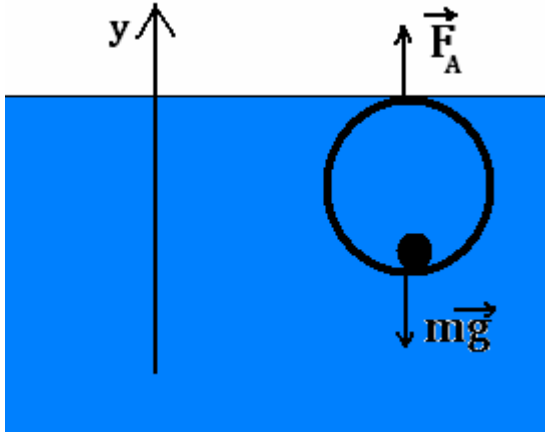


QUESTION:

A solid steel ball of volume 1 cm^3 is recast into a hollow sphere so as to float on water. What should be the minimum volume of this hollow sphere when density of steel is 7.71 g/cm^3 and that of water is 1 g/cm^3 ?

SOLUTION

Let's draw a free-body diagram for the ball in the hollow sphere:



We assume that the sphere is massless, and as sphere is floating in the water:

$$F_B - m_{ball}g = 0 \text{ (} y\text{-axis projection)}$$

$$F_B = \rho_{water}g \cdot V_{sphere} \text{ (the buoyancy force)}$$

$$m_{ball} = \rho_{steel}V_{ball}$$

Hence,

$$F_B - m_{ball}g = 0$$

$$\rho_{water}g \cdot V_{sphere} - \rho_{steel}V_{ball}g = 0$$

$$\rho_{water} \cdot V_{sphere} - \rho_{steel}V_{ball} = 0$$

$$V_{sphere} = \frac{\rho_{steel}}{\rho_{water}}V_{ball}$$

$$V_{sphere} = \frac{7.71}{1} \cdot 1 = 7.71 \text{ cm}^3$$

ANSWER

$$V_{sphere} = 7.71 \text{ cm}^3$$