

60th anniversary of India-Japan diplomatic relations
12 forms of martial arts demonstration by
Japanese Budo Delegation on Nov. 3

NEW DELHI, November 1, 2012: Budo, the martial art ways of Japan is the time honoured form of physical culture. Currently, Budo (the Japanese martial ways) is enjoying immense popularity both in Japan and worldwide making it one of the cultural prides of Japan.

Nippon Budokan Foundation was established with the mission of promoting the traditional Japanese Martial Arts, to improve the physical and mental development and to spread world peace.

Nippon Budokan Foundation has come to India with their troupe to demonstrate Budo, the martial art ways of Japan. To celebrate the 60th anniversary of India-Japan diplomatic relations, FICCI in partnership with Embassy of Japan is coordinating 'Martial Arts Demonstration' organized by Nippon Budokan Foundation (Japanese Budo Association) with the support of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, on November 3, 2012 at K.D. Jadhav Wrestling Stadium, Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, New Delhi at 4.30 pm.

The members of Japanese Budo Delegation are experts, representing 12 Japanese martial arts which consist of 9 modern budo arts and 3 classical martial art schools. With these demonstrations, one will be able to feel the heart of the Japanese martial arts, the Japanese culture as well as the spirit of Samurai.

The 12 arts forms that will be demonstrated are: Kyudo, Kingai-ryu Karate Okinawa Kobujutsu, Aikido, Kendo, Karatedo, Enshin-ryu Iai Suemonogiri kenpo, Naginata, Shibukawa-ryu Jujutsu, Shorinji kempo, Judo, Jukendo and Sumo.

"FICCI has been working actively to facilitate and encourage development of sport in India by proactively engaging with identified stakeholders and getting them to commit resources for such development. This one of its kind initiative is our way to reaffirm our whole-hearted commitment to promote sports culture in India," said **Mr. R V Kanoria, President, FICCI.**

He added, "We are expecting more than 5000 spectators which will include athletes who practice these art forms, various colleges, clubs and schools. We are also expecting the presence of senior coaches and students from different schools."

Mr. Kanoria remarked, "We are hopeful that this spectacular show by top Japanese martial artists which will showcase some finer nuances of their respective art forms will help in catalyzing already existing martial art culture in the country and many more youngsters will start taking part in the martial sports like Archery, Judo etc."

“India and Japan have already successfully collaborated for various projects. I will take this opportunity to discuss the possibility for collaborating with Japan for sports development in India, as there are lots of opportunities for international collaboration in sports sector as well,” he pointed out.

Mr. Shimamura Yoshinobu, Leader of Budokan Delegation, stated that he is being accompanied by a 70-member delegation from Japan. “We are a combination of old and new school of martial arts. There are 12 streams of which 9 are modern and 3 classical. Budokan has a history of 1,000 years which has evolved over the years and today it is far more systematic than earlier,” he added.

“Our art enjoys 3 million followers in Japan and around 50 million followers across the world. We have a large number of followers in India as well. Every year, we get an opportunity to visit one country to showcase our art. This year we are here in India on the occasion of the 60th anniversary. It is a part of the bilateral exchange between the two nations which is in process at the moment,” said the Leader of Budokan Delegation.

Mr. Rohit Relan, Co-chair, India Japan JBC, said, “The visit of the Budo delegation is not just one of event but is the beginning of a continuous process. We are only going to demonstrate the 12 forms on Saturday to show how this sport can reach the Indian fraternity. By way of partnering with the Japanese Budo Association we intend to promote and encourage martial arts in India.”

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