

AIR POLLUTION

Air pollution primarily ~~very~~ results from burning of fossils fuel, coal, and petroleum, in industries and automobiles, they are harmful, animals and plants, and therefore must be removed to keep air clean.

We are dependent on air for our respiratory needs. Air pollutants cause injury to all living organisms. They reduce growth and yield of crops and cause premature death of plants. Air pollutants also deleteriously affect the respiratory system of humans and of animals. Harmful effects depend on the concentration of pollutants, duration of exposure and the organisms.

Smokestacks of thermal power plants, smelters and other industries release particulate and gaseous air pollutants together with harmless gases, such as nitrogen, oxygen etc. These pollutants must be separated / filtered out before releasing the harmless gases into the atmosphere.

There are several ways of removing particular matter, the most widely used of which is the electrostatic precipitator which can remove over 99 percent particulate matter present in the exhaust from a thermal power plant. It has electrode wires that are maintained at several thousand volts, which produce a corona that release electrons. According to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Particulate size

date

2.5 micrometers or less in diameter (PM 2.5) are responsible for causing the greatest harm to human health.

These fine particulates can be inhaled deep into the lungs and can cause breathing and respiratory symptoms, irritation, inflammations and damage to the lungs and premature deaths.

In the 1990s, Delhi ranked fourth among the 41 most polluted cities of the world. Air pollution problems in Delhi became so serious that a public interest litigation (PIL) was filed in the supreme court, under directives, the government was asked to take, within a specified time period, appropriate measures, including switching over the entire fleet of public transport, buses from diesel to compressed natural gas (CNG).

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