotechnology: For Environmental Remediation.

① Nano zero valent Iron: (nZVI)

These are tiny iron particles in the zero oxidation state (Fe^0). Because of their extremely small size & large surface area, they are highly reactive. They quickly interact with pollutant in water & breaks harmful chemicals. nZVI sticks to the pollutants such as dyes & heavy metals. And also reacts with metals like chromium, lead by converting them into insoluble solid forms, which settles down in the water & can be removed easily.

② Metal Oxide & Carbon-Based Nanomaterials.

Common nanomaterials used are.

→ Metal oxide = TiO_2 , ZnO .

→ Carbon based = Graphene, CNTs (carbon-nanotubes).

* TiO_2 , ZnO uses sunlight by producing reactive $\cdot\text{OH}$ radical, which breaks down the organic pollutants like dyes, pesticides, pharmaceutical residues. These metal oxides can also interact with pathogens like bacteria.

* CNTs have high surface area, which allow them to trap heavy metals, organics & microbes.

③ Nanofiltration (NF) Membranes;

Nanofiltration is a pressure driven process. The pore size is in between ultrafiltration & reverse osmosis (RO). These membranes are capable of removing divalent ions like Pb^{2+} , Cd^{2+} , Cr^{2+} & Colour, pathogens & some large organics. Nanofiltration uses very less energy. compared to RO.

III. Advanced Oxidation Processes (AOPs).

In AOPs, a super reactive particle called hydroxyl radical ($\cdot OH$) is used, which acts as super cleaner by breaking down many organic pollutants. These radicals are strong enough to break complex molecules into simple, harmless compounds like H_2O & CO_2 . & this process is called Mineralization.

Hydroxyl radical can be prepared by.

- Reacting Hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) with UV light.
- Fenton reaction ($Iron + H_2O_2$).
- $Iron + H_2O_2 + UV$ light.
- Photocatalysts + H_2O_2 .

IV. Bioaugmentation: means by using good microbes. cleaning the wastewater in a faster & a better way.

- In this method, bacteria (or) fungi like Bacillus & Pseudomonas are used to treat wastewater. These microbes eat & break down the harmful organic pollutants, reduces the toxicity of wastewater. The added microbes must fit in with the existing microbial community, or the process won't work properly.

V. Ion Exchange Processes.

Resins & Zeolites act like filters that attract & remove harmful ions from water. Resins & zeolite pick & trap the specific ions from water, these work through ion exchange process. (means swapping bad ions in water with harmless ions on their surface).

Recycling of the Waste water by Reclamation:

Reclamation means cleaning wastewater so that it can be used again safely.

Reclamation is done in 3 steps.

1) Primary [Removes Solid].

2) Secondary [Uses of microbes to remove organic matter].

3) Tertiary [Advanced cleaning].

Strict laws & Regulations, Public awareness.

Government create laws, rules & standards to control water pollution.

The most important is.

- Water Prevention & Control of Pollution Act, 1974 -
→ Supported by Water cess Act, 1977, which encourages industries to use & treat water responsibly.
- Environment Protection Act 1986 - provides wide power to set discharge standards & regulate pollutants.
- Policies like National water Policy (2012) promotes conservation, recycling & sustainable water use.
- Coastal Regulation Zone Rules (2011).
- Wetlands Rules (2016).
- Biomedical Waste Management Rules (2016).
- Hazardous & other waste management & transboundary movement Rules (2016).



AQI: Air Quality Index.

* AQI is a general & easy approach to judge the quality of air.

* launched in 2014 by Environmental Minister Mr. Prakash Javadekar under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Principle behind AQI - One number - One Colour - One description.

"AQI is a number used by government agencies to communicate to the public how polluted the air currently is or how polluted it is forecast to become."

Salient features of AQI:

- 1) The measurement of AQI is based on 8 pollutants like PM_{10} , $PM_{2.5}$, SO_2 , NO_2 , O_3 , CO , NH_3 & lead.
- 2) There are six categories for eight parameters (pollutants).
- 3) AQI system was recommended by IIT Kanpur.

4) The measurement is limited to 24 hours & 8 hours for CO & O₃.

Air Quality Index

AQI Category
& colour

Index
value

Description of air quality.

Good
Green

0 to 50

Air quality is satisfactory and air pollution poses little or no risk.

Moderate
Yellow

51 to 100

Air quality is acceptable, however, there may be a risk for some people.

Unhealthy
Orange

101 to 150

Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects.

Unhealthy
Red

151 to 200

Some members of general public may experience health effects.

Very unhealthy

201 to 300

Health alert.

Purple

Hazardous

301 & higher

Health warning, emergency conditions.

Maroon