

## **Khelo India Winter Games 2026: Ladakh women set up ice-hockey final vs ITBP, snowfall impacts long-track skating schedule**

The men's 1000m long track final at Gupukh's Pond was abandoned due to snowfall

Army to clash with ITBP in men's ice-hockey semifinals on Saturday

Leh (Ladakh), Jan. 23: Hosts Ladakh and ITBP women marched into the final of the Khelo India Winter Games 2026 ice hockey competition in commanding fashion on Friday. This will be a repeat of KIWG 2025's women's ice hockey final.

On an icy day in Leh, the 1000 metres long track finals for men and women at the Gupukh's Pond were impacted due to heavy snowfall, the first in weeks in this Union Territory.

Due to poor visibility and the condition of the 333 metres course, the women's final was badly impacted towards the middle stages. The men's race did not start.

Defending champions Army sealed their berth in the men's ice-hockey final from Group A. Playing at their 'home' turf, the Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre rink, Army thrashed Jammu & Kashmir 11-0.

They will play ITBP, the No. 2 team in group B in the semifinals. Hosts Ladakh are sitting on top of Group B. Both men's semis are on Saturday.

In the women's semifinals at Nawang Dorjay Stobdan (NDS) Stadium on Friday afternoon, both Ladakh and ITBP girls decimated their opponents with ease. The new-look NDS Stadium has a roof now and the snowfall did not matter.

Ladakh women beat Himachal Pradesh 14-0 while ITBP beat Chandigarh 10-1. The women's final will be a repeat of the KWG 2025 final where Ladakh defeated ITBP 4-0 in a thrilling contest. Women's ice hockey competition started only in KIWG 2024.

Tsewang Chuskit's hatrick and a brace each from veteran star Padma Chorol, Rinchen Dolma, Padma Desal, Samina Khatoon and Rigzin Yangdol left Himachal Pradesh completely flattened.

"We have won all four matches so far in KIWG 2026. Even though I am the captain, we have seniors guiding us on the ice and in the locker room. The younger girls are also playing well and scoring goals. We have a good coach, and his strategy worked in today's match. Also, the UT Administration's support in our training has been tremendous, and the selection process was conducted through trials in both Leh and Kargil," said Ladakh skipper Yangdol, adding: "We are excited for the finals, and we will hopefully lift the cup once again."

Dechen Dolker's hatrick was the highlight of ITBP's win against Chandigarh in the second women's semifinal. Tashi Dolker and Sharap Yangset scored two apiece to bolster ITBP's scoreline. While this one-sided scoreline was not unexpected, Gunika Kaur Bhatti received the loudest cheer for scoring a consolation goal for Chandigarh.

"Last year, we lost to Ladakh because we were underprepared. This year, it's different. We are more prepared, and I believe in my team. Usually, we face the Ladakh team in many tournaments, but this year there was only one major event—the LG Cup, which happened recently. Most of the Ladakh players were playing under the Ladakh Women Ice Hockey Foundation (LWIHF) banner, and we won that match 7–3. We have kept the same spirit, and we hope to do well at KIWG 2026 final as well," said Tashi Dolkar, captain of ITBP.

### **FRIDAY'S RESULTS**

ICE HOCKEY (updated till 7 PM)

(Women's semis) Ladakh beat Himachal Pradesh 14-0; ITBP beat Chandigarh 10-1.

(Men) (Gr A) Army beat Jammu & Kashmir 11-0.

For KIWG 2026 medal tally: <https://www.winter.kheloindia.gov.in/medal-tally>

For more on KIWG 2026: please click [www.Winter.kheloindia.gov.in](http://www.Winter.kheloindia.gov.in)

#### ABOUT KHELO INDIA WINTER GAMES

Under the Khelo India Scheme, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) organizes National-level competitions, i.e., Khelo India Youth Games, Khelo India University Games, Khelo India Para Games and Khelo India Winter Games to provide a platform for talented athletes to showcase their sporting and competitive skills. Starting in 2020, five editions of Khelo India Winter Games have been successfully conducted. While the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir have hosted all editions of KIWG, UT Ladakh started hosting the ice sports from 2024. This will be the third time UT Ladakh will be hosting the ice Games. Gulmarg in J&K will host the snow events. Apart from tapping talent, Khelo India Winter Games also showcase a region's art, culture, heritage, and promotes tourism through sports.

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