

# DZONGU TOTALLY CUT-OFF

Slides fracture road networks, several villages affected

**BHOY GURUNG**

**GANGTOK, June 28:** Entire Dzongu is cut-off from rest of the State following multiple slides across the area due to heavy rains for the past few days. The worst-affected area is Passingdong village in Upper Dzongu, about 10 km away Mangan, the north district headquarters.

According to the information available, a massive landslide came down from uphill Panang on Saturday night which damaged around 19 houses, local road and government secondary school at Passingdong. Since the landslide is active and threatens to cause more damage due to continuous rains, the authorities have evacuated the residents of entire village to a safer location.

Dzongu MLA Pinto Namgyal Lepcha reached the spot early morning along with DC (north) Tenzing T. Kaleon, SP (north) Ongmu Bhutia and others to inspect the damages and oversee relief works.

"Both Upper Dzongu and Lower Dzongu are cut-off from rest of the State due to multiple slides at different places. The worst-affected area is Passingdong where a massive slide came down from uphill Panang at around 8 pm Saturday night. The authorities are evacuating the entire village since the Panang landslide is active and could engulf the entire area if it rains more," said the Dzongu MLA to SIKKIM EXPRESS.

Panang is about one km uphill from Passingdong. The hill side gave away following intense rains in the past two days.

According to a report from Sikkim investigation division of Central Water Commission based in Gangtok, Sangkhalang - the entry point to Passingdong and other villages of Upper Dzongu - recorded 227.4 mm and 102.4 mm rainfall in the

past two days. Similarly, Mangan received 246.3 mm and 125 mm rainfall in the past two days.

Thirty five families of Passingdong have been evacuated so far considering the damages to their houses and threat posed by further slides. They have been shifted to nearby PHC which is located in a safer zone along the Passingdong-Lingthem road.

A similar major landslide had taken place at Passingdong in 2018.

Road connectivity is not available from Sangkhalang onwards and the authorities and relief workers are reaching the spot on foot or through transhipments. Tingvong, Sakyong-Pentong and other villages beyond Passingdong are already cut-off since 2016 following the Mantam slide. The road from Mangan to Sangkhalang was also disrupted in the morning hours of Saturday.

The North Sikkim highway which connects Gangtok with Mangan is also disrupted due to slides at some places. Similarly, the Singtam-Dikchu-Mangan route is also not reliable at the moment for vehicular movement.

Meanwhile, landslides have damaged houses and roads at Lingdok-Barfok GPU and Hee-Gyathang, both in Upper Dzongu. The entire Dzongu is cut-off due to slides occurring since past couple of days, said the area MLA.

Lum in Lower Dzongu also saw damage to houses and land due to landslides.

"Due to the extensive landslides and continuous rains, it is not possible to talk about restoration measures at the moment. Right now we can only undertake relief measures since entire Dzongu is affected. Cracks have appeared on lands at many villages that may give way to landslides if the rains do not stop," said the Dzongu MLA.

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## ENTIRE PASSINGDONG VILLAGE EVACUATED



The landslide left behind a trail of devastation at Passingdong village on Saturday night.



The Passingdong slide had avalanched from Panang area, around one km uphill from the village. The slide is still active and poses threat to settlements below.



Area MLA Pinto Namgyal Lepcha and district authorities inspecting the damages at the landslide-hit village.

## Surviving The Dangerous Saturday Night

**BHOY GURUNG**

**GANGTOK, June 28:** As the landslide avalanched from uphill Panang at around 8 pm of Saturday night, the 35-odd families of Passingdong village were caught between the devil and deep sea.

Heavy rains, complete darkness and a dangerous slide rumbling through their village - where could safety be found? Danger lay outside where one could get caught by the slides in the darkness. It was risky and traumatic to stay indoors also considering the intensity of the slide.

As shared by the local residents, many of them rushed outside and braving the

slides, took shelter in whichever place they could find stable and safe. Others decided to stay where they were given it was pitch dark outside amidst a ferocious landslide.

"We tried to evacuate in the night but there was no power, it was pitch dark and continuous rains at that moment. Some of the villagers managed to evacuate and took shelter elsewhere while others decided to stay where they are," said local villager Gyatso Lepcha.

In the morning hours of Sunday, the images of a devastated Passingdong village started circulating in social media depicting the intensity

of the landslide. The district authorities reached the village and despite logistics issue due to fractured road connectivity, have managed to set up a shelter camp at the nearby PHC.

The whole village have been evacuated and nobody is staying in the village at the moment, said Gyatso informing that the landslide is still active.

The danger is still there, one can see huge boulders are still hanging precariously on top of the slide uphill which can come down anytime, said Gyatso. We have to wait for the slide to be stabilised before any restoration work can be taken up, he added.

A similar landslide had

damaged houses at Passingdong in 2018. The slide this time was three times in intensity, said the local resident.

Gyatso informed that even the Mines & Geology report shows that Passingdong lies in a vulnerable area and prone to landslides. We may later approach the government requesting that the people of Passingdong are resettled at another safer location, he added.

Further above Passingdong lies Mantam which had been completely devastated by a massive hill slide in August 2016. Since then, there is no permanent road connectivity to Tingvong and Sakyong-Pentong GPUs.

## Slides

### fracture...

The Gangtok Met office informed that 'very heavy rainfall' have taken place in different parts of the State especially north district.

"Heavy rainfall will continue (June 29), the rainfall will slightly subside but from July 1, it will again increase which may lead to some natural calamity", said Met director G.N. Raha when contacted by SIKKIM EXPRESS.

Pintso Namgyal added that as the area MLA, he has been submitting reports of the landslide-affected areas to the State government. The Chief Minister is also being continuously updated about the situation, he said.

Land Revenue & Disaster Management secretary P.N. Sherpa informed that the district disaster management team is at Passingdong assessing the damage and supporting the preventive measures. The team from Gangtok could not be dispatched due to road connectivity issue today, it was informed.

# Flashflood tears into Passingdang, damages 17 houses



**WANGCHUK BHUTIA  
DIKCHU, 28 JUN:**

A swathe of 17 houses were damaged at Passingdang in Upper Dzongu, North Sikkim, by flash-flood that tore into the village on Saturday night at around 8:30 pm. Fortunately, no casualties have been reported as the affected people were alerted by neighbours residing above the village who warned them of the swelling waters.

The entire village was in turmoil today with deep sludge having inundated the area and electricity, drinking water supply and road connectivity snapped.

The affected families took shelter at the Passingdang PHC, it is informed, the safest location in the area.

Area MLA, Pintso Namgyal Lepcha, along with DC North, TT Kaleon, Sr SP Ongmu Bhutia, Upadhakshya North, Theney Bhutia, DFO Territorial, Pempa

Dadul Bhutia, SDM and BDO Passingdan along with the officials from line departments visited the spot today and took the stock of damages.

The district administration along with the area MLA today made arrangements for the affected families to be moved to a safer location for the time being.

The DC also today directed the concerned officials to focus on immediate relief and restoration and assured that

permanent restoration will be undertaken after conducting a proper survey.

The area MLA highlighted that the danger of such a flash-flood has been intimated to the concerned officials in the past but has not received the required attention and follow-up.

The visiting officials also interacted with the affected families. The villagers have demanded immediate installation of floodlights in the area.

The team also visited the Lingdong landslide today and interacted with the affected people there.

The area MLA stated that the relief and restoration will be given priority. He further stated that all major restoration will be done as early as possible.

Passingdang village has also been cut off by a litter of three major landslides on the roads. Repairs will take a few more days, it is informed.

# भीषण वर्षाले उत्तर सिक्किम पूर्णरूपले प्रभावित

## भल-पैहोले उत्तर सिक्किमको पासिङदडमा व्यापक क्षति

मगन, २८ जून। विगत केही दिनदेखि आएको लगातार वर्षाका कारण उत्तर सिक्किमको अत्पर जङ्ग, पासिङदडमा व्यापक भेल बगेको छ। हिजो साँझ आएको व्यापक भेलका कारण यस स्थानका घरहरू, निजी सम्पत्ति अनि पासिङदड माध्यमिक विद्यालयलाई अधिक क्षति पुगेको छ। यद्यपि, नागरिकलाई समयमा यस स्थानबाट सुरक्षित ठाउँमा सार्न सफल भएको कारण ज्यान मालको भने कुनै क्षति हुन पाएन। जङ्ग क्षेत्रका विधायक पिन्बो नामग्याल लेम्बा, जिङ्गपाल तेञ्जिङ काल्योन, पुलिस अधीक्षक ओङ्मो भोटिया, जङ्गका महकुमा अधिकारी, खण्ड विकास अधिकारी, आरओ लगायत गैर सरकारी संस्थाद्वारा आज प्रभावित स्थानको भ्रमण गरियो। जङ्गका महकुमाले दिएको जानकारीअनुसार कुल १९-वटा घर प्रभावित बनेका छन् भने ३५ परिवारलाई पासिङदड जनस्वास्थ्य अभियान्त्रीकी विभागको आवासमा सारिएको छ। जिङ्गा प्रशासनद्वारा प्रभावित परिवारलाई राशन प्रदान गरियो।



## टिस्टा चरण-४ को बाँध सुरक्षित

गान्तोक, २८ जून: गत समाह केही दिनको लगातार वर्षाको कारण २७ जूनको बिहान पूर्व सिक्किमको डिकचुमा एनएचपीसी टिस्टा ५ बाँधको शीर्ष स्थानको लगभग ४० मिटरको उँचाइबाट बाँधको बायाँतिरको खम्बाको उच्च स्थानमा पैहो गएको थियो। यो पैहोको कारण बाँधको कन्ट्रोल रुम (डीसीआर)संगको सम्पर्क साथै बाँधको उच्च स्थानमा बिजुली आपूर्ति विच्छेद भएको थियो। तर टिस्टा ५ पावर स्टेशनका अभियन्ताहरूको एउटा टोलीले नागरिक सेवा र बिजुली सम्पर्क पुनर्बहाल गर्ने कार्यमा तत्कालै जुटेर २७ जून बिहान ८.४५ बजीसम्ममा बिजुली आपूर्ति पुनर्स्थापित गरे। टिस्टा ५ पावर स्टेशनद्वारा जारी गरिएको प्रेस विज्ञप्ति अनुसार सिक्किमको एनएचपीसी बाँधलाई



पैहोले कुनै क्षति पुऱ्याएको छैन। यो बाँधलाई तक्निकी ढाँचाले बनाइएको छ जसले यस प्रकारको कुनै पनि प्राकृतिक आपदालाई सामना गर्नसक्छ। त्यसर्थ वर्षाको मौसममा कुनै प्राकृतिक आपदालाई धाम्नसक्ने सावधानीका सबै आवश्यकताहरू तयार गरिएको हुनाले बाँध अति सुरक्षित छ र यसका वरपर

स्थानहरूमा हुटस लगाइएको छ। मानिसहरूको सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित गर्न पानी जमा राख्ने कम क्षमता भएको एनएचपीसी डिकचु जलाशय अनि वर्षाको पानी जलाशयमा बहाउको आधारमा निरन्तर छोडने गरिन्छ। किनकि लगातार वर्षा र भीर माथिबाट टूला साना ढुङ्गाहरू झरिरहने हुनाले झट्टै यसलाई हटाउने काम गर्न सकिँदैन। त्यसर्थ पावर स्टेशन आपदा प्रबन्धन दल अनि बाँधको टोली आवश्यक उपकरणहरू लिएर पैहो प्रमुख स्थानहरूमा तैनाथ छन् अनि जब मौसममा केही सुधार आउँछ तब सडकमा पैहोले धस्किएर जमा भएका माटो-ढुङ्गाहरू हटाउने काम शुरू हुन्छ जसले गर्दा उत्तर सिक्किमको लुम अनि अन्य गाउँहरूलाई अन्य स्थानसँग जोड्ने काम चाँडै पुनर्बहाल हुनेछ।

## पैहोले एउटा वाहन क्षतिग्रस्त, पश्चिममा दुई दर्जनभन्दा ठाउँमा वाहन चलाचल बाधित

सोरेङ, २८ जून: लगातार परिरेको असारे झरीले पश्चिम जिङ्गा अन्तर्गत आठैवटा समष्टिमा जनजीवन अस्तव्यस्त बनेको छ। गाउँलाई अन्य भागसम्म जोड्ने दुई दर्जनभन्दा धेरै लिङ्क रोडहरू पैहोले बन्द गरेको जानकारी यस संवाददातालाई प्राप्त भएको छ। भल पैहोले धेरैजनाको घर र खेतीपाती क्षयक्षति गरेको जताततैबाट रिपोर्ट आइरहेको छ। साना-दुला खोला नाला बौलाएर उर्लिएर बगिरहेको छ। यता सोरेङ महकुमा अन्तर्गत सोरेङ डाँडा बजारमा सोरेङ स्कूलको जमीन धस्किएर पार्किङ गरेर राखेको एउटा वाहनलाई क्षतिग्रस्त बनाएको छ।



पैहोले पश्चिम जिङ्गाको रेसी रिखेपोड रोड तीन किलोमिटरमा बन्द रह्यो। यसरी नै बर्मक-लेक्सेप सडक, याक्सोम-टाशीडिङ, चोङराङ-लाब्दाङ, यामताङ-फामताङ, सिम्बो-खेचिपोखरी, एनडीपीसीको आठौँ किमि नजिक एनडीपीसी सडक, टिम्बुबुङ रानीखोलामा सोरेङ-सोम्बारे सडक, तङ्गो दोदक सडक, पिजेटार सडक, सोम्बारे पुलिस बुथ नजिक सोम्बारे-हिले सडक, आन्देन-तारेभीर सडक, लोवर रुम्बुक सडकलाई पैहोले अवरुद्ध गरेको थियो।

सोरेङ-कलुक रोडको दोस्रो, तेस्रो, पाचौँ, छैटौँ र नवौँ किलोमिटरमा जताततै पैहोले बाधित गरेको थियो भने पछि सम्बन्धित विभागको सक्रिय पहलमा वाहन आवतजावत शुरू भएको जानकारी पाइएको छ।

सोरेङ-महकुमा अन्तर्गत छोटा साम्दु-मजुवा रोड पनि पैहोले फस्ट किलोमिटरमा बन्द गयो। यसरी नै च्याखुङ-खानिशेर्बुङ सडक आठौँ किलोमिटरमा पैहोले अवरुद्ध गयो। बुदाङ-मालबाँसेको व्यस्त सडकलाई पैहोले छैटौँ किलोमिटरमा छेकेर वाहन चलाचलमा टूलो समस्या खडा गयो। यसरी नै शिरिबदाम-मङ्गलाचारे सडक पनि दोस्रो र तेस्रो किलोमिटरमा बाधित रह्यो।

गाएरति दुई घण्टा जति आएको मुसलधारे पानी र निरन्तर झिमझिमे असारे झरीको कारण सानो-दुलो पैहोले जनजीवनलाई अस्तव्यस्त बनायो। प्रायःजसो वाहनहरू आज आफ्नो गन्तव्यसम्म पुग्न सकेनन्। सम्बन्धित विभागले ठाउँ-ठाउँमा मेसिन लगाएर सडकलाई खोल्न ढुङ्गा-हिलो सोर्ने काममा तीव्रता ल्याएको अधिकारीहरूले जानकारी गराएका छन्। पैहोले टिम्बुबुङस्थित वाई

नम्बर ९ निवासी कमल प्रसाद भट्टराईको मुख्यमन्त्री ग्रामीण आवास योजना अन्तर्गत निर्माणधीन अवस्थामा रहेको घरलाई पैहोले तान्ने अवस्था पुऱ्याएको छ। यसरी नै टिम्बुबुङ ब्लक के तीन नम्बर वाई निवासी रोशन कार्कीको बिल्डिङमा भलपैहो पसेर व्यापक क्षति गरेको छ। सोरेङ ब्लकका बुद्धिराज सुब्बा, मनसिंह सुब्बा र सुकराज सुब्बाको घरलाई पनि पैहोले जमीन चर्काएर क्षति पुऱ्याएको जानकारी पाइएको छ। मुख्यमन्त्री पीएस गोलेका पैतृक गाउँ सिङलिङ ब्लकमा पनि धेरै मानिसको जमीनलाई सानोतिनो पैहोले क्षयक्षति पुऱ्याएको रिपोर्ट प्राप्त भएको छ। आज आइतवार सरकारी विदा रहे तापनि सम्बन्धित निकायमा अधिकारीहरूले पैहो पीडित जनताको घर्मा पुगेर क्षयक्षतिको विस्तृत जानकारी लिएका छन्।