



Earthquake induced Landslides in the Sikkim Himalaya - A Consequences of the 18th September 2011 Earthquake

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Abstract

On September 18, 2011 an earthquake of 6.8 magnitude on the Richter scale struck Sikkim at 18.11 hours IST. The epicenter of the quake was latitude 27.7° North and longitude 88.2° East about 64 km North-West of Gangtok along the junction point of Teesta lineament and Kanchenjunga fault in the North District of Sikkim. The high intensity tremor triggered various types of natural calamities in the form of landslides, road blocks, falling boulders, lake bursts, flash floods, falling of trees, etc. and caused severe damage to life and property of the people in Sikkim. As the earthquake occurred during the monsoon season, heavy rain and landslides rendered rescue operations extremely difficult. Almost all road connectivity and communication network were disrupted. Sikkim experiences landslides year after year, especially during the monsoons and periods of intense rain. This hazard affects the economy of the State very badly. But due to the earthquake, many new and a few reactivated landslides have occurred in the Sikkim Himalaya.