

## **NJP-DARJEELING DHR RIDES SUSPENDED**

# ***Landslide strikes 30 homes in Sikkim village***

### **OUR CORRESPONDENT**

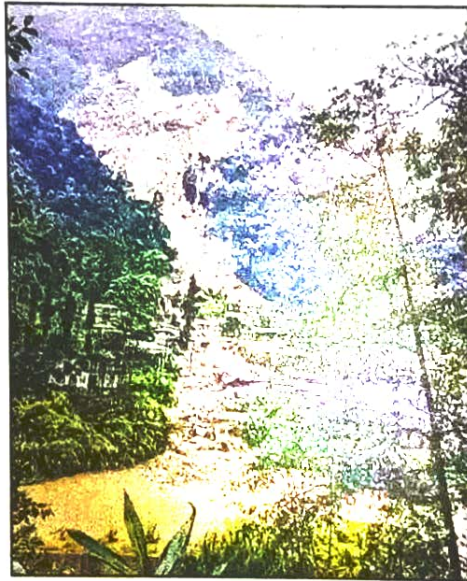
**Siliguri:** Incessant rain and multiple landslides disrupted normal life in Sikkim and the Darjeeling hills over the past 24 hours, with 30 houses being damaged in a single village in the Himalayan state.

Of the 30 homes, two were completely washed away at Rimbi in Gyalshing district early Friday morning. The village is in the Yuksom subdivision and around 120km from Gangtok.

According to official sources, no casualties have been reported so far. The extent of the damage to houses, property and livestock will be assessed once relief teams reach the affected area, officials said.

The latest landslide is believed to have followed an earlier one that occurred on August 13. After the earlier landslide, the district administration had evacuated around 35 families from the affected area.

"The landslide changed



**The Rimbi village in Gyalshing after the landslide on Friday**

its course and entered the village today," said a source.

Sikkim chief minister Prem Singh Tamang (Golay) expressed concern over the situation and said necessary directions had been issued to the authorities to remain on high alert, monitor developments, and take all possible measures to ensure public safety.

Tshering T. Bhutia, the local MLA, along with administrative officials, visited the site and interacted

with affected residents.

Elsewhere in Sikkim and the neighbouring Darjeeling hills, landslides disrupted road and rail connectivity.

A landslide at Bar-dang, around 35km from Gangtok, disrupted direct road connectivity between Rangpo and Gangtok along NH10.

In the Darjeeling hills, a landslide on NH110 near Mahanadi in the Kurseong subdivision affected traffic. Debris also accumulated over the toy train tracks, prompting the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway to suspend services between New Jalpaiguri (NJP) and Darjeeling indefinitely from Friday morning.

According to officials, debris came down onto NH110 and blocked the DHR tracks around 9am. The local administration and the state PWD worked for nearly two hours to clear the debris. However, the railway authorities decided to suspend the regular toy train service.