

Permanent solution sought for Gundrukey landslides

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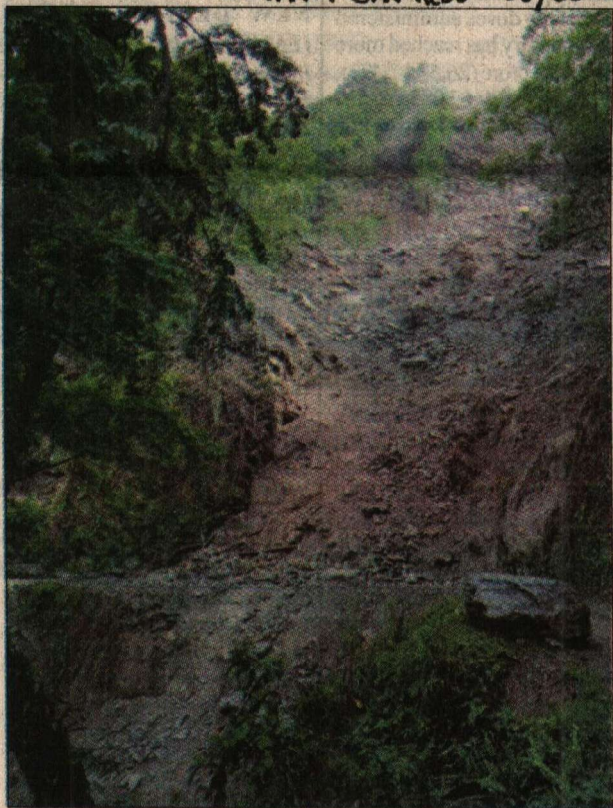
KUSHHANGLEEWANG

GEYZING, June 17: Regular landslides at Gundrukey near Rangit river dam site during monsoon season have been annually disrupting road connectivity to Yuksam-Tashiding constituency. This landslide-prone stretch needs serious attention from authorities concerned as normal life is disrupted due to road blockages.

Yuksam-Tashiding constituency faces the risk of being isolated from rest of Sikkim every monsoon season due to frequent landslides at the places those serve as vital access points to the constituency. The road at Gundrukey nearby Rangit river dam falls under south district administration but also serves as a direct access way to Yuksam-Tashiding constituency. When the road through Legship via Gundrukey to Yuksam-Tashiding constituency remains closed as a result of landslides, people have to rely upon a longer route through Geyzing-Pelling road for their day to day affairs.

However, during monsoon, Geyzing-Pelling road also suffer landslides and flash floods that fracture transport network frequently adding to the people's sufferings and miseries. In west district, Yuksam-Tashiding constituency remains to be the most vulnerable considering the fact that the constituency is always prone to natural calamities.

Another threat posed by Gundrukey landslide is



probability of gradual sinking or submergence of villages lying above landslide-prone zone. The slide has expanded to the far and wide corners affecting the surrounding areas and endangering the rural dwellings of South Sikkim located above the site prone to landslide.

Natural calamities in future seem to be inevitable considering the vulnerability posed by ever expanding landslide.

Local people opine that the landslide is turning out to

be a major cause of future natural devastation if not tamed in a proper way. They shared that the State government through the concerned department must chalk out an effective plan for management of ever spreading landslips at Gundrukey area. They further exerted that south and west district administrations should endorse collective participations to redress Gundrukey landslide issue in a concrete way.

