

= Leander Paes =

Leander Adrian Paes (born 17 June 1973) is an Indian professional tennis player who is considered to be one of the best doubles and mixed doubles players of all time .

He has won eight doubles and ten mixed doubles Grand Slam titles , and is the oldest man to have won a Grand Slam title . He holds a career Grand Slam in men 's doubles and mixed doubles , and achieved the rare men 's doubles / mixed doubles double at the 1999 Wimbledon tournament . His mixed doubles Wimbledon title in 2010 made him the second man (after Rod Laver) to win Wimbledon titles in three decades .

One of the most successful professional Indian tennis players , he has received the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award , India 's highest sporting honour , in 1996 ? 97 ; the Arjuna Award in 1990 ; the Padma Shri award in 2001 and its 3rd Highest Civilian Award the Padma Bhushan in January 2014 for his outstanding contribution to tennis in India .

He won a bronze medal for India in singles in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games . He competed in consecutive Olympic appearances from 1992 to 2012 , and will compete in 2016 , making him the first Indian and only tennis player to compete at seven Olympic Games .

He is famous for his several memorable Davis Cup performances and is a former team captain .

He also plays in World TeamTennis for the Washington Kastles , being on the 2009 , 2011 , 2012 , 2013 , 2014 , and 2015 championship teams and was named Male MVP for 2009 and 2011 for all of World Team Tennis .

He is the sports ambassador of the Indian state of Haryana .

= = Early life = =

Leander was born in Calcutta , India , on 17 June 1973 to a Goan father . Vece Paes and Jennifer Paes were his parents and he was raised in Kolkata (Calcutta) . He was educated at La Martiniere Calcutta , and the St. Xavier 's College of the University of Calcutta . His parents were both sports persons . Vece was a midfielder in the bronze medal @-@ winning Indian field hockey team at the 1972 Munich Olympics . His mother captained the Indian basketball team in the 1980 Asian basketball championship . Paes enrolled with the Britannia Amritraj Tennis Academy in Madras (Chennai) in 1985 , where he was coached by Dave O 'Meara . The academy played a key role in his early development . Leander earned international fame when he won the 1990 Wimbledon Junior title and rose to no . 1 in the junior world rankings .

= = = Personal life = = =

Paes is a direct descendant of the great 19th century Bengali poet Michael Madhusudan Dutta through his mother . Paes had a live @-@ in @-@ relationship with Rhea Pillai in 2005 . The couple has a daughter , Aiyana . She has filed a case against Paes and his father alleging domestic violence in June 2014 at a local metropolitan court .

In 2010 , he joined the Board of Directors of Olympic Gold Quest , a foundation co @-@ founded by Geet Sethi and Prakash Padukone to support talented athletes from India in winning Olympic medals .

= = Career = =

= = = Early career (1991 ? 1997) = = =

Paes first won titles at the Junior US Open and the Junior Wimbledon and he turned professional in 1991 . He rose to the number 1 in the world junior rankings . In 1992 , he reached the quarter finals of the doubles event in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics with Ramesh Krishnan .

He went one better at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics , where he beat Fernando Meligeni to win the

bronze medal , thus becoming the first Indian to win an individual medal since KD Jadhav won bronze at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics more than four decades earlier . Paes cited the match as one of his greatest performances on the court , in part because his wrist was severely injured . He was awarded the highest sporting honour by the government of India , the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna in 1996 . His first successful year in the ATP circuit came in 1993 , when he partnered Sébastien Lareau to reach the US Open doubles semifinal . After having a moderate season in 1994 , he reached the quarter @-@ finals of the 1995 Australian Open doubles with Kevin Ullyett . From 1996 , he partnered with fellow @-@ Indian Mahesh Bhupathi , which would prove to be a winning combination . Their first year was not a very successful one , especially in the Grand Slams , with a round of 32 finish at Wimbledon being the best . 1997 proved to be a much better year for the team of Paes and Bhupathi , with the semifinals of the US Open their best Grand Slam result . Paes climbed the doubles ranking from no . 89 at the beginning of the year to no . 14 at the end of the year . That year he also made his best singles performance in a Grand Slam , getting to the third round of the 1997 US Open , beating Carlos Costa and Arnaud Boetsch before losing to Cédric Pioline .

= = = Rise in doubles (1998 ? 2002) = = =

The doubles team of Paes and Bhupathi grew stronger in 1998 , reaching the semifinals of three Grand Slams , the Australian Open , the French Open , and the US Open . In the same year , Paes had two of his biggest singles results in the ATP tour . The first one came by winning his only ATP singles title at Newport , and the second was beating Pete Sampras , 6 ? 3 , 6 ? 4 , at the New Haven ATP tournament in their only meeting throughout the career . In 1999 , the duo reached the finals of all four Grand Slams , winning Wimbledon and the French Open , thus becoming the first Indian pair to win a doubles event at a Grand Slam . Paes also teamed up with Lisa Raymond to win the mixed doubles event at Wimbledon . The year also marked his ascent to the no . 1 ranking in doubles . The following year , Paes partnered with Sébastien Lareau for the Australian Open and Jan Siemerink for the French Open , losing in the first round on both occasions . Paes teamed up again with Bhupathi for the US Open , but lost in the first round again . The duo had a disappointing second round exit to Australian duo of Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde at the Sydney Olympics , despite high hopes . Paes was given the honour of carrying the Indian Flag at the opening ceremony of the Sydney Olympics . In spite of a winning the French Open in 2001 , the team of Bhupathi and Paes had first @-@ round exits in the other three Grand Slams . Paes was awarded the Padmashri by the Government of India in 2001 . The duo of Paes and Bhupathi won the gold medal at the 2002 Asian Games in Busan . In 2002 , Leander paired up with Michael Hill for a number of tournaments , with moderate success .

= = = 2003 ? 2007 = = =

Between 2003 and the present , Paes has increasingly focused on his doubles and mixed doubles game . Leander won the mixed doubles events at the Australian Open and Wimbledon with Martina Navratilova , both in 2003 . Weeks after the win at Wimbledon , Paes was admitted to the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Orlando for a suspected brain tumour that was later found to be neurocysticercosis , a parasitic brain infection . While being treated , he had to miss the US Open , but he recovered by the end of that year . In the 2004 Athens Olympic Games , he paired up with Bhupathi , failing again at the semifinals stage . His next Grand Slam success was in the US Open doubles event in 2006 with Martin Damm . Paes led the Indian tennis team at the Doha Asian Games in 2006 and won two golds in the men 's doubles (partnering Bhupathi) and mixed doubles (partnering Sania Mirza) . Paes maintained his doubles ranking in the top 20 in the world between 2005 and 2007 . With wins in the Rotterdam and Indian Wells , Paes took his doubles tally to 38 .

= = = 2008 = = =

Paes and Bhupathi took part in the men 's doubles at the 2008 Beijing Olympics . They were eliminated in the quarter @-@ finals by Roger Federer and Stanislas Wawrinka , who went on to win the men 's doubles gold medal . Later in 2008 , with Cara Black , he won the 2008 US Open mixed doubles title .

=== 2009 ===

In 2009 , he won the French Open and US Open Men 's doubles titles with Lukáš Dlouhý and was the runner @-@ up in mixed doubles at the US Open .

=== 2010 ===

He began the 2010 season in good form , again winning the Australian Open mixed doubles title with Cara Black . This was the pair 's third consecutive Grand Slam final and the fourth overall

=== 2012 ===

Paes and Radek ětěpánek 's journey at Wimbledon championship 2012 came to an end when the duo lost against Ivan Dodig and Marcelo Melo .

Paes and Elena Vesnina reached the finals of the mixed doubles at the 2012 Wimbledon Championships after beating Bob Bryan and Liezel Huber , 7 ě 5 , 3 ě 6 , 6 ě 3 on 7 July 2012 @.@ but they lost on the final to Lisa Raymond and Mike Bryan 3 ě 6 , 7 ě 5 , 4 ě 6 .

In the 2012 Summer Olympics , the Indian pair (partner Vishnu Vardhan) lost to French team Michaël Llodra and Jo @-@ Wilfried Tsonga , 6 ě 7 , 6 ě 4 , 3 ě 6

Paes and ětěpánek advanced to the final of the men 's doubles at the 2012 US Open after their Spanish opponents , Marcel Granollers and Marc López , retired because of injury . However the duo lost in the final of US Open 2012 to the Bryan brothers .

Paes and ětěpánek kicked off the ATP World Tour Finals with a win against Pakistan 's Aisam @-@ ul @-@ Haq Qureshi and Dutchman Jean Julien Rojer , 6 ě 4 , 7 ě 5 . They made it to the semifinals , where they were eliminated by eventual runners @-@ up Mahesh Bhupathi and Rohan Bopanna .

=== 2013 ===

Paes won the 2013 US Open men 's doubles with Radek ětěpánek defeating Alexander Peya and Bruno Soares 6 ě 1 , 6 ě 3 . This is Paes ' 3rd US Open men 's doubles title and 14th Grand Slam title . In January 2014 , Government of India announced its 3rd Highest Civilian Award Padma Bhushan for Paes .

=== 2014 ===

Paes won the 2014 Malaysian Open men 's doubles with Marcin Matkowski .

=== 2015 ===

Paes started his 25th season on the ATP World Tour by partnering Klaasen to the Chennai final , where the team lost to Lu / Marray . On 17 January , he won his 55th tour @-@ level title in his 93rd final at Auckland , again with Klaasen . The team recorded three match tie break victories en route to the final . With the win , Paes has won at least one trophy every season since 1997 .

On 1 February , Paes captured his seventh Grand Slam mixed doubles crown at the 2015 Australian Open with Martina Hingis . It was his 15th major crown overall and his third mixed doubles triumph at Melbourne Park . The pair beat defending champions Daniel Nestor and Kristina Mladenovic in the final . As No. 7 seed with Klaasen in men 's doubles , Paes lost to eventual champions Bolelli / Fognini in the second round .

At the 2015 French Open , Paes started a new partnership with Daniel Nestor . The pair crashed out in the third round ; however Paes became just the seventh male player in Open Era to complete 700 match wins in Doubles .

At Wimbledon 2015 , Paes teamed up with Martina Hingis to win the mixed doubles championship . The final with a 6 ? 1 , 6 ? 1 score against fifth seeds Alexander Peya and Tímea Babos lasted only 41 minutes . In men 's doubles , Paes and Nestor reached the third round . By winning his 4th Wimbledon mixed doubles title , Paes now shares the record for most such titles won in the gentlemen 's section in the open era with Owen Davidson .

On September 12 , 2015 , Paes won the mixed doubles at the 2015 US Open partnering Martina Hingis , defeating Sam Querrey and Bethanie Mattek @-@ Sands in three sets .

= = = 2016 = = =

On June 3 , 2016 , Paes completed his Career Grand Slam in mixed doubles tennis by winning the 2016 French Open with Martina Hingis , thus joining an elite league of players to do so . He also broke Owen Davidson 's record for most such titles in gentlemen 's section . He has qualified for the 2016 Summer Olympics in Men 's Doubles , and will partner with Rohan Bopanna .

= = = Davis Cup career = = =

Leander Paes started his Davis Cup career in 1990 at the young age of 16 , when he partnered Zeeshan Ali in doubles to beat the Japanese team in a gruelling five @-@ set encounter . He is considered one of the top Davis cup players for his country , with a record of 89 ? 32 overall , as of July 2015 . He played an important role in the Indian Davis cup team that reached the World Group from 1991 ? 1998 . He was part of the Indian Davis Cup team that reached the semifinals of the 1993 Davis Cup with wins against Switzerland and France , eventually losing to Australia . In singles , his major wins came against French duo of Arnaud Boetsch and Henri Leconte in Fréjus , France in 1993 , Wayne Ferreira in 1994 , and Goran Ivani?evi? in 1995 when India defeated Croatia , Jan Siemerink in 1995 to defeat Netherlands , and Ji?í Novák in 1997 . He teamed up with Bhupathi to beat Hirszon and Ivanisevic of Croatia in 1995 , Martin Damm and Petr Korda of the Czech Republic in 1997 , Nicolás Massú and Marcelo Ríos of Chile in 1997 , Broad and Tim Henman in 1998 , and Simon Aspelin and Jonas Björkman of Sweden in 2005 . In 2007 , Leander has three wins (two doubles and one singles) and no losses in the Davis Cup .

In 1993 , ranked No. 197 he lost to No. 238 Fernon Wibierin the first round of qualifying at Wimbledon . Three weeks later he beat No. 25 Arnaud Boetsch on clay (not his best surface) in straight sets in the Davis Cup . He also defeated Henri Leconte in that same week and even though Ramesh Krishnan closed the tie out by beating Rodolphe Gilbert in a thrilling five @-@ setter , the architect of that victory was Paes . Even as his career as a singles player on the ATP circuit floundered , Paes would always find a way to do the trick for India in Davis Cup .

In 1994 , ranked No 143 , he lost in the first round of a Challenger to No 208 Louis Gloria . Four weeks later , he conjured up a miracle of sorts to destroy World No. 13 Wayne Ferreira in straight sets in the Davis Cup .

In 1995 , ranked No 130 , he managed to beat Croatia 's World No 7 Goran Ivani?evi? (1992 and 1994 Wimbledon singles finalist) in a controversial five @-@ setter on grass . Jan Siemerink , in 1996 , then ranked No. 20 , also fell to Paes ' Davis Cup inspired play . As did Czech Ji?í Novák .

= = = Year @-@ end finals = = =

Paes appeared with Bhupathi in six season finales .

In 2011 , they appeared , for the first time since 2002 , after securing qualification in mid @-@ October . They were eliminated in the semifinals .

Paes played at the year @-@ end championships with Bhupathi from 1997 ? 2000 and in 2002 , reaching three finals . In 1997 , they lost the final to Rick Leach and Jonathan Stark . They lost the

1999 final to Sébastien Lareau and Alex O'Brien . In 2000 , they lost the final to Donald Johnson and Pieter Norval .

= = Playing style = =

Leander has been described as having a strange playing style by Andre Agassi . He varies his play as the match goes on ; he is one of the best volleyers and a talented dropshotter . His volleying techniques were learnt from former Indian player Akhtar Ali .

= = Acting career = =

Leander made his film debut in Ashok Kohli 's Rajdhani Express , a socio @-@ political thriller . He has also been offered his first Hollywood script .

= = Major finals = =

= = = Olympic finals = = =

= = = = Singles : 1 (1 bronze medal) = = = =

Bronze medal final

= = = = Doubles : 0 = = = =

= = ATP career finals = =

= = = Singles : 1 (1 ? 0) = = =

= = = Doubles : 94 (55 titles , 39 runners @-@ up) = = =

= = Grand Slam performance = =

= = = Men 's doubles : 16 (8 ? 8) = = =

By winning the 2012 Australian Open title , Paes achieved the career Grand Slam .

= = = Mixed doubles : 18 (10 ? 8) = = =

= = Singles performance timeline = =

= = Doubles performance timeline = =

= = Mixed Doubles performance timeline = =

= = Partnerships = =

Leander Paes is known for changing partnerships and he has had 100 different partners over his career . Paes has also teamed with 23 players in Grand Slam Mixed Doubles . He 's currently playing with Martina Hingis in Mixed Doubles .

= = = Partners in Men 's doubles = = =

= = = Partners in Mixed doubles = = =

These lists only consists of players who played with Leander Paes in ATP (& ITF) -recognized tournaments which include the Olympics , Grand Slams , World Tour Finals , World Tour Masters , World Tour Series , Davis Cup Ties , and ATP Challengers . They do not include the players who played with him in the other unrecognised multi @-@ sport events and leagues such as World TeamTennis . The lists might be incomplete when all the other tournaments are considered . The order of the players in the list is based on their first partnering with Leander Paes . Sania Mirza had also earlier played with Leander Paes in 2006 , 2010 in Asian Games and Commonwealth Games .

= = = Other partners = = =

= = = = India ? Asian Games / Commonwealth Games / Other events = = = =

= = = = WorldTeam Tennis = = = =

= = = = Champions Tennis League = = = =

= = Partnership with Mahesh Bhupathi = =

The duo of Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi were nicknamed the ? Indian Express ? . Leander Paes ' off @-@ and @-@ on partnership with Bhupathi drew constant media attention in their home country India . In the 2006 Asian Games , a loss to the Chinese Taipei team in the team event led Leander to question Bhupathi 's commitment to Team India . He once stated in an interview that although he and Bhupathi are friends , he did not consider pairing with his former teammate . However , for the 2008 Beijing Olympics , they decided to play together for their country , and lost in the quarterfinals to the eventual champions Roger Federer and Stanislas Wawrinka .

In 2011 , the " Indian Express " pair won the doubles title at Chennai Open . They reunited to play in a Grand Slam Tournament after nine years and claimed runners @-@ up in the 2011 Australian Open and reached the semifinals in the year @-@ end championships .

The Indian duo has a 303 ? 103 career record together . They have a higher success rate against various top teams . They have a Davis Cup record of longest winning streak in doubles , with 23 straight wins .

Leander Paes was paired with Vishnu Vardhan at the London Olympics 2012 , following the refusal of Mahesh Bhupathi and Rohan Bopanna to play with him at the Olympics . Paes threatened to withdraw from the Olympics rather than play with Vardhan , whose world ranking was 296 , but withdrew the threat a week later . Paes and Vardhan reached the second round of the tournament , losing to eventual silver medalists Michaël Llodra and Jo @-@ Wilfried Tsonga of France .

= = = Davis Cup Record = = =

The Duo has the longest doubles streak in Davis Cup History .