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MAGAZINE NOTES

Climate Change and Sports — Unseen Cultural Impacts

15 January 2026

ENVIRONMENT

SOCIAL ISSUES

HISTORY & CULTURE

GS1

GS3

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Climate Change and Sports — Unseen Cultural Impacts

🌱 Down to Earth Chapter 11 · 1 min read ·

🔗 WHY IN NEWS

Global warming is directly threatening regional sports and socio-cultural fabric across India — from Ladakh's ice hockey to Kerala's cricket.

Key Impacts

- **Ladakh ice hockey:** Natural ice-skating season has shrunk from **5 months to under 2 months** due to warming winters preventing proper lake freezing
- Threatens the future of the **Indian ice hockey team** and young women's recreational empowerment spaces
- **Cricket:** Extreme heatwaves and dry pitches cause severe dehydration and fielding injuries, making multi-day matches physically dangerous
- **Changthang Region (Ladakh):** High-altitude plateau facing shrinking pasturelands and early-drying streams

Way Forward

- Sports infrastructure must pivot to sustainability (e.g., artificial rinks with green energy)
- Athletes as **vocal climate ambassadors** — environment is inseparable from sports

UPSC Angle

- **GS1:** Social issues, culture, impact of climate on society
- **GS3:** Climate change, adaptation



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