



Winter Olympics

Why in News?

The Russian President, Pakistan Prime Minister and five Presidents from [Central Asia](#) will reach China for the opening of the Winter Olympics.

What is the Significance of the Visit?

- The Russian President will discuss the [ongoing crisis with Ukraine](#) with the Chinese President.
 - China has close relations with Russia but has been largely silent on the crisis in Ukraine amid a build-up of Russian forces along its borders.
- The Pakistan Prime Minister is expected to discuss investments from China and speed up the [China Pakistan Economic Corridor \(CPEC\)](#) plan.
 - China has also declared that it sought to discuss developing communications satellites for Pakistan and to cooperate on the construction of the **Pakistan Space Centre**.
- Due to the alleged [human rights violations in the Xinjiang province of China](#), the US, the UK, Canada and Australia have announced a “**diplomatic boycott**” of the games.

What is the Winter Olympics?

- Winter Olympics is the premier competition for sports that are **played on ice or snow**.
- It is held **every four years** and features participants from across the world.
 - **Ice skating, ice hockey, skiing and figure skating** are some of the popular sports that are played at the Winter Games.
- The **first Winter Olympics** were **held in 1924 in Chamonix, France**.
- Winter sports were initially played at the **Summer Olympics**, with the 1908 London Olympics hosting four figure skating events and Antwerp 1920 having figure skating as well as ice hockey.
 - However, in 1924, a separate event was created for winter sports, called the **International Winter Sports Week**.
 - It was held in Chamonix, France – the host country for the 1924 Summer Olympics.
- Two years later, the International Winter Sports Week in Chamonix was officially recognised as the **first Winter Olympic Games**.
- This years’ **edition of the Winter Olympic Games will be held in Beijing, China** from 4th February to 20th February 2022.
- **India** has been participating in the Winter Olympics **since 1964**.

[Source: TH](#)

