

Episode No. 40

Radio Serial on Climate Change and Global Warming Changing Monsoon Pattern and Rain Cycle Moods of Monsoon

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As a result of global warming, the world's climate is changing and its effect is being felt the world over. And one of the most important parameters of climate is rainfall. Just as there is a direct relationship between climate and agriculture, so is there one between rainfall and agriculture. So when rainfall patterns change, its effect is directly felt on cropping patterns worldwide.

The changing rainfall pattern in India is a huge concern as the country's water and food security is at a risk. Changes in climate over the Indian region, particularly during the southwest monsoon, would have a significant impact on agricultural production, water resources management and overall economy of the country.

This episode depicts how climate change and global warming have affected our monsoon pattern and rain cycle. It also describes mitigation measures for the same.

List of Characters: *(In the sequence they appear in the script)*

Radhe-Shyam Baba : A fake baba – Age about 50 years. (Abbreviated as 'Baba' in the script)

**(He will also play a role of villager 2 with different voice in later part of the script.
Villager 2 is a old person – Age about 70 years)**

Follower : **Follower of Radhe-Shyam Baba (About 30 - 35 years old)**
(He will also play a role of villager 1 with different voice in later part of the script)

Mahipal : A villager (Age about 35 – 40 years)

Surendra : A farmer in a village (Age about 40 – 45 years)

Sunita : Wife of Surendra (Age about 38 – 42 years)

Pratap : A scientists working in the field of meteorology (Age about 40 – 45 years)

(Villagers have gathered for listening speech of Radhe-Shyam Baba, a fake saint who is earning money by taking advantage of lack of knowledge of people.

The scene starts with a bhajan, a devotional song. All are singing in rhythm,

Radhe Krishna Hari, Mukund Murari

Radhe Krishna Hari, Mukund Murari.

Radhe Krishna, Gopal Krishna
Radhe Krishna, Gopal Krishna.

Proper musical instruments should be played on the background of this bhajan to give holy effect.)

(When this bhajan ends, the follower shouts and all the villagers cheer in chorus)

Follower : Bolo, Shri Gopal Krishna ki-

All : Jai!

Follower : Bolo, Radhe-Shyam Baba ki-

All : Jai!

Follower : (Addressing to the audience) Now... all the disciples of Radhe-Shyam Baba... I know you all have gathered here to hear holy speech from Baba.

Mahipal : (shouting) Radhe-Shyam Baba ki-

All : (enthusiastically, in chorus) Jai!

Follower : So, I will not become a barrier between you and Radhe-Shyam Baba.... And now Baba will address to you all!

Baba : (with surprise) Ohhh (Suddenly with devotion) Om Nama Shivay! Om Nama Shivay! All my dear disciples, you are lucky.... Today, Lord Shiva himself has arrived here among us to hear my holy speech...

(All started whispering with surprise)

Baba : (laughing) What? You can't see! (laughs) But, trust me. I can see Lord Shiva! Om Nama Shivay! He is with us and hence, his blessings are always with us. So all my dear disciples now don't worry. Lord Shiva is with you. All your problems will be solved...

Surendra : The problem of rains?

Baba : (Searching in the audience) Who has asked this?

Surendra : (In fearful voice) Sorry Baba... I asked.... I am Surendra!

Baba : That's not important!

Surendra : But Baba, that's the major problem.... And you said, all the problems will be solved! So-

Baba : (In authoritative voice) Don't you trust me?

Surendra : No.... that's not the case.... But....

Baba : (Annoyingly) What 'but'? Who are you? What do you do?

Surendra : Baba, I am farmer!

Baba : Hmmm!

Surendra : That's why I am worried, Baba. It's already late now and further delay in rains will cause heavy losses to us.

Baba : Do you think, I don't know this? I know everything! I can even see the situation even if I am not present physically there!

Follower : Bolo.... Radhe-Shyam Baba ki-

All : (enthusiastically, in chorus) Jai!

Baba : All my dear disciples, listen to me carefully. I know, all your problems... and I also know all these problems will be solved, provided –

Mahipal : (anxiously) What Baba?

Baba : Provided you confess to Lord Shiva!

All : We are ready, Baba!

Baba : Okay then. But, you have to confess with some grand offerings to Lord Shiva! Somebody should take responsibility of this! (Addressing to Mahipal) Mahipal....

Mahipal : (Surprisingly) You know my name, Baba!

Baba : (laughs) I know everything!

Mahipal : So lucky I am!

Baba : Mahipal, you will take the responsibility!

Mahipal : Yes, Baba!

Baba : So on next Monday, collect milk, ghee, rawa, sugar and honey!

Mahipal : Yes, Baba!

Baba : But, remember, everything should be sixteen kilograms!

All : (surprisingly) Sixteen kilograms?

Baba : Yes! And the milk should be sixteen liters! Otherwise, your problems will not be solved!

Mahipal : I will surely do it Baba! Don't worry!

Baba : (laughs) I am not worried! It's all for you ... to get rid of your worries!

Mahipal : Okay Baba!

Baba : And yes, one more thing...

Mahipal : What Baba?

Baba : Collect sixteen thousand rupees also!

All : Sixteen thousand?

Baba : Yes! You can contribute and get the money easily! After all it's a question of rains and thereby your fields....

Mahipal : We will do it, Baba... definitely we will do it!

Baba : Okay then. Start for the preparation! Lord Shiva is with you!

Follower : Bolo, Radhe-Shyam Baba ki-

All : Jai!

Follower : Shri Gopal Krishna ki-

All : Jai!

(Again the bhajan starts and the scene ends on this tune. The bhajan slowly fades and the new scene starts. This is a scene of Surendra's home. Surendra and his wife Sunita are talking with each other)

Surendra : (Calling Sunita) Sunita... Sunita...

Sunita : (Coming from inside) Haa ji?

Surendra : Sunita, I am keeping two hundred rupees here. If Mahipal comes, give it to him.

Sunita : Had you borrowed from him?

Surendra : No, Sunita! I did not borrow the amount from anybody. This is for the contribution!

Sunita : Which contribution?

Surendra : Sunita, how can you forget what I told yesterday night to you?

Sunita : Ohh... the contribution for the offerings in the temple!

Surendra : Yes!

Sunita : What 'yes'? Are you aware how do I run the home? We don't have excess money. And if the same situation persists then we will definitely run short of money to meet daily needs.

Surendra : Yes... I know Sunita! But, all this is for improving the situation only!

Sunita : (**annoyingly**) All this which is going on will not help improving our situation. Yes, it will definitely improve the situation of that 'Baba'!

Surendra : (**getting angry on Sunita. Shouting at her**) Sunita... about whom are you talking? Radhe-Shyam Baba knows everything! In fact, he suggested this remedy when I raised my problem during his holy speech. He could have easily ignored me!

Sunita : How could he ignore you! This is in fact golden opportunity for him to make money!

Surendra : (shouting at her) Sunita... now stop. I cannot listen a word against Radhe-Shyam Baba!

(At this moment, Pratap enters in Surendra's home)

Pratap : Hello, Surendra...

Surendra : (Surprisingly) Pratap?

Pratap : What's going on, Surendra? I was just passing from here, but heard your loud, angry voice.... So came to see what's going on!

Surendra : Hmmm!

Pratap : Surendra, are you shouting at Bhabhi ji? (Asking to Sunita) Bhabhi ji, what happened? Anything wrong?

Sunita : Nothing serious, Bhau ji. Have a seat... I will make tea for you!

(Sunita goes inside)

Pratap : Okay, Surendra.... Now tell me, what is the problem?

Surendra : No... nothing, Pratap!

Pratap : I can find from your face... Tell me now!

Surendra : Pratap, I was talking about the contribution!

Pratap : Which contribution?

Surendra : It's for the holy offerings to Lord Shiva for getting good rains this year!

Pratap : (laughing) Are you kidding Surendra?

Surendra : No, Pratap. I am serious! Radhe-Shyam Baba told that it will certainly bring good rains.

Pratap : And you trusted on his words! Disgusting!

Surendra : Yes, of course! And Pratap, not only me but everyone who was present during the holy speech of Baba has agreed for this offerings.

Pratap : Come on Surendra! These offerings will not bring rains here. Instead you all will loose money.... And your so called 'Baba' will gain all those!

Surendra : Pratap, you also talking like Sunita!

Pratap : What's wrong in it, Surendra? Listen here, no 'Baba' can bring rains like this! You may be disciple of that Baba, but in this issue, you must trust me.

Surendra : Why?

Pratap : (laughs) for the simple reason that, I am meteorologist! I study weather and climatic conditions. I know which are the factors responsible for the good rains and which are responsible for the drought. Your 'Baba' can't do anything in this. He is just making you fool!

(Sunita comes out with cups of tea)

Sunita : Bhau ji, I was telling the same! But who will listen to me? Have a tea.

(Sound of tea cups and saucer as all of them are drinking tea)

Pratap : Bhabhi ji you are absolutely correct!

Surendra : Hmmm! What can I say now? The only request to both of you is convince to all the villagers. If all the villagers are contributing for the holy offerings then we alone cannot boycott it.

Pratap : Surendra, listen to me. Hope, you can think independently. See the reason behind the delay in rains is neither spiritual nor due to the anger of any god. Our rain depends on several factors such as sufficient pressure difference, ice cover in Himalayan mountain ranges, humidity, sea water temperature and so on. Actually, it's a natural system. If any one factor goes wrong strongly, obviously our rain affects. The scientists are continuously monitoring the climatic conditions....

Surendra : (Interrupting) Then call those scientists and ask them to bring rains!

Sunita : Why to call other scientists? Bhau ji will explain all this to the villagers. He is working in the district office.

Pratap : Yes. I will surely do that!

Surendra : How.... and when? We have to do all the preparations.

Pratap : Surendra, don't worry. I will do it my way. You just watch....

(The scene ends. Change over Music)

(The scene of tea stall in the village. Sound of stove and metal utensils are heard. Also some song is being played on radio. Sound of some people is also heard. Mahipal was taking tea there. Pratap sees Mahipal and stops to talk with him. The background sound fades as dialogues start)

Pratap : Hello, Mahipal. How are you?

Mahipal : Fine, Saahab.

Pratap : Actually Mahipal, I was looking for you!

Mahipal : (surprisingly) For me?

Pratap : Yes!

Mahipal : But why Sahib?

Pratap : Actually, I want to give contribution for the holy offerings.... and the villagers told me that you have been given the responsibility to collect the contribution from all.

Mahipal : Yes, Sahib. But, I haven't started collecting it. You are the first one. I will start from you Sahib. Is that okay!

Pratap : Mahipal, since you haven't started collecting the money yet, I would like to suggest something.... And it will help in doing this job in easier way.

Mahipal : Surely Sahib. What should I do for that?

Pratap : Mahipal, after two days, call all the villagers in Panchayat with their contribution. We will collect all the money at once... I will help you for that. So you are not required to go to each and every house asking for the money.

Mahipal : Very good idea, Sahib. I will send the message to everyone for coming in Panchayat.

Pratap : Good! I will be there too but I will talk to all the villagers first.

Mahipal : Okay Sahib! Ram Ram!

(The scene ends. Change over Music)

(All villagers have gathered in Panchayat office. Sound of whispering is heard. Villagers are talking about their contribution, Radhe-Shyam Baba, rains, etc. amongst each other. The meeting is about to start. On the background of noise of crowd, Mahipal starts speaking)

Mahipal : All of you listen to me.... Let me talk now! *(The noise of crowd slowly fades)* See, we have to collect our contribution for the holy offerings which will be carried out on coming Monday. This will bring rains and happiness... But before we begin, Pratap Sahib wants to speak to you on this issue. So I request Pratap Sahib to address the gathering.

(Again noise of crowd starts and fades when Pratap starts speaking)

Pratap : Friends, today we have gathered for one important cause; but before we start collecting money from you, I want to speak to you on some important issue.... and the important issue is obviously 'rain'.

Villager 1: We have not come to listen your speech. Take our contribution and let us go...

(Again noise of crowd starts and fades when Pratap starts speaking)

Pratap : Yes, I agree with you. But when you are paying from your pocket, you need to think seriously over it. I will not take much time.

Villager 1 : Okay. Finish it fast!

Pratap : Let me ask you one question! A simple question. Why do we get rain?

Surendra : We get rain because lot of black clouds gather in the sky and at certain moment of time it starts raining.

Pratap : Correct. Surendra has given the right answer, but it's not complete! Because he has not said why do black clouds gather in the sky. Do they want to pay contribution like us and gather at one place? (All laugh on this line of Pratap) Obviously not!

Villager 1 : Then what's the reason?

Pratap : You all will definitely agree with me on one thing that, we get rains in certain specific months....

Villagers 1 : From June to September....

Pratap : Yes! So the black clouds which bring rains appear in those months. Generally, such clouds we don't find otherwise.

Villager 1 : Yes!

Pratap : Do you know why these clouds come during those specific months only? **(Nobody speaks. Pratap takes a pause and laughs)** Don't worry. I will tell you. The type of rain which we have.... we call it as 'monsoon'. It occurs in particular season.

- Sunita :** But, Bhau ji, why does it occurs in particular season?
- Pratap :** Bhabhi ji, very good question. Monsoon, a major wind system that seasonally reverses its direction—such as one that blows for approximately six months from the northeast and six months from the southwest. Indian monsoon, the most prominent of the world’s monsoon systems, which blows from the northeast during cooler months and reverses direction to blow from the southwest during the warmest months of the year. This process brings large amounts of rainfall during June and July.
- Villager 2 :** **(In old voice, coughing)** You are right, beta! But, this year it’s too late! We all are desperately waiting for the rains to come!
- Pratap :** Chacha, I can understand. In fact, I am standing here to tell you the true reason of delayed rains.
- Villager 2 :** Okay...
- Pratap :** We are facing drought like situation here and there was flooding in Rajasthan recently.
- Surendra :** But its desert area in Rajasthan!
- Pratap :** Correct! Still there was lot of rains there.
- Mahipal :** That’s why Baba has advised to worship and give holy offerings.... All irregularities will disappear, if –
- Pratap :** **(Interrupting Mahipal)** Wait Mahipal. Let me complete and then come to the conclusion! So I was talking about irregularities of rains. You might have experienced good start of rainy season, but suddenly the rain disappearing even for two to three weeks...
- All :** Yes... Yes!
- Pratap :** Sometimes it rains so heavily that all our fields flood away. The distribution has become uneven. Based on the rainfall analysis, the researchers found that between 1961 and 2013, about ten percent districts of the country show an increasing trend of annual rainfall, whereas about fifteen percent districts show a decreasing trend.
- Villager 1 :** We are in those fifteen per cent!
- Pratap :** The data shows that in northwest India where Uttarakhand lies, the amount of rains has increased by twenty five per cent during months of May and June; but there is significant decrease in rainfall in July and August. So we are facing these irregularities. At outset, I can say... changes in atmospheric conditions have led to higher frequency of prolonged dry spells and short wet spells with increasing intensity.
- Surendra :** What are wet and dry spells?

Pratap : Wet and dry spells are defined as three or more consecutive days of extremely high or low rainfall.... And such extreme weather events are increasing the risk of drought and flood particularly in central part of India.

Mahipal : But what is the cause of all this?

Villager 1 : And what should we do now to come out of the situation?

(The crowd starts talking among each other on this issue as the questions are being raised)

Pratap : Listen to me. Being a meteorologist, I will answer your questions. By now you must have understood that the rain is purely natural phenomenon and there are certain atmospheric processes which govern this phenomenon. The problem in recent years is that the incidence of extreme events—either too much rain, or too little, over a limited period of time—is becoming more widespread. So, one can say, everything about the monsoon is changing – rainfall intensity, duration, frequency and spatial distribution.

Mahipal : But why?

Pratap : It's due to change in climatic conditions all over the world. Remember, nature does not have boundaries. Any event occurring thousands of kilometers away from us can affect our rains.

Mahipal : Ohhh....

Pratap : The change in climatic conditions is majorly due to global warming. But, there are other parameters also.... such as El Nino which affect our rain adversely. Change in rain cycle is due to change in climatic conditions. Glaciers in Himalaya mountain are melting due to global warming. This melting of ice cap will adversely affect the monsoon. Changes in monsoon patterns would make droughts and floods more common in many parts of India. But remember, no 'Baba' will help you to get rid of this situation. You have to unite and do efforts for your better life ahead instead of wasting money like this.

Villager 2 : But what exactly should we do?

Pratap : First of all, plan your agricultural activities according to the advise given by experts. Now a days, there are so many bulletins, and even mobile apps which help you about this. Prepare yourself for fighting against disaster....

Mahipal : Means?

Pratap : Means, conserve water when there is good rain. It's a shame that we are unable to harvest water that is made available to us and end up with crisis situation. Try to have new irrigation system in the village. Use drought resistant seeds.

Villager 1 : But how is it possible?

Pratap : All this is possible with the contribution which you all are giving today. Spend this money for good cause and also to conserve nature. The problem of climate change and global warming is due to human interventions in nature. So we must take a step now to correct our mistake!

Surendra : Yes, Pratap.... my friend! We must correct our mistake and use this money in better way. Thanks for opening our eyes.... and we all are with you!

All : Yesss....

Villager 1 : Bolo, 'Pratap Baba' ki-

All : Jai!

(All laughs. Music piece. Episode ends.)

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