



Dr Swaminathan Sivaram, Director, National Chemical Laboratory, had an eventful week, which saw him being named for the Padma Bhushan. Although it took a while for the news to sink in, he is happy and humbled at the same time, for having won this recognition from a nation to which he is eternally beholden for giving him several opportunities to excel in the sphere of his interest, says Sivaram as he shares his diary with the *Herald on Sunday*



MY WEEK

Dr Swaminathan Sivaram,
Director, National Chemical Laboratory

Monday, January 23

Began with a visit to the Talwalkar's Gym at F C Road at 6.30 am for an hour's workout. Reached my desk at NCL at 9 am, cleared e-mails and had meetings with colleagues. At 12 noon, I went back home, had lunch and left for Bombay. There I attended a board meeting of a company at 4 pm. Then spent time discussing strategies for innovation-led growth there. My wife and I then proceeded to a friend's place for dinner.

Tuesday, January 24

Got up at 4 am, had a shower and left to board a 6 am flight to Delhi. Reached 8 am, checked into CSIR guesthouse, and

left at 9 am to attend the inauguration of the Indo-US Workshop in Technopreneurship. This workshop was held to bring together innovators, business leaders and specialists in Intellectual Property Protection and deliberate on issues related to promoting innovation-led businesses in India. Had a quiet dinner with friends at the India International Centre.

Wednesday, January 25

Had a two-hour meeting in the morning with officials of the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, on the proposed new Institute of Science Education and Research in Pune. Rejoined the Indo-US workshop at noon. Chaired a session on Lab to Market. In the concluding session I shared my views on how to promote the culture of creating wealth out of innovations. Drove to the airport at 7 pm and got on (along with my wife) on to a delayed flight to Pune. Reached Pune at 11.30 pm and while driving back to my residence received a call on my mobile from a reporter in *The Maharashtra Herald* saying that I was one of the Padma award winners.

Thursday, January 26

Unfurled the National Flag at 8.30 am and met my colleagues who expressed their happiness to me. Spent an hour with students at the hostel and resolved the issues. Worked at my desk for an hour and then went back to Pune Airport for a flight to Chennai en route to Madurai and Karaikudi to attend a meeting of Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI), a sister laboratory. The day was full of incessant phone callers congratulating me. I had never realised the goodwill I could bank on. It was a great day.

Friday, January 27

Phone calls continued unabated, from friends and relatives. Attended a meeting at CECRI, for half the day. At 3 pm delivered a talk to scientists and staff on deliberations of the Change Team of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), of which I was Chairman. The idea is to make every employee of CSIR an agent of change. At 5.30 pm I drove to Madurai and flew to Chennai.

Saturday, January 28

I spent the day at Chennai with my wife and some close relatives. It was a small family reunion. My wife complains that I have too little time for her. This was a small concession to her, and partake the joys of the week. Over 35 years of my professional life, learning has been the most exciting part. I hope I can continue to learn every day of my life.