

# Surface water from airport site blocks road again, AAI wants to acquire affected land

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**PAKYONG, May 28:** Overflowing rainwater from Greenfield airport just above Pakyong town again disrupted traffic movement and damaged a private house between Pakyong and Bhanuturning during the heavy rainfall of Monday afternoon.

Similar damage to the road and a private house had taken place during the torrential downpour of Sunday morning as the drain for channelizing the surface water of the airport was not properly constructed.

The construction company for the airport project tried to divert the rainwater today also but could not achieve success. The surface water flowed down from its wall causing the road blockage and also damaged a nearby house. Water pipelines to Mamzey village below the airport site were also damaged.

The Roads & Bridges department deputed an earthmover to clear the road and only two-wheelers are passing through.

Construction of a temporary drain is under progress to tackle the issue but it could some more days to divert the surface water of the airport.

Pakyong SDM T.D. Denzongpa today called a follow-up meeting at his office, Pachey regarding the multiple landslides and road blockages triggered by heavy rainfall of Saturday night in Pakyong subdivision. The meeting was attended by officers and engineers of departments concerned along with the senior Airport Authority of India (AAI) authorities stationed at Pakyong.

Denzongpa urged the government and AAI officials to initiate prompt action for clearing the roads and landslides that broke out across Pakyong subdivision. He asked all to stay alert during the monsoon period. He also asked the AAI officials to be alert since it is usually the surface water from the airport site that is blocking the road from Pakyong to Bhanuturning.

Pakyong airport DGM Jagbhir Singh sought cooperation of the local and State authorities to acquire the land below the airport wall. The AAI is ready to pay the compensation and we want the State government to start the process of acquiring the land of those who are suffering due to the airport, he said.

Singh told the meeting that the airport construction work

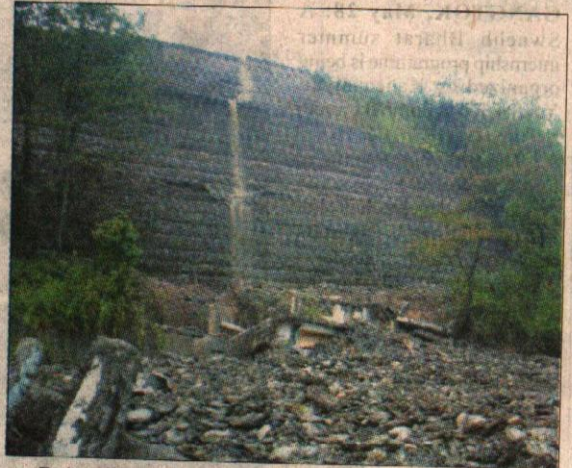


The condition of the road between Pakyong and Bhanuturning. SE Pic

is in concluding stage. Certain works like stabilizing the uphill side are to be redone at the airport site, he said.

Meanwhile, area MLA and Transport minister D.T. Lepcha today inspect the landslides at Pachey. Restoration works are taking longer time due to incessant rains.

Lepcha met the contractor and engineers of the Roads & Bridges department. He asked them to remain vigil while undertaking the restoration works. He also took stock of the grievances of the local public who were affected by the heavy rainfall of Sunday night.



Rain water pours out from the airport wall. SE Pic