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Paradoxical Results at Olympics and Paralympics

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This article explains the contrasting results of India at the Olympics and Paralympics

It's the end of the biggest sporting events of the world with the culmination of the Olympics and Paralympics . Both of them show contrasting results for India . In the Olympics even after having a budget of Rs 500 crore and having much better facilities and years of preparation comparatively ,we have ended up with just 7 medals and at the 71st rank . Leave comparison to USA , China , Australia that are sporting powerhouses we have ended much below countries like Kenya , Cuba , Pakistan etc .On the other hand the Paralympics have given us astonishing success with 29 medals that includes 7 golds and 18th rank with just a budget of 20 crore.

So what explains our poor performance in the Olympics even after so many years and improved funding and facilities . Let's analyze.

The foremost reason is the **lack of adequate pressure handling** skills of players . The same players performed with better scores and defeated the same opponents earlier in Asian Games 2023 , Commonwealth games 2022 to whom they lost now . Track and field athletes were far behind from their own personal best and season best . A very high number of players ending up in fourth position , getting defeated in medal matches is also a testimony of this fact .

Players are away from the limelight , **media attention** and large viewership during Commonwealth Games , Asian Games and Paralympic games that helps them in staying calm and focused but during olympics they garner lots of camera and attention that builds lots of pressure .

Focusing on the Olympics as a singular event also adds to the problem . All the sports and events suffer from different issues and require expert oriented individualistic solutions . The problems that badminton faces are much different from archery or any other sport. As there is no single medicine for all diseases , no single scheme would be viable applying to all events .

Too much government control also adds to the problem as it leads to political influence, lots of regulations. We have a very successful example of cricket where no government funding and minimal control has made us the richest board and one of the best teams . Private investments have brought expert management , better infrastructure and the team has also responded well .

On the downfall of the West Indies cricket team , Sir Vivian Richards said that we started **awarding mediocrity**, so our players become satisfied with mediocre performance . Same we are doing in the Olympics by just being satisfied with fourth position and bronze medals.

It's high time we also start **questioning our athletes** on their poor performance even after having much greater finances , training and infrastructure than many countries of Africa and many miniscule sized countries of the globe that constantly perform better than us every time .

Sporting culture , infrastructure is a process that does not get built within a day and requires constant process but athletes should also respond to development of better facilities , improved finance , infrastructure and training after many schemes like Target Olympic podium Scheme, Khelo India Games and much improved budget spending.