



Winter Games in Gulmarg Postponed

Why in News?

Authorities have postponed the [5th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games](#), originally set for 22-25th February in Gulmarg, due to [inadequate snowfall](#) caused by the prolonged dry spell.

Key Points

- **Severe Precipitation Deficit in Kashmir:**
 - According to [the Meteorological Department](#) in Srinagar, precipitation has been “negligible” over the past few months.
 - The cause of the deficit is the dry spell in the absence of [western disturbances](#), which usually bring rain and snow to the region.
- **Water Shortage:**
 - Several water bodies have witnessed significant depletion, highlighting the impact of the dry weather.
 - The natural spring at Achabal Mughal Garden in South Kashmir, built by **Mughal Empress Noor Jahan**, has nearly dried up.
 - **The Irrigation and Flood Control Department** warned that continued dry conditions could severely impact both drinking water supply and irrigation in the coming months.
- **Impact:**
 - Authorities have deferred the national winter games in Gulmarg, with **the J&K Sports Council** stating that a reassessment will take place once snow conditions improve.
 - Multiple [forest fires](#) have been reported, including in Tral, Pulwama district.
- **Environmental Concerns and Future Risks:**
 - Environmentalists fear **long-term consequences** due to the lack of winter precipitation.
 - Experts urge authorities to [implement mitigation strategies](#) to address the worsening crisis.

Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG)

- The KIWG is a **multidisciplinary, national-level winter sports competition** that **promotes winter sports** and encourages more athletes to take up skiing and skating.
- It includes events such as **skiing, alpine skiing, nordic skiing, snow rugby, ice stock sport, snow baseball, mountaineering, snowshoe running, ice hockey, figure skating, and speed skating.**
- It is organized by [the Sports Authority of India](#) and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- The **2025 KIWG** will be held in the **Union Territory of Ladakh from 23 to 27 January for ice events**, and in **the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir from 22 to 25 February for snow events.**

India Meteorological Department

- IMD was **established in 1875**. It is the **National Meteorological Service** of the country and the principal government agency in all **matters relating to meteorology and allied subjects.**

- It works as an **agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences** of the Government of India.
- It is headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- IMD is also one of the **six Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres** of the [World Meteorological Organization](#).

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