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## **2. Avalanche**

### **Why in News?**

- A massive Avalanche has recently hit Sikkim's Nathu La.

### **Highlights**

- An avalanche is a sudden, rapid flow of snow, ice, and debris down a mountain or slope.
- It can be triggered by various factors such as heavy snowfall, rapid temperature changes, or human activity.
- Many regions that are prone to avalanches have specialized teams that monitor and control avalanche risks by using various methods such as explosives, snow barriers, and other safety measures.
- Rock Avalanches (which consist of large segments of shattered rock),
- Ice Avalanches (which typically occur in the vicinity of a glacier),
- Debris Avalanches (which contain a variety of unconsolidated materials, such as loose stones and soil).
- Avalanches and landslides are both types of mass movements, but they occur in different environments and involve different materials.
- An avalanche is a rapid flow of snow, ice, and debris down a mountain or slope, while a landslide is a movement of rock, earth, or debris down a slope or cliff.
- Avalanches typically occur in mountainous areas that have heavy snowfall and steep slopes.
- On the other hand, landslides can occur in a wide range of environments and can be triggered by various factors such as heavy rainfall, earthquakes, volcanic activity, or human activity.
- Both avalanches and landslides can be dangerous and potentially deadly, and it is important to take necessary precautions to avoid them.