

Initial Assessment of Cyclone Fani's Impact on the Craft Clusters of Odisha



SITUATION OVERVIEW

Cyclone Fani, which has been classified as an extremely severe cyclone (ESC), is the 10th such cyclone that has hit India in May in the past 52 years. Data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) shows that the last time an extremely severe cyclone hit India in May was in 2004. Timing and strength are two factors that make Cyclone Fani, pronounced as Foni, different from most other tropical cyclones in this time of the year.

On 3rd of May 2019, cyclone Fani hit the coast of Odisha at Puri around 8.00 am, affecting lakhs of people across the state. The recent reports suggest at least 64 people died due to collapse of walls, trees and electric poles, impacting over 1.65 crore people in 14 districts of Odisha. The damage caused by the cyclone was due to the unprecedented wind velocity of up to 240 kmph followed by brief rains that caused massive destruction in the districts of Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar.

“About 5,00,000 people have lost their houses and would need reconstruction,” said Bishnupada Sethi, Special Relief Commissioner with the Odisha government. “Almost 14 million people were affected by the storm last week,” he said. As per the government’s preliminary assessment, more than 5.08 lakh houses were left damaged.

The cyclone damaged weavers’ looms, betel vineyards, craftsmen’s tools, trees and fishermen’s boats and it left agricultural fields inundated.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Odisha government was very proactive on evacuating about 14,18,082 people from coastal villages and accommodating them in the cyclone shelter. District authorities have provided food and water in relief camps and organized health facilities.

Hon'ble Chief Minister's Package:

- For craft artisans, CM Patnaik has promised INR 4,100 to every artisan for replacement of their tools and INR 4,100 for loss of raw materials. His relief package also includes finished goods for 70,000 artisans.
- For the district of Puri and Khurdha, for all families covered under Food Security, 50 kg of rice plus INR 2000/- and polythene to be provided. Cuttack, Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur districts are moderately affected. INR 500/- plus additional one-month quota of rice will be provided in these districts.
- In all the affected districts additional pension for one month and house building assistance as per relief code has been announced i.e.;
 - INR 95,100/- for fully damaged structures,
 - INR 5,200/- for partially damaged structures and
 - INR 3,200/- for minor damages will be provided.
- The state cabinet also approved allocation of INR 15 lakh for cleaning each pond in Puri district, INR 24 lakh for ration of all government staff engaged in relief and restoration works, hike in the daily wage of the workers hired from the neighboring states. The skilled workers will be provided INR 555 as against INR 370, the semi-skilled and non-skilled workers will get INR 480 and INR 420 as against INR 320 and INR 280, respectively.
- For agriculture Self Help Groups (SHGs) helmed by women, the package promises INR 10000 as additional seed money to the affected groups who had pursued livelihood activities. More, a Community Investment Fund of INR 1 lakh per SHG will be provided to 15000 groups to facilitate loans for needy households in the extremely affected districts.

For all other affected districts, relief to be distributed as per NDRF/ SDRF norms. The houses completely damaged will be reconstructed under housing schemes expeditiously. Loss of Agriculture and horticultural crops and animal resources, fisheries will be assessed and compensated accordingly. Tree plantations will be taken up in mission mode soon after relief and restoration.

- Ex-gratia Declared from PMDRF: Hon'ble Prime Minister has announced an assistance of INR 1,000 crore and ex-gratia from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund @INR 2 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased and INR 50,000/- each for the persons, who got seriously injured due to FANI cyclone in the State in 2019.
- Several state governments have also started helping Odisha by donating money towards relief and restoration work. Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat announced INR 5 crore as assistance, Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and Chhattisgarh's Bhupesh Baghel have announced INR 10 crore, INR 10 crore and INR 11 crore respectively, and Andhra Pradesh government announced a financial assistance of INR 15 crore for cyclone-battered Odisha.

CRAFT SECTOR IMPACT STORIES

Odisha has a population of 42 million, of which 83% are rural and 32.59% are below poverty line. More than 1 lac artisans are employed in this sector. The Government of Odisha has identified and approved 49 categories of handicrafts which employ more than one lakh artisans. These include stone carving, brass and bell metal, dhokra casting, silver filigree, cane and bamboo, applique and patch work, pottery

& terracotta, wood carving, palm leaf engraving, textiles, jute tribal jewellery, etc. Odisha has the third-largest population of craftspersons in the country. But they are struggling to survive, with natural disasters disrupting their lives periodically and no support from the government, which has slashed allocations to the handicrafts sector and abolished grants for artisans.

The destruction of raw material, houses and working sheds is quite common during floods. Frequent calamities not only affect their livelihood prospects but also puts a question mark on their children's education, health facilities, etc.

Most of the artisans are illiterate and their standard of living is also low. They live in mud-built thatched-roof structures which have been damaged due to the cyclone.

HIGHLIGHTS

- According to sources, the State government prepared a preliminary report of the damage based on the reports given by the Collectors of Fani-hit districts, which estimates the loss of property in the Textile and Handloom department in Odisha at INR 7431.36 lakh.
- Another source of livelihood and state heritage destroyed by the tropical cyclone is Pattachitra, the art of traditional scroll painting. After Fani ravaged Raghurajpur, a crafts village 14 kilometres from Puri, 160 families of artisans returned to rain-soaked pattachitras and broken stone sculptures. Pattachitras and other works of art worth INR 10 crore were damaged in the natural disaster risking the fate of artisans in the village. Work has been stalled for other crafts artisans engaged in wood and stone carving, papier-mache, palm leaf engraving, handmade toys, etc.
- Cyclone Fani has left Kendrapara weavers with broken looms, along with bricks, pieces of wood and sundry household goods, strewn in piles of debris. It has impacted around 1,200 handloom weavers in the Odisha district who are faced with an uncertain future and no means to earn.
- Around 176 Dhokra artisan families (supported by Anwesha) creating moulds, jewelry, boxes, figurines, etc. in 7 villages in Odisha have lost their work place, stock and tools and personal homes. The households impacted in these villages are given below:

Village, District	No. of Households impacted
Sadaibereni, Dhenkanal	57
Kudiakhunta, Mayurbhanj	35
Kuliana, Mayurbhanj	24
Gartiguda, Rayagada	10
Badamuktapasi, Dhenkanal	10
Badabarsingh, Cuttack	15
Ranasinghpur, Cuttack	25
Total	176

DETAILED ACCOUNT FROM THE GROUND

1. CRAFT CLUSTERS IN CUTTACK, ODISHA

The craft clusters based in Cuttack, Odisha, using traditional crafts skills to make handcrafted and environment friendly products, suffered a massive collapse of their workplace due to the cyclone. Their work has been stalled for more than a month due to power cut and lack of network connectivity and essential supplies.



2. PATTACHIRA PALM LEAF ENGRAVING AND OTHER CRAFTS - RAGHURAJPUR, ODISHA

Apindra Swain is an acclaimed Pattachira and palm-leaf engraving artist, who has been practicing the craft from generations. He engages artists and craftsmen from his village, Raghurajpur, near Puri for palm leaf engraving and creates beautiful artworks for decoration.

Due to Cyclone Fani, Apindra has experienced a massive destruction of his workshop in Puri ruining all his stock of paintings, colourful artworks palm-leaf engravings which take months to complete by hand. Apindra explains - '2 rooms of our workplace along with some stock of hand paintings and artwork have been destroyed due to the impact of extreme, heavy winds and water flowing in our building. Our family and artisans are stranded for work because of power cuts and lack of connectivity as the

transmitters and network towers have collapsed. We need to focus on rebuilding our workplace first, for which we need support. This is the case with our fellow artisans as well.’ As many generations of their family and other related artisans are dependent on this craft for their livelihood, Cyclone Fani has disrupted the entire supply chain of activities in Puri.

Pattachitras and other works of art worth INR 10 crore were damaged in the natural disaster risking the fate of artisans in the village. “When Fani hit our village, it took away everything. For nearly four days after the cyclone struck Raghurajpur, the village and adjoining areas were inaccessible,” added Swain.

The artists are more worried because they have nothing to sell at the famous Rath Yatra that is less than two months away.

Even the wood apple paste, which they call kayantha, used to paint will be difficult to source after the storm uprooted almost all wood apple trees in the region.





Renubala Maharana (44), a papier mache artist from the heritage village Raghurajpur, Puri has lost her home after Fani wreaked havoc. Her four room asbestos house fell apart completely. A widow with two children, she has now taken shelter in a relative's house in the village. "I don't know where to keep my children and feed them. I am a papier mache artist and Fani has destroyed all my finished product and raw materials," says Renubala.

Renubala used to make wall hanging papier mache masks and toys from clay, cow dung and paper.



"I don't think I can rebuild my house before the monsoon arrives. I don't have anyone help," she shared.

Similar stories abound in **Nayakpatna village** in Raghurajpur, where there are Patachitra artisans whose homes and means of livelihoods have been destroyed post Fani. Electricity has not been restored, with residents having to travel to nearest towns to charge their mobile phones. With an overall population of around 700 people, 40% of their houses report complete damage. Apart from initial rations given by the Government, no aid has reached this village so far. Solar lamps and panels are urgently required. Few pictures were shared over phone as below:



GOVERNMENT AID

CM Patnaik has promised INR 4,100 to every artisan for replacement of their tools and INR 4,100 for loss of raw materials. His relief package also includes finished goods for 70,000 artisans.

“The state government has announced a INR 1,600-crore relief package for the livelihood of cyclone-hit people. We have also sent a team to Raghurajpur to get a detailed report on the loss the artisans have suffered,” said Utkal Kumar Pati, Joint Director of the State Tourism Department.

3. DHOKRA CLUSTERS IN ODISHA

On ground data has been collected for 7 villages practicing the dhokra art in Odisha including Sadaibereni, Dhenkanal; Kudiakhunta, Mayurbhanj; Kuliana, Mayurbhanj; Gartiguda, Rayagada; Badamuktapasi Dhenkanal; Badabarsingh, Cuttack; and Ranasinghpur, Cuttack. These clusters work in tandem with Anwesha Tribal Arts & Crafts, a non-governmental Handicrafts development organization that supports various development projects for tribals, dalits, rural poor, artisans, drought and disaster affected people.

The artisan communities have faced a significant brunt of the cyclone Fani. Not only was the entire process of production, infrastructure and marketing affected, but other health and economic problems also arose. “The destruction of raw material, houses and working sheds is the most common repercussion of the cyclone. While there has been no power supply for almost a month, the accessibility to water, network and basic supplies is also limited. As a result, work has been stalled in most of these villages.’ Says Dambarudhar Behera, Secretary, Anwesha Tribal Arts & Crafts.

AID Provided - Anwesha has granted an advance INR 5000 per family, on an average, to start restoration work, with a total loan advance of INR 5 lakhs for all villages. Along with this INR 1 lakh is being used by the artisans from their own funds. The assistance from the government has been limited to small food items, etc.

Assistance Needed - Monetary support is needed for building infrastructure as personal houses, and individual and common work sheds need to be repaired/rebuilt. To carry on production, the artisans need to build the furnaces - both big and small which require appx. INR 20,000/small furnace and appx. INR 80,000/big furnace. Other assistive machinery, generators, table fans and blower machines need to be installed as well. Apart from this, there is an immediate requirement for basic facilities such as power supply, network, subsidized food and health provisions, clean water, etc.

State of the Dhokra Villages

1. Sadaibereni, Dhenkanal

Name	No. of families (1-2 artisans)	Products made	Infrastructure Destroyed	Raw materials Ruined	Stock Lost	Personal Houses ruined	Rebuilding Assistance Needed
Sadaibereni, Dhenkanal	57	Figurines	1 common work shed with 2 big furnaces; Individual home sheds with small pit furnaces; Common storage area with a generator, 2 table fans	Coal for firing got mixed with sand, scrap metal for production	~80% of the total stock of 60 quintal moulds (ready for casting) made for Anwesha	Some personal houses of artisans	~INR 1 lakh needed to build the common work shed with 2 big furnaces



2. Kudiakhunta, Mayurbhanj

Name	No. of families (1-2 artisans)	Products made	Infrastructure Destroyed	Raw materials Ruined	Stock Lost	Personal Houses ruined*	Rebuilding Assistance Needed
Kudiakhunta, Mayurbhanj	35	Figurines	1 common work shed with 5 big furnaces; Individual home sheds with small and big furnaces; 1 generator and water tank in the common work shed, 5 table fans	Coal for firing got mixed with sand, scrap metal for production	~20 quintals of moulds (ready for casting) made for Anwasha	Severe destruction of personal houses; 6 families suffered a total loss of about INR 2,10,000	~INR 4 lakhs needed to build a common work shed with 5 big furnaces

* Artisan Budhia Singh had asbestos roof house that was completely ruined and collapsed into mud; Chandrasena Rana, Lal Mohan Rana, Anil Rana, Gajendra Rana had thatched houses that were completely destroyed; Bidu Rana's newly built asbestos roof house collapsed as bamboo bushes fell on it due to extremely strong winds. These artisan families are currently taking shelters with their neighbors and need assistance.



3. Kuliana, Mayurbhanj

Name	No. of families (1-2 artisans)	Products made	Infrastructure Destroyed	Raw materials Ruined	Stock Lost	Personal Houses ruined	Rebuilding Assistance Needed*
Kuliana, Mayurbhanj	24	Small figurines	Individual home sheds with small furnaces; blower machines	NA	~10 quintals of figurine moulds (ready for casting) made for Anwesha	Severe destruction of personal houses	Monetary aid required for rebuilding

* Loan of INR 15000 per family has been taken from local money lenders to rebuild the furnaces in 15 work sheds as there were making an urgent order. In addition, some advance payments have been aided by Anwesha, disbursed through local agents. Work has been completed for 8 families till now.

4. Gartiguda, Rayagada - small cluster located inside the forest

Name	No. of families (1-2 artisans)	Products made	Infrastructure Destroyed	Raw materials Ruined	Stock Lost	Personal Houses ruined	Rebuilding Assistance Needed
Gartiguda, Rayagada	10	Jewelry parts such as beads, pendants, etc. with assembly done in other clusters	2 common work sheds with 2 small furnaces; blower machines	NA	~200 kg of jewelry export order (ready for casting) for SASHA; order value of INR 5 lakhs delayed	Some personal houses	Monetary aid required for rebuilding and water tank

5. Badamuktapasi, Dhenkanal - first group established

Name	No. of families (1-2 artisans)	Products made	Infrastructure Destroyed	Raw materials Ruined	Stock Lost	Personal Houses ruined	Rebuilding Assistance Needed
Badamuktapasi, Dhenkanal	10	Handcrafted boxes for storing jewelry, spices, etc.	2 common work sheds with 2 big furnaces; 2 small furnaces for emergency; 2	NA	~3 quintals of box moulds (ready for casting)	Many personal houses	~INR 1,60,000 needed to build 2 common work sheds

			table fans, 2 blower machines		made for Anwesha		with 2 big furnaces
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6. Badabarsingh, Cuttack

Name	No. of families (1-2 artisans)	Products made	Infrastructure Destroyed	Raw materials Ruined	Stock Lost	Personal Houses ruined*	Rebuilding Assistance Needed
Badabarsingh, Cuttack	15	Handcrafted boxes for storage and figurines such as Ganesha, etc.	1 common work shed with 2 big furnaces built thrice with their own funds, 2 table fans, 1 generator	Coal mixed with sand and ruined, brass for production	~400 kg of box and figurine moulds (ready for casting) made for Anwesha	Severe personal home destruction worth INR 50,000 per family	~INR 1,60,000 needed to build 1 common work sheds with 2 big furnaces

* Artisan families of Chhavi Behera, Sanjay Behera, Kailass Pradhan, Fakir Pradhan and Jaya Pradhan grappled with massive collapse of their personal houses with the destruction amounting to INR 50,000 per family

7. Ranasinghpur, Cuttack

Name	No. of families (1-2 artisans)	Products made	Infrastructure Destroyed	Raw materials Ruined	Stock Lost	Personal Houses ruined	Rebuilding Assistance Needed
Ranasinghpur, Cuttack	25	Handcrafted boxes and block arts	1 common work shed with 1 big furnace; individual home sheds with small furnace; 1 table fan, 1 generator	Coal mixed with sand and ruined, brass for production	~400 kg stock (ready for casting) made for Anwesha	Many personal houses	~INR 80,000 needed to build 1 common work shed with 1 big furnace

4. HANDLOOM WEAVERS IN KENDRAPARA

In Kendrapara, ominous silence has replaced the sound of looms in at least 1,200 weaver homes after cyclone Fani struck the district. The weaver families in Dihasai, Haripur, Korua, Pundal, Atabhua, Kalaboda and Kuseapala have been shattered by the cyclone.

The looms, which have been the bread and butter for weavers for several decades, have been damaged in the storm. The cyclone has ravaged the lives of 55-year-old Abhay Sahoo and Ramachandra Sahoo of Haripur village, whose looms have been damaged.

Abhay Sahoo, who has been weaving handloom sarees for the last three decades, said his six-room mud-walled thatched house caved in and the two looms stored in it got badly damaged.

“I was earning INR 8,000 to INR 12,000 a month, but after my two looms got damaged and after the house collapsed in the cyclone, I am worried about my livelihood,” said Ramachandra. “Piles of debris, including parts of looms, are now what remains of my possessions after the cyclone ravaged my village,” he added.

As most of the weavers live in mud-walled houses, all the looms stored inside have been damaged. “I cannot afford to purchase new looms,” said Rajani Sahoo of Haripur. Bhisma Sahoo, 58, had hoped to earn some extra income in an upcoming Raja festival, but the storm left him with three broken looms and a pile of damaged clothes. “I barely have any money for my daughter’s wedding,” he said.

“The cyclone has pushed weavers into the abyss of unemployment. We plan to migrate to major textile cities like Surat, Ahmedabad and Ludhiana in search of greener pastures”, said Jajati Sahoo (43) of Kalaboda village.



NEED OF THE HOUR

Short term relief requirements are enlisted below:

- Shelter assistance - temporary and then, permanent
- Support for equipment, raw material and assistive machinery for restarting of livelihoods
- Non Food Items - WASH
- Solar panels and solar lamps
- Dry rations and water purification measures

A long-term disaster preparedness strategy for the artisans is absolutely necessary. Insurance for tool kits, buildings and other resources is a must for artisans frequently affected by natural calamities like flood and cyclone.

People in the affected region are still struggling to settle down and start building a normal life again. Those who lost their homes in the cyclone are worried as monsoon is expected to arrive soon and could make their situation worse.

According to the meteorological department, Odisha will experience monsoon from June 15th. If there is heavy or continuous rainfall, more people will be effected and chances of epidemic could increase.

AIACA | Craftmark calls for immediate support as destruction has encompassed the craft clusters in Odisha, wiping off infrastructure, tools, stock and homes, leaving the artisans stranded.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND CLIPS

- Government Bulletins
- Primary information from partner members and networks
- Reports and circulars from donor organizations
- Media articles - Down to Earth (for Kendrapara)
- SPHERE IAG Joint Rapid Needs Assessment Report