

# The Economic Times

Editions... DELHI, MUMBAI, CHENNAI, BANGALORE, HYDRABAD, KOLKATA

Day... Monday Date... 24 September 2008

**D**R Madhav Mehra has combined the best of two worlds in more ways than one. After voluntary retirement from a government of India job with the ministry of railways in 1988 following a 27-year stint, his mission was to improve the quality of life through training people and organisations. And today, as the president of London-based World Council for Corporate Governance, World Quality Council in Atlanta, Georgia, and leader of charities like World Environment Foundation and Partners in Action for Sustainability in UK, he does just that. "Even my Regent's Park penthouse apartment in London combines the best of both worlds since on one side it's flanked by lush greenery and on the other by the most fashionable areas of London," says Mehra. Not that he spends too much of time there since he's busy travelling around the world for training workshops, courses and seminars on management, quality of governance, environment and leadership. His associates and partner organisations are spread as wide as Argentina and Indonesia. Today as a quality guru he brings together the themes of quality, environment and governance. But interestingly, his quest for quality started way back with the Indian railways.

"In India, those were the early days for quality standards and the global

## FAST TRACK

ISO 1000 was just making a mark. However, as an organisation the railways always ran on top quality standards. But unfortunately there was no global recognition," he says. And even during his tenure at the railways, he lectured on management issues and was a part of visiting faculty at institutes in India and abroad. In fact, he had set up the faculty of management at the Railway Staff College in Baroda and did his own PhD in management from London in 1974.

In his new role as advisor to government bodies and multinational corporations on environmentally sustainable development, Mehra spends a lot of time in building networks with like minded people and organisations. "Most of my work is in developing countries like Bangladesh and South Africa," he says.

In India, he is closely associated with the Centre for Corporate Governance. And even though he has held quality seminars in Lithuania, Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Slovakia, Hungary and Bangladesh besides UK, USA and Canada, Mehra still believes that Indians are among the most innovative people in the world.

"From the finest restaurants in London to the powerhouse of IT talent in the Silicon Valley, Indians have made a statement. The next wave will be from the Indian systems of healthcare. The western world has already recognised yoga," he says. Lord Swraj Paul, the chairman of the Caparo group and one of the most prominent Indians in UK, is on the council of advisors and board of governors Mehra's corporate governance council as is Lord Putnam, producer of Oscar winning films like *Chariots of Fire* and *Killing Fields* and Tony Coleman Labour MP from London. Obviously, when it comes to quality and talent he believes in combining the best from all worlds.

IDG

## Finding quality time

Dr Madhav Mehra believes that Indians abroad are the most innovative race in the world

