



Have a taste of Japanese **FOLK ARTS** TODAY

If Japanese cars, motorbikes and electronic goods have already become part of your life, you can have a real taste of Japan's traditional folk arts on Thursday at the Kamaraj Arangam where a Iwami - Kagura theatrical dance would be performed with an accompaniment of authentic music.

The colourful show, in which the dancers will be wearing huge richly painted masks and elaborate costumes, will have three pieces - named Orochi (a

giant serpent), Jin-rin (a demon) and Ebisu (God of wealth).

The troupe that has come down for the Shinto dance performance, which is scheduled to begin at 6.30 pm, will also hold an interactive workshop, demonstrating small parts of the pieces that they perform and explain the meaning of movements, instruments and the origin of the folk art.

Kagura dances, performed to six beat and eight beat accompaniment

of music by drums, cymbals Japanese flute, are to praise and entertain gods. A legend has it that the first Kagura was performed when Amaterasu, the goddess of Sun, hid behind a rock door with a view to luring her out. It is an art form handed down the generations in the Iwami region of the Shimane Prefecture and is normally performed through the night during all major festivals and marriages.

It has 30 episodes drawn from Nihon-Syoki (Chroni-

cles of Japan) and is a flagship folk art of the local area. Iwami-Kagura is coming to Chennai five years after a troupe of performers from Japan showcased their talents in 2007 to an overwhelming response.

The event is being supported by the Consulate General of Japan in Chennai, The Japan Foundation, ICCR, ABK-AOTS DOSOKAI, Shimane International Center, Hamada City and Hamada Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

TIMES OF INDIA- 06.12.2012

DRAGON SLAYER COMES TO TOWN

A Prathap



ORIENTAL TREAT: Iwami-Kagura, a Japanese folk performance, is being organised in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Japan-India diplomatic relations by the consulate general of Japan in Chennai. The dance programme will be held at 6.30pm on Thursday at Kamarajar Arangam, Teynampet. A preview of the show was held on Wednesday

DECCAN CHRONICLE - 06.12.2012

DECCAN CHRONICLE - 04.12.2012

TODAY



DANCE

■ The IWAMI-KAGURA Mesmerising Shinto Dance Performance is being organised.

Date: December 6

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Kamaraj Arangam, 492, Annasalai, Teynampet.

DANCE

■ The Japan Foundation, ICCR, ABK-AOTS DOSOKAI, Shimane International Center, Hamada City and Hamada Chamber of Commerce and Industries are organising: The IWAMI-KAGURA Mesmerising Shinto Dance Performance.
Date: December 6
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Kamaraj Arangam, 492, Annasalai, Teynampet.

TRINITY MIRROR – 05.12.2012
(English evening daily)



In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Japan-India Diplomatic Relations, the Consulate-General of Japan at Chennai, the Japan Foundation at New Delhi, ABK-AOTS Dosokai, Tamilnadu Centre, and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), will hold "IWAMI-KAGURA" mesmerizing dance performance by IWAMI KAGURA Group from Japan at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow at Kamaraj Arangam.



**A LOVELY
SHOW**

Japanese artistes perform their traditional dance commemorating the 60th anniversary of Indo-Japanese diplomatic relations in the city.

DANCE

■ The Japan Foundation, ICCR, ABK-AOTS DOSOKAI, Shimane International Center, Hamada City and Hamada Chamber of Commerce and Industries are organising: The IWAMI-KAGURA Mesmerizing Shinto Dance Performance.
Date: December 6
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Kamara Arangam, 492, Annasalai, Teynampet.

Elegant moves

EVENT A

performance of
Iwami Kagura
from Japan



In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Japan-India diplomatic relations, the Consulate-General of Japan at Chennai, the Japan Foundation at New Delhi, ABK-AOTS Dosokai, Tamil Nadu Centre, and Indian Council for Cultural Relations, present Iwami-Kagura. It's a dance performance by the Iwami Kagura group from Japan. Iwami Kagura is a folk performance that has been handed down generations and performed throughout the night during festivals. The Kagura consists of more than 30 episodes based mainly on material found in the Chronicles of Japan. Kagura is performed to a both a six-beat and an eight-beat accompaniment.

The performances include Orochi, Jin-rin, Ebisu. Entry is free and seating is on a first-come-first-served basis. The performance will be held at 6.30 p.m. on December 6 at Kamaraj Arangam, No. 492, Anna Salai, Teynampet.

Japanese troupe to perform in Chennai: In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Indo-Japan diplomatic relations, the consulate-general of Japan, Chennai, is organising a dance recital on December 6 at Kamaraj Arangam at 6.30pm. Entry is free.

NEWS TODAY - 04.12.12 **(English Evening Daily)**

All the way from Japan

NT Bureau

Chennai, Dec 4:

As part of the 60th anniversary of Japan-India diplomatic relations, the Japan Foundation, ABK-AOTS Dosokai, Tamilnadu Centre & Indian Council for Cultural Relations is organising a show by 'Iwami Kagura' group from Japan on 6 December at Kamaraj Arangam in Chennai.

Iwami Kagura group is visiting Chennai for one-day live performance. They would stage 'mesmerizing Shinto dance performance', a press release here said.

Japanese troupe to perform tomorrow

NT Bureau

Chennai, Dec 5:

In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Indo-Japan diplomatic relations, the Consulate-General of Japan, Chennai, is organising 'Iwami-Kagura,' a dance recital at Kamaraj Arangam here tomorrow at 6.30 pm. Entry is free. Consul-General of Japan in Chennai Masanori Nakano will preside over the function.

Iwami-Kagura is a folk performance that has been handed down through the generations in the Iwami-region (West Shimane) and is performed throughout the night during festivals. The Kagura consists of more than 30 episodes based mainly on material found in the Nihon-Syoki (Chronicles of Japan), a release said.

The dance has now become an integral part of every major event or wedding ceremony. The origins of the Kagura are unclear, but it is believed that it was being performed by Muromachi period (1336-1573). Kagura is performed to both six beat and eight beat accompaniment. The six beat style is gentle and elegant, and the eight beat style, which was introduced during the Kagura revisions made by Iwami-scholars in early Meiji period (1868-1912) is beat and heroic, the release said.

Age no bar for this performer

Shinichi Terada

Chennai, Dec. 9

Tochisada Yanagiyama was dancing around the stage in rhythm accompanied by a flute and taiko drums for an hour while carrying a 20 kg bright green serpent that was 16 metres long.

The 72-year-old Japanese has been performing Iwami Kagura, Japan's Shinto folk dance, for 50 years. After his performance in Chennai, Yanagiyama smiles amiably and says, "I am very satisfied. I was very excited to perform in India again." He was surrounded by an Indian audience asking to take pictures and applauding.

"In India, many 72 year-old people cannot even walk," says P. Kumar, a 26-year-old Japanese language teacher in the city. "I am impressed by his energy."

Yanagiyama is one of 15 Iwami Kagura performers from Japan who performed recently at the packed Kamaraj Arangam auditorium to celebrate the 60th anniversary of India-Japan diplomatic relations.

The masked dancers, wearing brightly-coloured costumes, interacted with the audience by passing out choc-



Tochisada Yanagiyama is one of 15 Iwami Kagura performers from Japan. — ABK-AOTS Desokai

olates to the audience.

"I like it very much. It helps us to understand Japanese customs. I am looking forward to another event like Kabuki," says Pavithra Prakash, one of the audience members, after the performance.

"Especially, the movements of the serpent are attractive. I have never seen anything like this before."

A native of Shimane-Prefecture, Yanagiyama first started practising Iwami Kagura dances at the age of 22. "I have grown up seeing the performances as they are every-

where in Shimane. The performances had a tremendous impact on me. My son and my grandson practise this dance now."

Back in Japan, the performers have regular jobs and practise the dance as a hobby.

Yanagiyama has performed 6,000 times in 10 countries including China, Saudi Arabia, Australia and the US. "I want to continue performing as long as my body allows me to do so," he says with a smile.

"I definitely want to come back to India."

(The author is an intern with Business Line.)

NEWS TODAY – 07.12.2012
(English evening daily)



Dancers of Iwami-Karugas performing Jin-rin, a story of a demon with wings, who is killed by a brave prince King-Chuai. The show was organised as part of the anniversary of Indo-Japanese diplomatic relations in Chennai on Wednesday.

Japanese art form showcased in city

NT Bureau

Chennai, Dec 7:

Japanese folk dance Iwami-Karuga handed down through generations in the Iwami region and containing 30 episodes based on materials found in Nihon-Shoki (Chronicles of Japan) was performed in Chennai on Wednesday as part of the 60th anniversary of Japan-India diplomatic relations.

The art form was originally performed by Shinto priests at the autumn festival as a sign of gratitude for the bountiful harvests, said Tomoharu Katsuta, director of The Japan-India Association. 'So we find it fit to hold the 'Iwami-Kagura' in India to show our appreciation to the ever-growing bond between the two countries' he added.

Having been organised by the Japan Foundation in New Delhi, ABK-AOTS Dosokai, Tamilnadu centre, and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), the troupe performed at Kamaraj Arangam, Teynampet, Chennai, after their performance in New Delhi.

'We have visited Chennai once in 2007 and we received an overwhelming response. The entry is free for all but seats will be available on a first-come-first-served basis' said Katsuta.

Amidst the sounds of Taiko drums and flutes, three episodes of Iwami-Karuga were showcased, namely Orochi, Jin-rin and Ebisu. It was an interactive workshop wherein the movements and dance steps were explained to the audience for better understanding. Thus Indians can boast of having been familiarised with Japan's rich culture with a few dance moves.

Of all the three plays, Orochi -- the story of tactful Susano no Mikoto, defeating a giant serpent attacking a young woman can indeed cast a spell on the audience. Huge reptiles crawling about on stage and the drums in the background add vigour and excitement. One of the snakes is being played by a 70-year-old man whose movements were incredible.

Jin-rin is the story of a demon with wings on his back who is ultimately killed by a brave prince King-Chuai, the second son of Yamato-Takeru. The attire that the demons wear costs around Rs 15 lakh.

Ebisu is a simple portrayal of the Fishing God catching a fish in the water bodies. 'It is auspicious and is performed even during weddings and other well-wishing ceremonies' the actors said.

'Shimane is the best place to experience real Japan. We try to bring a little bit of that for Indians to enjoy. The mythology, rich history, stunning scenery and warmhearted people of this area will enthrall any traveller' the actors invite before they resign to dress up for their performances.