

Summit Times 14-09-18

NH 10 blocked at 29 Mile, passengers stranded



SUMMIT REPORT KALIMPONG, 13 SEPT:

Approximately 20 metres of road formation on NH 10 was washed away by River Teesta at 29th Mile today around 11 a.m. Incessant rainfall in Sikkim had raised the water level of River Teesta last night which was flowing above danger levels along Melli and Teesta Bridge.

Cracks had earlier developed in

the area and this morning, one side of the road sank following which PWD workers had surrounded the area. At around 11 a.m, the surrounded area sank into the river damaging 80% of the road. Vehicles were seen plying on the narrow patch of road left.

In the meantime, one loaded truck that was trying to pass through the area got stuck owing to the closure of the highway.

Later, two JCBs and earth cutter machine were deployed to cut the wall side. Assistant Engineer, PWD, Uttam Pradhan, said about 80% of the road has been damaged.

"We are working with the wall side and hoping to get traffic back to normal in few areas. Many vehicles and tourists with trains or flights to catch were stranded. Many vehicles took the Lopchu route to Siliguri," said Mr Pradhan.

Sikkim's connectivity hit after NH10 slide

SE Bureau

DARJEELING / KALIMPONG, September 13: Heavy rains triggered a landslide on National Highway (NH) 10 at 29 Mile in Kalimpong district of Bengal disrupting traffic for hours on the main road that links Sikkim with Siliguri.

Authorities said the slide occurred at around 11:30 am and washed away major portion of the 20-metre stretch of the road. Cracks had developed in the area much earlier and the stretch caved in completely because of the continuous rains the region has been experiencing for the past few days.

Vehicles going to and coming from Sikkim had to take circuitous detours to reach their destinations. Many tourists and local commuters were seen making the transshipments at the spot.



The affected NH 10 stretch at 29 Mile. SE Pic

The rains have resulted in the Teesta river flowing over the danger mark at the bridge near Teesta Bazar.

Later in the evening, the road was opened for one way traffic after the Bengal public works department used excavators and earth-cutting

machines to cut the hillside to expand the road.

Uttam Pradhan, the assistant engineer of PWD, said about eighty per cent of the stretch has been damaged.

Vishwanath, the Kalimpong district magistrate, confirmed that one way traffic

on the road has been restored. "Since the area is quite vulnerable, heavy movement of vehicles could cause further cave ins. Restoration work of the damaged stretch is also in progress. We are closely monitoring the situation," he added.

... killed in Kashmir