

SURVIVING DISASTERS

Salim's Journey through Hell

The Never-ending Saga of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy

Suroopa Mukherjee



From the Desk of Dr R K Pachauri

Human society has moved along rapidly on the path of industrialization. We now have a range of mechanized transport, widespread communications infrastructure and devices powered by fossil fuel based energy for a variety of applications. However, all these developments have led to rapid environmental degradation across the globe and an increase in the concentration of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere. The result is that the climate of this planet is changing rapidly.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has recently brought out two major reports which show that the average rise in surface temperature between 1901 and 2010 has been 0.85°C. In the same period, sea level rise has been 19cm. In addition, certain extreme events have grown in frequency and intensity. The acidification of the oceans, on account of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases being absorbed, is likely to cause serious impacts on marine ecosystems and various forms of marine life.

There is a need for us to mitigate the emissions of greenhouse gases and at the same time to adapt to the impacts of climate change. We need to look at development in a larger ecological context and not merely as a measurement of growth in GDP. Mahatma Gandhi was right when he said that "Speed is irrelevant if you are going in the wrong direction".

"Surviving disasters" aims to re-examine and change the course of our actions in order to save our planet. This series of four books sensitizes young readers towards the impacts and consequences of disasters in a very expressive and thought-provoking manner. The aim is not only to entertain the readers with thrilling stories, but to also inspire them to become responsible soldiers of the Earth.



R K Pachauri

Director-General, TERI

Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change