

Episode- 43
Lurking Catastrophe: Are We Ready?

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(Signature tune.....fades out)

(Theme song.....fades out)

Male Narrator: Friends, in last episodes of radio serial (name of the serial) we discussed different aspects of global warming and associated climatic changes. Henceforth you may ask what will be done to combat these harmful effects. How well we have to prepare ourselves for these adversaries? What preparations are we need to do? Whatever is done till now, is it enough? We will discuss all these issues in today's episode.

(Short music)

Female Narrator: let's move backward in time. In August 2016 in Yamal peninsula of Siberia, some bizarre happenings were observed. Whatever came out was unbelievable. Let's move to the hospital in the Yamal Peninsula and see what happened on that day in August 2016. Junior doctor Dimitri is there. He had a horrible night and is totally exhausted. Senior doctor enters the room.

(Change over music.....fades out)

Scene- 1

Place: Hospital's rest room, Doctor Dimitri is sitting there.

(Professor Stammler enters the room. Give appropriate sound effect.)

Stammler: (coming nearer) Good morning doctor Dimitri, how was the night?

Dimitri: Horrible..... horrible sir.

Stammler: Why?

Dimitri: We receive 40 patients in the night.

Stammler: 40 patients.....really. I mean you would have running whole night.

Dimitri: Yes sir, but these 40 patients are from a single dwelling. They are reindeer herder, living in a nearby village.

Stammler: What problem they are having?

Dimitri: The all have loose stools, blood in stools and pain in abdomen.

Stammler: So they are suffering from food poisoning. Did they have a party last night?

Dimitri: It's nothing of that sort. They had usual food which included reindeer meat also. But it does not look like food poisoning.

Stammler: why does it not look like food poisoning?

Dimitri: Because disease is very severe. All the patients are very sick. One 9 year old child Denis has respiratory problem and he is very serious. These skin rashes are not found in food poisoning.

Stammler: You are right, Dimitri.

Dimitri:and mother of this child has died yesterday from same illness.

Stammler: Oh no, then let's go to the world and see the patient.

(footstep, the ambience of scene will change)

Dimitri: This is Denis, 9 year old child, has symptoms since last night and is very sick.

(Sound of deep laboured breathing becomes prominent. This sound will remain in the background throughout the scene).

Stammler: Turn a little child.....this side.....yes it is fine. My god he is having severe respiratory distress and air hunger too. Shift him to the Intensive Care Unit for ventilator or else he will die soon.....quick. Nurse shift him to ICU and hand over the child to the ICU people.

(Give appropriate sound effect)

Stammler: Ok Dimitri, (after a deep breath) what do you think he is suffering from?

Dimitri: I don't know sir, I am really unable to make a definite diagnosis.

Stammler: Dimitri, is there anything you forgot to tell me in the history of these patients?

Dimitri: (Remembering) Yes sir, one person was saying that reindeers are dying there due to some unknown disease.

Stammler: Dimitri, now you are over the point.

Dimitri: What?

Stammler: Dimitri, though I can't explain how this would have happened but I strongly suspect that these patient, especially that child is suffering from Anthrax.

Dimitri: Profesor Stammler we all know that in this region Anthrax is considered nonexistent since long back.

Stammler: I know.....I know that the last case of Anthrax is seen here in 1941 and since then Anthrax is considered eloped.

Dimitri: (Taking a deep breath) OK, then what's next?

Stammler: Send cultures to the pathology lab of the hospital.....write Anthrax as provisional diagnosis. I will also talk to the pathologist there.

Dimitri: Ok, professor Stammler.

Stammler: Stammler: (After a deep breath) let's see what comes out?

(Change over music.....fades out)

Female Narrator: when culture sensitivity report finally arrived, everyone was flabbergasted. Everyone was asking how it is possible. From where it has come?

(Change over music.....fades out)

Dimitri: (coming nearer, in excited voice) have you seen this culture sensitivity report, professor Stemmler? It says.....

Stammler: I know, it is Anthrax, isn't it?

Dimitri: But sir one fact still puzzles me.

Stammler: what's that?

Dimitri: From where this infection would have come? I mean what may be the source of this Anthrax.....disease that had been wiped out 75 years back.

Stammler: Same with me I don't know..... but first thing first.

Dimitri: What is that sir?

Stammler: Our job is not finished with the treatment of these patients.

Dimitri: then?

Stammler: We have to examine each one

Dimitri: We have to arrange mass vaccination for them, even if they are negative for Anthrax, which will be most difficult task in present situation.

Stammler: From where we can procure such a huge supply of Anthrax vaccine?

Dimitri: Because we didn't need it earlier.

Stammler: We have to deal carefully with the dead bodies of the reindeers that are dying in large numbers.

Dimitri: Of course this will also be a huge task.

Stammler: First of all write a letter, as early as possible, to the authorities, to notify seriousness of the problem and also tell them that we are having an epidemic in the offing.

(Change over music.....fades out)

Male Narrator: The atmosphere of anxiety and fear ensued, rumors started spreading..... administration was on the go.....emergency plants were made and immediately executed.

Female Narrator: 42 more people were admitted in the hospital. That 9 year old child was succumbed to the disease. Situation was so grave that emergency was imposed in Peninsula by Governor Dimitri Kobilkon.

(Sad music)

(Governor is speaking in a television centre. Start the speech in Russian {if possible} or in English with Russian accent. {Russians hate speaking in English} then Studio artist with voice over it in Hindi, English or in a local dialect as per need.)

Governor: I was informed about the death of the boy in our hospital. There are no words to express my condition. I feel sorry; I pass my condolences to his parents. God knows we made strenuous effort from the first day and did everything possible to save the lives of everyone. But the infection was wily, it took the child's life.

(Sad music)

Governor:we will beat the infection. National communicable disease in-charge Mrs Elena Sheshtokowa is reaching on the spot. We are taking help of our army biological warfare troops, people from emergency ministry and health ministry, who are well trained to handle such situations. We all have to be careful, not to give any chance to infection, rumor or confusion.

(Governor's fades out and over this the narrator voice superimposed)

Male Narrator: When the cause of emergence of Anthrax finally disclosed, everyone was amazed.

(Short music)

Female narrator: 75 years back there was an epidemic of Anthrax among Reindeer herds in Yamal Peninsula. The dead body of a reindeer, died at that time, was pressed and concealed under the heavy sheets of ice, called "permafrost". Recent heat wave for a prolonged period where temperatures there were between 25 to 35 degree centigrade, thawed the permafrost and bared the carcass of reindeer. Hibernating spores of Anthrax become active on this temperature and were released into the air to be carried all over the Peninsula by the wind and infected the reindeer herds. From them they reached to the humans.

(Sad music)

Male Narrator: in a short period of 10 days, 2349 reindeers have died due to anthrax. In a hurry administration vaccinated 4,500 reindeers with a plan to vaccinated 41,000 more for Anthrax. Animals died due to anthrax were collected and burnt by health teams. Work was done on war footing and finally the epidemic in offing was abated.

Female Narrator: so this was a very small but horrible glimpse of global warming and its effects on human health. Just think if a small episode, limited to very small area, put the whole administrative machinery on their toes, what will the scenario when it will happen on global basis and will be an everyday affair. How we will deal with it? How much human resources, antibiotics and money will we needed? From where will we procure these extra necessities?

Male Narrator: The developing countries, which have least contribution to the global warming and climatic changes, will be worst affected. As they are fighting to provide basic amenities of health Services to their population till now, what will they do in such grim circumstances? We will tell you later with remain with us.

Female Narrator: Let me see where is Medha? She has to complete project on “global warming and human health.” Today she had planned to go to local office of World Health Organization.

(Change over music.....fades out)

Scene- 2

Place: Local office of World Health Organization.

(Medha and Vivek have come to the local office of World Health Organization on reference of their maternal uncle's friend Vikas, to meet doctor Alpesh Thakur)

Vivek: Medha Di, so we have reached local office of World Health Organization.

Medha: Now we have to search Doctor Alpesh Thakur.

Vivek: (footstep noise) his name plate.....it's there.....Doctor Alpesh Thakur, senior epidemiologist.

Medha: ok come on Vivek, let's Enter the room.

(Sound effect of opening the door)

Medha: Good morning doctor Thakur, I am Medha.

Vivek: I am Vivek, Dr. Vikas told us to meet you.

Thakur: Welcome, you are most welcome. Yes Vikas rang me on that day, he was saying about some project. Who is doing the project?

Medha: I am doing the project on “Global warming and human health”.

Thakur: Good, tell me how can I help you? What do you want to know?

Medha: It is certain that whatever ill effects global warming is causing, they cannot be stopped.

Vivek: They will ultimately affect human health.

Thakur: off course, Medha.

Medha: Can we prepare ourselves to combat these bad effects on human health?

Vivek: Do we have prepared ourselves for these bad effects on human health?

Thakur: The most important problem is that common men do not consider global warming as present time problem. They think that this may come in future, that too probably.

Medha: But uncle the ill effects of global warming, are very much apparent today. We are facing them every day.

Vivek: How?

Medha: This re emergence and spread of communicable diseases in newer areas.....all these are the apparent effects of global warming.

Thakur: yes Medha, the changes caused by global warming in the climate will definitely affecting the human health.

Vivek: Which changes?

Medha: Extended summers, heat waves, cold waves, tornado, typhoons, floods, wildfire and associated excesses of seasons will affect human health adversely.

Thakur: Changes in the behavior and areas of communicable disease, increasing population of disease vectors and disease causing organism are also playing its part.

Medha: Communicable diseases are spreading to newer areas where they were nonexistent and their intensity is also increasing.

Thakur: Yes Medha, due to climatic changes the decrease in food production will also affect the human masses.

Medha: Floods will create new marshlands and the People from these areas will be displaced and move to already over populated cities and will cause scarcity of scarcely available resources. Thakur: So first of all it is important to tell common people that global warming is a problem of present time and that too, a dangerous one.

Vivek: Yes, for this we can take help of government and private sector media.

Medha: Besides we have to prepare ourselves on administrative level.

Thakur: First of all we need an exhaustive survey of these areas so we know that in which areas we need to improve and in which areas we need to start new efforts.

Medha: and these surveys should be conducted continuously.

Thakur: Complete and accurate forecasting of these events should be available to masses in time. Medha: So that we can plan our efforts beforehand and can reduce the amount loss of human life and property.

Thakur: You are right Medha.

Medha: We should also identify the places where improvements and resources are needed most. So we can target our efforts especially to those communities.

Thakur: The most important thing is health education so that common men start accepting the global warming as reality and can identify its adverse consequences.

Medha: So that it can inculcate their interest in learning the efforts to combat adverse effects of global warming.

Vivek: On that day, Vikas uncle said these diseases are spread by mosquitoes; so everyone has to learn how to destroy the mosquitoes and their breeding places, how to avoid mosquito bite.... **Thakur:** The most important thing is that how to reduce the Global Warming, to take actions which can reduce the production of greenhouse gases.

Medha: We will also need lot of antibiotics, need to develop newer antibiotics and produced more and more vaccines, isn't so?

Thakur: In this field we are on the right path. We are very near to success in the field of Malaria vaccine, the work is in progress on Dengue and Chikungunya vaccines.

Medha: but speed by which is communicable diseases are increasing, we will need lot of vaccines, medicines and human resources. From where we will procure them?

Thakur: I accept that our preparations are not up to the mark but these cannot be made perfect. Vivek: Why Thakur uncle?

Thakur: Because we don't know what we have to face in future, what diseases will re emerge, what new disease will come to existence? So whatever is to be done can be done accurately, only when the problems will arise.

(Change over music.....fades out)

Narrator: so friends you have just listened about adverse effects of global warming on human health. We cannot depend on government and government agencies only. We have to make individual efforts also, but how? How we can make our part of efforts?

Let's move to the Vivek's school where a small drama is being staged. So come, come with me.

(Change over music.....fades out)

Scene- 3

Locale -Manav's school's auditorium

(Give appropriate sound effect to establish the ambience of auditorium such as testing of mikes and noise of audience etcetera)

One male voice- Silence please, silence please.....

(Every noise of auditorium fades out)

Nati – So here I am, Nati of this play and this is Sutradhar...oh, where he is (in irritated but whispering voice) he is always late (In loud voice) O rotten soul... where have you disappeared like fresh air from our cities?

Sutradhar- (Coming) *Oh my sweetheart,
why you are angry without reasons.
Show is started and here comes
"Mother of seasons, Mother of seasons".*

(Mother of seasons enters)

Sutradhar- *Welcome-welcome mother of seasons,
why you are sad, tell me the reasons.*

Mother of seasons- *My summer is growing long,
winter is started shrinking.
Rains became uncontrollable,
down pour without thinking .*

Sutradhar— why.....why mother of seasons, why your summer is getting intense and strong?

Nati- You moron the perfect, don't you know the Green house effect?

Sutradhar- Green house effect?

Mother of seasons- yes.

*You burnt the fossil fuels,
use petroleum in your vehicles.
Running factories on the coal,
have defied every goal.*

Nati- How?

Mother of seasons- *Pushing Carbon dioxide,
pumping Sulphur dioxide,
carbon particles in air,
lead fumes in atmosphere.*

Sutradhar- So?

Mother of seasons- *You increased the global warming,
destroyed the earth charming.
Made summer very intense,
cut short winter's presence.*

Sutradhar— What will happen now, mother of seasons?

Mother of seasons- *This way dear, this way dear
end of human race is near,
fear stupid man fear.*

Sutradhar- Why mother of season? why, end of human race is near?

Mother of seasons - *Mountain's ice will melt
Its effect will be felt
By rise in ocean,
understand what I mean?*

Sutradhar- Rise in sea level?

(Entry of Ocean, give appropriate effects such as roars of sea waves.)

Ocean - (coming) *Don't you understand stupid,
It will happen really, rapid.*

Sutradhar- who are you, how dare you call us stupid..... I mean us the humans.

Ocean- I am ocean.

Sutradhar- So you think we are stupid.... We, the humans?

Ocean- Yes...

*One who is inviting death,
by betraying every faith.
Doing harm of their own,
shouldn't I call them moron?*

Sutradhar- How are we betraying faith? How are we inviting death?

Ocean-

*When my level will rise,
what else will do my water?
Submerging fertile fields,
rapidly decreasing yields.*

Nati-

Really?

Water-

As this is not enough.....

*Mixing my salty water,
in your portable water.
Displacing your population,
causing general malnutrition.
Marshy lands appear there,
then tell you will go where?*

Sutradhar-

Marsh lands?

Ocean-

Yes

*Here flourish insects, mosquitoes,
also flies will appear,
Cause diarrhoea cause dysentery,
Malaria, typhoid fever.*

Nati-

Horrible, horrible now who else?

(Noise of wind blowing.....fades out)

Sutradhar-

(With surprise) you.....Airyou ...who is the basis of life?

Air-

Yes.....

*I am your breathing air,
supposed to be fresh and clear.*

Nati-

So you are...

Air-

No..o..o..o..o , Now see what's happening....

*Harmful gases, dangerous chemicals
Dust and carbon particles
With this dirt I going to rot
With global warming getting hot*

Sutradhar-

I know.

Air-

*With all these things when I enter,
in your lungs, then I cater,
Pneumonia, Asthma. many more ailment,
making Bacteria Virus, there more prevalent.*

Nati- Really?

Air- *When I am moist, then I nourish
Mosquitoes, flies and Insect flourish.*

Sutradhar- Yes, you are right.

Air- *Many more communicable diseases I produce,
Chances of human race survival reduce.*
(Humming of mosquito which is initially loud and clear but later gradually fades out)

Mosquito- *Marshy climate, moist air,
thing are easy, fine and fair.
I will flourish, I will dance,
I have found such a chance.*

Sutradhar- Hey..... Hey.... who are you? How you dare to come on stage? Don't you see play is in progress?

Mosquito- Hey man don't you recognize me? I am the actor of recent most play, staged on earth.

Nati- Recent most play staged on earth...which one?
Mosquito- Ever heard of Malaria, Dengue or Chickengunia? It is because of me. Do you recognize me now?

Sutradhar- Oh! So you are Mosquito aren't you?

Mosquito- Yes I am.....yes I am. Malaria, Dengue and Chickengunia, they are my kids. Malaria, my eldest son, ruling over half of the world. Dengue my youngest son, growing rapidly and Chickengunia my lovely-bubbly youngest daughter.

(Two boys and one girl enter the stage, singing)

All three- *Long live our empire,
We will put this world on fire.
Long live our empire,
We will put this world on fire.
Long live our empire.*

Sutradhar- Ho...Ho...Ho, who are you? Why are you trespassing like unwanted water of rising sea level?

Mosquito- Oye...get lost you insignificant man. This is my family, didn't I tell you? My lovely kids, do introduce yourself. Tell them who you are and how are you?

Malaria (With a big laugh)- *I am malaria, I am malaria
Prevelant in every area.
India, Sri Lanka and Iran,
America, England and Pakistan.
I am now everywhere,
what else should I care?*

Nati- So you captured half of the world, why so easily it was conquered?

Malaria- *Rising heat and air moisture,
it is for me far more better.*

I have come to know that you scientists have predicted that in next six years the conditions in two third countries of your world will be favorable for my survival....
Long live my empire

(gives a big laugh)

Dengue- And me, Dangu

*Fever, bleeding, early death,
blood problems is my faith.
Came in nineteen sixty six,
putting ever one in fix.*

Chickengunia (female voice) - I am Chikenguniya

*Joint pain and high fever,
most deadly my character.
stay quite long so victim,
many weeks has to suffer.*

All three (singing)

*Long live our empire
Long live our empire*

(Fades out and all three exit from the stage)

Sutradhar- Horrible....disgusting.

Nati- Spine chilling loathsome

(two boys, two girls appear on the stage singing simultaneously)

All four- *Ru..Ru, Ra-Ra, Ru-Ru, Ra-Ra
Let us play, let us dance
Very soon we too get chance
Let us play, let us dance
Let us play, let us dance*

Nati (fear in her voice) - Now...who....who are you.....I ask who are you?

All four- *We are some unknown disease.
warming earth put us on ease.
We didn't exist before,
We are new developed disease.
For us you will not have cure,
we will be deadly take it sure.
Very soon we will get chance*

(Fades out, all four exit, a hermit appears on the stage playing his Ektara)

Hermit- *Woods are lovely dark and deep
Miles to go before I sleep*

Sutradhar- O wood, I mean sadhubaba, it's not the right place for begging.....go somewhere else.

Hermit- begging...me....from whom..... from this pauper.... Whom you call human. It's not my forte man, I have come here to give.

Nati- To givebut by the way, who you are?

Hermit- I am forest, companion of this man from birth to death. I helped this man in every sphere of his life.

Sutradhar- You helped the man.... How?

Hermit-
*Burning fossil fuel man,
pushing carbon dioxide,
into this atmosphere,
we take it for making food,
Give him food and breathing air
reduce global warming here*

.... And you know what he did?

Nati- what?

Hermit-
*In his race of growing fast,
did things quite unwise.
destroying us rapidly,
carbon dioxide rise.*

Sutradhar- Then

Hermit-
*This heated the atmosphere
global warming is produced
air cleaning is reduced
lesser food is produced*

Sutradhar- God knows what will happen to this man?
(Earth enters- used Echoed voice of a female artist)

Earth- I am Earth your m....o.....t.....h.....e.....r earth.

*My temperature start rising.
Intolerable is this heat,
sea is trying me to beat.*

Nati- The what will happen to us, mother?

Earth-
*Earthquacks will be on rise
men die of it and hunger
Stop calling me your mother
stop calling me your mother* *(fades out)*

Sutradhar- Its enough, it's enough for me. I can't listen any more stop this play.
(Man enters)

Man- Don't stop...p...l...e...a...s...e...don't stop...otherwise we all will finish...everything will finish...

Sutradhar- Who are you? You, with pale face, bony frame labored breathing, circles around your eyes? Are you sick.....Who are you?

Man- I am the man,.....main character of this play ...main sufferer of this tragedy.

Nati- Man! the superior most...most intelligent and the best..... why you are here..... that too in such a condition..... is there any problem with you?

Man- Problem.....not a single.... multiple problems.

*Blood pressure is getting up,
resistance is going low.
Difficult to breath here,
polluted is my air.
Infections are beating me,
living conditions are cheating me.*

(Climate expert appears on the stage-take a artist with husky voice)

Climate expert- *Listen to me, listen to me,
I am your savior listen to me.*

Man- My savior....Tell me, who are you sir?

Climate expert- I am a climate expert,

Man- Come, come sir, tell me what to do?

Climate expert- *Do you know what is wrong,
you disturbed nature's rhythm,
you misplay the nature's song .
Do you ever have this feel,
you disturbed weather's wheel*

Man- Well, what is to be done now?

Climate expert- *Don't get dishearten man,
save climate as you can.
Cut green house gas emission,
use clean fuel, stop pollution.*

Man- Anything else?

Climate expert- *Decrease vehicle use, pool your car
use public transport, leave motor car
Save trees, save forest,
stop indiscriminate tree cutting*

Man- ok *I will do this, to survive
I will follow, your advice*

Nati-

*It's a reality we are suffering,
collectively we can stop it happening.*

(Change over music.....fades out)

Narrator: Friends you just listened about the preparations we have to make to combat global warming. In the next episode you will listen about *(synopsis of next episode)*, till then Namaskar.