

# Prajnesh Gunneswaran — The Lone Warrior of Indian Tennis

Next to cricket, football, and hockey, tennis is one of the most beloved sports among Indians. Even though there are few tournaments in India, the country boasts of its legendary athletes who have surprised the audience repeatedly throughout their careers. We're sure you have. The man has won two ATP Challenger tournaments, eight ITF Futures singles tournaments, one ITF Futures doubles tournament, and the Indian Davis Cup team. However, let's not get ahead of ourselves. So, as already mentioned, Prajnesh Gunneswaran is an Indian professional tennis player who has won 2 ATP Challenger tournaments, 8 ITF Futures singles tournaments, one ITF Futures doubles tournament, and also is a member of the Indian Davis Cup team. He was born on November 12, 1989, in Chennai to Mr. Prabhakaran and Mrs. Usha. He started playing tennis at the age of 5. Prajnesh's favourite shot is forehand, the surface is hard, and the tournament is Los Cabos.

By the way, the Cabo San Lucas Open is an international men's professional tennis tournament held in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, on open hard courts. The tournament falls into the ATP 250 category with prize money of around \$859,000 and a tournament grid for 28 singles and 16 doubles players. Speaking of Prajnesh's own family already, he married Sudarshan Pai in Ernakulam, Kerala, in 2019.

## Early career: 2016-2017

In his early years, Gunneswaran mainly competed in ITF and ATP Challenger events. Though he won 8 ITF Futures singles titles, he had limited success on the Challenger tour.

In October 2016, he reached the ATP Challenger's singles final at the Pune Challenger for the first time. He lost his title match to Frenchman Sadio Doumbia. In May 2017, he reached the ATP Challenger doubles final at the Samarkand Challenger 2017 for the first time. Partnered with compatriot Vishnu Vardhan, the pair lost in the final to the team of Laurynas Grigelis and Zdenek Kolar.

Gunneswaran made his Davis Cup debut for India against Uzbekistan in April 2017.

## 2 ATP Challenger titles and Asian Games bronze medal: 2018

2018 proved to be a breakthrough year for Gunneswaran. He reached four ATP



Challenger singles finals, winning two of them. Then he won his first ATP Challenger singles title at the Kunming Open, defeating Mohammed Safvat in the final. He defeated Saket Mineni in the All-India final at the Bengaluru Open and won his second Challenger singles trophy. He finished second at the Ningbo Challenger and Pune Challenger. He also reached his second ATP Challenger doubles final at the Santaizi ATP Challenger in Taipei in April, where he partnered with Saket Mineni.

At the French Open, Gunneswaran lost in the final qualifying round. Although he was selected as a lucky loser after Nick Kyrgios withdrew, Gunneswaran couldn't compete in the main draw. He had already left Paris before Kyrgios announced his withdrawal, thus not making his debut in the Grand Slam main event.

## Prajnesh Gunneswaran at Wimbledon courts in 2019

In August, he got the bronze medal in the men's singles tennis event at Jakarta's 2018 Asian Games. He became the sixth Indian male athlete to win an award in tennis at the Asian Games. Gunneswaran started the season as the world's 243rd-ranked singles player. With a good showing at the Challenger Tour, he finished the season with a career-high 104 and became India's best singles player.

## Grand Slam main draw debut and top-100 ranking: 2019

Gunneswaran started the season by taking part in the Maharashtra Open, where he received a wild card to the main draw. There, he lost in the first round to Michael Mmo in two sets. At the Australian Open, he won the qualifiers and made his debut in the Grand Slam tournament's main draw, also losing in the first round in sets to Frances Tiafoe.

On February 11, 2019, he reached 97th place in the singles rankings, making his debut in the top 100 singles rankings. Gunneswaran qualified for the 2019 BNP Paribas Open and defeated Frenchman Benoit Paire in straight sets to reach the second round. He won his second-round match against 17th seed Nikoloz Basilashvili in three sets and advanced to the third round of the ATP 1000 tournament for the first time in his career. Gunneswaran's race at the Indian Wells Masters came to an end after losing to Ivo Karlovic in the third round. It was Gunneswaran's first appearance at an ATP Masters event. He then qualified for the Miami Open and played in the Masters' main draw twice in a row. He lost in the first round to Jaume Munar.

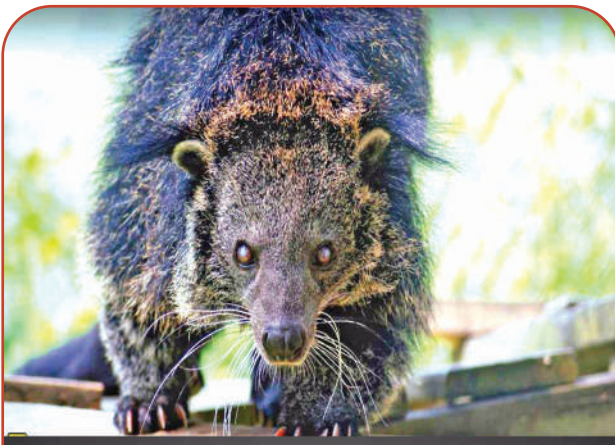
In April, Gunneswaran reached his first ATP Challenger singles final of the season at the Anning Challenger. He was the reigning champion and lost in the final to Britain's Jay Clarke. As a result, he moved up to 75th place in singles. In July, his ranking automatically qualified him for the main draw at Wimbledon, where he lost in the first round to Milos Raonic. He also suffered a loss to Daniil Medvedev at the US Open in the 1st round.

Currently, Prajnesh Gunneswaran is ranked 128th in the ATP world rankings. Despite some injuries and problems leaving the country due to the raging pandemic, he has had an excellent start to the season after a relatively long break. It should be noted he has been able to prove himself in singles as well as doubles.

## THE FACT CORNER



**Apples aren't true to seed**, meaning when you plant an apple seed, it won't grow into the same variety of apple as the one it came from



This is the **binturong** (also known as the bearcat). They smell like popcorn



70% of the oxygen we breathe is produced by the ocean. The ocean produces oxygen through the plants (phytoplankton, kelp, and algal plankton) that live in it



**Watching a horror movie burns nearly 200 calories in 90 minutes**, due to **increased heart rate**.

## BRAIN TEASERS

**1 Q.** Divide 30 by 1/2 and add 10. What is the answer?

**2 Q.** A man builds a house rectangular in shape. All sides have southern exposure. A big bear walks by, what color is the bear? Why?

**3 Q.** If there are 3 apples and you take away 2, how many do you have?

**4 Q.** How many two cent stamps are there in a dozen?

**5 Q.** There's one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends. What is it?

**6 Q.** What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?

**7 Q.** What fruit has its seeds on the outside?

**8 Q.** Only four words in Standard English begin with the letters "dw". They are all common. Name two of them.

**SOLUTION:**  
1. 70. 30 divided by 1/2 would have made 25. But 30 divided by 1/2 equals 60. Plus 10 equals 70.  
2. White. Because a house with southern exposures on all 4 sides must be at the North Pole, where they only have Polar Bears.  
3. You have two, because YOU took away two!  
4. 12! A dozen of anything is still 12.  
5. Boxing.  
6. Niagara Falls.  
7. Strawberry  
8. Dwarf, "dwell", "dwindle", and "dweeb"

## English Proverbs and Meanings

**\* A bad penny always turns up.**  
An unwanted or disreputable person constantly comes back.

**\* A bad tree does not yield good apples.**  
A bad parent does not raise good children.

**\* A bad workman blames his tools.**  
Blaming the tools for bad workmanship is an excuse for lack of skill.

**\* A black plum is as sweet as a white.**  
People should not be judged by their appearance.

**\* A broken friendship may be soldered but will never be sound.**  
Friendships can be rebuilt after a dispute but will never be as strong as before.

**\* A burden of one's own choice is not felt.**  
Something difficult seems easier when it is done voluntarily.

**\* A constant guest is never welcome.**  
If you come to visit too often, your host will be less pleased to see you.

## Rajma Sandwich



### Ingredients needed

Brown bread - 6, Onion - 1  
Ginger - 1/2 inch piece finely chopped  
Green chilli - 1 finely chopped or chilli powder -1/2 tsp  
Rajma /kidney beans - 1/2 cup cooked  
Pepper powder to taste, Salt  
Butter for toasting the bread

### For the seasoning

Oil - 2 tsp, Cumin seeds - 3/4 tsp

### Method -

Heat 2 tsp of oil, add cumin seeds, when it splutters, add finely chopped onions, green chillies, ginger and saute until onions turn transparent. If it is for kids, you can add 1/2 tsp chilli powder instead of green chillies. Add the ground rajma, needed salt, pepper powder and mix it well.

### How to prepare sandwich toast

Butter both sides of the bread, place 1-2 tbsp of the rajma filling and cover it with another buttered bread. Place it in a sandwich toaster and toast until golden brown. If you do not have a sandwich toaster, use a tawa to toast the bread. Cut diagonally and serve hot with tomato ketchup or tomato chutney.

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## Chilli Dosa



### Ingredients needed

Thick spongy dosas -3  
Cheese, Onion -2  
Tomato -2  
Green chilli - 1 finely chopped (optional)  
Ginger - a small bit finely chopped  
Capsicum - 1 medium  
Red chilli powder - 3/4 -1 tsp  
Turmeric powder -1/4 tsp  
Garam masala powder - 1/4 tsp  
Oil - 1 1/2 tbsp

### Method

Heat oil, add onions, green chilli, ginger and saute till onions turn translucent. Then add Cheese, tomatoes, chilli powder, turmeric powder and cook till tomatoes become mushy. Now add capsicum, kitchen king masala and cook for a few more minutes. Do not overcook the capsicum. The capsicum should retain its crunchiness. Add salt needed. Now add the dosa bits and mix well till the dosa gets coated with the masala. Serve warm.