

Exports of speciality chemicals from India will grow to US\$ 13 billion in 2013

"Indian speciality chemicals industry has undergone radical changes and matured over time. I am very confident the industry will emerge as a global player and a major earner of foreign exchange in the years to come", said Dr. Kishore Shah, President, Indian Speciality Chemical Manufacturers' Association (ISCMA), during the 55th

annual get together of ISCMA. Exports of speciality chemicals from India are poised to grow from US\$4 billion 2007 to US\$13 billion in 2013.

Mrs. Sandhya Bhimani gave the welcome address and she also briefly introduced the Chief Guest and the guest of honours. Dr. Mohanbhai Patel, Ex-Sheriff

Chemical Technology (UIC) said that, "Manufacture of speciality chemicals, long carried out by batch and semi-batch processes is evolving rapidly and continuous plants are no longer an exception. This is particularly the case when hazardous materials are being handled and there is strong emphasis on reducing inventories to avoid accidents".

He pointed that, tolerance level of society towards industrial accidents involving release of chemicals is low and the industry has responded by innovations such as micro-reactors. He

ple, for sophisticated dyes used for CDs, inkjet printing, solar cells. These are needed in small quantities, but they are knowledge intensive with high unit price, offers significant business opportunities, he added.

Mr. Nikhil Meswani, Executive director, Reliance Industries Ltd, who was the Guest of honour, pointed out the need for consolidation of the Indian speciality chemical industry, given that the industry is characterized by sub-optimal capacities.

He pointed to the growing shift of chemical manufacture to the developing world



Mr. Nikhil Meswani, Executive Director, Reliance Industries Ltd lighting lamp

annual get together of ISCMA. He pointed out that the MNCs are viewing smaller Indian companies as providers for their speciality chemical requirements.

Key factors influencing this trend include quality of product, timely delivery, costs, safety and health. This trend also provides a smooth revenue stream to companies that have become the preferred partners for MNCs. He said that India's speciality chemical market represent around 24% of the total chemical industry, which has market size of US\$40 billion. India's speciality chemical industry is expected to grow

of Mumbai and Chairman of Patel Group of Industries, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, said that, "India was on the threshold of a golden era. There has never been a period in the history of India, when the country has been as strong, united, prosperous and happy, as it is now". To enter this golden era, he urged industry to strongly emphasise on innovation. While the US spends up to 7% of its GDP on R&D, the comparable figure for India is 2%.

The Guest of honour Prof. M. M. Sharma, Emeritus Prof. of Eminence, Mumbai University Institute of

Mr. V. D. Patil, SA Pharmachem receiving trophy from Dr. Mohanbhai Patel, Ex-Sheriff of Mumbai and Chairman of Patel Group of Industries



also pointed out that in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, fragrances and flavours there is increasing preference for chiral compounds, as opposed to enantiomers. He urged the speciality chemicals industry to think beyond the textile industry and pointed to the wide universe for speciality chemicals.

"There is need, for exam-

and urged Indian entrepreneurs to look upon challenges such as the European chemicals legislation, REACH as opportunities, which will see the chemical industry end up in this part of the world. He stressed the power of innovation and urged the industry to try to look for products that makes fundamental difference to the way we live. ■