

Moscow resorts to fake snow in warmest December since 1886

Moscow has been so warm this December that the government has resorted to sending trucks filled with artificial snow to decorate a new year display in the city centre.

The Moscow region is in the **throes** of one of its warmest winters since temperatures began to be systematically recorded 140 years ago. The temperature in the Russian capital rose to 5.4°C on 18 December, topping the previous record for the month set in 1886.

throe 阵痛; 剧痛

Concerns are growing about the effects of global heating on Russia. **Permafrost** under the country's northern towns is slowly melting, and the **balmy** December weather has interrupted **hibernation** at Moscow zoo.

permafrost 永冻层

balmy 温和的; 芳香的

hibernation 冬眠; 避寒

blanket 毛毯; 覆盖

The most visible impact, however, has been the lack of snow, which usually begins **blanketing** Russia in October or November.

City officials said the artificial snow had been brought in for a snowboarding demonstration that will begin on New Year's Day. The snow was produced by cutting ice for a local skating rink, said Alexei Nemeryuk, the head of Moscow's trade and services department.

Russia is a **signatory** to the Paris Agreement to combat global heating, and Vladimir Putin said during a televised press conference last week that the crisis was a direct threat to Russia.

signatory 签署的; 签约国

At the same time, Russia recently abandoned plans to set greenhouse-gas emissions targets for business after **lobbying** by a powerful Russian industry association. In his remarks, Putin cast doubt on the science, however, and **omitted** any discussion of greenhouse gases.

lobby 游说; 大堂

omit 省略; 遗漏

"Nobody really knows the causes of climate change, at least global climate change, " he said, adding that people should nevertheless make their "best efforts to prevent dramatic changes in the climate".