

Landslides batter roads, houses in South Sikkim

SIKKIM EXPRESS Dated - 19/06/21 (FRIDAY)

NAMO DIXIT

NAMCHI, June 17: Incessant rains of the past 24 hours have triggered a rash of slides across South Sikkim damaging public and private properties besides disrupting road connectivity. Around 38 houses were damaged forcing the families to shift to safer places.

Authorities have mobilized men and machinery to restore roads and to provide relief to affected people. The district administration was in action since Wednesday night to evacuate seven stranded people at Tirikhola slide.

Today morning, a team led by Transport minister-Namthang Rateypani MLA Sanjit Kharel along with SDM Chiran Rizal and district officials visited the affected areas. They took stock of the affected areas at Tangzi Bikmat and Chuba Phong under Namthang-Rateypani constituency.

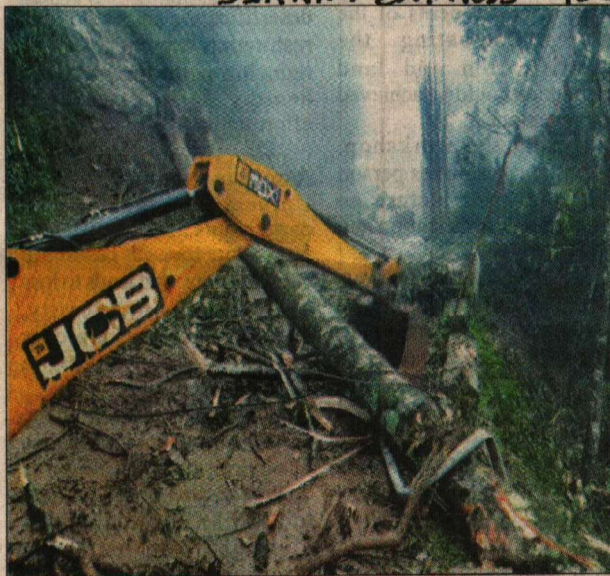
Similar inspection was done at landslides-hit areas of in and around Namchi including Jaubari and Damthang.

The affected families have been handed tarpaulins and relief materials.

The block development officers have been directed to take stock of the landslides and damage in their respective areas.

As per reports, Sanganath area also saw landslides which have washed away its drinking water source. Similarly, the water source of Mamring village has also been damaged.

On Wednesday night, vehicles were trapped due to landslides at road stretches of



Wok-Sikkip below Namchi and Damthang-Jaubari above Namchi. The affected people were rescued the same night.

As part of its monsoon preparedness, the south district administration has involved NHIDCL, PWD and PMGSY for addressing road issues during monsoon.

Road blockages due to mudslides have been reported from several routes connecting Namchi to other places and districts. The slides were cleared for movement of light vehicles by Thursday afternoon.

DC (south) M. Bharani Kumar informed that road

blockages can be cleared within half a day owing to the early preparedness done by the administration. He advised that people should not travel as there could be more landslides due to rains.

Loss of property, crops and livestock have been reported from many villages

of South Sikkim. As per the report received, 38 houses were damaged due to the landslides. Three families were evacuated – two from Upper Chuba and one from Jaubari.

The route to Namchi from Bermiok via Phongla is also disrupted due to a landslide.