

14th May, 2019

Best of city's educational institutions count losses

Repairs To Cost Over ₹100 Crore

Sandeep Mishra | TNN

Bhubaneswar: From tall imposing structures to kutchha houses, the severe cyclonic storm Fani, which made landfall in Puri on May 3, spared none. Now, scars of the trail of destruction that it unleashed on its path are there for all to see.

While around five lakh houses were damaged in 14 districts according to rough government estimates, the national-level educational institutions in the city have come up with a preliminary report of a collective estimate of losses amounting to about Rs 100 crore.

These include, among others, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the CSIR Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT).

While the NISER saw the maximum damage with an estimated loss of about Rs 70 crore, the AIIMS Bhu-



The damaged facade of a building on the campus of the Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology in Bhubaneswar on Monday

baneswar suffered losses worth about Rs 15 crore. The IIT Bhubaneswar comes a close third with losses amounting to Rs 8 crore, while the IMMT in the heart of the city lost about Rs 3 crore in the cyclone.

"The auditorium and the workshop were the worst-hit. We lost valuable scientific equipment too. A mobile tower inside the campus was damaged. We have come up with the preliminary estimate of losses. It may escalate later," Ramakant Kar, registrar of the NISER, said.

The AIIMS too faced the wrath of the cyclone with serious damage to its hospital building, residenti-

al, academic and hostel buildings. The water tanks and other overhead structures were blown away by the strong winds riding on Fani. "The civil team has come up with a report of losses of about Rs 15 crore, but it may go up further since all damages have not been incorporated in the report. The glass of the main entrance of the hospital building crumbled under the impact of the cyclone," Sachidananda Mohanty, medical superintendent, AIIMS, said.

The cyclone also caused extensive damage to the IMMT, which is located in Acharya Vihar, with the wall of the institute's vast

campus collapsing at many places. The GI sheets over the labs, glass partition of research buildings and water supply network to the residential and research buildings were damaged.

"We have submitted the report on the damage to the CSIR headquarters. We are taking steps to revive the available trees and will also plant cyclone-resistant ones. The CSIR institutes have taken steps to make relief material available to the affected people of Puri," Suddhaswata Basu, director of the IMMT, said.

Meanwhile, IIT Bhubaneswar, which remained near the eye of the cyclone, incurred losses of Rs 8 crore with damages to almost all the buildings including the administrative, residential and hostel ones on its permanent campus in Argul. It has been robbed of its solar panels, electric poles and greenery.

"The damage caused by Fani was much more than what we had expected. Though we had taken precautionary measures and rescheduled some of the examinations falling around the time, we were not ready for something of this scale. We have prepared a report on the damages and will make all efforts to restore normalcy in the institute," an IIT BBS administrator said.