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Lightning Strikes Kill 13 in West Bengal's Bankura, Bardhaman

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At least 13 people lost their lives in a series of lightning strikes during thunderstorms across the districts of Bankura and Purba Bardhaman in West Bengal on Thursday. Authorities have confirmed injuries and are providing medical care to those affected.

A tragic series of lightning strikes claimed the lives of 13 individuals in West Bengal's Bankura and Purba Bardhaman districts, as severe thunderstorms swept through the region on Thursday. The fatalities occurred in separate incidents, highlighting the growing vulnerability of rural populations to sudden shifts in weather patterns during the monsoon season.

In Bankura district, Superintendent of Police Vaibhav Tiwari reported eight deaths resulting from lightning strikes across various localities. The worst-hit area, Onda, saw four casualties, while one death each was recorded in Kotulpur, Joypur, Patrasayer, and Indas. Meanwhile, in neighboring Purba Bardhaman, five individuals lost their lives and four others were injured. A senior official from the Disaster Management Department confirmed that fatalities occurred in Madhabdihi (two), and one each in Ausgram, Mangalkot, and Raina. Those injured are currently being treated at local hospitals.

Despite technological advances in forecasting, rural districts often remain underprepared for such sudden hazards. Seasonal thunderstorms, common in the Indian monsoon cycle, continue to pose a threat to lives, especially among outdoor workers and villagers.

The state administration has initiated relief efforts and urged residents to take necessary precautions during weather warnings. Experts emphasize that while natural calamities cannot always be prevented, the timely dissemination of alerts and basic safety measures can drastically reduce fatalities. Given the frequency of lightning-related incidents in eastern India, there is renewed focus on educating the public about storm safety, particularly in vulnerable farming communities.

These developments arrive as broader discussions continue around India's disaster readiness, with local authorities under pressure to improve resilience at the grassroots level.