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## Hockey! Isn't it hot there?

Standing water might not freeze in winter on the plains of India, but it does in the mountainous regions. The setting is Leh in Ladakh, at a frozen irrigation water reservoir. On the ice is a volunteer team from the Canadian High Commission in New Delhi, playing an exhibition game at the National Ice Hockey Championships, against a composite team from the area. Despite the ravages of age and altitude (11,500 feet), the Canadians won four of the six short games. How did all of this come about? It all began with hockey sticks. When a member of the High Commission learned that the hockey sticks of the India Ice Hockey Team were not the best, funds were found to buy 20 aluminum hockey sticks and replacement blades. Then the National Hockey League donated another 50. Goal! The 70 sticks were presented to the President of the Indian Olympic Association and the President of the Indian Winter Games Federation at a ceremony at the Canadian High Commission in January 2001, just before the Championships. A love of sport, a chance conversation, some hockey sticks, all netted a new arena of people-to-people contact.