

# Power Anthem

## Karate Master of Hindupur

He was a scrawny boy, nervous and forever fearing the worst. Especially when he took his cows out to graze and the powerful and stronger people from his village shouted at him, asked him to leave the grazing grounds for their cattle, he would meekly turn away. At home, Riyaz Basha remained glum and sad. One day, Srinivas, who was deployed as a National Service Volunteer with Nehru Yuva Kendra, Anantapur, visited Melapuram village where Riyaz used to live in order to select youth to participate at the National Integration Camp in North Goa. This was in 2006. Riyaz was picked up by Srinivas who saw potential in the boy. Riyaz travelled outside his District for the first time in his life, met with wonderfully talented boys and girls from across the country. He came back with an urge to change his circumstances.

Riyaz was a big fan of Telugu film star, Pawan Kalyan who is renowned for the cinematic display of his martial arts skills. Riyaz looked up to Pawan Kalyan as his role model took to Rafiq, a Karate coach who ran classes in Hindupur, as his guru. Rafiq recalls Riyaz as his best and most dedicated student ever. Within two years, Riyaz became strong and powerful. He acquired a black belt in Karate. There was no looking back as fitness and strength became his mantra for life.

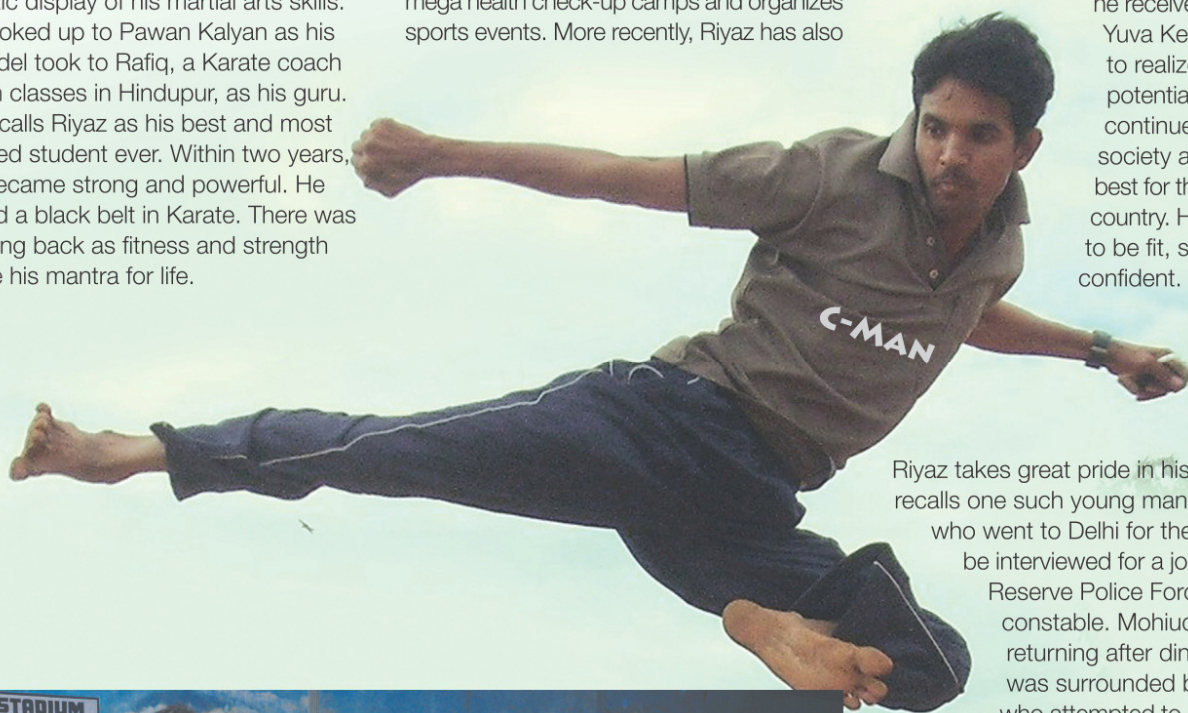
Meanwhile, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Anantapur, continued to mentor him and provide him with opportunities that built on his personality and gave him self-confidence.

He went on to participate in several events including a Padyatra from Meerut to New Delhi on Jung-E-Azadi and a Youth Torch Rally organized by the Directorate of Youth Services, Hyderabad.

Riyaz, along with his growing circle of friends, established the C-Man (Centre Martial Arts and Nature Development) Youth Association. Apart from Karate classes, C-Man organizes Vocational Training programmes, spreads awareness on HIV and AIDS, conducts mega health check-up camps and organizes sports events. More recently, Riyaz has also

become a Yoga and Meditation expert. Through C-Man, he has trained thousands of young boys and girls from rural areas in skills which make them confident and provide them with the ability to face the challenges of an evolving society. The Karate Master, as Riyaz is now known, has even started training police personnel in Martial Arts, Yoga and Meditation.

He attributes the huge change in his life to the mentoring support that he received from Nehru Yuva Kendra in order to realize his true potential. He wants to continue serving society and doing his best for the youth of the country. He wants them to be fit, strong and confident.



Riyaz takes great pride in his students. He recalls one such young man, Mohiuddin, who went to Delhi for the first time, to be interviewed for a job as a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) constable. Mohiuddin was returning after dinner, when he was surrounded by four thugs who attempted to rob him off his mobile and wallet. They were in for a surprise, when Mohiuddin fought back fiercely. Little did they realize that this man was after all a protégé of the Karate Master from Hindupur, says Riyaz, with a confident smile.

Riyaz has a job at a local school as a Karate teacher. And he continues to serve his society through C-Man. He feels satisfied that he is finally living a life of his dream.

**Power, in particular, youth power, is his sole anthem.**

