

# Chemistry offers opportunities aplenty

The air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat are all chemically formulated. The subject has always been closely related to our mundane existence and is now a lucrative career option, says AASTHA KHURANA

Many of us might have hated chemistry and never understood the chemical formulae and equations. But who would have thought that the subject forms such an integral part of our lives and is involved in many things that we need and use in our everyday lives.

The chemical industry in India is growing because of the increasing purchasing power that people have in the country.

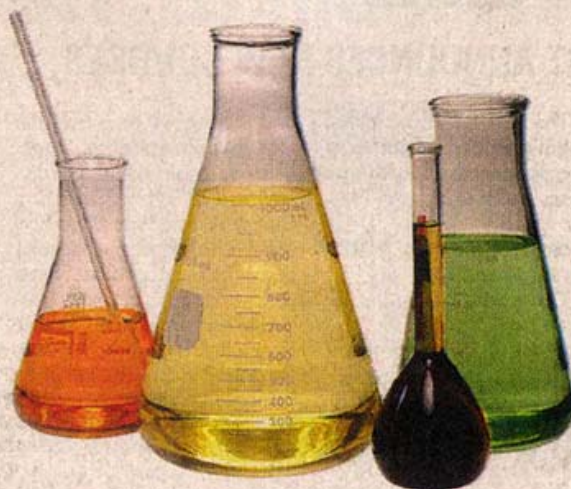
The specialty chemicals industry alone has a potential to build a \$80 to \$100 billion specialty chemical industry by 2020.

According to Izabela Megerle, GM & Head, Human Resources for LANXESS India, "The chemical industry requires bright minds who have undergone requisite training. Over and above the skills acquired during their studies we look for candidates who have the ability to work in synergy with people across different levels and divisions and has a global mindset as often they have to work with teams from other countries.

"The ability to think and act strategically, analyse well and understand the basic concepts is important. The willingness to continuously learn on the job and question the status quo are an important part of the work attitude."

Graduates in chemistry are the most sought for professionals for the primary jobs in the chemical industry.

This industry involves manufacturing of chemicals so there will be ample career



opportunities at the production sites.

From production engineers at the entry level, moving up to technical specialists, right up to the production head, there are jobs aplenty.

"Beside the core job profiles in the chemical industry,

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that exist in the production plants there are several other job profiles that exist. This spectrum of roles includes sales and marketing, management and several service functions like procurement, logistics and supply chain, human resource, finance, communications among others. It is a lucrative career option for those who can think out of the box. Such people get rewarded generously as there are ample of job opportunities both in India and abroad," Megerle tells you.

Prospective students who join the industry with an academic orientation do not necessarily have the right understanding nor the application of their knowledge to this work.

Megerle has a solution to this problem — "organisations should offer more possibilities for students to implement their theoretical knowledge for performing the jobs in a real time scenario in the industry," she explains.