

Ammonia

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Ammonia Latest News

Recently, an ammonia gas leak at a seafood processing and export unit in Tamil Nadu's Tiruvallur district impacted many people.

About Ammonia

- It is a **colorless, pungent gas** composed of nitrogen and hydrogen with **the formula NH₃**.
- **Properties:** Ammonia gas can be **dissolved in water**. This kind of ammonia is called liquid ammonia or aqueous ammonia. Once exposed to open air, liquid ammonia quickly turns into a gas.
- It exists naturally in humans and in the environment.
- In the environment, **ammonia is part of the nitrogen cycle** and is produced in soil from bacterial processes.
- Ammonia is also produced naturally from **decomposition of organic matter**, including plants and animals.
- **Industrial production:** Manufactured **mainly by the Haber-Bosch process** (from nitrogen and hydrogen).

- **Uses**

- The major use of **ammonia is as a fertilizer.**
 - Ammonia is a basic building block for **ammonium nitrate fertilizer**, which releases nitrogen, an essential nutrient for growing plants.
 - Additional uses include as a **refrigerant, stabilizer, neutralizer, and purifier** — particularly in food transport and water treatment applications.
 - It can also be used in the **manufacture of plastics, explosives, fabrics, dyes, and pharmaceuticals.**
- **Impact on Health:** Exposure to high levels of ammonia in air may be irritating to a person's skin, eyes, throat, and lungs and cause coughing and burns.

Source: TH

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