

# Quality of Governance



# Launch of *Pathbreakers 2*

**O**n 15 February 2009, GV Ramakrishna launched the book *Pathbreakers 2* – our second compilation of 25 *MoneyLIFE* interviews with super-achievers. This was followed by an enriching panel discussion on the theme ‘What Can We Do to Improve Governance?’ Mr Ramakrishna, who wrote the Foreword came especially from Chennai to Pune to launch the book and chair the event. He has had a distinguished record of public service as secretary to the Government of India. He was the Indian ambassador to Brussels, chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India in the early 1990s and, subsequently, member Planning Commission and chairman of Disinvestment Commission. He has left an indelible mark as a pragmatic and upright civil servant in all the positions he

has held. His wit, razor-sharp mind and the many useful suggestions on every topic he discusses are a rare treat.

The discussion panel comprised 11 pathbreakers featured in the two books. Among the dignitaries who graced the event was Dr Anil K Khandelwal who studied in poor municipal schools but became the most academically qualified



*Dr Ram Buxani (l), Dr Ashok Jhunjhunwala and Prof MM Sharma (r)*

bank chairman. Outspoken and thoughtful, he transformed Bank of Baroda (BoB) through branding and customer service. Dr Ashok Jhunjhunwala, a strong nationalist, founder of the TeNet group at IIT Chennai, focused on changing rural India through technology. Pramod Chaudhari is an engineer from IIT Bombay and founder of Praj Industries, a technology-driven chemicals company that has spread its wings globally. Dr RH Patil is the man who created the National Stock Exchange (NSE). But unknown to many, he has quietly repeated his success in the government securities market. Dr Ram Buxani came to India almost penniless after the Partition. He started his career as a typist in Mumbai and went on to become a successful businessman in Dubai and the voice of non-resident Indians. From a tough childhood when

