



## *Destination Paris 2024 Olympics: 4th in Asia, Top 20 in Paris 2024?*

### **Destination Paris Olympics Podium Finish:**

India's performance at the CWG and Asian Games is a precursor to our performance at the Olympics. It is commendable that now India is the best nation behind powerhouses like Australia and England in the CWG and China, Japan and South Korea in the Asian Games.

Over past 13 years, India has consistently shown that we are amongst the top 3 countries in the Commonwealth Games ahead of powerhouses Australia and England.

India 4<sup>th</sup> place in Asian Games in 2023. Highest medal tally and gold medal haul and only behind China, South Korea and Japan.

The former Sports Minister of India, Shri Kiren Rijju has spoken about a Top 10 finish at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. Though reaching amongst top 10 nations in 2028 is a long way away, it would be prudent to first start thinking of a Top 20 finish in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

### **Critical Analysis and way forward:**

If we critically analyse India's performance in previous Olympics vis-à-vis our performance in CWG and Asian Games, there is a positive correlation whereby India's improved performances since the 2008 Olympics is linked to how the country has been faring at the other two competitions.

However, this correlation is not matching with the basic positive correlation of GDP versus country's performance or population versus country's performance at the international events. This basic correlation must have been taken with the assumption that with increasing GDP, country would have larger share in sports budget as well. Similarly, with greater population country would have greater pool of training facilities for elite athletes.

S No.	Year	Total Budget (in crores)	Sports Budget (in crores)	%age of Sports Budget as part of Total Budget
1	2000-01	117334	215	0.18
2	2005-06	211253	439	0.20
3	2010-11	524484	2844	0.54
4	2015-16	578382	1398	0.24
5	2020-21	3042230	2896	0.095
6	2023-24	4503097	3397	0.075



India has over their entire Olympics history won medals in eight sports. There have also been fourth place finishes in two other sports Golf and Gymnastics.

### India Olympic medal history (also 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place finishes)

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Hockey	8	1	3	2	
Wrestling	0	2	5	1	
Shooting	1	2	1	2	
Athletics	1	2	0	2	1
Boxing	0	0	3		
Weightlifting	0	1	1		
Tennis	0	0	1	2	
Badminton	0	1	2		
Gymnastics	0	0	0	1	
Golf	0	0	0	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>

### India Ranking in last 4 Olympic Games

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	<b>Total</b>	Rank
2008	1	0	2	<b>3</b>	<b>51</b>
2012	0	2	4	<b>6</b>	<b>57</b>
2016	0	1	1	<b>2</b>	<b>67</b>
2021	1	2	4	<b>7</b>	<b>48</b>

India is likely to be in medal contention in around eight sports by next year's Olympics based on our performance in recent Olympics, World Championships and Asian Games. These would be Shooting, Wrestling, Boxing, Weightlifting, Badminton, Athletics and Hockey. There could be some sports like Golf where Aditi Ashok playing above her standards at the last Olympics and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> or in Gymnastics where Dipa Karmakar came 4<sup>th</sup> in 2016 Olympics.

### Benchmark to finish in Top 20 over last 3 Olympics

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
2012 (South Africa)	4	1	1	6
2016 (Canada)	4	3	15	22
2021 (Norway)	4	2	2	8



It must be clarified that the ranking in the medal standings is not determined by the total medals won but rather the gold medals. If there is a tie on Golds, then the higher number of silvers is taken into consideration and even if that is tied, then the higher number of bronze medals. By taking performance of last three Olympics into consideration, then 4 golds is a good enough number to finish in the top 20, however to be on the safer side, it is better to win five.

### Sport specialisations by country that finished in 20<sup>th</sup> position last 3 Olympics

Olympics	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total medal / sports
2012	South Africa	Swimming (2), Rowing (1), Athletics (1)	Swimming (1)	Canoeing (1)	4
		<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>
2016	Canada	Swimming, Gymnastics, Athletics, Wrestling	Swimming, Rowing, Athletics	Swimming (4), Athletics (4), Cycling (2), Diving (2), Equestrian, Football, Rugby 7s	10 Swimming (6), Athletics (6) main contributors
		<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>
2021	Norway	Athletics (2), Triathlon, Volleyball	Rowing, Athletics	Sailing, Handball	6
		<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>

It's clear from the profile of the countries that have finished around the 20<sup>th</sup> place mark in the last three Olympics that it is not necessary to excel in a terribly large number of disciplines. India has a reasonably good record in 7-8 sports over the past 25 years. There is no reason why if India doesn't produce its A-game come the Paris Olympics, that they will not be able to reach the double digit mark for the very first time.

However, medal standings as mentioned is determined by gold medals. For India to finish in the Top 20 in the Olympics, it isn't just medals they have to win but outright gold medals. This is where India will have to up their game at the Paris Olympics. Though sports like Shooting are unpredictable, India will hope that their shooters have a glorious day when it matters. For this a major mindset change needs to take place, the Asian Games is a good start and it was heartening to see a large number of our athletes not simply being satisfied with any medal. India will hope the same happens in the Olympics.

\*\*\*\*\*