

A Brief Report on Cyclone Fani at Odisha SVD-INE - JPIC DESK

General Information

A Day after Fani's Fury Batters Odisha: The cyclone was a nightmare. People are completely shattered with extensive destruction of life, properties and livelihood. With wind speed over 240-250 kmph, Cyclone Fani turned out to be one of the biggest and fiercest cyclones that have hit the country. The extremely severe cyclonic storm made a landfall at Puri around 8 am in the morning, which was accompanied with heavy rainfall and gusts of wind. Several villages in Odisha have already been inundated in water after rainfall lashed Odisha throughout the night on Thursday. At least more than 70% trees are uprooted and thatched structures destroyed both at Puri and Bhubaneswar.

The National Emergency Response Centre, which functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs, said power and telecommunication lines in Puri district of Odisha were completely down. As the extremely severe pre-monsoon storm battered eight districts along the sea in Odisha on May 3, the capital city was left paralysed and enveloped in darkness like a proverbial ghost town.

The railway station in Bhubaneswar and the Biju Patnaik International Airport also suffered extensive damage.

Life in the low-lying areas of the city and slums has also been hit. Incessant rain has turned these places into puddles, while strong winds have pulled down most of the huts. The state government had launched a massive evacuation exercise in vulnerable districts two days before the cyclone's landfall, shifting a record 11 lakh people to shelter homes.

Nearly 10 million people in coastal Odisha grappled with the inconvenience of disruption in power and water supply and telecommunication services due to cyclone Fani. The Odisha government stepped up efforts to restore critical infrastructure devastated a day after the super storm hit the state with a wind speed of over 200 kmph.

Most of coastal Odisha, including the state capital, Bhubaneswar, went without electricity for the second day today with the power supply network being worst affected by the calamity after more than 100,000 electricity poles were uprooted by the storm.

Situation of SVDs at Puri and Bhubaneswar

The confreres at Puri Parish, School, Isopanthi Ashram and Bhubaneswar school are safe. But there has been maximum damage to the infrastructures and properties. Briefly describing about the situation from Bhubaneswar school, Fr. Richie sVD writes, "Entire school campus is flattened,



portion of the wall is collapsed. No electricity, it might take more than a week. Painful to see the surroundings, the capital city in total darkness and destruction”.

Due to the lack of power, entire communication system in out of order. We are making effort to reach to our mission at Puri. We do not have any photos see the level of destruction of our school at Bhubaneswar, Isopanthi Ashram and Leprosy Colony. Fr. Pradeep Soreng, SVD due health reason has reached to Jharsuguda and he shares the following photos of Puri Parish.

As I said earlier, we do not have clear information about Puri School, Leprosy Colony, Farm House and Isopanthi Ashram. We will update as soon as we reach the place.

Government is making effort to assess the intensity of the damage and address the issue at the earliest. However, food, shelter, cloths, medicine, drinking water and restoration of electricity continue to challenge. The death toll continue count upward, in Puri district alone reported number of deceased is 38-40.

Kindly keep us and the affected in your prayers.

We will continue to update.

Yours in the Divine Word

Rasal Xess, SVD









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