



## SURFACTANTS: AN OVERVIEW

DIXA SINGH & V.S.SINGH

Chemistry Department ,HNB Garhwal University, Campus, Pauri Garhwal -246001,  
Uttarakhand ),India

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### ABSTRACT

The importance of surface science has been recognized for more than a century but it is only in the last few decades that rapid advances in understanding of surface phenomenon are seen. All objects in nature are surrounded by one or more of basic interfaces namely, gas/liquid, liquid/liquid, solid/liquid, solid/gas and solid/solid. All of these interfaces have a common property known as surface free energy or surface tension. There is a class of compounds that can decrease the surface free energy of the interfaces. These compounds have been named as surfactants.

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