

6 killed as landslides, rain wreak havoc in Sikkim, north Bengal

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At least six people were killed and 1,500 tourists stranded as massive landslides triggered by incessant rainfall caused devastation in northern Sikkim's Mangan district, officials said on Thursday.

Due to the torrential rain in Sikkim this week, surging water levels in the Teesta river wrought havoc at Kalimpong in north Bengal, flooding the Teesta Bazar area and leading to the closure of Kalimpong-Darjeeling Road.

The situation turned dire on Wednesday night after heavy rainfall led to the inundation of areas like Geil Khola and several roads in Kalimpong's Teesta Bazar connecting Darjeeling and Kalimpong. Roads connecting Siliguri with Darjeeling and Kalimpong are also being monitored closely.

A newly constructed Bailey bridge at Sangkalang in Sikkim collapsed snapping the link between Mangan with Dzongu and Chungthang. Landslides blocked stretches of roads and several houses were



A house that was damaged during the landslide in northern Sikkim on Thursday. ANI

inundated or damaged, while electricity poles were swept away.

"Three persons each died in Pakshep and Ambhithang villages," Mangan District Magistrate Hem Kumar Chettri said.

He held a meeting with officials to take stock of the situation following incessant rainfall in and around Mangan district since Wednesday and instructed them to carry out rescue and relief work.

Alerts have been sounded to those living in houses along the banks of the swollen Teesta river. Local officials urged residents of affected areas to evacuate houses and move to safer ground.

(With PTI inputs)