



## **‘IIT Bhubaneswar had accurately predicted Fani’**

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Bhubaneswar, May 8 (LocalWire): The faculty and research scientists of School of Earth Ocean and Climate Sciences, IIT Bhubaneswar, had accurately predicted the course of movement, intensity and associated storm surge of Fani, five days before its landfall with a state of the art meso-scale modelling system, a press release from the institute stated today.

The Hurricane Weather Research and Forecast model is customized specifically for cyclone-forecast over the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea in close collaboration among Hurricane Research Division, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S.A., Indian Meteorological Department, IIT Bhubaneswar and Indian National Centre for Oceanic Information System, Hyderabad.

The same model is being run concurrently at IMD, New Delhi on operational basis and IIT Bhubaneswar in R&D mode for real time prediction of cyclones with different source of initial conditions.

The experimental products generated during the real time forecast of cyclones by IIT Bhubaneswar are disseminated to IMD, New Delhi for their operational use.

The research version of HWRF has been ran at 3 km horizontal resolution with moving nested setup during the course of Fani to predict the track, intensity and landfall with higher accuracy. The operational team of IMD is led by the additional director general of meteorology and head services, Dr M Mohapatra, and the research team at IIT Bhubaneswar is led by Prof U C Mohanty and Prof. Sandeep Pattnaik.

The real time forecast in R&D mode was performed at Aditya HPC of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune and forecast activities were executed in dedicated manner by the research group mainly Mr Raghu Nadimpalli and Ms Shyama Mohanty. The HWRF R&D mode model predicted the time and location of Fani's landfall.

The observations available from IIT Bhubaneswar observatory and ITER, SoA (deemed to be university) observatory, are in agreement with the model predicted movement of Fani and its intensity.

A team of weather researchers headed by Prof Mohanty and Prof Pattnaik, School of Earth, Ocean and Climate Sciences, IIT Bhubaneswar also predicted the course of FANI using their high-resolution meso-scale models.

'The prediction of our group coincided with those of IMD confirming the consistency of the predictions' informed Prof RV Raja Kumar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar.

The forecast and observations of IIT Bhubaneswar are well reflected in destructive potential to infrastructure and the green cover over the city of Puri, Khurda, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar and as well as the peripheral towns and villages. Due to the land interaction, Fani had moved very fast over land.