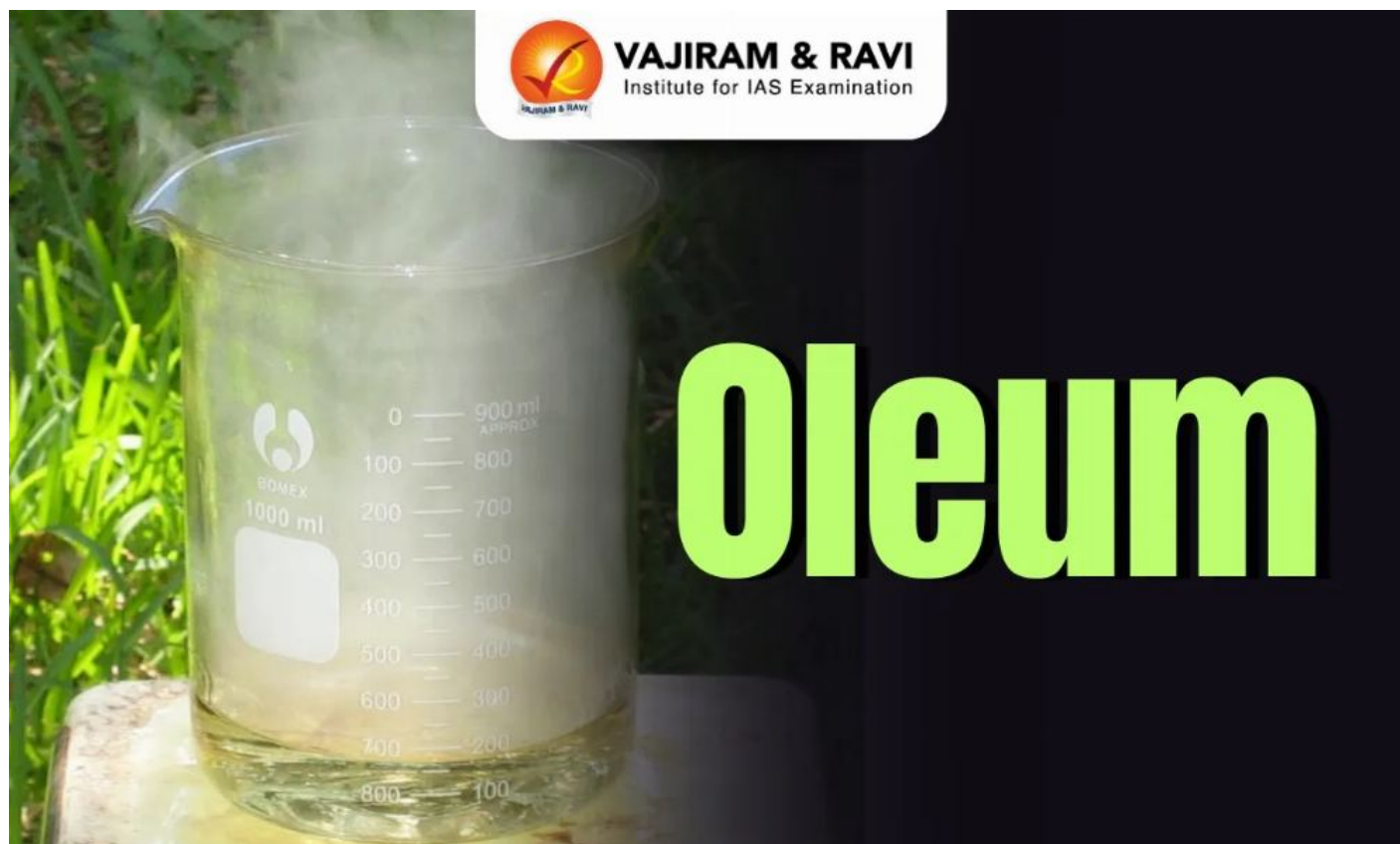


Oleum

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Oleum Latest News

A major leak of hazardous oleum gas at a chemical unit in Maharashtra's Palghar district recently led to the evacuation of over 2,600 people.

About Oleum

- Oleum is a powerful **chemical solution** composed of **sulfur trioxide (SO_3) dissolved in sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4)**.
- Though **oleum and sulfuric acid are closely related**, they **differ significantly in composition and reactivity**.
- **Sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4)** is a **powerful acid** in its own right, but **oleum is even more reactive due to the additional dissolved SO_3** .
- The **Contact Process** is the **primary industrial method for producing sulfuric acid**, and by extension, **oleum**.
- Oleum is available in different concentrations, with the **SO_3 content varying to suit industrial needs**.

- It's often **referred to as “fuming sulfuric acid”** due to its **tendency to release SO₃ fumes upon exposure to air.**
- In terms of appearance, oleum ranges from **colorless to pale yellow**, with an **oily consistency.**

Oleum Applications

- Oleum's **high reactivity** makes it a **vital component for producing highly concentrated sulfuric acid** and in **synthesizing** crucial chemicals like **explosives, dyes, and pharmaceuticals.**
- Oleum's **high viscosity contributes to its “oily” appearance** and influences its handling requirements in industrial applications.
- It is also an **efficient dehydrating agent** and can **strip water from organic compounds**, which is essential in certain industrial reactions.

Is Oleum Dangerous?

- It is **highly corrosive**, meaning it can **burn and damage skin, eyes**, and other materials very quickly.
- Because it **releases toxic fumes**, it can also be **harmful if inhaled.**

Source: **TH**

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