

Avalanche

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Avalanche Latest News

Three Army personnel, including two Agniveers, lost their lives recently in a major avalanche at the Siachen base camp in Ladakh.

About Avalanche

- An avalanche is a **large amount of snow** that **quickly moves down a slope**.
- An avalanche can be **deadly** because it will **bury or sweep away anything in its path**.
- Large amounts of **sliding rocks, earth, or other materials** may also be called **avalanches**. But these are **often known as landslides**.
- **Many different conditions** make an avalanche possible.
 - An avalanche is more **likely to happen on a slope without trees or large rocks**. These things help to keep snow in place.
 - A **weak layer of snow** also makes an avalanche likely.
- Once the conditions are right, **several things can start an avalanche**.

- **Heavy snowfall, strong wind, and rising temperatures** all can **loosen snow** on a slope.
- **Falling rocks or ice** also can cause snow to slide.
- **Even the movement of a skier, a snowboarder,** or a snowmobile can trigger an avalanche.
- There are **two main types of snow avalanches—sluffs and slabs.**
- **Sluff** avalanches occur **when the weak layer of a snowpack is on the top.**
 - A sluff is a small slide of dry, powdery snow that moves as a formless mass.
 - Sluffs are much less dangerous than slab avalanches.
- A **slab** avalanche occurs when the **weak layer lies lower down in a snowpack.**
 - This layer is **covered with other layers of compressed snow.**
 - When the avalanche is triggered, the **weak layer breaks off, pulling all the layers on top of it down the slope.**
 - These **layers tumble and fall in a giant block,** or slab.
- **Avalanches vary in destructive power** from harmless to large enough to destroy mature forests or flatten villages.
- **When an avalanche stops,** the **snow becomes solid like concrete,** and people are unable to dig out.
- People caught in avalanches can die from suffocation, trauma, or hypothermia.
- People in mountainous areas **protect themselves from avalanches in several ways.**
 - **Special fences** help to hold snow in place.
 - **Barriers** help to stop sliding snow or change its direction.
 - **Explosives** help **to clear snow** from places where avalanches are likely to occur.

Source: IT

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/avalanche/>

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