

Inaugural Address by Ambassador Satoshi SUZUKI  
on Japanese Film Festival  
(March 4, 2022)

Mr. Koji Sato, Director General, Japan Foundation New Delhi,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namaskar and good evening.

It is my great pleasure to be here with you at this opening ceremony of Japanese Film Festival today. Before we commence this wonderful program, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to everyone who has contributed to this festival.

The Japanese Film Festival is organised to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Japan-India diplomatic relations as well as the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence of India. Throughout this year, plenty of commemorative events will be held in both India and Japan.

Due to the emergence of Omicron variant, several events scheduled for January and February had to be either cancelled or postponed. Nevertheless, now it is once again possible to gather in person and it delights me to think that after a long spell, we are going to enjoy these cultural exchange programs between our two nations. These programs are important for deepening our mutual understanding and forging our friendship further.

The Japanese film industry has an ardent fan base all over the world, if not comparable to Bollywood movies. Yet, the Japanese filmmakers are making sure not to disappoint their loyal fans by delivering spectacular films one after another. I am proud of

presenting one such film which will be featured in this festival this evening: “Wife of a Spy,” that received Silver Lion Award for the Best Director at the Venice Film Festival 2020. Another masterpiece is “Ramayana: the Legend of Prince Rama,” an animation film based on the legend of the revered Prince Rama, which you know very well, that will be featured on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> March. We are very happy to be able to present such valuable and meaningful works to all of you in this special year. I am sure you will be mesmerised by the films and they will satiate your curiosity about Japan.

Most importantly, I hope this program will motivate you to start learning the Japanese culture and language. These curated films to be featured for the next three days will immerse you in the enthralling world of Japanese cinema. The screenplay, characters as well as other elements will bring you closer to the Japanese culture. Learning the language is the best way to understand any culture. Therefore, I hope this festival offers you necessary impetus to kick-start your journey of learning the Japanese language or even some Japanese words.

Lastly, I wish the Japanese Film Festival all the success and once again extend my congratulations to the organisers who have been invariably contributing to the excellent relations of India and Japan. Please have a wonderful time.

Thank you very much.