Sub: Environmental Studies.

For B.A.2nd and 4th Sem.

Topic: Air Pollution

Today the air is polluted to a great extent. Air pollution is an atmospheric condition in which certain substances (including the normal constituents in excess) are present in concentrations which can cause undesirable effects on man and his environment. These substances include gases, particulate matter, radioactive substances, etc. Sources of Air Pollution: The air may become polluted by natural causes and manmade causes. The natural causes of Air pollution is such as volcanoes eruption which release ash, dust sulphur and other gases, forest fires, dust storm and cyclones. The man made air pollutions are emission from vehicles and industries, bursting of crackers during the day of Diwali and kalipuja and the ceremonies and festivals.

Effects of Air Pollution:

Air pollution has adverse effects on living organism. Elderly people, infants, pregnant women and people with heart diseases, asthma or other respiratory diseases are especially vulnerable to air pollution. Cigarette smokers are highly exposed to carbon monoxide which may dizziness, unconsciousness and even death. Many volatile organic compounds and toxic particulates can cause mutations, reproductive problems or cancer.   Air Pollutants destroy chlorophyll and affect photosynthesis in plants. Air pollutants also mix up with rain which can cause high acidity in fresh water lakes affecting aquatic life especially fish.

 Control of Air pollution:

Air pollution can be minimized by adopting the following measures-

(1) sitting of industries after proper environmental impact assessment studies.

(2) Using low sulphur coal in industries.

(3) Removing sulphur from coal by washing.

(4) Removing oxides of nitrogen during combustion process.

(5) Vehicles can be checked by regular tune- up of engines and replacement of more polluting old vehicles by new engine.

(6) Using mass transport system, bicycles, etc.

(7) Shifting to less polluting fuels (hydrogen gas).

(8) Implementing effectively the Air Prevention and control of pollution Act. 1981(amended in 1987).