



GUJARAT CELEBS SHARE THEIR MONSOON MEMORIES

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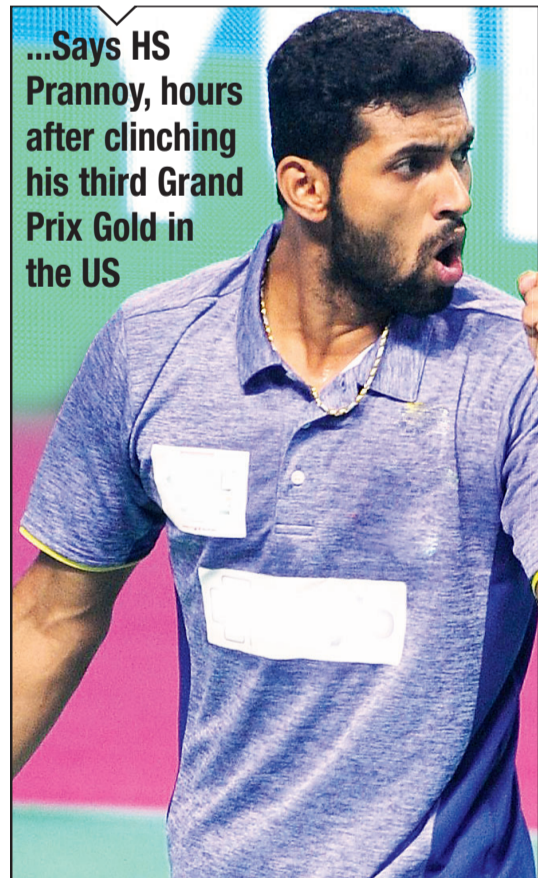
JHINAL BELANI

My most cherished monsoon memory will be going to Tiger Point, Lonavala with my friends. We usually go there whenever it rains and stay there for a couple of hours, talking, sipping *masala chai* and gorging on hot, crispy *pakoras*. Apart from that there's a particular corner in my house that I simply love. So when it's raining I sit there, sip on some hot coffee and read my favourite book.

MANAN DESAI

My feelings for rains have always been neutral. Once, I was driving in rains and someone tried to overtake me due to which I lost my balance and skidded on the road. I was hospitalized for five days. And during one of the days in the hospital, it had started raining again, and the nurse who was looking after me served me *bhajiyas* instead of the boring hospital food. We both chatted for two hours and since then both of us have been in touch. That's one instance which I will always remember.

The victory is a big boost for me but I am not taking it for granted



...Says HS Prannoy, hours after clinching his third Grand Prix Gold in the US

Sanjith.Sidhardhan@timesgroup.com

Dubbed the giant killer in Indian badminton, shuttler HS Prannoy came agonisingly close to an all-Indian final at the Indonesia Open Grand Prix a few months ago before he fell short. In a similar setting on Sunday in California, the 25-year-old Malayali defeated his compatriot Parupalli Kashyap in a hard fought final to win his maiden US Open Grand Prix title and also finally conquer the "demon of inconsistency" that has been hounding him for the last 18 months.

After winning his third Grand Prix Gold, the World No. 23 talks to us about his strategy for the tournament, the golden run of Indian shuttlers and more...

How is it winning your maiden US Open Grand Prix?

It was a good tournament for me. I grew in confidence with each match and I felt happy just to reach the final. And facing Kashyap made it all the more great because he beat a lot of good players to reach the final. Winning the hard-fought match doubles the joy.

I had two weeks of preparation in Hyderabad before I headed to Canada Open Grand Prix earlier this month. I had a few nagging injuries in Canada and the lack of a physio or proper facilities didn't bode well for me in that tournament. However, the conditions in the US Open Grand Prix were more suitable. I could adapt well and I am glad I could finish on a high.

You had earlier said that despite beating some of the

big players in world stage, your performance was not consistent enough to win a tournament. What changes did you make this time?

I have always had that feeling of wavering. But this time, I made sure I remained disciplined. Even when the games stretched to the third set, I focused on the moment and didn't let thoughts of what the ultimate result would be distract me. For the final too, my focus was on winning each point than the match itself. I think that's what worked in my favour.

The victory must have come as a huge relief, especially since you came so close to the Indonesia Grand Prix?

Of course. Of late, I have made it to the last eight, which itself is tough but it's been close to one and half years since I won a major tournament. So this victory is definitely a boost for me. However, I am not taking anything for granted. I can't afford to relax and I am hoping I can take this form to the next tournament in New Zealand, for which I would be leaving tomorrow.

Kashyap is one among the senior players in your camp in Hyderabad and you guys share a good relationship. What was his reaction after you won the match?

All of us - be it Kashyap, Kidambi Srikanth or Sai Praneeth - we are all professionals. That's one of the reasons why the men's division has seven Indian players fighting it out to be the best. There's obviously competition among us but we don't let what happens on the court affect us when we are off it. After the match, Kashyap and I had a chat about how the game was played, what went wrong and areas where we both could improve. When you have such a chilled out relationship off court, there's not much pressure even while you are playing each other.

It's a great time for Indian badminton with you guys winning most of the major tournaments in 2017...

This year has been exceptional for Indian players, especially the last six months. But this is just the start of something really good. All of us are focused on being consistent and take this winning run forward.

HS Prannoy

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BIRTHDAY TODAY

You may develop differences of opinion with your colleagues at the workplace.

Tip: Your lucky colours are white and red. Your lucky gems are turquoise and amber.

You share your birthday with: Mugdha Godse

ARIES March 20 - April 18 Don't be disappointed if you aren't satisfied right away, for the best results require patience. You have additional work to do to let go of your resentments, fears and insecurities. Set long-term goals and find satisfaction in your progress. You must practice patience on every level.

TAURUS April 19 - May 19 You may want to spend more time solo or in one-on-one situations. You may make a confrontation of some kind between you and your partner inevitable. Spend

some time alone, as this is the fastest way to make progress and change things for the better.

GEMINI May 20 - June 20 You may face difficulties at work, you will have a tendency to be lethargic. Today you may be feeling a bit low emotionally. If you don't say something, you cannot then be held responsible for what may happen next. It is time to embrace the new, and a more sincere way of relating.

CANCER June 21 - July 21 This is a

day to buckle down and take care of business. This day is forcing you to look at something that you have not wanted to acknowledge. You need to watch you are not trying to hang on to the past as far as a certain relationship is concerned.

LEO July 22 - August 21 Focus on details, hard work, and doing a good job. You spend too much time at work on a day. You may suffer the pangs of passion, but by tomorrow you will be back to normal again. This day your judgement reduce your ability to react to events.

VIRGO August 22 - September 21 Revel in the glory of this day for it is all about you. If things have reached a critical point between you recently, then you will need to do something about this. You would rather run a million miles than have to deal with the kind of romantic situation you face today.

LIBRA September 22 - October 22

This is going to make it difficult to have a happy and fulfilling day. This day will lead you both to a deeper understanding with each other. You may be almost paralyzed when it comes to making up your mind about anything to do with your professional life. What a wonderful way to experience things a new!

SCORPIO October 23 - November 20 You might receive a good fortune as an unexpected bonus or monetary winnings. There is every chance of shifting your partnership up to a new and more intimate level. The door is open for you to come to terms with yourself with regard to who you are and what you want.

SAGITTARIUS November 21-December 20 Strut your stuff. Don't be bashful about being seen as a dedicated performer in workplace situations. Others will note your commitment. To earn recognition, you will need to work hard. Don't ignore your obligations today.

CAPRICORN December 21 - January 19 You and you've been hesitant to reveal your concern because you're afraid of hurting their feelings. You have been feeling a touch obsessed by someone who seems to defy your natural charm and beauty.

AQUARIUS January 20 - February 18 Past mistakes can create a brief panic. Steer clear of old rivals during the next few days. The difficulty is probably associated with an old pattern of behavior that is limiting your emotional expression. You continue to get irritated and agitated.

PISCES February 19 - March 19 It isn't that you are avoiding an issue; it's just that your priorities are different than everyone else's. Your somber demeanor can spur you on to work harder and make the changes necessary for your happiness. Minimize your own desires, you will be able to take advantage of the moment.

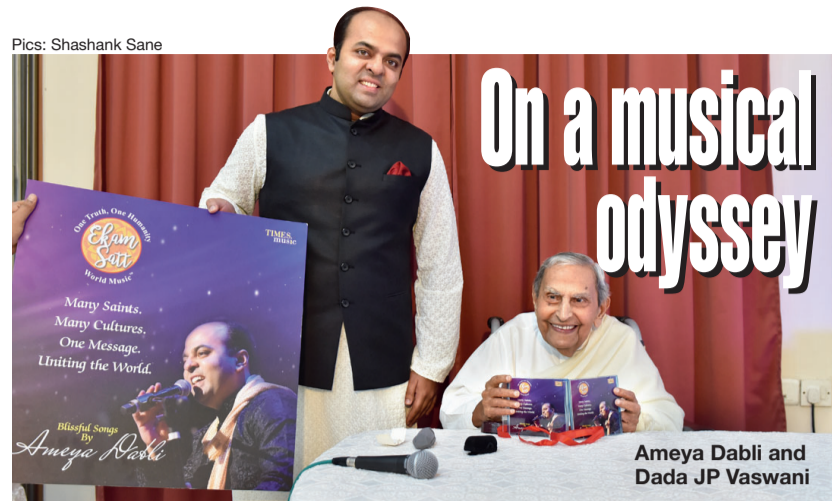
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PARTH OZA

I'm the kinds who can sit and enjoy the rains from a distance. I certainly don't like hitting the roads. But it was one monsoon when it all changed for me. I was auditioning in Mumbai and by the time it got over, the roads were completely flooded and I couldn't find any mode of transportation to return home. So, against all my apprehensions, I started walking, and as it turned out, it was a lot of fun. Walking on the roads in the rain had never been so much fun.



On a musical odyssey

Ameya Dabli and Dada JP Vaswani

Internationally acclaimed singer Ameya Dabli launched his music album *Ekam Satt - One Truth, One Humanity, World Music* at the hands of global humanitarian and spiritual leader Rev. Dada J P Vaswani as part of the latter's centenary birthday celebrations in Pune. The album is available on all digital platforms through Times Music. Inspired by respected Dada's message of selfless love and service for humanity, the album features the works of legendary poets and saints such as Kabiradas, Mirabai, Narsinh Mehta, Guru Nanak Dev, Khwaja Garib Nawaz, Buddha, Tukaram, Tulshidas, Gospels and others.

Given the continuous stress and turmoil that individuals across the globe face, there is an urgent need for each of us to pause, reflect and connect with each other, cutting across our religious, social and cultural beliefs. The album's songs focus on this precise theme that eventually it is a 'one world family' and showcases the best of sufi, folk and contemporary world music across different genres. The album has foot tapping numbers covering Indian and international musical forms to appeal to audiences across age groups. With

an aim to spread the message of love and unity across cultures and society globally, Ameya Dabli and his business partner Purvi Soali quit their successful corporate careers to become social entrepreneurs.

A versatile singer, Ameya has performed over 1,500 concerts across 15 countries. The music from the album is already a rage with live renditions by Ameya across 25 locations including large corporates like Aditya Birla Group and at the Indian High Commission in London. He is currently touring India, US and Dubai for his other musical concept 'Heart 2 Heart' covering melodious *ghazals* and folk music.

His 10 city 'Heart 2 Heart' tour covering melodious *ghazals* kicked off in Mumbai yesterday and will further move to Bangalore, Pune, Hyderabad, Kolkata and other cities.



The launch was attended by a large number of people

My biggest dream is to represent India at the Olympic Games

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GUJARAT NEEDS BETTER FACILITIES

I am thankful to the Gujarat government for including me in the Shaktidoot scheme of the SAG (Sports Authority of Gujarat).

Having said that, it will be a great boost to the sport if we can have high quality springboards in the state. If that happens, I am sure that a lot more young kids in Gujarat will take up diving. In fact, I have to practise in Pune most of the time, as there are good facilities as well as excellent coaches for the sport there.

ASHNA, THE PERSON

Meditation and yoga help me in staying relaxed and improving my concentration levels. Also, I am a pretty good photographer and love travelling. I am also a big trekking fan and love cycling to long distances whenever I get time.



Ashna Chevli

MULTI-TALENTED ASHNA'S AMAZING FEATS

- Second place in National Sea Swimming Competition held at Porbandar in 2015 (10 km sea swimming in 3 hours and 58 minutes)
- 200 km cycling in 12 hours and 49 minutes (Surat to Valsad, Valsad to Surat, in 2014)

Watch Kalki talk about how women should deal with misogyny at work, using **Alive**

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Kalki Koechlin

SOLUTIONS TO GAMES/PUZZLES

TIMES SUDOKU	LOOP THE LOOP	TIMES HITRI	SCRAMBLE	SPELLATHON
<pre> 9 7 4 6 8 3 5 1 2 1 2 6 7 4 3 5 8 9 3 8 5 9 1 2 4 7 6 5 1 8 4 2 9 6 3 7 7 6 2 1 3 8 9 4 5 4 3 9 5 6 7 8 2 1 2 5 7 3 5 4 1 6 8 8 4 1 2 5 6 7 9 3 6 9 3 6 7 1 2 5 4 </pre>	<pre> x </pre>	<pre> 9 8 2 1 7 6 5 4 3 5 4 3 2 1 7 6 5 4 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 4 3 2 1 7 6 5 4 3 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 6 5 4 3 2 1 7 6 5 3 2 1 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 7 </pre>	<p>Words: Tepee, raise/raise, indict, dimmer</p> <p>Answer: There's no present. There's only the immediate future and the recent past - George Carlin</p>	<p>apery, harpy, hype, payer, peachy, pray, PREACHY, prey, pyre, racy, repay, year</p>
			MINDBENDER	
			<p>WHATITZIT?</p> <p>The birds and the bees</p>	<p>$f(n, m) = (n + m) \times n$ e.g. $f(2, 3) = (2 + 3) \times 2 = 10$ Hence, $f(9, 7) = (9 + 7) \times 9 = 144$</p>

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