

*“Development of Wastelands and
other Natural Resources for a
Self Reliant India”*

EXTRACTS FROM THE

21st T. A. PAI MEMORIAL LECTURE

DELIVERED BY

Shri Mohan Dharia

President, Vanarai Trust, Pune

*(former Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission,
Government of India)*

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

Founder's Day Celebrations

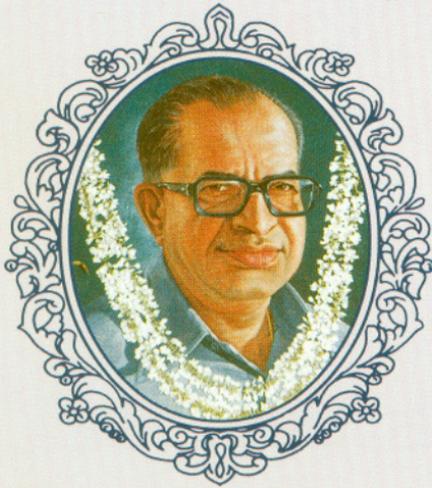
on Saturday, the 17th of January, 2004 at Manipal



TAPMI

T. A. PAI MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

Manipal – 576 104, Karnataka



T. A. PAI – A Life Sketch

(17-1-1922 to 29-5-1981)

"Eminent Banker, Able Administrator, Empathic Philanthropist, and Great Visionary".

The Late Shri Tonse Ananth Pai (T. A. Pai) was born on the 17th of January 1922, the eldest of four sons of the Late Shri Tonse Upendra Pai. After his early childhood spent in Udupi district, he went to Bombay (now, Mumbai) to pursue his education. He graduated in Commerce from Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics in 1943.

Shri T. A. Pai joined the SyndicateBank in 1943 as Deputy Manager. After holding several positions in the bank and being the General Manager from 1944 to 1961, he rose to become the Managing Director of the bank from 1962 to 1964. His stewardship of the bank is credited with a number of achievements – fastest growth, pioneering schemes, innovation in mobilisation of small savings, agricultural financing and focus on the common man.

He was appointed the Chairman of Food Corporation of India in 1965. After a little over one year, he rejoined the SyndicateBank in 1966 and was appointed its Chairman in 1967. The Government of India appointed him Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation in 1970. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1972 and appointed the Union Minister for Railways. In 1973, he was given the responsibility for the newly created Ministry of Heavy Industries, and subsequently, additional charge of the Ministry of Steel and Mines. Shri Pai took over the responsibility of the Ministry of Industry and Civil Supplies in 1974, and thus became responsible for the industrial development of India.

Awards and recognition came his way in many forms. He was conferred the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India in 1972. He was awarded the degree of D. Litt. by the Karnataka University in 1973. The Andhra University decorated him with the degree of D. Litt. in 1975.

He passed away on the 29th of May, 1981.

T.A.Pai Management Institute, Manipal
Founder's Day Celebrations
&
21st T.A. Pai Memorial Lecture
Saturday, January 17, 2004



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President, Vanarai Trust, Pune

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“DEVELOPMENT OF WASTELANDS AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES FOR A SELF RELIANT INDIA”

Shri K. K. Pai, Prof. Nagabrahmam, Distinguished invitees, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great privilege and honour for me to deliver my address in the prestigious lecture series organized in the memory of late Shri T. A. Pai, who was the pillar of strength of several educational, medical and management institutes and also a Cabinet Minister for Industries in the Central Government.

India has accepted free market economy in 1994 without any preparation to meet the challenges of competitive economy. Waters have flown below the bridge and we are left with no alternative. We have to be qualitatively productive in the industrial, agricultural and social sector taking recourse to the advanced technologies. We do require investments for the required infrastructure to promote industrial and agricultural development. To that extent huge investments are unavoidable. However, to tackle the problems of poverty, unemployment and hunger, we shall have to depend on our natural resources as modern computerized digitally controlled industries have their limitations in generating jobs to millions of our masses. To achieve our social objective, I have decided to express my views on “Development of Wastelands and other Natural Resources for a Self Reliant India”.

Before I proceed, I would like to draw the attention of the august gathering to Sustainable Development as agreed in the World Summit held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992. After some more conferences and meetings, a Global Summit was held in the year 2002 at Johannesburg in South Africa. I had the privilege to be a member of the Indian delegation that participated in the Johannesburg Global Summit. Representatives including heads of all important countries, with the exception of USA, participated in the said Summit. Various countries made their representations. And in spite of differences over approaches and actions, by and large

the Summit agreed in principle to work on the following programmes.

Water and Sanitation – To halve proportion of people without access to proper sanitation by 2015 (a goal Washington had resisted).

Energy – To take actions to improve access to affordable energy.

The Summit however failed to agree on specific targets to increase share of world energy produced from renewable green sources such as solar or wind power.

Fish – A target to restore depleted fish stocks by 2015 at the latest, recognizing oceans are essential to the ecosystem and a critical source of food, especially in poor countries.

Chemicals – By 2020 chemicals will be made and used in ways to minimize severe harmful impact on humans and the environment.

Health – The WTO accord on patents should not prevent poor countries providing medicines for all, a key issue as they often cannot afford Aids and other costly drugs.

Aid – Substantial increase in aid for poor countries to meet agreed development goals. It urged rich countries to give 0.7 p.c. of the national income, a target first set in 1970. Only five countries have reached that level.

Trade – The meeting's plan bolsters trade and environment without saying that World Trade Organization rules override global environmental treaties. This was seen as a victory for environmental groups who feared deals such as Kyoto Protocol could be undermined. Wealthy Countries reaffirmed their will to lower trade-distorting subsidies.

Biological Diversity – To cut significantly by 2010 the rate at which rare animals and plants are becoming extinct.

Governance – Good governance nationally and internationally is essential for sustainable development. All appreciated that aid by tied to less corruption and more democracy.

From the summary of the decisions at the Summit...

It could be observed that the Summit has not bothered to abolish poverty, unemployment, provision for potable drinking water, control the population explosion and similar such basic issues to be implemented as a time bound programme. From the deliberations it was obvious that the rich countries are only interested in better marketing opportunities for the goods produced by them. The vary fact that barring a few rich countries the decisions taken at the Rio de Janeiro Summit held in 1992 have remained unimplemented, is adequate to reflect on the attitude of the rich countries. On this background India and other poor countries are left with no other choice but to develop their own lands, water and other natural resources by involving millions of masses and march towards self reliance. Whenever I think of India, I believe that our massive lands, water, forests, medicinal and other species, cattle wealth, sea-shore of 7,000 kms, internal sweet water reservoirs, ever shining sun, mines, minerals and millions of hands are our real strength. Most of these resources have either remained underdeveloped or undeveloped. If we could systematically and scientifically develop these resources, food and water security or other essentials could never be a problem for India.

Production and Productivity

Average production of food grains and other crops in India compared to other countries is too low. While average production of food grains in India is 1,950 kgs. Per ha., in China it is 4,000 kgs and nearly 5,000 kgs in Canada, Australia and Japan. Similarly our forest wealth per ha. is also poor, which is of order of 10 cubic meters as against 80-90 cubic meters in some other countries. There is a vast scope to improve upon the productivity per ha. In all lands including waste or degraded lands in India. It would thus be clear that the fears expressed by the international experts that food and water security shall be the most acute problem for India in 21st Century, have to basis provided we firmly decide to make all our lands effectively productive.

Land

India has total geographical area of 329 MHa., out of which nearly 175 MHa. including forestlands are waste or degraded. To me, they are not waste but wasted lands. With scientific micro watershed approach, it is possible to conserve every drop of water wherever and whenever it rains, to prevent soil erosion and make most of these lands productive through forests, horticulture, silvi pasture, agriculture etc. It is indeed a man-made tragedy that, 50 p.c. of our lands should be in poor condition and 50 p.c. people should remain poor or below poverty line. As suggested by the High Level Policy Committee constituted by Central Govt. under my Chairmanship, it is possible to make almost all our lands productive, generate employment opportunities to millions of people, raise food grains production from 210 m. Tones to 450 m. Tones, bring 30 p.c. of our area under forests or green cover and achieve the objective of self reliance along with sustainable development with social justice. I am glad that after great efforts and persuasion the Central Govt. has accepted the recommendations of my committee and has created a separate Land Resource Department to execute them. My proposal to constitute Loknayak Jayprakash Narayan National Mission for Development of Wastelands and other Natural Resources, is under-consideration of the Government. Honourable Prime Minister and concerned colleagues have assured me to constitute the Mission for implementing a time-bound programme of 15 years.

Water

When one observes occurrence of famine and scarcity of water in several parts of the country, it is genuinely felt that India will have to face acute scarcity of water in next few years. I am not inclined to believe in this assessment. India is one of the most fortunate countries in the world, which gets nearly 400 MHa. Meters of water every year. So far India has spent more than Rs. 130,000 crores over big or medium dams. Besides huge amount has also been spent over minor or medium projects. In spite of all these investments it has not been possible for us to harvest even 10 p.c. of the water made available to us by great nature. I am not opposed to big dams,

if they are absolutely unavoidable to generate energy or to carry water to areas where it is not possible to conserve a drop of water. We should however emphasise on scientific micro watershed development programme all over the country. Even after linking of rivers perennial irrigation facilities may reach to 40 p.c. of the total lands. They cannot cover the whole of the country. Besides to prevent soil erosion and save big or medium dams micro watershed approach is equally necessary in their catchments areas. Therefore micro watershed programmes could be the only solution for all areas to conserve water and prevent soil erosion.

Along with conserving every drop of water, judicious use of every drop of water is equally important. India cannot afford the luxury to make water available without any charges. They may be lower for agriculture or domestic purpose. However every citizen must be under an obligation to pay for the consumed water. We have been reading regarding controversy over the use of Kaveri waters. Time is more than ripe to treat all the water not only as a natural but a national resource and all states and citizens should have equitable right over its judicious use. This is equally important to maintain the integrity of our country. Advanced science and technology, in particular the information technology has to be extensively used for water management.

Whenever I think of future, I would like to emphasis on the Garland Canal project prepared by Ms. Dastur and Co. during our Janata regime, which deserves serious consideration by the country. With proper management of water, it is possible to take due care of states such as the Punjab, Hariyana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and to carry the remaining water to all parts of the country as suggested in their report. All waters received by the western parts of Sahyadries passing through Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamilnadu, now directly flow to Arabian seas. A detailed project should be prepared to direct this water to eastern parts after taking due care of the concerned states.

Forests

Out of nearly 6 lac villages in the country, nearly 1,85,000 villages are on the periphery or in the forests. While I was a member of the undivided Wastelands Development Board, my suggestion to introduce joint Forestry Management was accepted by the then Govt. Ever since 1st June, 1991 till today Joint Forest Management Committees have been established in about 65,000 villages. Though unbelievable, in spite of illegal tree felling, more than 14 MHa. of lands have come under additional green cover in the country. In a National Conference convened by the previous Minister for Environment and Forests Shri T. R. Balu, on 23rd July, 2002 it has been resolved to constitute J.F.M. Committees in all the 1,85,000 villages within next 5 years and to have green cover on all the forest lands in India. Out of 75 MHa. forest lands nearly 40 MHa. are without adequate forest cover.

Cattle Wealth and Fish

India is perhaps a rare country having one cattle per two persons. The number of cows and she buffalos in India, is about 200 million. Of course, we have to control and gradually bring down this strength. With better fodder, feed and health care even if we could increase their milk yield even by one liter, the country could produce additional 200 M. liters of milk every day. India is already number one country in the world in producing milk. Similar is the case with goats, sheep, chickens, etc. Seashore of 7,000 kms and internal sweet water reservoirs, have a potential to produce fish on a massive scale. India is a country having largest number of sweet water reservoirs compared to other countries in the world. There is a great scope to improve with both quality and productivity of sheep, goats, pigs etc. With this approach India could capture all world market by exporting fish, meat, poultry, milk products etc.

Species, Herbal Medicines, Spices and Perfumes

Barring some individuals or firms, India has never emphasized on scientifically cultivating several spices, herbal medicines, perfumery and other species. They could be grown in between the trees, on bunds of farms and even through systematic plantations. While the

world is tired of the side effects of the antibiotics and allopathic drugs, it is leaning towards natural medicines. In this regard, India could be a pioneer country in meeting the ever increasing needs and earning foreign exchange. The lead provided by China is an eye opener for India.

Ever shining Sun and Energy

India has a rare privilege to enjoy the shining sun for more than ten months. Whenever a controversy appears on Enron and the corrupt deals, the sun is virtually laughing at our inability to use his great source of energy. Along with unlimited energy, the sun has tremendous potential to provide food and colour to trees, fruits, flowers and vegetables. Besides with increasing tree cover and agro produce we could use biomass to produce energy on large scale. Similarly micro-hydro-energy plants and windmills could be installed in many parts of the country. This would be the most appropriate approach to generate ample energy for the country in a decentralized way.

With the above-mentioned approaches, I am sure that there cannot be a problem of food and water security on 21st century as forecast by eminent experts. On the contrary, India would be in a position to feed dying countries or provide water to the thirsty countries.

To develop all the above-mentioned and other natural resources, modern science, technology and in particular the information technology will have to be extensively used, preferably in regional languages. A computerized Knowledge Centre should be treated as a part of the basic need of each village.

Co-operatives of Producers

Our farmers are always penalized as they do not secure reasonable remunerative price to their produce. Many times to produce more becomes a serious crime. Co-operative institutions could play a vital role in securing remunerative prices to the producers and also making available their produce at reasonable price to the consumers. In the name of free market economy, instead of undermining the Co-operative Movement it would be advisable to create a Co-operative Network from production to marketing, as being

demonstrated by Amul or Dhara. In a massive populous country like India co-operatives could be the most effective instruments for socio-economic transformation, social justice and making prosperous our rural areas.

Vanarai Villages

I have covered vital areas related with our lands, water and other natural resources. I have however not mentioned our mines and minerals, I believe that being depletable, such resources should be sparingly used. On the basis of various experiments carried through my organization Vanarai and various other Voluntary Organizations, I may like to state with all force at my command that it is possible to make all such resources productive with minimum investments and produce food grains, pulses, edible oils, fruits, vegetables, timber, energy, milk, mutton, etc., in abundance, generate employment opportunities to millions of our masses, bring $\frac{1}{3}$ rd area under green cover and to attain the objective of self reliance, along with sustainable development.

Inspired by Vanarai people have initiated their activities in more than 300 villages. Village Gawadewadi, in Pune Dist., where drinking water had to be supplied through tankers, conserved every drop of water falling in the vicinity, prevented soil erosion and has abolished scarcity of drinking water. The village produces crops on about 500-600 acres of land as seasonal crops. Vanarai has introduced new technologies and as a result, the milk collection per day has gone up from 200 liters to 7,000 liters and the members receive about Rs. 60,000 to 70,000 per day. The production of tomatoes have gone up from 5,000 kgs to 25,000 – 30,000 kgs per acre and similar is the case with horticultural and other crops. This is a rare village, where every house has a latrine and a gohar gas plant. Nobody is now illiterate. People strictly observe family planning. All are above below poverty level and nearly 135 families, living in filthy slums of Mumbai have returned back to the village. They are earning more incomes and leading a better life. The village is always clean and green with 6,00,000 trees spread all around. There are computers in schools and it is regarded as one of the best ideal self reliant villages in the State. Marriages and other social events are

performed collectively in a simple manner. It has a modern gymnasium and a decent library. Though Vanarai has provided the direction, the people and their united leadership have brought this change.

I may like to underline that, though difficult, we have to create conducive environment in the country to attain these objectives. In this regard I would like to insist on :

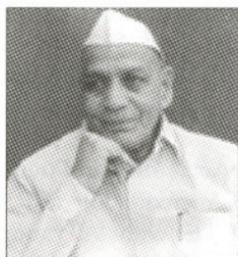
1. Eradicating illiteracy and ignorance within the next three to five years basically by involving our teachers, professors, college students and social workers, whose strength is of the order of 20 million.
2. Bringing down the growth rate of birth and controlling the explosion of population as effectively demonstrated by the Kerala State. We should aim at stabilizing our population by 2015 and should not cross 115 crores. We should resolve to prove wrong the great demographers, who have projected that population of India will stabilize by the year 2050, when it would be of order of 160 crores.
3. Introducing disciplines and work culture in all walks of our life. Present perverse attitude that disciplines and democracy cannot go together must be reversed.
4. Controlling the craze for ugly urbanization and mega cities and accepting decentralized way of living. No city above a population of one million should be allowed to grow further. Self reliant green villages with modern facilities of education, health, drinking water, roads, communications and local employment can prevent the influx of the people going to cities. Besides if needed New Growth Centers may be created to save the cities.
5. Accepting new lifestyle as against the luxury-oriented living has become imperative. It may not be possible to consider "High Thinking and Simple Living". However, for Sustainable Development to adopt "High Thinking and Moderate living" has become unavoidable.

Friends,

Our country has already entered into a Debt-Trap. A country paying nearly 25 p.c. of its total revenue for payment of interest would never be able to achieve its Social Objectives and Self Reliance. World Bank, IMF and Other Financial Institutions are working like sophisticated agents of the rich countries and multinationals having vested interests. Easy approach based on the advice of such agencies accepted by the Govt. having acquired power on the agenda of Swadeshi will prove to be disastrous to the country. I firmly believe that our land, water, forests, cattle wealth, other natural resources and our people is the real strength of India. It is my undaunted conviction and faith that by fully developing our natural resources and manpower, we could certainly attain our long cherished social objectives including security of water, food, health and employment and lead towards Sustainable Self Reliance.

JAI HIND

PROFILE OF SHRI MOHAN DHARIA



Shri Mohan Dharia, President of the Vanarai Trust, Pune, was born on the 14th February, 1925 at Nate in Maharashtra. After participation in India's freedom struggle and imprisonment in 1942, he graduated as a lawyer from Pune University and became an advocate of the Bombay high Court.

Some of the highlights of his life have been :

- 1942 – 1956 Freedom fighter, Youth and Trade Union Leader
- 1957 – 1960 Corporator in Pune Municipal Corporation
- 1960 – 1962 General Secretary, Maharashtra Congress Committee
- 1962 – 1975 Member of the All India Congress Committee
- 1964 – 1971 Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha
- 1971 – 1979 Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha
- 1971 – 1975 Union Minister of State
(Planning, Housing, Urban Development)
- 1975 – 1977 Young Turk – opposed the Emergency
- 1977 – 1979 Union Minister for Commerce, Civil Supplies and
Co-operatives
- 1990 – 1991 Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission

Currently, Shri Mohan Dharia is actively engaged in promoting his passion – development of India through people's involvement. As President of the Vanarai Trust (established by him in 1985), Shri Dharia is recognised as a major contributor to wasteland development in India. He is involved in a number of policy bodies and is an advisor to the State and Central Governments.

Shri Mohan Dharia firmly believes in "small is beautiful" and is an ardent follower of Gandhian Philosophy coupled with technology.

T.A. PAI MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE, MANIPAL

Recognition and Rewards

- TAPMI was among the first Management Institutes in the country to receive recognition from the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for its management programme. The Institute is a member of the Association of Indian Management Schools (AIMS). The Post-Graduate Programme of TAPMI is recognised by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) as equivalent to MBA Degree.
- TAPMI is accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with Five Stars and by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) with "A" rating.
- TAPMI received the "Best Management Institute of the Year" award from the India HRD Congress, Mumbai in January, 2002.
- TAPMI is one of the five Institutes recognised by AICTE as Nodal Centres for Faculty Development Programmes (Quality Improvement Programmes).
- TAPMI is recognised as a Research Centre for Doctoral Programmes in Management by Karnataka University, Dharwar and Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE, a Deemed University).

Some Major Awards Received by Faculty

- Prof. R. Rajagopalan received the Award for "*Best Innovation in Management Education*" from the Association of Indian Management Schools (AIMS) for introducing the Management-in-Practice Course at TAPMI in 1999.
- Prof. R. Rajagopalan received the "*Teacher of the Year Award*" from the Association of Indian Management Schools (AIMS) for the year 1999-2000.
- Prof. R. C. Natarajan received the Award for "*Best Case Writing and Presentation*" from the Association of Indian Management Schools (AIMS) in September, 2001.
- Prof. Biresh Kumar Sahoo was awarded a Post-Doctoral Research scholarship by the International University, Tokyo, Japan in 2002.

Some Major Awards Received by Students

- Mr. M. P. Sunder of the Class of 2001 received the *Award for Best Student in Management* at the India Leadership Summit, Mumbai in November, 2000.
- Mr. Vishal Dhawan of the Class of 2002 received the *Award for Best Student in Management* at the India Leadership Summit, Mumbai in November, 2001.

International Alliances

TAPMI has entered into a Strategic Alliance with the School of Business Administration, Oakland University, Michigan, USA for faculty and student exchange programmes, student internships and joint research and publications.