



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY



AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION

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COIMBATORE

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING

19CEB201 – CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

II YEAR / III SEMESTER

Unit 1 : Stones – Bricks – Building Blocks

Topic 3 : Tests on Stones



Tests on Stones

- There are various tests on building stones to know its properties and suitability for various construction works.
- Tests on building stones provides physical and chemical properties as well as strength and hardness properties.



Tests on Stones

Following are different tests on building stones:

1. Acid test
2. Attrition test
3. Crushing test
4. Crystalline test
5. Freezing and thawing test
6. Hardness Test
7. Impact test
8. Water absorption test
9. Microscopic Test
10. Smith's Test



Acid Test

- This test is carried out to understand the presence of **calcium carbonate** in building stone.
- A sample of stone weighing about 50 to 100 gm is taken.
- It is placed in a solution of **hydrochloric acid** having strength of one percent and is kept there for seven days. Solution is agitated at intervals.
- A good building stone maintains its sharp edges and keeps its surface free from powder at the end of this period.
- If the edges are broken and powder is formed on the surface, it indicates the presence of calcium carbonate and such a stone will have poor weathering quality.
- This test is usually carried out on sandstones.



Acid Test





Attrition Test

- This test is done to find out the rate of wear of stones, which are used in road construction.
- The results of the test indicates the resisting power of stones against the grinding action under traffic.
- **The following procedure is adopted:**
 - ❖ Samples of stones is broken into pieces about 60mm size.
 - ❖ Such pieces, weighing 5 kg are put in both the cylinders of Deval's attrition test machine. Diameter and length of cylinder are respectively 20 cm and 34 cm.



Attrition Test

- ❖ Cylinders are closed. Their axes make an angle of 30 degree with the horizontal.
- ❖ Cylinders are rotated about the horizontal axis for 5 hours at the rate of 30 rpm.
- ❖ After this period, the contents are taken out from the cylinders and they are passed through a sieve of 1.5mm mesh.
- ❖ Quality of material which is retained on the sieve is weighed.
- ❖ Percentage wear worked out as follows:

$$\text{Percentage wear} = (\text{Loss in Weight}/\text{Initial Weight}) \times 100$$

- Maximum abrasion value is 30%



Attrition Test



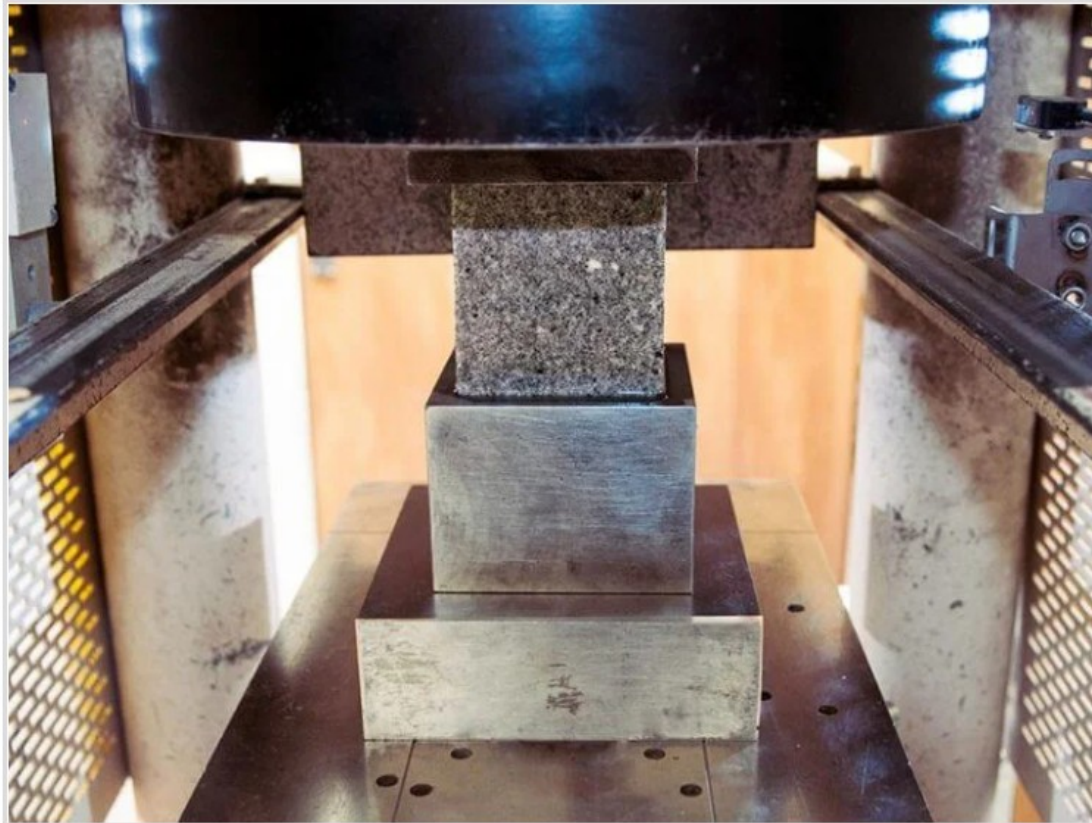


Crushing Strength Test

- ✓ For conducting this test, a specimen of size $40 \times 40 \times 40$ mm is prepared from parent stone.
- ✓ Afterward, the sides are finely dressed and placed in water for three days.
- ✓ The saturated specimen is provided with a layer of Plaster of Paris on its top also bottom surfaces to get even surface so that load applied is distributed uniformly.
- ✓ Uniform load distribution could be obtained satisfactorily by providing a pair of 5 mm thick plywood instead of using Plaster of Paris layer also.
- ✓ The specimen so placed in the compression testing machine is loaded in the rate of 14 N/mm^2 per minute. The crushing load is noted.
- ✓ Then crushing strength is equal to this crushing load divided by the area where the load is applied.
- ✓ At least three specimens must be tested, and the average ought to be taken as crushing strength.



Crushing Strength Test





Crystalline Test

- To determine the durability or weathering quality of the stone.
- At least four cubes of stone with side as 40 mm are taken. They are dried for 72 hours and weighted.
- They are then immersed in a 14% solution of Na_2SO_4 for 2 hours.
- They are dried at 100 degrees C and weighted. The difference in weight is noted.
- This the procedure of drying, weighing, immersion, and reweighting is repeated at least 5 times.
- Each time, a change in weight noted, and it is expressed as a percentage of the original weight.



Freezing and Thawing Test

- Stone specimen is kept immersed in water for 24 hours.
- It is then placed in a freezing machine at -12 degC for 24 hours.
- Then it is thawed or warmed at atmospheric temperature.
- This should be done in shade to prevent any effect due to wind, sun rays, rain etc. this procedure is repeated several times and the behaviour of stone is carefully observed.



Thank You!!