**Gaja cyclone relief affected families**

A powerful cyclone in southern India has killed at least 33 people, caused massive damage to homes and roads and drove tens of thousands of people into relief camps, officials said.

India's navy assigned two ships and a helicopter for relief work as state authorities rushed drinking water, food and paramedics to nearly 82,000 people who took shelter in more than 400 state-run camps.

They were evacuated from areas in the path of Cyclone Gaja, which struck six districts of Tamil Nadu state on Friday with heavy rains and winds that reached 90 kilometers (55 miles) per hour.

Most deaths were caused by flooding, house collapses and electrocution.

Heavy rains damaged rice fields and roads, and strong winds uprooted banana and papaya trees along the coastline.

The storm heavily damaged a 16th century Roman Catholic Shrine Basilica at Velankanni, a small town in Nagapattinam district,

The cyclone destroyed or partially damaged nearly 1,600 mud huts and uprooted more than 5,000 trees in the area,