



# CYCLONE FANI - 2019

## POLICE RESPONSE



ODISHA POLICE



# **CYCLONE FANI - 2019**

## **POLICE RESPONSE IN LINE OF STORM**

*Report by:*

**Director General of Police  
Odisha**



## PREFACE

*After Super Cyclone in the year 1999, when Odisha Police was struggling to clear roads and restore normalcy, a team of Andhra Pradesh Police came to help us out with skilled manpower & much better equipments. In the year 2014, when cyclone HUDHUD struck Coastal Andhra Pradesh, our highly skilled officers and men rushed there to help the good neighbors with state of the art equipment.*



*Faced with the challenges and tragic memories of Super Cyclone, Odisha Police transformed itself very quickly and acquired capability to deal with any natural calamity. This ability has been proved once again by an extremely professional team with robust response to recent cyclone FANI. We take pride in the fact that today, Odisha Police is probably one of the best force in the country to deal with natural disasters. In fact Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) of Odisha Police was created by an order of Home Department, Govt. of Odisha in the year 2001, where as the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) came into existence only in year 2005. During cyclone FANI, each and every member of Odisha Police rose to the occasion and proved their mettle. On one side this dedication of entire force and on the other hand the appreciation by people of the state have overwhelmed me as the chief of State Police.*

*After smooth conduct of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and Odisha State Legislative Assembly, as we were about to put our feet up to relax and pat ourselves on the back for the extremely peaceful conduct of elections, came the news that severe tropical cyclone FANI is about to hit Odisha coast around 3<sup>rd</sup> May.*

*Odisha police alerted field formations in the likely to be affected districts and asked them to be prepared for any exigency. As state of Odisha has experienced almost about 25% of the cyclones that have hit India, so it was nothing new. The only issue was that the entire police force had toiled day and night for last few months and every one needed a breather. Here, efficiency, resilience and discipline of the force need to be lauded as they could immediately change gear from election mode to counter-disaster mode.*



*There were series of review meetings held at the level of Govt. by Hon'ble Chief Minister and Chief Secretary. I had many rounds of meetings with senior officers and a comprehensive strategy was worked out and detailed instructions were issued to district Ss.P./DCsP as well as field units.*

*The IMD had made a forecast that the cyclone is likely to make land fall between Gopalpur and Chandbali. On the basis of forecast probable track was made and district Ss.P. of 11 districts were instructed to remain alert and make arrangements accordingly. They were instructed to help evacuate all from the low-lying areas. Notwithstanding, keeping of ODRAF in readiness and requisitioning NDRF, district Ss.P. were instructed to make arrangements for road clearance, ensure uninterrupted VHF communication, generators with sufficient POL to combat power failure and also to keep dry ration at the Police Station to be distributed in the neighbourhood in case of requirement. The coastal police stations were also instructed to keep local fisherman with boats ready for rescuing people in case of tidal surge and flooding.*

*Police stations being the basic field units to deliver services during crisis in any society till normalcy is restored, these units were augmented with additional manpower, logistic and essential services like food, water etc. in order to strengthen their capacity. I have observed during my 33 years long career that in case of such emergency, police is the first responder. Whenever people are in distress, as a result of such natural calamity, they rush to the Police station for help.*

*We decided to set up one Emergency Control Room, Bhubaneswar for vertical and horizontal coordination with the districts as well as other line department who would be involved in the rescue, relief and restoration operations. The emergency control room had required number of vehicles and emergency response teams for performing any task at a very short notice. This control room was in touch with the district control rooms on a minute to minute basis.*

*It has been my experience that mobile and telephone communication would be hit during the cyclone, and keeping this in mind, we had made arrangements in advance. Immediately after land fall, VHF communication was only means of communication with Puri district and many other areas. I was also able to monitor everything while sitting in the*

*Control Room and coordinate the operations with every other agency, thanks to the VHF communication.*

*The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, who was hands-on and was himself monitoring the operations and reposed the unflinching faith in the Police to carry out the work with aplomb. He had directed the Police to go all out to ensure zero casualty. Matter of great pride for us that Odisha Police did not let him down and did its best to ensure that the casualty was limited to minimum.*

*The kind of work done by the Odisha Police during this period brought in praise from the Govt. and reach accolades from various quarters, both national and international. The indomitable courage, grit, determination, unstinting commitment and dedication shown by the Odisha Police officials, irrespective of the ranks, gave me great satisfaction of being the leader of such an elite force.*

*This report is being prepared to document the work done by police for the information of all. The good work done and the practices adopted can serve as a reference for the future during any such eventuality. The work done was enormous and we have tried to cover the major works in the report. It is a matter of great satisfaction for me to have documented the good work done by the Odisha Police. I am sure this document will be useful in the future and everyone who were part of the team performing relief and rescue operations will cherish the memories of excellent work done by them.*

**Salute to Odisha Police.**



**Dr. Rajendra Prasad Sharma, IPS,**  
Director General of Police,  
30.05.2019



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## CHAPTER-1

# INTRODUCTION

No sooner did the 4<sup>th</sup> phase of general election to Lok Sabha and Odisha Legislative Assembly got over on 29<sup>th</sup> of April, 2019, the very next day i.e. 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019, it was confirmed that the tropical severe cyclone FANI, with all its fury is heading towards Odisha coast and likely to make land fall between Gopalpur and Chandbali.

Dr R P Sharma, IPS, Director General of Police, Odisha held hectic parleys and meetings with senior officers to work out the Police preparedness to face any eventuality and a full-fledged and comprehensive strategy was devised for police department, within no time, to meet any exigency. Strategy and meticulous planning was also made for evacuation, rescue and safe distribution of relief material.

At 8.30 AM, on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019, FANI made land fall in Puri district with the eye of the storm directly hitting Puri town and wreaking havoc in the districts of Puri, Khorda, twin city of Bhubaneswar-Cuttack, Cuttack district. The districts of Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, parts of Jajpur and Bhadrak were also badly affected. However, a well thought out strategy, preparedness, meticulous planning and apt execution in-coordination with other line agencies, by Odisha Police could ensure less suffering to 1.5 crore people who were badly hit by tropical cyclone FANI with minimum casualty which earned national and international applause.

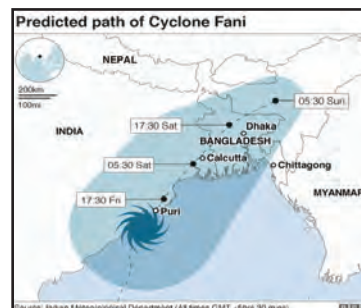


## CHAPTER-2

# METEROLOGICAL PREDICTION

**29.04.2019:**

The severe cyclonic storm FANI, which was over the southeast Bay of Bengal and the adjoining East Equatorial Indian Ocean, was expected to likely intensify into a "very severe cyclonic storm" by Monday, the Indian Meteorological Department.

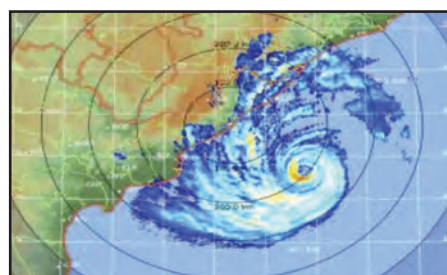


Fani was then centered about 1,080km south-southeast of Machilipatnam (Andhra Pradesh). "It is likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm in the next 12 hours and into a "very Severe Cyclonic Storm" during the subsequent 24 hours. It is likely to move north-westwards till April 30th and thereafter recurve north eastwards gradually," said IMD bulletin.

**30.04.2019**

The severe cyclonic storm "FANI" which was located over south-east and adjoining south-west Bay of Bengal about 800 km south of Puri, which was initially to graze past Odisha coast, was then predicted to hit the coast directly on its re-curve on 3rd May, as per the Centre for Environment and Climate (CEC) of the SOA, deemed to be University here.

The system was expected to intensify and cross the coast somewhere between Gopalpur and Chandbali close to Puri with a wind speed of 180 to 200 kmph.

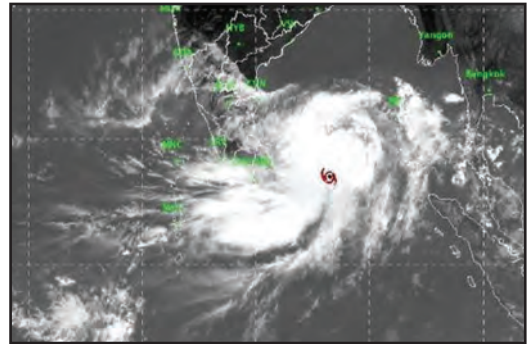


The severity of the cyclonic storm was expected to trigger storm surges of 5 to 7 meters height along the coast causing the sea to sweep inland up to 10 km, which meant precautionary steps were needed to be taken to evacuate the people living in these areas close to the sea and shift them to Cyclone Shelter Centres.

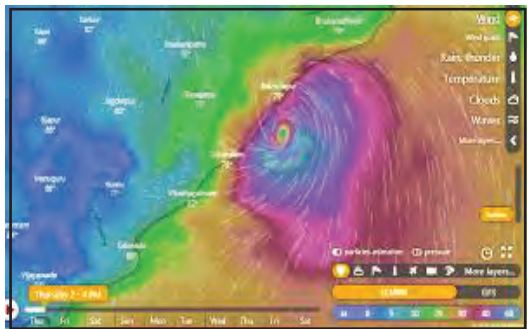
**01.05.2019**

After gradually gathering strength, tropical cyclone FANI tracked north-north westwards over the Bay of Bengal for the 3rd May brush with Odisha. Going by its speed and intensity, it was expected to cross the coast closer to Puri and move along the coast.

As it packed power, the Odisha Government alerted all districts while issuing special instructions to 14 coastal and interior districts to remain vigilant. Evacuation of especially the elderly women, children and physically challenged and all to cyclone shelters was decided to commence from May 2nd in the coastal districts.

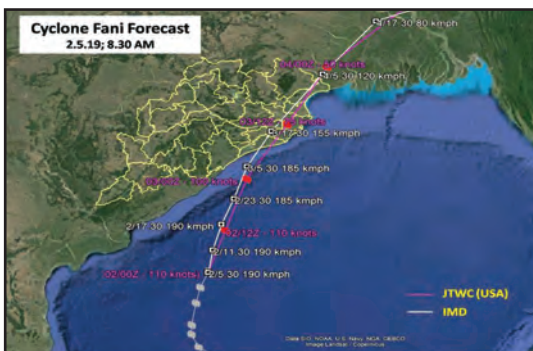


The Centre deputed 28 NDRF teams, including 10 from outside the State and the Odisha Government deployed 20 ODRAF units for rescue and relief operations. It has also sought two helicopters from the Centre to assist in the post-calamity operations.



FANI, by then an extremely severe cyclonic storm, was expected to intensify further and may make landfall

between Gopalpur and Chandbali on May 3 afternoon, Storm surge of around 1.5-meter height was expected to likely inundate low lying areas of Ganjam, Khurda, Puri and Jagatsinghpur districts at the time of landfall.



The peculiarity of FANI, according to meteorologists, is its track which lay closer to the coast all along its path, unlike in the past when cyclones headed into the land and weakened. FANI was expected to track

alongside the coast from Puri towards Mayurbhanj and during the course garner moisture support from the sea, while the already existing hot and dry conditions on the land would favour it.

**03.05.2019**

The extremely severe cyclonic storm FANI was expected to make land fall on 3rd May morning around 9.30 am in Odisha's Puri, much before the earlier forecast of 3 pm. With a few hours left for cyclone FANI to hit the coast, a massive exodus got under way in coastal Odisha as hundreds of thousands of people left their home, on foot and by vehicles, in probably the largest evacuation ahead of a natural disaster in the country. The Odisha Government moved 13 lakh



people to safety and advised the public to remain indoor on Friday. FANI was being regarded as the most severe cyclonic storm since the super cyclone of 1999 that claimed close to 10,000 lives and left a trail of destruction in vast swathes of the state, according to the Joint Typhoon Warning Centre. FANI, according to sources, gathered speed and rolled dangerously towards the coast clocking 170 km per hour. After crossing Odisha, cyclone FANI was then expected to move towards West Bengal before tapering off. Still it was expected to likely impact parts of the north-east Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. It was also forecasted that massive tides that could surge up to 1.5 meter could happen during the landfall. Fishermen were also advised against venturing into the sea.

**04.05.2019**

Eight people were killed as cyclone FANI made landfall in Puri on Odisha coast around 8 am, triggering heavy rainfall coupled with high velocity winds with speed of 175 kmph in vast areas. The area along Puri witnessed strong winds. Early this morning, cyclone Fani hit West Bengal and was expected to continue further in the North-East direction with the wind speed of 90 kmph.





On 3<sup>rd</sup> May, large areas in Puri and other places were submerged with water as heavy rains battered the entire coastal belt of the state. Thousands of trees & electrical poles were uprooted and thatched roofs destroyed at some places including Bhubaneswar.



All flights from Bhubaneswar were cancelled from midnight, Kolkata airport was also shut between 3 pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> May till 8 am on 4<sup>th</sup> May. A total of 140 trains including 83 passenger trains were also cancelled.



The 14 districts in Odisha were in the path of the Cyclone Fani. People were evacuated from Gajapati, Ganjam, Khurda, Puri, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Bhadrak and Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal and Keonjhar which were expected to be badly affected by the storm. Nearly 13 lakh people were evacuated in less than 24 hrs. Ganjam and Puri evacuated more than 3 lakh and 1.3 lakh people respectively to safe shelters. About 5000 kitchens were started to serve people in these make shift camps.

The Army, NAVY, Air Force, Coast Guard and Disaster Management Agencies were advised to remain on stand-by. The Hon'ble Prime Minister Sri. Narendra Modi, also reviewed preparedness for Cyclone FANI with his senior officials in New Delhi.

## CHAPTER-3

### REVIEW MEETINGS BY HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER, CHIEF SECRETARY & DGP

Sri. Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister convened an emergency inter-departmental coordination meeting to take stock of the situation of impending extremely severe cyclone FANI which was likely to make land fall around Puri on 3rd May, 2019. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary, DGP and other senior officials of different Govt. departments.



This was followed by a series of meetings chaired by Sri. A.P. Padhy, IAS, Chief Secretary to chalk out coordinated and well thought-out strategy to combat and counter the impact of FANI in the state of Odisha.

As discussed earlier, FANI was likely to made land fall at Puri around 8.30 AM of 3rd May 2019.

DGP, Odisha held several rounds of discussions and review meetings with staff officers and other senior officials in the State Police Headquarters, Cuttack and DGP Camp Office, Bhubaneswar to work out detailed strategy and meticulous planning to counter the likely devastation to be caused by the impending FANI cyclone.

#### Police Preparedness during pre-cyclone:

As directed by DGP, 11 Senior IPS officers were deputed to likely to be affected districts for supervision of Police arrangements, coordination with district administration and other line agencies/



field functionaries for evacuation of likely to be affected people to safe areas, rescue of affected people, safe and secure distribution of relief materials during transit and distribution.

### **Augmenting the man power, logistics & capacity of Police Stations**

Police station is the basic functional field unit to deliver services at the grass root and cutting-edge level. So, the following instructions and support mechanism were extended to prepare each likely to be affected Police Station.

- The leaves of police personnel were cancelled and those on leave were recalled back.
- 100% Home Guards were mobilized and kept in respective Police Stations.
- It was decided to augment the man power and logistics resources of the PSs of likely to be affected areas to prepare itself to meet any challenge. Extra manpower was mobilized and reinforcement was sent to those Police stations in advance to augment manpower resources, both from Dist. and State Police Hdqrs.
- In order to increase the capability of the PSs, logistics requirements such as, Generator Sets, Aska Lights, basic equipment like power axes, and other implements and accessories were provided.
- It was directed to arrange in advance tree cutter equipments and earth moving machinery locally.
- Further, wherever Generators were not available with the Department at Police Stations, they were directed to arrange them locally on rent.
- Police personnel were directed to keep sufficient dry food, gas, candles, solar emergency lights/lamps, Torches etc.





## Cyclone 'Fani': 2019

- The Station House Officers were directed to stock excess dry food for at least 7 days in the Police Stations and Outposts so that it can cater to the mobilized personnel and in emergency to the local public, who may take shelter there.
- Moreover, directions were issued to store sufficient drinking water and to keep the hand pumps in Police Stations and Outposts in working condition.
- Heavy, medium and light vehicles were mobilized in adequate numbers by Police Motor Transport Department to different likely affected districts.
- Additional vehicles were provided to these Police Stations. It was also directed to stock sufficient quantity of POL at Reserve Office and Police Stations for vehicles and Generator sets.
- Since the wind would in all likelihood uproot the Antenna or Towers of the wireless communication, it was directed to dismantle or remove them prior to cyclone and reinstall them as soon as the wind speed reduces.

**Such precautionary directions saved the day for Odisha Police.**

### **Emergency Control Room:**

On 1st May 2019 an Emergency Control Room was set up in the Command and Control Centre, Bhubaneswar with adequate officers in the rank of AC/DC under the supervision of one SP/Commandant in three shifts to function 24X7. Sri. Sanjeeb Panda, IPS, Additional Director General of Police(Law & Order) was in overall charge of the Emergency Control Room, being assisted by Sri Amitabh Thakur, IPS, IGP, SAP.



Keeping in mind the past experience it was anticipated that all mode of communication would get affected immediately after the cyclone. DGP had directed that all the VHF antennas would be dismantled and erected again after the cyclone. This ensured VHF communication even after the cyclone.

The police communication network was the only source of communication for the police and civil administration both at the State level and also at ground zero. Static VHF sets were installed at the office of State Relief Commissioner, Secretary Energy, Secretary H&UD, BMC, IDCO, State Ware Housing Corporation, Kalinga Stadium, Pumping Station Mundali and other such important locations from where distribution of relief and service were being done/ coordinated and had to remain connected 24x7. Man pack sets with 16 operators were also provided to Senior Officers of Civil Administration in Bhubaneswar for smooth flow of information so that all concerned is in the loop and there was no gap in coordination, whatsoever.

Further VHF/Walky-talky sets were provided in Puri district to the Collector, Sub-Collector and other Senior Officials of the line departments to ensure seamless communication, which helped in smooth distribution of relief and also helped them in restoration. VHF/Walky-Talky sets were also given to the escort party of relief material and water tanker so that their movements could be monitored as well as ensure proper distribution of relief.

It was anticipated that during and after cyclone FANI all other mode of communication including telecommunication would not work and the only line of communication would be through HF and VHF of Police Department. Elaborate Police communication arrangements were put in place to ensure continuous and seamless flow of information. 595 Static/Mobile sets and 475 Man pack sets were provided to the PSs, Sub Division and District Headquarters. District Control Rooms were made fully equipped to ensure free flow of information from the PSs to the Emergency Control Room set up in Bhubaneswar to coordinate all operations related to cyclone as well as coordination with district administration, state administration and other line agencies. It played the most crucial role in making the entire Govt. machinery functional.



The emergency control room also reached out to various departments on requirement of police escorts for transportation of materials to Puri and coordinates the movement of the relief vehicles to Puri from various parts of the state.

## CHAPTER-4

# EVACUATION

District Police along with the district administration, other stakeholders and the general public strived to ensure that the loss caused by the cyclone could be minimized, with key focus on human lives. Such natural disasters cannot be averted by human intervention but right disaster management strategy with focus on preventive mechanism



can certainly minimize the loss of human life, property, livestock etc. The District Police followed the approach of preventive management by taking proactive steps and best possible use of its men and resources.

- In the run up to cyclone, police undertook massive awareness exercise among the public by using loud speakers, mega phones to vacate the low-lying areas which were nearer to sea and to shift to the cyclone shelter homes and other safer places.
- Awareness was also spread to discourage fishermen and boats from venturing to deep sea and to safeguard their boats at the shore.
- Persons staying in thatched/asbestos roof houses were evacuated to the cyclone shelter homes and other safer buildings with their valuable belongings.
- Awareness was also created among the people to stock emergency medicines, keep important documents/cash/jewellery in their safe custody and not to venture outside at the time of cyclone.





- Public were requested to shift their domestic animals and livestock to safer buildings/places.
- Police ensured that people do not go near the Sea Beach.
- Advisory was issued to the hotels etc. to ensure safety of their guests.
- While taking up the evacuation exercise, the police personnel worked day & night including senior officers who camped at the affected area and personally visited the interior regions.
- Due care was taken to pay special attention to old, sick, children, pregnant women, differently abled, destitute etc. as well as anyone who required any special assistance.



- The police personnel approached almost every person in the likely affected region near the coast and people were persuaded/requested by police to move to safer places/ cyclone shelter home.



## Cyclone 'Fani': 2019

- The police put to use all their resources including their personal vehicles for evacuation of people.

24 hours before the impending tropical cyclone, massive evacuation exercise was undertaken and around 13 lakhs (1.3 million) people who were likely to be affected, staying in low laying areas, near sea coast, river side etc. were evacuated to designated multipurpose shelter homes and temporary shelter homes.



Evacuation of 1.3 million people within 24 hours was one of the toughest challenges faced by Odisha Police. As such, there was a huge mental block in public mind to leave behind their houses and belongings and to shift to a distant place. Police in uniform played a major role in persuading or cajoling people for shifting. Extensive use of public address system fitted in the PS vehicles and use of Mega Phones became very handy in communicating



with public as well as in the shifting process. At times public had to be aggressively persuaded but without use of any physical force for shifting.



Sri Pinak Mishra, IPS, Superintendent of Police, Berhampur earned widespread accolades for moving from village to village, pleading people with folded hands with an emotive gesture for evacuation which showed the sensitivity, dedication and commitment of police for the safety and security of the citizens.

Special care was also taken for shifting of old men, women, pregnant women, sick people and children. There were umpteen instances of police walking miles with old men, women and infants on their shoulders and using all possible means like Police



Motorcycles, Police Station jeeps etc. for evacuating people to safer places. Such herculean efforts resulted in minimizing casualties to around 30, which was internationally applauded & hailed even by the United Nations.

In Paradeep of Jagatsinghpur District massive awareness was undertaken amongst fishermen, boatmen, industries as well as general public. Mooring of boats was done at fishing Jetty and other fishing areas. As a preventive measure, Great Danger signal was hoisted at the West Basin of Paradeep Port. All ships were directed to leave the anchorage area and move to high Sea by 01.05.2019 evening. All inward and outward movement of vessels were cancelled by Paradeep Port. All organizations were requested to keep their respective places vacant to be used as shelter homes for cyclone victims and to remain in readiness to distribute food for them. Evacuation of people from all probable affected areas to safe places were undertaken, as a result of which thousands of people could be taken to as many as 34 shelter homes before the day of Cyclone. All the industries in the area were advised to take adequate precautions and remain prepared for any eventuality. Excellent coordination was maintained with the Coast Guard, Port Authorities, CISF on real time basis.



## CHAPTER-5

# POLICE COMMUNICATION NETWORK

After receiving information that severe cyclonic storm "FANI" is heading towards Odisha coast and is likely to make land fall between Gopalpur and Chandabali and is likely to affect 14 districts of the state, massive arrangements were made to provide uninterrupted wireless communication during the cyclone from Police Station level VHF station and other VHF stations to District Headquarters/State Police Headquarters/ State Capital/ Emergency Control Room. Sri Asheet Panigrahi, IPS, IGP, Headquarters & Communication geared up the signal & Motor Transport network.

### PRE-CYCLONE PHASE

1. It was anticipated that during and after the cyclone other modes of communication would cease to work. The only line of communication would be through HF and VHF of Police communication system. Adequate nos. of spare VHF sets, Walkie Talkies, HF sets, Tubular masts, Batteries, Battery chargers, Spare batteries and antenna systems along with other accessories were provided to District Headquarters workshops, Hill top Repeater stations and other strategic locations to ensure continuous and seamless flow of information.

2. 3 temporary workshops were opened to manage the situation at Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, and Khorda with adequate technical staff as there were no workshops previously. The



District VHF Control Rooms, Emergency Control Room set up at Command Centre, Bhubaneswar, State Police Control Room, Cuttack, State Control Room, Bhubaneswar were fully equipped to ensure free flow of information during cyclone as well as for coordination with District Administration, State administration and other agencies.

3. Prior to cyclone, extra technical staff were deputed to workshops of the likely to be affected districts. They visited Police Stations and other VHF stations, checked the VHF sets, Battery, Battery Charger, Antenna system and ensured uninterrupted communication to District Control Room and other places.
4. In order to handle the situation, Hill top Repeater Stations were augmented with extra technical staff. Adequate nos. of VHF repeater sets, antenna system and other accessories were provided so that in case of Tower/ Antenna system breakdown, sets and batteries defective due to rain, immediate installation/replacement can be made to make the system fully operational.

### **DURING CYCLONE**

1. At 08.30am on 3rd May 2019, cyclone made land fall in Puri District and severely affected Purl, Khurda, Twin Cities of Bhubaneswar-Cuttack, Cuttack Rural District, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara. Some parts of Jajpur and Bhadrak district were also badly affected.
2. During cyclone, antenna system fell down at one of the Hill top, but technical staff present there immediately re-installed it and provided uninterrupted communication within no time. Similarly in some of the VHF stations, VHF sets and batteries were damaged due to rain water but the standby sets and batteries were replaced without any loss of time so that the VHF communication was not disrupted. As expected, all modes of telecommunication were disrupted, except Police VHF communication. In the affected areas during cyclone, Police Communication system was able to provide uninterrupted communication to the respective District Headquarters, State Police Headquarters and State Capital/ Emergency Control Room.

### **POST CYCLONE**

The Police communication network was the only communication system for Police and several administrative departments at Dist. Level, State level and also on the ground. Static VHF stations were set up in the office of State Relief Commissioner, Secretary H &UD

department, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Cuttack Municipal Corporation, M.D Civil Supply office, Kalinga Stadium, Central Electricity Supply Utility (CESU) and other such important locations from where distribution of relief and services were being coordinated and hence had to be monitored. Further large no. of VHF sets were



installed in the vehicles of Police Officers, District Collectors, Sub-Collectors and other Senior Officials of other line departments to ensure uninterrupted communication which could help them for distribution of relief. VHF sets are also installed in the escort vehicles of relief materials and for water distribution system to monitor their movements as well as to establish law and order. VHF sets with operator was provided to Senior Police Officers, Govt. Secretaries and Senior Officials who were associated with cyclone relief work.

The list of VHF sets and walkie talkies deployed in addition to existing VHF/Walkie Talkies that were available at the cyclone affected districts is given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Existing Deployment in the district		Additional Deployment during "FANI" in the district	
		Static/mobile	Walkie talkies	Static/mobile	Walkie talkies
1.	Puri	109	61	156	85
2.	Bhubaneswar UPD	181	200	119	181
3.	Cuttack UPD	100	74	125	80
4.	Cuttack Rural	63	03		
5.	Khorda	49	13	35	40
6.	Jagatsinghpur	49	30	45	20
7.	Kendrapara	44	05	30	26
8.	Jajpur	57	03	35	20
9.	Bhadrak	59	03	50	23
<b>Total</b>		<b>711</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>475</b>

Lastly, it is pertinent to mention here that due to proper planning and deployment of technical manpower, equipment and prompt and dedicated efforts of Technical Staff of Police Signals Establishment, uninterrupted VHF communication was provided to the entire Govt. machinery during and after the cyclone "FANI".

## ROLE OF P.M.T ORGANISATION DURING SUPER CYCLONE "FANI"

Police Motor Transport (PMT), Odisha, Cuttack is responsible for up-keep and maintenance of MV fleet of Odisha Police. Due to severe cyclonic storm "FANI", extensive damage was caused to the central work-shop Cuttack and PMT Training center, Cuttack and 08 vehicles were damaged. Notwithstanding that, entire PMT machinery was geared up to meet challenges of FANI. The following vehicles were mobilized and deputed to likely affected districts as per instructions received from State Police Hdqrs., Cuttack.

### TYPES OF VEHICLES MOBILIZED / UTILISED DURING SUPER CYCLONE "FANI"

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Heavy	Medium	Light	Motor Cycle	Other s
1.	Angul	01	15	49	42	----
2.	Balasore	03	13	57	40	01
3.	Bhadrak	00	14	43	42	----
4.	Cuttack	01	14	50	37	----
5.	Dhenkanal	02	15	43	48	----
6.	Gajapati	01	11	38	51	----
7.	Ganjam	03	24	63	56	----
8.	Jagatsinghpur	03	11	42	52	----
9.	Jaipur	03	14	49	69	----
10.	Kendrapara	02	11	38	26	----
11.	Khordha	01	12	39	42	----
12.	Mayurbhanj	03	12	58	55	----
13.	Nayagarh	02	13	45	37	----
14.	Puri	03	20	85	85	----
15.	UPD, Cuttack	08	13	105	162	01
16.	UPD, BBSR	08	20	137	169	03
17.	P.M.T. Hdqrs., Cuttack	----	14	21		----
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>44</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>1013</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>2270</b>				

Further, one control room was also opened in P.M.T., Hdqrs., Cuttack round the clock with the help of 02 S.Is, 03 Driver Havildar and 02 Drivers, to act upon instructions from emergency control room, Bhubaneswar and coordinate with districts on a regular basis.

## CHAPTER - 6

# LAW AND ORDER MANAGEMENT

### A. LANDFALL OF FANI & NEXT 24 HOURS

The land fall of severe tropical cyclone "FANI" took place around 8.30 AM in Puri and it fizzled out around midnight after traversing across Khordha, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak and Balasore. Initially when the wind speed subsided to 50-60 kmph, the civil police of Police Stations along with mobilized force played a crucial role in clearing



the roads. However, after the cyclone was over, specialized police agencies like ODRAF, NDRF were immediately pressed into service and they did an exemplary job. By midnight while FANI, had caused havoc, all National Highways were cleared from blockade due to fall of trees and electric poles. In another 24 hours, road communication was restored to the District Headquarters followed by Blocks and Panchayat Headquarters and then arterial roads. By 5th May 2019, all roads were cleared for movements of vehicular traffic, as well as for the movement of relief material and other essential services like medicines, milk, dry ration etc. Hon'ble Chief Minister had decided to hold a review meeting at 5.00 P.M. on 03.05.2019. Policemen, not only cleared the roads, while the winds had still not subsided, but also helped Senior Officers reach the Secretariat for the Review Meeting.





## B. LAW & ORDER DURING INITIAL 36 HOURS

As the cyclone subsided, people in the shelter homes rushed to their villages to see the condition of their houses, belongings and animals, livestock etc. There was increasing demand for supply of water and food materials and the initial brunt of anger and frustration of the agitating people were borne by the police personnel on the ground. Engaging people in dialogue and discussions, assuaging them for arrival of relief material and pleading them to hold on till arrival of relief was most challenging for Police.

Majority of the staff including senior officials of some line departments were suddenly found missing as their families were also badly hit. But Police men and their families were equally hit badly though FANI was nondiscriminatory in causing devastation. Against all odds and despite their families being in distress, police men stood on the ground to hold on to the fort and there were no major law and order noticed in all 11 affected districts except few discreet & sporadic incidents.





Police provided security to the local markets, Govt. and Private ware houses, where food grains were stored as well as sold and prevented looting/food riots.

Post cyclone, when people were in distress and had genuine grievances, complaining about lack of drinking water and electricity in the hot and humid conditions, police had to walk on the razor's edge and ensure that there was no agitations/RASTA ROKO, as it was detrimental to ensure uninterrupted supply of relief. It was an enormous task of assuaging the feelings of agitating people and also to move them out from the roads without use of force. It can be appreciated that when a tanker of water has to be transported to a distant village, through villages which also have no water, the maneuvering required is immense.



Further, every policeman on the road had been working day and night, remaining away from their homes for more than couple of months due to the simultaneous Elections. To make all such policemen again perform duty 24 X 7, without worrying about their children and families, who were staying in damaged houses without food and water was really difficult. Still police leadership at various levels by setting personal examples, made them toil 24 X 7. This resulted in managing the law & order situation smoothly during the turbulent phase.

### C. FORCE DEPLOYMENT

All the likely to be affected districts were directed to mobilise their full strength, cancel all leaves and recall back the personnel. As a result most of these districts were working in almost 90% of their strength. This was needed as the district police force has better knowledge about the terrain and better connected with the local community. This would help in a long way to convince the people for evacuation in pre-cyclone phase, take their co-operation for road clearance etc post cyclone and also in pacifying the agitated people when relief is being distributed.

The deployment of police personnel in the affected districts is given below:

Sl. No.	District	APR Constable	OR Constable	Home Guard	Grama Rakhi
1	UPD Bhubaneswar	382	1153	1147	195
2	UPD Cuttack	342	760	928	123
3	Cuttack	122	256	450	550
4	Khurda	105	172	220	207
5	Puri	206	615	896	638
6	Jagatsinghpur	181	230	418	474
7	Kendrapara	127	270	348	560
8	Jajpur	194	352	468	643
9	Nayagarh	120	220	333	469
10	Balasore	261	543	743	783
11	Bhadrak	155	288	336	506
12	Mayurbhanj	411	531	868	766
13	Ganjam	204	506	616	480
14	Gajapati	144	127	140	327
15	Dhenkanal	183	283	406	397
16	Keonjhar	273	460	396	605
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3410</b>	<b>6766</b>	<b>8713</b>	<b>7723</b>

In addition to the above-mentioned strength, additional manpower was deployed in the affected districts, which is given below:

Sl. No.	District	ODRAF Teams		NDRF in Units		SAP in Platoon	
		Pre Cyclone	Post Cyclone	Pre Cyclone	Post Cyclone	Pre Cyclone	Post Cyclone
1	UPD Bhubaneswar	01	07	0	20	20	38
2	UPD Cuttack	01	03	0	0	09	13
3	Cuttack	01	0	01	04	06	09
4	Khurda	01	01	02	03	03	05
5	Puri	02	09	03	20	17	55
6	Jagatsinghpur	02	0	03	02	09	08
7	Kendrapara	02	0	03	0	22	11
8	Jajpur	01	0	02	0	08	04
9	Nayagarh	01	0	01	0	03	04
10	Balasore	02	0	02	01	05	04
11	Bhadrak	02	0	02	0	12	04
12	Mayurbhanj	01	0	01	0	06	03
13	Ganjam	01	0	02	0	08	03
14	Gajapati	01	0	01	0	01	01
15	Dhenkanal	0	0	01	0	04	02
16	Keonjhar	0	0	01	0	04	03
<b>Total</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>167</b>

## **CHAPTER - 7**

# **POLICE ROLE IN DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF**

Elaborate police arrangements were already prepared and put in place for safe transit of relief materials from Bhubaneswar to District headquarters. The relief materials were sent in convoys with proper police security to the district headquarters to ensure that the roads are clear and the relief material was not looted enroute, by hungry people by resorting to road blockade demanding food or by anti-socials or goons who take advantage of such crisis situation.

Sri Vinayatosh Mishra, IPS, ADGP (Modernization) and Sri. Shefeen Ahamed K, IPS, DIGP (Hdqs) were specifically deputed from the State Police Headquarters for the management of the law & order situation with regard to the transportation of relief material from Bhubaneswar to the affected districts and its distribution within the district. They were given the charge to look after this mechanism in all the affected districts but were asked to camp in Puri District as it was the most affected and communication network had literally broken down there unlike other districts. They were given specific tasks as mentioned below:

- i. To ensure that all roads to District Headquarters and the different blocks are free for safe transport of relief materials.
- ii. Adequate security arrangements were also made at all places, where relief materials were stored for distribution.
- iii. Proper Police arrangements were made for smooth distribution of relief materials and essential services.
- iv. Distribution of relief material and cash as announced by Hon'ble Chief Minister could be conducted smoothly in all District Headquarters, Blocks as well as in the twin city of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar with adequate police arrangements.

The entire operation was closely monitored from the Emergency Control Room by Dr. R.P Sharma, IPS, DGP.

### i. Deployment at State Relief Commissioner Office

The relief materials were stored centrally in the State Relief Commissioner's (SRC) Office at Bhubaneswar. The relief materials were dispatched from this central store. Hence sufficient deployment was done there to ensure that the collection, packaging and despatch of relief materials is done smoothly round the clock. Any disruption of work there would have affected all the districts.

### ii. Escort to the vehicles carrying the Relief from state capital to the affected district

The vehicles carrying the relief material from the SRC to the districts were taken in convoy, piloted and escorted by armed police from Bhubaneswar to the concerned district as there were chances of these vehicles being looted midway as people in the enroute villages might as well be in distress. Further, these vehicles were not necessarily knowing the route and could have reached wrong location. Moreover these vehicles were handed over to the pilot and escort party of the district police.

### RELIEF ESCORT DUTY

Sl. No.	Date	No. of Relief material vehicles escorted	Destination & Time of Departure
1.	6.05.2019	1	Puri
2.	7.05.2019	40	Puri (11 PM)
		10	Nimapara (11 PM)
3.	8.05.2019	30	Puri (11.30 AM)
		10	Puri (12.10 PM)
		30	Puri (1.00 PM)
		15	Puri (5.10 PM)
4.	10.05.2019	20	Puri (8.30 AM)
		30	Puri (5.10 PM)
5.	11.05.2019	20	Bramhagiri (12.10 PM)
		20	Pipili-Sakhigopal (6.00 PM)
		20	Kanas - Delanga (6.00 PM)
		20	Puri (9.05 PM)
6.	12.05.2019	6	Bramhagiri (10.30 AM)
		20	Nuapada (7 AM)
		40	Puri (7.45 PM)

## Cyclone 'Fani': 2019

7.	13.05.2019	4	Puri (3.25 PM)
		6	Puri (6.25 PM)
		2	Puri (6.45 PM)
8.	14.05.2019	2	Puri (10 AM)
9.	15.05.2019	2	Puri (5.05 PM)
10.	16.05.2019	1	Puri (4.10 PM)
		2	Delanga (5.10 PM)
		1	Nuapada (5.10 PM)
11.	17.05.2019	1	Puri (7.15 AM)
		1	Puri (11.05 AM)
		1	Pipili (4.25 PM)
12.	18.05.2019	2	Gop (8.30 AM)
		2	Bramhagiri (4.50 PM)
		2	Nimapara (6.50 PM)
13.	19.05.2019	2	Pipili (1.10 PM)
		2	Nimapara (1.10 PM)
		2	Gop (1.10 PM)
14.	20.05.2019	2	Puri (5.15 PM)
15.	21.05.2019	1	Puri (4.20 PM)
16.	24.05.2019	1	Puri (9.10 AM)
		<b>371 Trucks</b>	<b>34 Escorts</b>

### Police Personnel deployed for Escort duty

1.	Assistant Commandant	-	2
2.	Subedar	-	4
3.	Deputy Subedar	-	3
4.	Havildar Major	-	3
5.	Platoon	-	3
6.	Medium Vehicles	-	6
7.	Light vehicles	-	10

Materials escorted from

1. Kalinga Stadium (IDCO)
2. Unit -VIII (Civil Supplies Corporation Depot)

Other district Head quarters PDS Stores

### **iii. Liaison with the affected districts for ensuring vehicles reach District Collection Centre**

The Emergency Control Room through VHF and HF Communication were in touch with the District Control Rooms and Police Stations directly where the vehicles carrying relief material were supposed to reach. The number of vehicles in the convoy, Regd: No. of the vehicles, time of departure, expected time of arrival etc. were passed on to the District Police by the Emergency Control Room as telecommunication services were mostly disrupted during that period. The Emergency Control Room kept track of these vehicles till it reached the Relief Collection Centre at the district.

### **iv. Road Clearance for smooth passage of Relief**

A dedicated team of officers and police personnel under Sri Vinayatosh Mishra, IPS, ADGP (Modernization) and Sri. Shefeen Ahamed K, IPS, DIGP (Hdqs) were in-charge of ensuring the roads are clear for the smooth passage of the vehicles carrying relief materials and they were not obstructed at any point. A dedicated "Mobile Patrol System" was also introduced for facilitating the smooth plying of those vehicles. Further Striking Force were kept in readiness at certain vantage points so that in case of any law & order situation or so, they can reach the spot within few minutes to assist the Mobile Patrol Units and Police Station personnel. This system actually solved the initial disturbances that were created by way of RASTA ROKO etc and later ensured that the relief supply was smooth.

### **v. Safety and Security of Relief Vehicles**

The armed police guards were given to the vehicles carrying relief material during transit as well as at the Collection and Distribution Centres.

### **vi. Deployment at District Collection Centre**

The Relief Collection Centre in the districts were provided with armed police guard round the clock for ensuring safety and security of the staff working there as well as of the material being stored.



### **vii. Deployment at Relief Distribution Centres**

The police deployment was made at all Relief Distribution Centres at the Block as well as Panchayat level so that the relief material were kept safe and secured as well as the distribution is done peacefully. In some instances, like in Brahmagiri in Puri District, there were some violence initially and thereafter the relief material carrying vehicles were parked inside police station and distribution was made from there to Panchayats. The local police was augmented with additional manpower for managing the deployment at Relief Distribution Centres.

### **viii. Law & Order management at grass root level during Relief Distribution**

There were many non-police issues at the grass roots, viz. village level which were taken care by the local police, failing which would have hampered the relief distribution. The complaints of non-receipt of relief at some villages, non-clearance of road obstruction, nonavailability of drinking water, polythene sheets for covering the roof, cattle feed, non-receipt of cash relief etc which became issues and people started agitating and threatened to come to the road. The timely intervention of local police, their liaison with civil administration and also giving assurance many a time saved the day.

Thus, the Police Department as a whole had to play a larger role beyond the normal policing during these tough days, which actually ensure a smooth distribution of relief material to most of the deserving and needy people, which actually won the hearts of people.



## CHAPTER - 8

## POLICE ROLE IN RESTORATION OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES

### (i) Supply of Drinking Water & restoration of water supply

Safe movement of water tankers to various destinations was ensured under the direct supervision and monitoring of State Emergency Control Room in coordination with connected departments. All PHD pump houses in affected districts were guarded by Police 24 x 7, as irate mob gheraoed the pump houses and wanted to inflict damage, out of impatience and anger. Local Police played an active role in facilitating provision of Generator Sets, POL and provided security to PHD staff for their smooth functioning, so as to restore the much-needed water supply to the affected people.

### (ii) Restoration of Electricity:

Initially trees and electric poles, which obstructed the traffic movement were cleared by Police with a view to restore vehicular traffic. However, for restoration of electricity all those trees which had fallen on HT, LT lines and service lines had to be cut and cleared so that Electricity Department start its restoration work. NDRF and



ODRAF teams were attached to different CESU units of Electricity Department in a coordinated manner with proper monitoring & supervision by nearby senior Police Officials for quick restoration of electricity. The Police Department not only provided them security from irate mob but also played the role of navigator and physically helped them to restore the lines.

### (iii) Restoration of Telephone Services:

Soon after severe tropical cyclone FANI the ODRAF/NDRAF and Odisha Police were pressed into service to remove the trees and other obstructions that had severed the telecommunication service. The trees were immediately cut to facilitate overhead telephone



services and the towers were erected with the help of technical teams to facilitate telephone services. These operations were supported by Police Department locally as they faced threat from agitated locals.

### **(iv) Police arrangement for guarding filling Stations**

Few filling stations were specifically earmarked and guarded by Police to ensure that they supply POL to only Govt. agencies. Other filling stations were also provided adequate police security to prevent looting of POL by the angry public.

### **(v) First Aid and Medical Services to affected People**

Police personnel played a key role in providing first aid and medical services to the affected people during their visit to the affected area and at the multipurpose shelter homes.



## CHAPTER - 9

## POST CYCLONE VIP VISITS &amp; REVIEWS

## SECURITY ARRANGEMENT DURING VIP VISITS TO AFFECTED AREAS

Sri Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha visited the most affected areas of Puri district on 5<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2019 and also did aerial survey in the aftermath of cyclone FANI. He also joined Sri. Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in aerial survey of the affected areas on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2019.



Sri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Minister, Petroleum & Gas, Government of India also visited "FANI" affected district of Puri to take stock of situation. The central team deputed by the Govt. of India, arrived in Odisha and visited the affected areas Puri, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur and Khordha on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019 to assess the damage caused by "FANI" for granting central assistance.

Elaborate Police arrangement was made to ensure smooth visit of afore-mentioned VIPs. Due to the sincere and dedicated hard work of the police personnel from top to bottom these visits passed off peacefully, despite the fact that people were agitated and the situation was volatile.

On the very next day of "FANI" hitting Puri, Dr R P Sharma, IPS, DGP along with Development Commissioner - cum - Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Sri. Asit Kumar Tripathy, IAS made a joint visit to Puri district and moved around the affected areas, talked to people, listened to their grievances and held meeting with Civil and Police Administration of the District to motivate them, fill the gaps and expedite distribution of relief materials as well as restoration work. On 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019, DGP again visited Puri and held another Review Meeting to ensure that things are running as planned and services were expedited to the affected people.

## CHAPTER - 10

# SOCIAL MEDIA - POSITIVE ROLE DURING CRISIS

Social Media has played a pivotal role in helping the Police Department to spread awareness, disseminate information timely and do away with fear, apprehensions and also create a sense of safety and security among the public during pre-cyclone phase as well as during cyclone and post cyclone too. It has also helped in a large way in our internal communication and co-ordination during these testing days.



The major social media platforms that were made use of were Facebook, Twitter and Whatsapp. Our apt social media strategy and the right use of various available social media platforms helped us achieve the maximum utility out of it. The public in turn used these social media platforms to reach out to police as well as highlight the sincere efforts taken by our personnel on the field during the devastating cyclone FANI.

### Facebook and Twitter

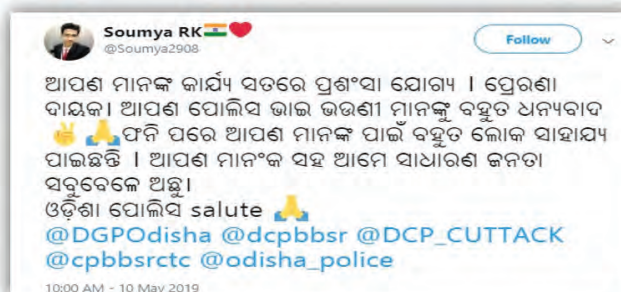
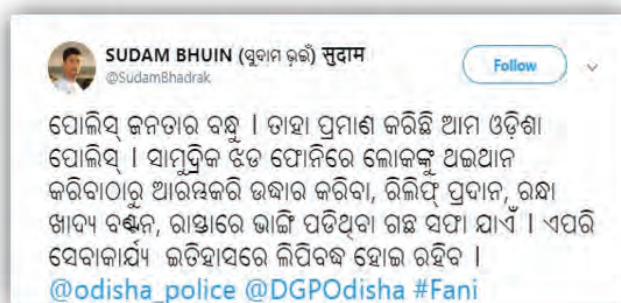
Facebook and Twitter were primarily used to keep the general public up to date with important updates, circulars along with aptly highlighting the work of several wings of Odisha police in the affected regions.

Using these two platforms, we were able to quickly push the latest happenings to public, which were of a great help in sensitizing, assuring public a sense of safety as well as more importantly the passing on the message that no matter how grave the situation, Odisha Police is with them as a shield to protect and serve in this difficult time.





Continuous timely updates on social media showcasing police officers' efforts. received a huge response and several eminent personalities, common citizens, media along with many government and private organizations tagged and wrote back to us appreciating the efforts and commitment of the police department in such an emergency like situation.





## Cyclone 'Fani': 2019

Positive and encouraging feedback from all adhering to the best practices in Social Media, the use of relevant hash tags, photographs, and content along with timely updates of the proceedings helped us maximize our reach and kept everyone in loop with the way the entire Police department was evacuating people and later on, post-cyclone cleaning up the roads and helping people with the relief materials & financial support.

### Most Popular Posts





## Whatsapp

All the updates that we were publishing in the official Odisha Police social media accounts were due to the effective use of Whatsapp messaging. Owing to a Whatsapp groups created specifically for the purpose consisting of all the key officers engaged in the mission, we were able to get instant updates and photographs of the ground situation.

The seamless communication and good coordination with the social media unit further helped us execute many things in the desired way and thus being able to adequately portray and highlight the effort, dedication and commitment of the entire department and all our officers braving every odds and going off-limit to fight with this devastating cyclone.

## CHAPTER - 11

# COORDINATION AND SYNERGY WITH CIVIL ADMINISTRATION & OTHER STAKEHOLDERS- A CASE STUDY OF PURI DISTRICT

### Police Response to "FANI"

Odisha has been a state ravished by natural disasters very frequently. Two decades ago, the most disastrous "Super Cyclone" struck Odisha and took away more than 10,000 lives. The state of Odisha had the best lessons learnt from that disaster, to emerge as one of the most prepared state to counter such natural disasters today.

Since 28th April 2019, Indian Meteorological Department(IMD) predicted a very severe cyclonic storm to hit eastern coast especially Odisha. As this cyclone named "FANI" approached towards the coast, it was predicted that it would hit Odisha coast near Puri. As all predictions indicated that the severe cyclonic storm will hit Odisha Coast on 3rd May, the well-prepared state machinery geared up to face this tough challenge.

Senior IAS & IPS Officers were directed to camp in these districts where the cyclone "FANI" was likely to hit. Sri. Naveen Patnaik, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha took a preparedness meeting of all the District Officials and the call was to ensure "Zero Causality" by effective large-scale evacuation.

#### I. Police Response in Pre-Cyclone Stage

Police always being the first responder in such disasters, has always played a pivotal role in leading the rescue operation and coordinating the rescue-relief operations, right from the early hours after the disaster hits. Experience in cyclone "FANI" was no exception.

Puri District remained in focus as the cyclone "FANI" approached the Odisha coast. Sri. Suresh Chandra Mohapatra IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Forest and Environment, Govt. of Odisha, and Sri Soumyendra Kumar Priyadarsi IPS, Inspector General of Police, Central Range were deputed to Puri district to camp there and supervise as well as monitor the preparedness of the district and to assist the District Administration.



Teams of NDRF, ODRAF, Fire Services were mobilized and they were prepositioned in critical locations in close co-ordination with Police. In Puri, 3 NDRF, 2 ODRAF, 3 Fire Service Teams were mobilized and teams were placed in Cyclone prone Astaranga, Krishnaprasad, Puri, Konark and Kakatpur which were close to the Sea coast.



On the night of 1st & 2nd May, teams of Revenue Administration and Police Administration visited all vulnerable villages close to the sea as well as other cyclone prone areas and requested people to shift to the cyclone shelter homes and other make shift camps.



Persuading the people living on the coastline to shift has always remained a challenge. Their long habitation close to the sea makes them complacent and confident and they normally do not agree for early evacuation. At this point, police play the most critical role in evacuating, alerting the masses by requesting, cajoling and all most coercing the inhabitants to move to safer places as large no. of cyclone shelters have been built by the Government of Odisha.

As many as 1.29 lakhs people were evacuated and the most challenging area was Penthakata Nolia Basti where in Sri Uma Sankar Dash IPS, Superintendent of Police, Puri and Sri Soumyendra Kumar Priyadarsi IPS, Inspector General of Police, Central Range also had to personally chip in for evacuation.

Another critical area was location of equipments and relief materials prior to the cyclone. Police Administration's most significant role was in ensuring placement of Generators, Aska lights, power saws, rope, other tree cutting equipment, shovels, crowbars besides assisting in placement of dry food at Block and Gram Panchayat Headquarters. Additional man power, POL, ration for staff were also stocked at Police Station levels. This pro-active and prompt

exercise rendered to be very handy and useful and played a prominent role in the success of the police operation spot FANI.

### Post Cyclone Response:

As the "Fani" made its landfall right in Puri Town, with its eye traversing across the Town, into the interior of Puri District, Puri Town and its adjacent area were devastated as wind speed reached 250 kmph. The adjoining Blocks of Satyabadi, Brahmagiri, Sadar, Pipili, Delang, Kanas, Krishnaprasad bore the brunt of "Fani" and were devastated.



With wind blowing over 250 kmph and trees, telephone towers, electric poles uprooted, buildings collapsed, Puri Police led the post cyclone rescue and restoration operation. Coordinating with the NDRF, ODRAF, Fire Services, the Police Disaster Management team of the district took the lead in cutting and removing the trees that had fallen and cleared the main roads of the town. All the teams preplaced at different locations also cleared the roads in their respective areas of responsibility.

Under the leadership and co-ordination of Puri Police, the Puri-Bhubaneswar road got cleared within 19 hours which was a no-mean achievement considering the enormity of the destruction caused. Within 48 hours, the road communication could be established to all Block Headquarters, as more NDRF, ODRAF teams were mobilized.





As the road communication to all Blocks were restored, the news of loss of lives poured in however the causality was only 39 in the district. Quite interestingly, the death toll in Penthakata Nolia Basti, which was right on the sea coast mostly in the eye of the cyclone, was zero, which implied the effectiveness of 'timely evacuation' led by police.



## II. Communication

Cyclone "Fani" disrupted all modes of Telecommunication and Puri remained cut off from the rest of the world. More than 1 lakh electric poles, lot many transformers, HT lines got uprooted there by destroying the entire power supply system of the district. At this juncture, the only saviour was the police wireless communication network.



As a precautionary step, all police locations where static VHF sets were installed were directed to remove/dismantle antennas during cyclonic storm and installed after the speed of the storm reduced. Such a preventive step ensure that the VHF communication remained functional in the entire district.

Only mode of communication with Government was through Police VHF Control Room and Sri. Soumyendra Kumar Priyadarsi IPS, Inspector General of Police, Central Range remained the node of communication. For the initial 4 days, every communication was through VHF as all the District Level Officers were provided with manpack sets. All communication with State Relief Commissioner, Government, Home Department, Police Headquarters Emergency Control Room was routed through VHF only till 7<sup>th</sup> of May.

With the advent of Digital Revolution, we switched over to mobile communication, e-mail, internet telephone and neglected wireless communication. This terrible disaster opened our eyes and took us back to the basics of communication with VHF, Police Wireless network becoming the backbone of connectivity and it proved to be the most handy tool in this trying circumstance.

### III. Post cyclone Inter departmental Co-ordination

With the road communication opened up, relief material laden vehicles, equipments started pouring in. More manpower was deployed to assist relief and restoration work.

Sri Navin Patnaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha visited cyclone hit area twice and Sri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister had an aerial survey. With this, relief distribution and



restoration work got a boost and the coordination activities of police also increased tremendously.

#### **The salient aspects of the police work are enumerated below:**

- 1) The NDRF, ODRAF, OFDC, Fire Service teams were deputed to police stations first to start the road clearance in the interior area.
- 2) All the line departments like Public Works Department (Roads & Buildings), Rural Works Department (RW), Public Health Department (PHD), Rural Water Supply Department (RWSS), Civil Supplies, Health Department, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department, BSNL and other mobile service providers were given police assistance to commence the restoration work.
- 3) The district level officers were provided with VHF Sets for communication.
- 4) Elaborate arrangements were made to ensure that the VIP visits during this time passed off smoothly.
- 5) An Additional Superintendent of Police was attached to Collector, Puri to co-ordinate and monitor the execution of the instructions at field level.

- 6) A Control Room was established at the Relief Distribution Centre and a Senior Police Officer and Revenue Officer were posted there for effective relief distribution.
- 7) There were sporadic incidents of relief looting for which a separate Highway Patrolling Unit was created and 10 Mobile Patrols were initiated to maintain law & order situation as well as ensure safety and security in the highways. They also ensure that the roads were clear for the smooth flow of relief supply material from State Capital Bhubaneswar to District Headquarters, Puri and from there to various Blocks. Sri. Vinayatosh Mishra, IPS, Additional Director General of Police (Modernization) remained in charge of this arrangements assisted by Sri Shefeen Ahamed K, IPS, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Headquarters).
- 8) All relief materials carrying vehicles were given police protection which was controlled by Senior Police Officers at 'Central Relief and Despatch Centre' located at ITI, Puri.
- 9) All Block Headquarters were provided with adequate protection and in highly trouble prone sensitive blocks like Brahmagiri, the relief distribution was done from the Police Station.
- 10) Police deployment and assistance were extended to all GP & Block headquarters where other than relief distribution, cash distribution, as declared by Hon'ble Chief Minister, also took place.
- 11) The entire police deployment was as given below:



SP/ Commandant	Addl. SP/ Dty. Commandant	DSP/ Asst. Commandant	Inspr/ RI	SI/ ASI	HM	HG	Force
03	05	13	10	85	01	316	56 Platoons

### IV. Police as the Saviour and Facilitator

- 1) Jaldoot: The mobile water filter vehicles of police rendered excellent service in different parts of the district by providing quality & safe drinking water.
- 2) Police also assisted the people by providing vehicle-mounted Diesel Generator sets to pump water from submersible sumps to the house hold.
- 3) Police assisted and coordinated the relief received at Police line from voluntary organizations and Non-Government agencies.



- 4) Police also assisted in the distribution of Government relief at Block Headquarters.
- 5) The SsP of all non-affected districts contributed significantly in forms of cash and kind to Puri district for cyclone affected policemen and public. Huge quantity of relief materials so procured (Chuda, gud, biscuits, sarees, water, hand fan, solar light, candles, cow feed, dresses etc.) were also distributed to affected masses.

The police relief distribution became so popular that people queued up before Reserve Police Line to collect relief.

- 6) Police took the lead in providing timely relief to inmates in two orphanages including Utkal Balashram and also in destitute home. The famous craft village Raghurajpur also received various relief materials from police.





## V. Policemen's Welfare:

A True leader is one who looks after the well-being of his subordinates well. Puri police lived up to this notion literally with its work.



- As many as two hundred quarters in Reserve Police Line, various Police Station campus were badly damaged. With roofs blown off, polythene sheets were provided the very next day.
- Cooked food were served day and night.
- Potable drinking water was distributed through Jaldoot, a mobile water filtration unit.
- All immediate essential items like Solar light, mat, mosquito net, bed sheets, biscuits, water, hand fans, school bags, stationeries, were distributed among police families besides ration.

The basic welfare of the force was looked after to motivate them in these trying circumstances to work.

Sri. R.P Sharma IPS, DGP Odisha visited the Reserve Line and distributed essentials to the affected police families.



Senior Police Officers as well as their wives also visited the Police Line and rendered assistance.

- Before the onset of monsoon, the police department has already mobilized building materials for immediate repair of damaged police quarters besides coordinating with PWD (R & B).
- Few District Ss.P. have committed to immediately repair the residential buildings within the Police Station building to make them before R & B department takes up proper repair.



Natural calamity always remains a big challenge for administration. So was "FANI". It devastated the Puri District especially the Puri town to such a magnitude, that the resilience of the denizens were challenged. At this juncture as first responder 'Puri Police' has proactively handheld the affected in relief and restoration and also consoled them. As the first responder, with a humane face and a helping hand, Police has proved to be a real saviour.



## CHAPTER - 12

## RESPONSE OF COMMISSIONERATE POLICE IN FANI - A CASE STUDY

### I. Preparedness

Forty-eight hours prior to the arrival of severe cyclonic storm, FANI Sri Satyajit Mohanty, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack held a preparatory meeting on 1.5.2019 with all the field functionaries at the Commissionerate Headquarters. During the briefing, he recalled the lessons from his own experience during the super cyclone 1999, the predicted track of cyclone "FANI", potential danger and preparedness required by the Police in evacuation, rescue and restoration. A ten point advisory was issued for the field functionaries.



The focus was to assist the civil administration in evacuation of vulnerable people to the safer places, to have extra radio static sets and handsets with battery and charger as mode of communication in the event of breakdown of power and telecommunication, restoration of road communication on the N.H. and the arterial roads in the city and setting up of inter-departmental integrated control rooms, police assistance in distribution of relief material to the affected person etc. Emphasis was placed on opening of integrated control room at Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC), Central Electricity Supply Utility (CESU) and at other line department offices and to increase the police visibility in the night and to raise a sense of safety and security among the city dwellers.

### II. Evacuation

Massive evacuations were undertaken on the preceding 48 hours from Munda Sahi Basti under Cantonment PS, Matamatha Naikula Basti under Malgodown PS, Deer park Basti under Bidanasi PS, Kathajodi Basti under Markatanagar PS all under Cuttack Urban Police District (UPD). Likewise evacuations were also there under Kargil Basti of Airport PS, Rental



Basti under Nayapalli PS, Patharbandha Basti under Sahidnagar PS, Sikharchandi Basti under Chandrasekharapur PS, Mahisakhal under Badagada PS etc. all under Bhubaneswar UPD. About 40,000 evacuees were temporarily sheltered at different designated cyclone shelters centres in co-ordination with district administration. Several instances were there, where the evacuees were shifted in Police Vehicles, vans etc in exigency due to absence of hired vehicles.





### III. Road clearance immediately after cyclonic storm "FANI"

Immediately after fury of the cyclone subsided at about 2.30 PM, the restoration teams stationed at different places swung in to action with the pre-position contingent of ODRAF, NDRF and police. The objective before the teams was to clear the NH and arterial roads within 4 to 6 hours and make them road worthy for movement of vehicular traffic.



One team under the leadership of Sri. Satyajit Mohanty IPS, Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack cleared the uprooted trees in front of the Heads of Departmental Building, Rajiv Bhawan (Office of State Relief Commissioner, Odisha), Capital Hospital and the road leading to the residence of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha, so that the first post cyclone review meeting could be held at the State Secretariat at 5 PM.

Both Sri. Anup Kumar Sahoo IPS, Deputy Commissioners of Police, Bhubaneswar UPD and Sri. Akhileswar Singh IPS, Deputy Commissioners of Police, Cuttack UPD and officers at P.S. level along with NDRF, ODRAF and police, and in some instances by their own initiatives with cutting tools and rope, cleared the lanes, by-lanes, N.H. and other arterial roads of Bhubaneswar and Ring Road of Cuttack within 4 to 6 hours, immediately after the storm subsided.



One example of selfless service by the police personnel even at the risk of his own life is that of ASI Sri. DolaGovinda Swain of Khandagiri PS under Bhubaneswar UPD, who was admitted into the AMRI hospital after head injury due to fall of a tree branch on his head at 12.30 PM on 3.05.2019 while attending a distress call, but he was back on call of duty on 6.05.2019, ignoring his medical condition.

#### IV. Inter-departmental coordination

On the face of total breakdown of telecommunication network, only reliable communication medium was police radio network. Four integrated control rooms were made functional 24x7 hours at BMC/ CMC office (Vikas Bhawan) Cuttack, the high-level water tank at A.G.Chawk, Bhubaneswar, CESU Office, Bhubaneswar and at Relief Dispatch Centre, Kalinga Stadium. The officers in the rank of



Inspector and ACP were manning those integrated control rooms with static VHF sets for communication and with adequate force to meet any demand by the concerned agencies.

A series of law and order problems arose in the different parts of both the cities, demanding supply of water and restoration of electricity. The integrated control rooms effectively handled the law and order situation at street level in tandem with the concerned line department. Besides, in Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, cash relief was distributed to more than 90,000 beneficiaries at 67 Distress Relief Centres for which adequate police arrangements were made.

The Indian Red Cross Society Regional Branch, Commissionerate Police under the leadership of Sri. Satyajit Mohanty IPS, Commissioner of Police distributed relief materials to the affected people in certain slum areas of Bhubaneswar.





## V. Raising the sense of security

Adequate steps were taken to raise the sense of security in both the cities that plunged into darkness due to power outage.

It was our strategy to engage all the PCR vans and P.S. vehicles for continuous evening and night patrolling with siren and flickering lights. A senior officer in the rank of DCP was in-charge of such night patrolling till restoration of power supply in the twin city.

Besides, inflated lights were mounted at various junctions during evening hours to regulate the traffic.

Our past experience serves as guide for the present. The response during super-cyclone 1999 and subsequent severe cyclonic storms that hit Odisha were our learning points.

One of the critical aspect during such disaster is adequate preparedness of the organization and role clarity. Providing security to all line departments for evacuation, restoration and relief distribution becomes the crying need of the hour. For effective management of limited resources inter-agency communication assumes critical role. In a disaster like this, in addition to keeping the internal police radio communication at its optimum level, additional facilities were provided to the line departments of the government, particularly the District Magistrate who could communicate with field functionaries in the absence of any other mode of communication and effectively handled restoration and relief distributions.

Pre-positioning of road clearance teams, setting up of integrated control rooms and effective police presence to raise sense of security are some of the lessons of past that guided the Commissionerate Police to respond FANI effectively and efficiently. FANI validated the adage that past experience serves as guide to the present.

The disaster provided an opportunity for the police personnel of the twin city, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack to place their duty before self and in spite of an adverse working condition and personal loss rose to the occasion and exhibited exemplary conduct during evacuation, relief distribution and restoration work.



## **CHAPTER - 13**

### **KARUNA CAMP** *AN INITIATIVE BY ODISHA POLICE*



#### **KARUNA OBJECTIVE**

#### **TO PROVIDE COOKED FOOD TO DISTRESSED PEOPLE AFFECTED BY "FANI"**

Odisha Police exhibited its humane face during post cyclone, under the banner of "KARUNA", wherein it started distribution of cooked food to the affected people in Puri in the aftermath of Severe Cyclonic Storm "Fani". As desired by DGP, "Karuna Camps" (free distribution of cooked food) were opened in Puri on behalf of Police personnel for providing cooked food to around 1000 affected people initially.

Besides its commitment to serve the people of Odisha before and during cyclone, Odisha Police also exhibited its humanitarian trait by catering to the people in distress without compromising on its primary role of maintaining Law & Order.

Dr R P Sharma, IPS, DG of Police, Odisha inaugurated the camp at Sharadhabali on 7.05.2019 and shared the food with the distressed.

Sri Sanjeeb Panda, ADG, L&O with support from Sri Soumendra Priyadarshi looked after organisation of such large number of camps to the perfection.

The Senior Officers Sri. Vinayatosh Mishra IPS, ADGP (Modernization), Sri Shefeen Ahamed K IPS, DIG (Headquarters), Sri Uma Sankar Dash IPS, SP Puri also whole heartedly followed the footsteps of the DGP and participated in the Karuna Camp expressing their solidarity towards this noble cause.

The satisfaction of the distressed persons of having cooked food motivated Odisha Police to set up more such camps in interior pockets. 15 Police Districts/ Battalions were entrusted with the responsibility of setting up Karuna Camps in the interior pockets of Puri District to serve cooked food to about 12,000 people every day.



The SPs of Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Berhampur, Ganjam and Commandants of OSAP 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Dhenkanal, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. Jharsuguda, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. Koraput, 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. Cuttack, 8<sup>th</sup> Bn. Chhatrapur, 3<sup>rd</sup> IRBn. Kalinga Nagar, 4<sup>th</sup> IRBn. Deogarh, 5<sup>th</sup> IR Bn. Boudh, 6<sup>th</sup> IR Bn. Khordha deputed one team each comprising of Team Manager, adequate cooks and support staff to their assigned place with cooking utensils, Gas Stove, Gas Cylinder, Furniture, Tentage etc. for running the Karuna camp. The police personnel of different Districts and Battalions generously contributed the ration and other materials for the camps.

Commandant, BTI, Burla was entrusted with the store and supply chain management at Puri. Thus Puri District Police was not burdened with the managing of the camps and they remained focused on the core duty of maintenance of law & order, security of relief centres, transportation and distribution of relief material, security of officials engaged in relief and rehabilitation duty etc.





The camps were set up at Balanga, Satapada, Bramhagiri, Gadisagada, Kanas, Delanga, Hata Delanga, Chandanpur, Satyabadi, Pipili and Puri town. The teams with the help of local volunteers and over all guidance from local Police station officers, served cooked food in different villages.



In a span of ten days from 7th to 16th May 2019, the Karuna camps were organised in 166 different places serving 1,13,785 distressed persons. Sri, Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister lauded the efforts of Odisha Police in providing cooked food to the cyclone affected people.





Sl. No.	Date	No. of camps	No. of people served
1	7.5.2019	03	2200
2	8.5.2019	06	3720
3	9.5.2019	11	7030
4	10.5.2019	19	14700
5	11.5.2019	24	15310
6	12.5.2019	20	12270
7	13.5.2019	22	14770
8	14.5.2019	22	14630
9	15.5.2019	18	15840
10	16.5.2019	21	13315
	<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>113785</b>



## CHAPTER - 14

### DONATION TO CHIEF MINISTER'S RELIEF FUND

1. A cheque for Rs.10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs) towards Chief Minister's Relief Fund for the relief and rehabilitation of the affected people of cyclone "FANI", donated by the IPS Officers Association of Odisha, was handed over to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sri Naveen Patnaik on 10.05.2019.
2. A Cheque of Rs. 1,61,61,412 (One Crore Sixty-One Lakh Sixty-One Thousand Four Hundred and Twelve) donated by members of Odisha Police belonging to various Police Establishments to Chief Minister's Relief Fund was handed over to Sri Aditya Padhi, IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha on 22.05.2019.



## CHAPTER - 15

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The severe tropical cyclone FANI 2019 had left a trail of devastation behind her. It would take many more years to restore normalcy in the worst affected areas. Nature's fury was at its peak in the Districts of Puri and other ten districts on its way to West Bengal. The Police department had put up a brave front and tried its best to combat the before & after effect. However, the scale and intensity of the severe cyclone was unprecedented and has taught us many lessons to meet similar or grave challenges in years to come. The following are some of the recommendations borne out of experience.

1. Before and immediately up to first 72 hours after the cyclone, Police Stations served as the most basic functional unit at the cutting-edge level to deliver services to the affected people.
2. Before land fall of FANI a staggering 13 lakhs people were evacuated to safer places within 24 hours which could minimize the death toll to 60 odds only, earning national and international appreciations. Police Station played the most crucial role in providing leadership to distressed communities as well as shifting of the probable victims along with other civilian line agencies.
3. Immediately after the cyclone, the Police Stations were engaged in rescue operations, restoration of road network by removing myriads of fallen trees and uprooted electric poles etc.
4. Thereafter or simultaneously Police Stations were engaged in securing roads for safe transit of relief materials, safe storage and smooth distribution of relief materials to the victims. All this could be possible because the manpower & logistics of the Police Stations were augmented beforehand as a part of preparedness to combat FANI. Extra manpower were mobilized and logistics like vehicle, generator sets, POL, power cutters etc were mobilized and sent to Police Stations and therefore, the PS units could respond in time. Essential services like dry ration, drinking water, candles etc. were stored in advance for the Police Station staff as well as immediate neighbors in the locality.

5. FANI was followed by series of law and order problems in terms of road blockade, gherao of Govt. officers by agitated people demanding food, water, electricity etc., but all the law and order problems could be attended & handled successfully by the local PS staff except sporadic and stray incidents. This could be possible because of the preparedness of the PSs to meet any eventuality with augmented manpower.
6. It was also observed that many field staff of line departments went to rescue their families who were in distress and badly affected by the severe cyclone. However, on the contrary leaves of all kinds of policemen were cancelled and those on leave were recalled to resume duty immediately which was enforced and ensured despite the fact that, the families of the police personnel were equally and badly affected by FANI. Therefore, in any natural disaster it should be acknowledged that police is the first responder till normalcy is brought back to the society hit by any natural disaster.
7. Therefore, whenever there is an indication of impending natural disaster the Govt. in its planning should acknowledge the role and functioning of the Police Stations and provide adequate resources and augment logistics and manpower resources etc of the Police Stations for effective disaster management.
8. It was observed that all policemen were sent out of the Police Station for duty and their families were left in the lurch in the Police line, in the Reserve Office, who went through untold sufferings being unattended to. Therefore, it is suggested that a dedicated staff should be kept in the Reserve Office to take care of the family members of the police personnel out on duty during natural disasters.
9. Mostly dry rations were distributed as relief material and people without houses and no system in place at home, naturally look around to cooked food. Karuna Camps were organized by Odisha Police in interior pockets of the affected districts and cooked food were served to more than one lakh people after cyclone and it was a great solace to the affected people. Police being an organized department, running of such camps could be possible even during the worst times. Therefore, Govt. may consider to share the responsibility of distribution of cooked food and entrust police department to run such camps in the affected areas. This may be factored into in disaster management planning.



10. Communication is the lifeline of any organized operation, during natural calamity wherein coordination with the line agencies are badly required. It has been observed again and again that during natural disasters all channels of communication fail completely except the HF & VHF communication network of police department. It has statewide presence in all districts, sub-divisions, Police Stations and even Outposts in remote parts of the state. A very effective police communication system was responsible for coordinating with other departments at the district and block level as discussed earlier. This must be given due emphasis while planning any disaster management.
11. Restoration of electricity to the households as well as street lights is a long drawn process. However, after FANI the deployment of hundreds of Aska lights of police department was being guarded by police personnel were very handy and helpful in bringing immediate illumination at public places. Therefore, Government and OSDMA may consider to entrust such responsibility to police department and augment its resources.
12. The functioning of Emergency Control Room in Bhubaneswar played a very crucial role in maintaining command & control within the department from top to bottom. This also helped in coordination with other Government Departments, with seamless flow of information by installing VHF sets in all Govt. agencies concerned like SRC, Secretary, Energy Department, Secretary, H&UDD, OSDMA, Ware Housing Corporations, Civil Supplies Corporation etc.
13. It is suggested that during any natural disaster an integrated control room with VHF communication should function for better coordination with all field units for better delivery of services at the District Level.
14. ODRAF plays a vital role in rescue and restoration operation. ODRAF need to be strengthened, the colour of its uniform need to be changed to avoid confusion with NDRF.

## CHAPTER - 16

### CONCLUSION

The real test of efficiency of any organization is its ability to deliver against all odds. During cyclone "FANI", not only did the police along with the civil administration shift people from their homes to cyclone shelters, when there was immense resistance, they could do it in the most humane manner. The human touch in shifting differentlyabled people, children and pregnant ladies earned wide appreciation from different quarters.

Odisha Police takes pride as it stood rock solid, with the people during hours of worst crisis and tragedy. All the police personnel of the affected districts came out on the call of duty without looking back at their distressed families and rendered incredible selfless service to the best of their ability and proved their mettle. And we all feel privileged in extending such service to our own people. Moreover, we got an opportunity to redeem our pledge for the safety and security of the lives and property of our fellow citizens, in one of the most resilient state of the country.





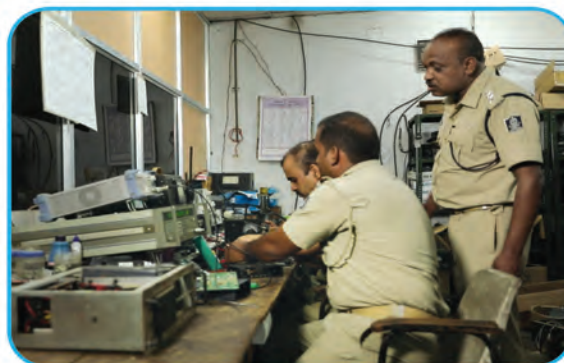
CHAPTER - 17

PHOTO GALLERY  
EVACUATION





## EMERGENCY CONTROL ROOM & POLICE COMMUNICATION NETWORK





## FANI - TRAILS OF DEVASTATION





## ROAD CLEARANCE





## LAW AND ORDER





## POLICE ROLE - RESTORATION OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES





## POLICE ROLE - DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF





## MISCELLANEOUS







DGP and other officers of Odisha Police presenting a cheque of Rs. 1,61,61,412 to Odisha Chief Secretary towards CM Relief Fund for cyclone 'Fani'.

