

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 Safwat 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.

Kids Craft: Paper Bow For Gifts

Materials needed:

simple paper bow materials

One comic page is enough per bow (it will in fact make one and a half)

A ruler

Scissors

Glue stick (I find pritt sticks are the best adhesive when working with paper)

As this paper bow is made literally out of paper and the tiniest bit of glue, these bows are fully recyclable. The best bit, is you can make them out of any paper:

comics

magazines

newspapers

brown paper

gift wrap leftovers

How to make a Paper Gift Bow Tutorial:

As per usual we have a little video tutorial on auto play for you today. As well as step by step photo instructions for making a DIY Paper Bow! I hope you will see from the photos, how very quick and easy this bow is.

Select the page you would like to use to make your bow from. It doesn't matter too much, what page you use.. but you may prefer a page for its colour over another!

Cut your bow paper strips

Using your ruler, draw 5 strips. We decided to neaten off the edge of the comic –



so our paper bow starts at the edge of the comic image and then make the 5 strips the exact width of the ruler. This is the easiest/ neatest way of getting strips the exact same width.

Now it is time to loop your bow pieces

Take your first strip. Turn your PREFERRED side face down. Some people like to staple them, but I think a little bit of glue is more eco friendly (especially if using something like a pritt stick vs a hot glue gun).

Add a little glue to the end of prefer side and loop that down towards the centre. Note that the loop is glued down on the diagonal!

Turn your strip of paper around (so the loop is at the bottom). Repeat to the other end of the strip.

You should now have two loops as per the image above. Make sure the loops meet as centrally as possible. Make four of these loops.

Final assembly of your loop paper bow

Take one loop. Add glue to its centre. Place a second loop perpendicular across.

Make a second set with loops three and four. Now add glue to the centre of the first set of 2 loops and glue the second set inside. Now to add the final loop to the the centre of the bow to finish it off.

Take your 5th strip and cut it in half.

Glue it into a little loop. Glue the loop into the middle of your bow.

DONE!! Your DIY paper bow is finished. Wasn't that easy?

FUN RIDDLES

I have a head much smaller than my long neck. People who play with me pick at me and that's fine. What am I?

English Proverbs and Meanings

- * **Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion.**
It's better to be the leader of a small group than a subordinate in a bigger one.
- * **Better flatter a fool than fight him.**
It's better to avoid disputes with stupid people.
- * **Better lose the saddle than the horse.**
It's better to stop and accept a small loss, rather than continue and risk losing everything.
- * **Better untaught than ill-taught.**

It's better not to be taught at all than to be taught badly.

* **Blood will out.**
A person's background or education will eventually show.

* **He who plays with fire gets burnt.**
If you behave in a risky way, you are likely to have problems.

* **One today is worth two tomorrow.**
What you have today is better than what is promised for.

Mini quiches with hidden veg



Ingredients:

2 sheets puff pastry (frozen)
4 eggs
1/4 cup milk
1/2 cup mashed potato
1/2 cup carrot (mashed)
1 cup tasty cheese (grated)

METHOD

Place pastry sheets on a work surface to defrost for 10 minutes. Preheat oven to 180°C.

Select a 24 small hole cupcake pan or 2 x 12 hole pans.

Cut 12 holes from each pastry sheet with a sconer cutter that is slightly larger than the holes. Carefully push pastry circles into pan (there's no need to grease). Divide cheese between pastry cases.

Whisk eggs and milk together in a jug, then whisk in the mashed vegetables.

Pour egg mixture into pastry cases to just below the top.

Keep whisking the mixture to make sure the veggies are evenly distributed. Bake for 10-15 minutes until golden.

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Hungry Caterpillar sandwiches



Ingredients:

2 loaves white bread, sliced vertically (you will need 12 slices)
Butter
6 slices ham
6 slices chicken
6 slices cheese

1 small tomato
1 green onion stalk (or you can also use celery)
You will also need: toothpicks

METHOD

Gather all ingredients.

Lay 2 slices of bread out on a cutting board. Butter both pieces. Place ham on one slice, then cover with the other buttered slice. Repeat to make a chicken sandwich and then a cheese one. Cut out 5 circles from each sandwich using a mini cookie cutter.

Place on a platter in a wiggly shape to form the caterpillar's body - you can alternate each sandwich flavour if you like. Position tomato at the start of the body to become the caterpillar's head. Next, cut out two very small ovals of cheese for the eyes. Dab with butter to act as a 'glue', then stick onto the tomato to start forming the caterpillar's face. Slice small pieces of green onion for the pupils (again, using butter to 'glue' them to the eyes). Cut two long strands from the onion stalk to act as the caterpillar's feelers, and fix onto the tomato using toothpicks. See our video below as a guide. When finished, cover your sandwich caterpillar with plastic wrap and refrigerate until ready to serve.