

## **Taufiq Qureshi**

Long description :

Taufiq Qureshi, an ace percussionist of India, referred to as a game changer, is also an acclaimed composer. Taufiq is recognized for his path-breaking and trend-setting work, as a performing artiste and as composer/arranger in the field of world music. Taufiq has been ably successful at taking the nuances of traditional rhythms of India to an alternate form of world music and offering it to a larger audience, comprising all age groups and from different parts of the world.

Taufiq has pioneered and developed a distinct technique of playing the African percussion instrument, Djembe, in the context of Indian rhythmic compositions.

Taufiq's album Rhydhun, amongst others, is said to be a benchmark for world music in India way back in the year 2000. Taufiq has been featured as a performing artiste in the 2009 Grammy-award winning album, 'Global Drum Project'. Taufiq's albums have been released world over and he has performed at prestigious Music festivals all over the globe. He has been a recipient of the Gold Award for Best Music at the Cannes Ad Film Festival and at the London International Festival for some of his exemplary advertisement ventures. Taufiq has lent a third dimension to many chartbuster songs and background score tracks of the Indian film industry genre of music, by virtue of his inimitable sense of rhythm arrangement and feel for sound.

This exceptionally versatile percussionist, is the worthy torchbearer of a rich legacy of percussion, being the son and disciple of the legendary Ustad Allarakha and brother of the maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain by whom he has been greatly influenced. Taufiq has been fortunate to have received guidance from Ghatam Vidhwan, Pandit Vikku Vinayakram.

Over the last fifteen years, he has been imparting training to deserving students, some of whom are now making their mark and carrying forward his work.

Short description (for social media posts)

## **Ayesha Billimoria**

Long description:

Ayesha Billimoria is a woman of many talents and possesses an innumerable collection of titles: she was named “fastest girl of India” in her teenage years, represented Maharashtra for 17

years as an athlete, holds a three-time national championship in the 200m sprint and has also partaken in rigorous training to prepare for the Olympics. Furthermore, she is the former captain of the Adidas Runners Mumbai crew and has represented Adidas in numerous national and international tournaments.

However, Ayesha's skills are not solely limited to sports; her drive, dedication, and impeccable work ethic has made her one of India's most influential fitness public figures, model, trainer, respected mentor to many of her aspiring followers and even the author of the book "Run! The Ultimate Mind-Body Fitness Guide"

In 2016, she had also started her very own enterprise by the name, "Project Fitgirl," as an initiative to educate young children studying in government schools in areas such as Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh, on the topics of sports, movement and life, giving her the name of "Fitgirl India".

Short description (for social media posts):

## **Kuntal Joisher**

Long description

For Kuntal Joisher, his whole life played out before him when he, along with other mountaineers, was trapped at Camp 2 of Mt. Everest during the devastating avalanche that swept through the encampment triggered by a massive Earthquake in April, 2015. The near death experience triggered in him a storm of emotions which would change his entire life.

Meet Kuntal A. Joisher, 41 years old, the first Indian Vegan mountaineer, hailing from Mumbai, India. Kuntal, a passionate climber, is as adventurous, dauntless and a risk-taker as they come but there's more to him than meets the eye. His expeditions to some of the world's most dangerous mountains are fiercely driven by a profound personal mission as a Vegan champion, Dementia awareness advocate and a Humanitarian inspiration.

Kuntal started out his career as a Software Engineer, rather an unassuming happy-go-lucky chap, the guy next door, running the nine-to-five rat race. Then one day, Everything changed! Over a chanced trip with his wife in 2009 to Narkanda – a quaint and scenic Himalayan hamlet, in Shimla, while soaking in the beauty of the grandeur of nature and stunning Himalayan panorama, as quoted, *"I was finally at peace with myself, and I felt eternal happiness. A state of mind that I had never experienced before. I felt very much alive – I could hear my own breath!!"*

After few months, he signed up for a trekking trip to Everest base camp and as they say, the rest was history!

Kuntal's love for mountains began at a very young age when he would spend most of his summer vacations in the local mountains with his father. Like father, like son, it was their love for the Himalayas, nature and its wilderness that rendered a spiritual bond between the two. Kuntal's fascination of mountains remained undeterred ever since.

It was in 2009 that Kuntal set out on a dream journey to climb Mt. Everest. With that decision, came a resolution that to be able to climb the top of the world, he had to be in top mental and physical shape. Kuntal enrolled in the Mountaineering course at Patagonia mountaineering school in Chilean Patagonia. Over the next seven years, Kuntal underwent meticulous and detailed preparations, and trained himself to overcome any issues that can occur. Kuntal has been on several expeditions and the most significant till date has been his famous feat, his lifelong Everest dream.

After two aborted climbs to Mt. Everest in 2014 and 2015 due to disastrous natural calamities, on May 19th, 2016, leading a team of 10 strong climbers, **Kuntal stood on the summit** *“As a Vegan, I have never told anyone of them to become a Vegan, instead my idea is to do spectacular things and inspire them to ask me a question – ‘What do you eat that you can pull off such feats?’”*.

**In May, 2016, Kuntal broke record and astounded the whole world with not just his Everest expedition but that, the feat was undertaken on a pure Vegan diet!!**

**Kuntal is an active vegan campaigner and YES! He is your go-to Vegan guru, if you genuinely seek to become a vegan and above all, you ethically stand for Animals rights!**

**Unbeknown to few, Kuntal was born into a Gujarati family who were vegetarian by religion and so he was raised as one. It was only when he moved to Los Angeles in 2001 to pursue his studies that he learnt about Veganism. Being then exposed to the horrors of dairy and leather industry, and the vicious cycle of animal cruelty involved, he embraced veganism. He donated *all his leather and woolen items to a homeless guy living near his place, replaced all his daily use products with vegan versions and quit all non-Vegan food.* The transition was instant, although the initial months were a bit of a struggle. What kept him steadfast on his life changing decision was the sufferings, cruelty and killings of billions of animals every year. Through his mountain climbing exploits, he dispels the misconception of Vegan diet and lifestyle. Now a Vegan since 2002, he soars higher on every expedition with a cause – to create awareness about Veganism and Animals rights!**

**Commitment of Mt. Everest.**

Short description (for social media posts)

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## **Priyanka Kasture**

Long description

Short description (for social media posts)

Embarking in 2018, Priyanka has created and leveraged powerful content marketing strategies to build a cumulative follower-base of 500,000 people on leading social media platforms, and built a thriving multi-figure business by monetising her influence. Priyanka is currently fostering Machine Learning India (MLI), India's largest social-media driven machine learning and artificial intelligence community with over 500,000 members. Priyanka's areas of interest include AI, blockchain, cryptocurrency, marketing, and entrepreneurship.

Other information can be found here: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/priyanka-kasture/>

## **Shreenand Bapat**

Long description

Dr. Shreenand Bapat is a scholar with a PhD in Sanskrit and an MA in AIHC & Archaeology. He is a curator at the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Managing Editor at Annals of the BORI, and guest lecturer at Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth and Chanakya Mandal Pariwar. Additionally, Dr. Bapat has authored 48 research papers and published eight publications. He has made 16 copper plate and two stone inscription deciphered and discoveries. Having over 45 programmes on All-India Radio on Sanskrit and Ancient Indian History and Culture, Dr. Bapat is truly an erudite in his field.