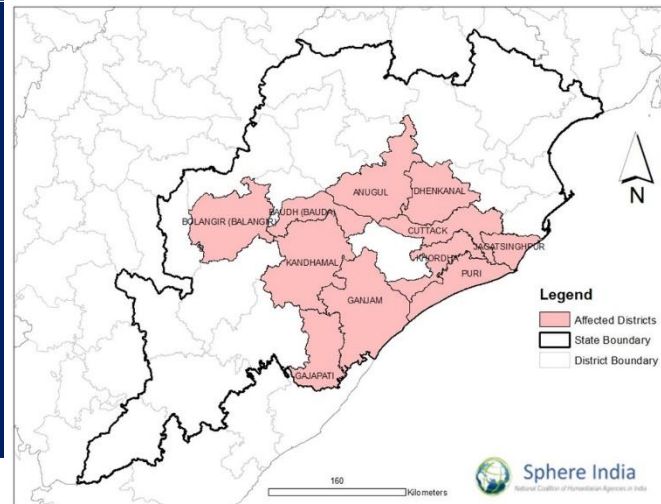


Situation Report Lightning in Odisha

Date: 04th September 2023
Time: 12:00 PM (IST)



Background:

Over the past 11 years, Odisha has sadly witnessed the loss of 3,790 lives to lightning strikes, underscoring the persistent and deadly nature of these natural occurrences. The recent incident, which affected 11 districts within the state and the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, serves as a grim reminder of the ongoing threat posed by lightning. This tragic history highlights the pressing need for sustained efforts in raising awareness, enhancing preparedness, and implementing safety measures to safeguard the lives of Odisha's residents against these weather-related perils.

SITUATION UPDATE AND RESPONSE

- Odisha witnessed a significant surge in lightning activity with 62,350 lightning strikes and unfortunately, 12 fatalities within a span of three hours on a recent Saturday afternoon.
- The state experienced a total of 36,597 cloud-to-cloud (CC) lightning strikes and 25,753 cloud-to-ground (CG) lightning strikes during that afternoon, as reported by the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority. However, the following Sunday saw a less severe weather situation with only 3,240 lightning strikes recorded by 3:15 PM, and thankfully, no casualties were reported.
- Bhubaneswar and Cuttack were heavily affected during a 90-minute period on that Saturday afternoon, receiving 126 mm and 95.8 mm of rainfall respectively.
- Tragically, four of the deceased individuals from Saturday's lightning strikes were from Khurda district, while two were from Balangir, and one each from Angul, Boudh, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Jagatsinghpur, and Puri. Additionally, lightning strikes also took the lives of eight cattle in the Gajapati and Kandhamal districts.
- Fourteen people sustained injuries in the lightning strikes across 11 districts of Odisha on Saturday. Specifically, eight people were injured in Bolangir district, three in Khurda, and one each in Angul, Cuttack, and Ganjam, according to the State Revenue and Calamity Relief (SRC) office.

Statistical Overview



Lightning Strikes - 62,350



District Affected – 11



Human Lives Lost - 12



Injured - 14



Animal Lives Lost - 8

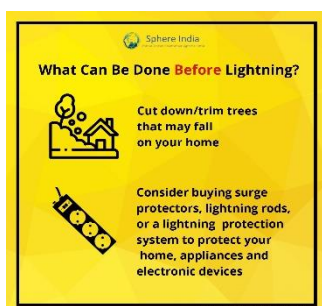
Thunderstorm/ lightning activities across Odisha on 02-09-23

S.No.	Districts	Human Casualty	Injured	Cattle Casualty
1	Angul	1	1	
2	Bolangir	2	8	
3	Boudh	1		
4	Cuttack		1	
5	Dhenkanal	1		
6	Gajapati	1		6
7	Ganjam		1	
8	Jagatsinghpur	1		
9	Kandhamal			2
10	Khurda	4	3	
11	Puri	1		
	Total	12	14	8

- It's important to note that Odisha had signed a MoU with the US-based company Earth Networks back in 2018 to receive early warnings about lightning. Most parts of Odisha are covered by the Earth Networks system, and IITM Pune also operates its own network.
- In terms of upcoming weather conditions, a cyclonic circulation over the Bay of Bengal is expected to intensify into a low-pressure area within the next 48 hours, which could bring widespread rainfall to Odisha. In response, IMD has issued a Yellow warning for heavy rainfall in most districts, continuing until September 7. This warning includes districts such as Dhenkanal, Angul, Kalahandi, Boudh, and Kandhamal, with the possibility of thunderstorms and lightning, particularly in North Odisha.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

- The Special Relief Commissioner has announced that an ex gratia payment of Rs 4 lakh will be provided to each of the bereaved families.
- Sphere India and IAG Odisha are closely monitoring the situation.
- Sphere India Academy in collaboration with IAG Odisha and CROPC is organizing an awareness session on Lightning on 06th September 2023 at 3 pm (Registration Link: <http://tiny.cc/SIA-Lightning-EP>)



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Source of Information

MHA, IMD, CWC, Media, Social Media, Sphere India WhatsApp Group

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