



## Leander Paes in Tennis Hall of Fame

[Source: IE](#)

Recently, **Indian tennis legends Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj** were inducted into the sport's Hall of Fame.

- **Leander Paes** was inducted into the Player Category of the International Tennis Hall of Fame.
  - He has won **18 Grand Slam titles in doubles and mixed doubles** and was a **former doubles world No. 1**.
  - He was awarded the **Padma Shri in 2001** and **Padma Bhushan in 2014**.
- **Vijay Amritraj**, a former Indian player, is **recognised in the Contributor Category**.
  - He played his first **Grand Prix event** in 1970. He was honoured with the **Padma Shri award** in 1983.
  - He was a part of the **Indian Davis Cup team** that **reached the finals in 1974 and 1987**. He was also appointed a **United Nations ambassador for peace in 2001**.
- The **International Tennis Hall of Fame (ITHF)** is a prestigious **institution and museum dedicated to the sport of tennis**. It is located in Newport, **Rhode Island, United States**.
  - It serves as the **official hall of fame for tennis** and celebrates the history, achievements, and contributions of outstanding individuals and organisations to the sport of tennis.

Read more: [Grand Slam](#)

---

## Revamped Model Skill Loan Scheme

[Source: IE](#)

- The government has launched a revamped '**model skill loan scheme**' aimed at enhancing accessibility to **skill development courses** with a significantly increased maximum loan limit.
- The new scheme raises the maximum loan limit from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 7.5 lakh. Initially launched in 2015, the **old scheme saw low uptake due to insufficient loan limits**.
- Announced in the **Union Budget 2024-2025**, the revised scheme aims to benefit 25,000 students annually. It now includes **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)**, **NBFC-MFIs (micro-finance institutions)**, and **small finance banks** as eligible lending institutions.
- **Broadened Course Access:** The revised scheme will now allow access to more skill courses, against only **national skill qualification framework (NSQF)-aligned courses** under the old scheme. Also, non-NSQF courses that are onboarded on the **Skill India Digital Hub platform** will come under the scheme.
- **Previous Performance:** As of March 2024, loans amounting to Rs 115.75 crore were extended to 10,077 borrowers, highlighting **low fund utilisation due to high course fees**.

Read more: [Skill Development in India](#)

---

# National Mission for Manuscripts and National Culture Fund

[Source: PIB](#)

## Why in News?

Recently the Ministry of Culture and Tourism shed light on the achievements made in the [National Mission for Manuscripts](#) and [National Culture Fund](#).

## What are the National Mission for Manuscripts?

- **About:**
  - The National Mission for Manuscripts was **established in 2003**, by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of India.
- **Objective:**
  - The key objectives of the National Mission for Manuscripts are **documentation, conservation, digitization**, and online dissemination of the manuscript heritage of India.
    - To achieve this mandate, the mission has **established more than 100 Manuscripts Resource Centres** and Manuscripts Conservation Centres all over India.
  - India **possesses an estimated ten million manuscripts**, probably the largest collection in the world. These cover a variety of themes, textures and aesthetics, scripts, languages, calligraphies, illuminations, and illustrations.
- **Manuscript:**
  - A **manuscript is a handwritten composition** on paper, bark, cloth, metal, palm leaf, or any other material dating back **at least seventy-five years** that has **significant scientific, historical, or aesthetic value**.
    - Manuscripts differ from historical records like [epigraphs, firmans](#), and revenue records, as they primarily contain knowledge content rather than direct historical information.
    - Manuscripts are **found in hundreds of different languages** and scripts.

## Note

The [Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958](#) defines an "**Ancient Monument**" any structure, erection or monument, or any tumulus or place of interment, or any cave, rock-sculpture, inscription or monolith which is of **historical, archaeological or artistic interest** and which has been in existence for **not less than 100 years**.

## What is the National Culture Fund?

- **About:**
  - The government set up the [National Culture Fund \(NCF\)](#) as a Trust in 1996 under the [Charitable Endowment Act, 1890](#) to mobilise extra resources through [Public Private Partnerships \(PPP\)](#) towards **promoting, protecting, and preserving India's cultural heritage**.
  - It **serves as a financing mechanism for enabling donor/sponsor institutions to support the Protection**, Restoration, Conservation, and Development of India's rich tangible and intangible culture and heritage (Monuments/Cultural Traditions) directly as partners with the Government.

- **Objectives:**
  - For the **training and development of a cadre** of specialists and cultural administrators.
  - **Provide additional space in existing museums** & construct new museums to accommodate or create new & special galleries.
  - **Documentation of cultural expressions and forms** that have lost their relevance in contemporary scenarios and are either fading out or facing extinction.
- **Features of NCF:**
  - NCF provides a **dependable and innovative platform for partnerships in the fields of heritage, culture, and the arts.**
  - The projects are **overseen by a Project Implementation Committee (PIC)** that has representatives from the Donor, Implementer, and NCF.
    - The **accounts of NCF are audited by the [Comptroller and Auditor General of India](#)** annually.
- **Members:**
  - NCF is managed by a **Council Chaired by Minister of Culture** and an **Executive Committee (chaired by Secretary).**

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### **Prelims:**

**Q. Who among the following Mughal Emperors shifted emphasis from illustrated manuscripts to album and individual portrait? (2019)**

- (a) Humayun
- (b) Akbar
- (c) Jahangir
- (d) Shah Jahan

**Ans: (c)**

**Q. Recently, the manuscripts of which one of the following have been included in the UNESCO's Memory of World Register? (2008)**

- (a) Abhidhamma Pitaka
- (b) Mahabharata
- (c) Ramayana
- (d) Rig-Veda

**Ans: (d)**

### **Mains:**

**Q. Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss. (2018)**

