Cyclone Fani's path of DESTRUCTION

In the beginning of May 2019, one of the biggest storms in recent memory left a trail of destruction through the eastern coastal areas of India before moving into Bangladesh. Cyclone Fani knocked down trees, blew off roofs, cut power and water, and killed almost 100 people.

Fani struck the coastal area of the state of Odisha with torrential rain and gusting winds moving at speeds up to 200 km an hour. It had spent a few days building up strength in the Bay of Bengal before it attacked the coast of India at around 8 am local time on Friday, May 3. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik reported on Twitter that more than a million people had to be evacuated from coastal communities during the first 24 hours of the storm.

In the state capital of Bhubaneswar, which is around 60 km inland, the winds blew down power lines and uprooted trees, cutting off power to the city and blocking roads. Residents reported that they huddled in their homes in terror, and in complete darkness, while listening to the sounds of roofs being blown off, poles being slammed to the ground, and water rushing into their homes. The authorities had no choice but to close the airport and shut down all schools and colleges.

Thousands of people crowded railway stations as they attempted to flee the area. Indian Railways reported that 200 trains had to be cancelled along coastal routes, but special trains were provided to move pilgrims and tourists out of the holy city of Puri.

The local government set up about 3000 shelters to provide accommodation for hundreds of thousands of people during the storm. In addition, 100,000 packets of dried food were prepared in case they needed to be dropped in badly affected areas. As the torrential rains continued to fall, authorities feared that massive flooding would cause even more problems. Hundreds of people were recruited to help with the crisis and all medical staff were asked not to leave the area until at least May 15.

Initially, only two deaths were reported in Odisha. An old man died of a heart attack while waiting out the storm in a shelter, and a teenager, who ignored warnings about going out, died when he was hit by a falling tree. The only other confirmed death during the weekend occurred when the storm moved into neighbouring Bangladesh and killed a woman there. However, in the aftermath of the storm, reports of casualties began to mount, with the last reported count at 89.

While Fani was pounding the coast of India, Bangladesh was preparing for the arrival of the cyclone by evacuating over two million people and calling up 56,000 volunteers to deal with the impending crisis. However, by the time Fani hit Bangladesh on Saturday, it had lost some of its power and the damage was not as bad as had been feared.

Cyclone Fani was not the first storm of that type to hit India. India actually has a cyclone season, which typically lasts from April to December. In fact, the state of Odisha was hit by a terrible cyclone in 1999, which killed around 10,000 people. Authorities are now much better at limiting deaths because technological advancements in predicting weather have allowed them to prepare in advance and evacuate and shelter people who otherwise might be in grave danger.

Reading

7 ★ **Read the article and decide if the statements are R (Right), W (Wrong) or DS (Doesn't Say).**

1 The storm in 2019 killed over one hundred people in India. ....

2 Flooding caused extensive damage. ....

3 The state capital had no power at night. ....

4 There were no trains running in the affected area. ....

5 Bangladesh was unprepared for the storm. ....

8 ★★ **Read the article. Complete the blog entry with a word from it.**

I got to witness Cyclone Fani in India last week, and it was the most frightening experience of my life. It first hit the eastern 1) .... areas, and the high winds ripped off roofs and uprooted trees everywhere. They actually had to 2) .... more than a million people. In Bhubaneswar, where I was staying, the city was in complete 3) .... because of power cuts. City officials had to close the 4) .... because it wasn't safe to fly. And thousands of 5) .... had to be set up for people who had to leave their homes. First reports said that there had been two 6) ...., but I later heard that there had been more deaths. The cyclone was headed for 7) .... next.

9 ★★★ **Read the article. For questions 1-4, choose the best answer (A–D).**

1 Cyclone Fani struck Odisha
   A late in the afternoon.   C in the morning.
   B in the early evening.   D in the middle of the night.

2 Officials in the state capital were worried about
   A floods that might happen.
   B trees falling and blocking the road.
   C being unprepared for the disaster.
   D not having enough doctors.

3 Bangladesh prepared for the storm by
   A shutting down the trains.
   B closing all the airports.
   C evacuating many people.
   D setting up thousands of shelters.

4 There were less casualties than in 1999 because
   A the storm was not as bad.
   B technology had helped predict the storm.
   C medical staff were well prepared.
   D people were warned to stay inside.