

Lightning is a phenomenon that has not only fascinated but also scared mankind. Each second about 50 to 100 lightning strikes occur over the Earth. Over the recent years lightning is identified as the single most killer over India than compared to all other natural disasters. There is an increasing trend in death. Recent data suggests, lightning alone account for about 2000 to 2500 deaths every year in India.

Thunderstorms and lightning being the quickly evolving meteorological phenomenon, the exact forecast of these events is a challenge. Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune an autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences has installed a Lightning Location Network with about 48 sensors over various parts of the country and are connected to central processing unit at IITM, Pune. This network provides exact information about lightning strikes and movement of thunderstorm path. The network is being expanded with addition of more sensors to increase accuracy and reliability.

Using this network, by ESSO-IITM has developed an Mobile App, DAMINI-LIGHTNING. This App gives exact location of current lightning strikes, probable locations of impending lightning around area of 40 sq.km and movement and direction of thunderstorm. DAMINI also lists precautionary steps to be taken during lightning and some general information on lightning

DAMINI-App would indeed help in getting advance information about impending lightning activity.