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Manhole Monitoring System

Dr.Rashmi R
Computer Science and Engineering
Vemana Institute of Technology Bangalore, India
Sashwitha K, Vidhya V, Vinay CP, Nikhil Reddy HR
Computer Science and Engineering
Vemana Institute of Technology Bangalore, India
sashwitha284@gmail.com, vidhuv040@gmail.com, vinaypatgar626@gmail.com
nikhilreddy9955@gmail.com

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Abstract: A smart city is the future goal to have cleaner and better amenities for the society. Smart underground infrastructure is an important feature to be considered while implementing a smart city. Drainage system monitoring plays a vital role in keeping the city clean and healthy. Since manual monitoring is incompetent, this leads to slow handling of problems in drainage and consumes more time to solve. To mitigate all these issues, the system using a wireless sensor network, consisting of sensor nodes is designed. The proposed system is low cost, low maintenance, IoT based real time which alerts the managing station through a message when any manhole crosses its threshold values. This system reduces the death risk of manual scavengers who clean the underground drainage and also benefits the public. Nowadays, accidents due to broken and missing manhole covers are quite frequent. Manholes are not monitored properly in developing countries. These accidents can lead to serious injuries and also death. Hence, here we propose a system to overcome this problem. We have included an array of sensors for complete monitoring of the manhole cover so that such accidents can be prevented. This project includes a gas cover to monitor the gas emitted from the sewage systems so that toxicity can be monitored, the internal temperature is also monitored if a check for a change in the temperature as the property of manhole change.

I. INTRODUCTION

An integral part of any drainage system is the access points that facilitate cleaning, clearing, and inspection. Metropolitan cities, which typically rely on underground drainage systems, face numerous challenges in maintaining their cleanliness. If sewage maintenance is not performed adequately, it can lead to the contamination of groundwater, causing infectious diseases and posing serious public health risks. Blockages in drainage systems, especially during the monsoon season, can disrupt the daily lives of the public, creating traffic issues and unhygienic conditions. Addressing these challenges requires innovative solutions that enhance the efficiency and responsiveness of municipal corporations in managing drainage systems. To tackle these issues, this project proposes an Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled drainage monitoring system. The system aims to automate the detection of potential problems such as water blockages, overflow, and toxic gas accumulation inside manholes. The IoT framework uses sensors strategically installed at the intersections of drainage nodes to monitor various parameters. These sensors detect anomalies such as variations in water flow rates, changes in water levels, temperature fluctuations, and the presence of hazardous gases. Once an issue is identified, the system immediately sends an alert to the concerned authorities via an IoT module, enabling quick action.

The primary feature of this system is the detection of drainage water blockages. Flow rate sensors are installed at key nodes within the drainage system. When a blockage occurs, the flow rate in the affected node deviates significantly from the normal value. If the flow rate exceeds or drops below a predefined threshold, an alert is generated and displayed at the managing station. Similarly, temperature sensors monitor environmental changes within the manhole. Sudden or extreme temperature variations can indicate dangerous conditions, such as a potential gas explosion. These sensors also alert the managing station about such hazards, allowing for immediate intervention. Apart from detecting blockages and temperature changes, the system addresses the problem of drainage overflow. Overflow sensors are used to monitor water levels in real time. If the water level rises beyond the safe limit, an automatic message is sent to the municipal authorities. Toxic gas sensors are another critical component of the system. These sensors detect harmful gases that may accumulate inside the manhole, posing risks to workers and residents. By providing early warnings, these sensors help prevent accidents and ensure safety. The proposed system comprises essential components such as a microcontroller for processing sensor data, memory for storing critical information, a transceiver for transmitting data, and a battery to provide power. Together, these components enable continuous monitoring and alerting capabilities.

By addressing issues such as blockages, overflows, temperature variations, and toxic gas accumulation, this project offers a comprehensive solution to the problems associated with underground sanitation. Implementing such a system in metropolitan cities can significantly improve public health, safety, and the overall efficiency of municipal drainage maintenance.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Manhole monitoring has become a critical aspect of urban infrastructure management to ensure public safety, improve efficiency, and mitigate hazards associated with drainage systems. IoT-based solutions are gaining traction as they utilize sensors and communication technologies to monitor real-time conditions in manholes. These systems detect anomalies like blockages, overflow, toxic gas concentrations, and temperature variations, transmitting alerts to managing authorities for timely action. The inclusion of water flow rate sensors, gas detectors, and temperature sensors enhances the system's ability to address issues proactively. Research highlights the benefits of improved safety, reduced manual labour, and real-time monitoring, though challenges like initial costs, sensor maintenance, and dependency on connectivity persist. Studies have explored specific aspects, such as the root causes of manhole explosions, emphasizing the need for preventive strategies against ignition from flammable gases and electrical faults. Additionally, portable gas detection units provide low-cost, selective solutions for toxic gas identification, offering rapid response capabilities to prevent worker exposure. GSM and IoT technologies have been employed to create secure monitoring systems, ensuring the detection of manhole openings, overflow, and other hazards, with alerts sent directly to municipal corporations. Simulation-based research further delves into the thermodynamic conditions of manhole explosions, providing actionable insights for designing robust restraint systems. While these technologies have significantly enhanced operational efficiency and safety, limitations like environmental impact on sensors, high initial investments, and scalability issues remain challenges for widespread adoption. Despite these hurdles, IoT-based manhole monitoring systems represent a transformative approach, addressing the pressing need for safer, smarter urban drainage solutions. The integration of advanced sensors, IoT modules, and real-time communication frameworks underscores the potential of technology to revolutionize public infrastructure management. The theoretical foundation for Manhole monitoring system is structured around six key methodologies:

- **Sensor-Based Detection:** Monitors water flow, gas levels, and temperature to identify blockages, toxic gases, or overflows.
- **IoT-Enabled Communication:** Transmits real-time alerts to authorities through IoT modules for timely action.
- **GSM Technology for Alerts:** Sends SMS or calls to notify municipal bodies about hazards like manhole displacements or overflows.
- **Portable Gas** Detection Units: Identifies toxic gases quickly, raising alarms to protect workers during inspections.
- **Integrated Safety Systems:** Combines local buzzers and remote alerts to warn both nearby pedestrians and authorities.
- **Simulation-Based Analysis:** Uses computational simulations to model and analyze manhole explosions caused by electrical faults or gas leaks. This approach provides insights into thermodynamic conditions and guides the design of robust safety systems.

Despite advancements in sensors, several critical challenges remain unaddressed, which our projects aims to overcome:

1. **Enhanced connectivity solution:** Implement hybrid communication technologies like LoRaWAN, 5G, or mesh networks to ensure reliable data transmission even in areas with poor connectivity. This improves the system's effectiveness in real-time monitoring.
2. **Durable Sensor Design:** Design sensors with weather-resistant materials and self-calibration features to withstand harsh environments and reduce frequent maintenance needs, ensuring long-term reliability.
3. **Cost-Effective Implementations:** Adopt modular and scalable approaches, allowing phased deployments to lower upfront costs while enabling urban authorities to expand the system as needed.
4. **Comprehensive Data Analytics:** Incorporate AI and machine learning to analyze sensor data for accurate anomaly detection and predictive maintenance, minimizing false alarms and optimizing responses.

The literature survey highlights the growing importance of IoT-based manhole monitoring systems in addressing urban infrastructure challenges, focusing on safety, operational efficiency, and environmental sustainability. The reviewed studies emphasize the role of advanced sensor technologies, including water flow sensors, gas detectors, and temperature monitors, in providing real-time data on manhole conditions. These systems effectively detect blockages, toxic gases, and overflow situations, alerting municipal authorities through IoT and GSM technologies to ensure timely interventions. Portable gas detection units, as explored in the literature, offer an added layer of protection for workers by instantly identifying hazardous gases, enhancing safety during maintenance tasks. Each study underscores the advantages of adopting IoT-based systems, including reduced reliance on manual inspections, improved response times, and enhanced public safety. However, challenges such as high initial costs, network dependency, sensor maintenance, and scalability limitations are consistently noted. Addressing these limitations through hybrid connectivity solutions like LoRaWAN and 5G, robust and weather-resistant sensor designs, and modular deployment strategies can pave the way for more practical and widespread implementation. The survey also reveals a focus on understanding and mitigating the risks associated with manhole explosions. Studies on thermodynamic and chemical interactions provide valuable insights into the root causes of these incidents, guiding the development of safer manhole structures and preventive measures. While theoretical analyses contribute significantly to understanding these phenomena, practical applications and validation remain necessary for real-world implementation.

In addition, GSM-based systems are highlighted for their cost-effectiveness and ease of deployment, especially in resource-constrained urban areas. The combination of local alert mechanisms, such as buzzers, and remote notification capabilities offers a dual-layered approach to safety, benefiting both nearby pedestrians and municipal authorities. This integrated approach underscores the importance of collaboration between technology and public infrastructure management in creating safer urban environments. In conclusion, the literature survey illustrates the transformative potential of IoT in revolutionizing manhole monitoring systems. By addressing the shortcomings of traditional methods and leveraging advanced technologies, these systems offer a proactive, efficient, and sustainable solution for urban drainage management.

III. METHODOLOGY

The proposed IoT-based manhole monitoring system employs an array of sensors and communication modules to ensure comprehensive monitoring and real-time alerting for municipal infrastructure management. Key parameters, such as gas concentration, water level, temperature, and the tilt of the manhole cover, are continuously monitored using sensors like MQ4 gas sensors, DHT11 temperature and humidity sensors, water level sensors, and tilt sensors. A microcontroller (Arduino Mega) processes the collected data and compares it against predefined thresholds to identify anomalies, including hazardous gas levels, overflow conditions, and cover displacement
.The system depends on various parameters, including:

- **Sensor Data Collection:** Sensors (e.g., gas, water level, temperature, tilt) monitor key manhole parameters in real-time to ensure comprehensive surveillance.
- **Data Processing:** Microcontrollers process sensor data, comparing readings against preset thresholds to detect anomalies like gas leaks or lid displacement.
- **Communication and Alerts:** Anomalies trigger alerts sent to municipal authorities via GSM, incorporating GPS for precise location data.
- **Remote Monitoring:** Data from sensors is uploaded to a remote server for continuous monitoring and historical analysis.
  By integrating these factors, manhole detection dynamically improve sensing the physical factors which are occurring inside of the manhole.

1. Model Architecture

An underground drainage monitoring system will not only help in maintaining the proper health and safety of the city but also in reducing the work of governmentpersonnel.Varioustypesofsensors(flow,level,temperatureandgas sensors) are interfaced with microcontroller Arduino Uno in order to make the system smart. When the respective sensors reach the threshold level, the indication of that respective value and sensor is being sent to the microcontroller. Furthermore, Arduino Uno then sends the signal and location of the manhole to the municipal corporation through GSM and GPS and the officials could easily locate which manhole is having the problem and could take appropriate steps.

2. Training Phases and Experimental Setup

The project involves implementing systems that utilize an array of sensors to monitor conditions such as gas emissions, temperature changes, and tilt in manhole covers. The training phase includes designing and programming the microcontrollers to:

- Detect hazardous conditions such as gas leaks, water level rises, and temperature anomalies.
- Trigger alerts based on thresholds, notifying users or managing stations.

Key components during the training phase include:

Programming Sensors and Microcontrollers:

- Use embedded C and the Arduino IDE to program microcontrollers like Arduino Mega or Arduino UNO.
- Write efficient code to interface with sensors (e.g., gas, temperature, water level, tilt).
- Implement data acquisition, processing, and decision-making algorithms.

3. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

Arduino is a prototype platform (open-source) based on an easy-to-use hardware and software. It consists of a circuit board, which can be programed (referred to as a microcontroller) and ready-made software called Arduino IDE (Integrated Development Environment), which is used to write and upload the computer code to the physical board. Arduino provides a standard form factor that breaks the functions of the micro-controller into a more accessible package. A program for Arduino may be written in any programming language for a compiler that produces binary machine code for the target processor. Atmel provides a development environment for their microcontrollers, AVR Studio and the newer Atmel Studio.

The Arduino project provides the Arduino integrated development environment (IDE), which is a cross-platform application written in the programming language Java. It originated from the IDE for the languages Processing and Wiring. It includes a code editor with features such as text cutting and pasting, searching and replacing text, automatic indenting, brace matching, and syntax highlighting, and provides simple one-click mechanisms to compile and upload programs to an Arduino board. It also contains a message area, a text console, a toolbar with buttons for common functions and a hierarchy of operation menus. A program written with the IDE for Arduino is called a sketch. Sketches are saved on the development computer as text files with the file extension.

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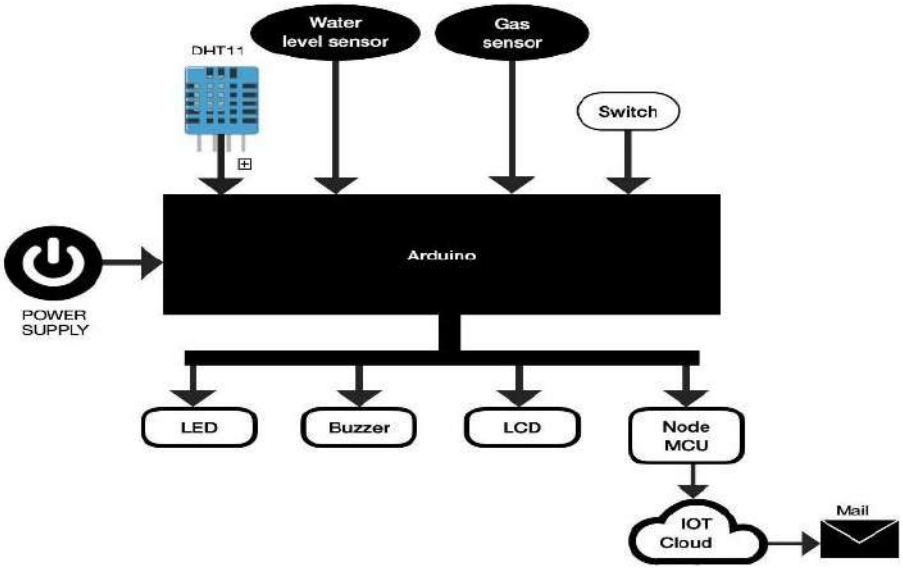

Figure 1 System Architecture of Manhole Monitoring System

IV. RESULTS

A manhole monitoring system revolutionizes the way underground infrastructure is managed by offering continuous, real-time insights into environmental and structural conditions. Equipped with sensors for detecting hazardous gases like methane (CH□) and hydrogen sulfide (H□S), the system ensures early identification of potential risks to both workers and the surrounding environment. It monitors water levels to prevent flooding, while temperature and humidity sensors safeguard against conditions that could damage internal components such as cables or machinery. Security is also enhanced by detecting unauthorized access or structural displacements, thereby mitigating risks of tampering or damage. The system's data-driven approach enables detailed trend analysis, offering invaluable insights into patterns of gas concentration, water level fluctuations, and environmental changes over time. Predictive maintenance becomes a reality, as historical data allows infrastructure managers to schedule repairs proactively, reducing downtime and preventing costly failures. Automated alerts and comprehensive event logs provide instant notifications and a reliable record for audits, compliance checks, and post-incident evaluations. In addition to improving safety and operational efficiency, the system significantly reduces operational costs by minimizing the need for frequent manual inspections. It ensures compliance with stringent safety and environmental regulations, demonstrating a commitment to sustainable and resilient infrastructure management. The result is a smarter, safer, and more efficient way to manage manholes and underground utilities, ultimately contributing to better urban infrastructure and public safety.

1. Environmental Monitoring Results

- **Gas Detection:** Accurate real-time data on hazardous gases like methane (CH□), hydrogen sulfide (H□S), and oxygen (O□) levels.
- **Water Level Monitoring:** Real-time alerts for rising water levels, indicating flooding or drainage system issues.
- **Temperature and Humidity:** Continuous monitoring of internal conditions to prevent overheating of cables or other equipment.

2. Operational Insights

- **Intrusion Alerts:** Detection of unauthorized access via motion or lid-opening sensors.
- **Structural Integrity Monitoring:** Notifications on manhole lid displacement or structural damage due to external forces.
- **System Health Diagnostics:** Data about the performance and maintenance needs of the monitoring equipment itself.

3. Data Analytics and Reporting

- **Trend Analysis:** Graphical reports of gas concentration variations, water level changes, and historical environmental conditions.
- **Predictive Maintenance:** Insights into when maintenance is required based on historical trends, reducing costs and preventing failures.
- **Event Logs:** Comprehensive records of all alerts and events for audits and post-incident analysis.

4. Benefits of the System

- **Safety Improvements:** Reduced risk for workers and the public due to early hazard detection.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Automated alerts reduce manual inspection requirements.
- **Cost Reduction:** Preventive monitoring minimizes costly emergency repairs.
- **Compliance Assurance:** Meets regulatory requirements for hazardous environments.

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The deployment of a manhole monitoring system transforms infrastructure management into a proactive and intelligent process, ensuring continuous surveillance and safety. These systems are equipped to monitor a range of critical factors, including toxic gas concentrations, water accumulation, and environmental conditions such as temperature and humidity. By detecting hazards early, they not only protect workers and the public but also prevent damage to sensitive equipment housed within manholes. Additionally, advanced intrusion detection features help monitor unauthorized access or tampering, ensuring the security of critical infrastructure. Through the integration of IoT technologies, the system provides real-time alerts and supports remote monitoring, enabling immediate responses to any anomalies. This level of automation and insight drastically reduces manual inspections, lowers maintenance costs, and enhances the reliability of underground utility networks. As cities grow and infrastructure demands increase, manhole monitoring systems represent a forward-thinking solution to maintain safety, efficiency, and sustainability in urban environments. One of the key advantages of these systems is their ability to leverage data analytics for long-term infrastructure planning and management. By analyzing trends in collected data, they enable predictive maintenance, reducing unexpected failures and optimizing resource allocation. Historical data logs further aid in regulatory compliance, incident analysis, and strategic decision-making. These systems also contribute to sustainability efforts by minimizing energy consumption through efficient operations and reducing the environmental impact of emergency repairs. As urban areas continue to expand and aging infrastructure becomes more challenging to maintain, manhole monitoring systems provide a scalable solution. They integrate seamlessly with smart city initiatives, supporting centralized monitoring and control through IoT-enabled platforms. By transforming manholes from passive infrastructure components into intelligent systems, they enhance safety, operational resilience, and overall urban efficiency, making them indispensable for modern cities. Their integration with IoT technology allows remote monitoring and control, enabling rapid response to anomalies and reducing the need for manual inspections. Additionally, their data-driven capabilities facilitate predictive maintenance, optimizing resource utilization and minimizing unexpected breakdowns. As urbanization accelerates, these systems play a critical role in ensuring the reliability and sustainability of utility networks, safeguarding public health, and contributing to the development of smarter, more resilient cities.

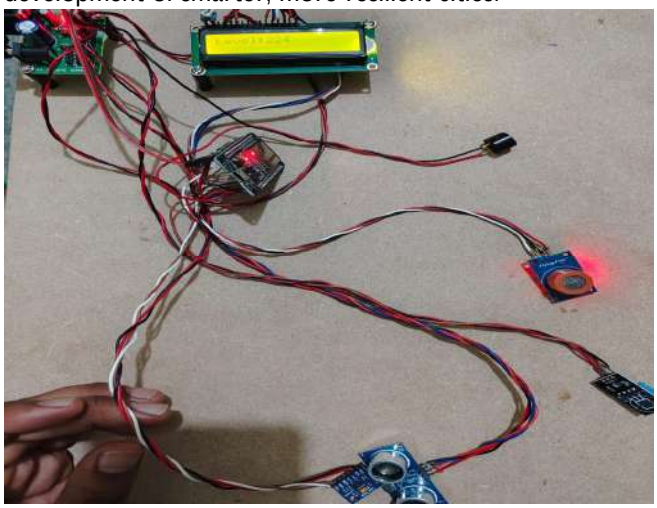

Fig 2 Initial Level

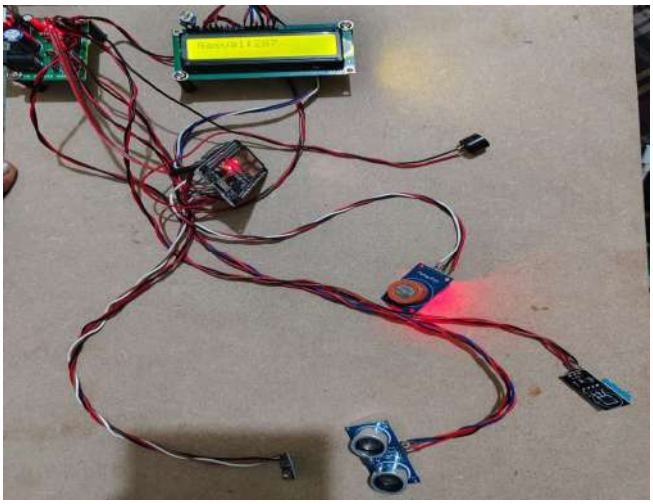

Fig 3 Humidity

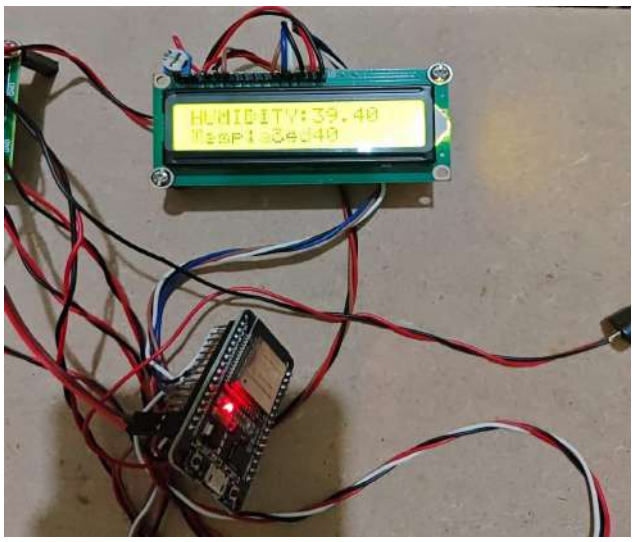

Fig 4 Notification via Chat Bot

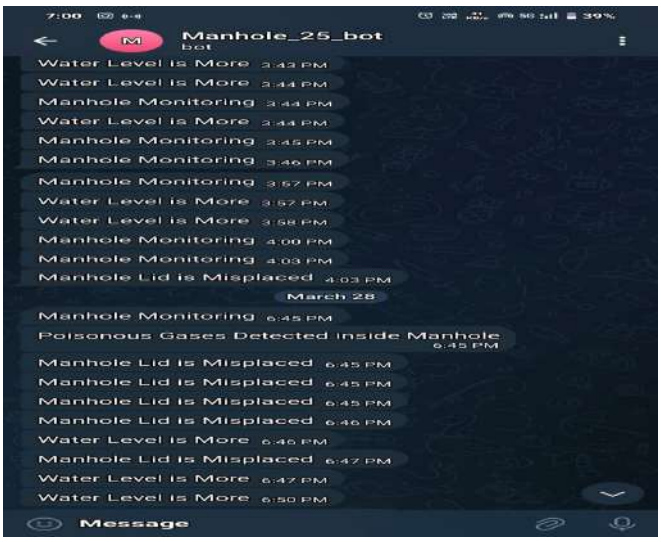

Fig 5 Gas Level

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V. CONCLUSION

The adoption of manhole monitoring systems marks a significant leap forward in the efficient and safe management of critical underground infrastructure. These systems address long-standing challenges by providing continuous, real-time data on environmental conditions, structural integrity, and security, ensuring hazards like toxic gas buildup, water intrusion, or unauthorized access are detected early. By leveraging advanced sensor technology, IoT connectivity, and data analytics, they enable proactive maintenance and streamlined operations, significantly reducing costs and the need for manual interventions. Furthermore, these systems enhance urban infrastructure's resilience by integrating seamlessly with broader smart city frameworks, facilitating centralized monitoring and rapid decision-making. Their capacity for trend analysis and predictive insights ensures that maintenance and resource allocation are not just reactive but forward-looking, minimizing downtime and extending the lifespan of utility networks. As cities continue to expand and infrastructure ages, the role of manhole monitoring systems becomes increasingly indispensable, safeguarding public health, protecting assets, and contributing to the creation of sustainable, intelligent urban environments for future generations. IoT connectivity, and data-driven analytics, these systems provide a comprehensive solution to a wide range of challenges, from hazardous gas detection to structural integrity assessment and security monitoring. Their ability to deliver real-time alerts and actionable insights empowers authorities to respond swiftly to potential risks, ensuring the safety of workers, the public, and the environment. Moreover, the data captured by these systems supports predictive maintenance strategies, reducing unexpected failures and optimizing operational efficiency. The scalability and adaptability of manhole monitoring systems make them a vital component of smart city initiatives, promoting sustainable development and efficient resource utilization. As urban centers face the dual pressures of population growth and aging infrastructure, these systems not only address immediate operational needs but also pave the way for long-term resilience and reliability. By transforming manholes from static components into intelligent, self-monitoring assets, these systems contribute to safer, smarter, and more sustainable urban environments, making them an indispensable tool for the future of urban planning and infrastructure management.

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