

## **Embassy of India**

### **Yerevan**

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## **Speech at Inauguration of Raj Kapoor Centenary Film Festival**

**[Moscow Cinema, Yerevan, 07 February 2025]**

- H. E. Mr. Artur Martirosyan, Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture & Sports of RA,
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Armenian Friends of India,
- Members of the Indian community,
- Dear Friends,

*Namaskar! Bari yereko!* Good evening! My colleagues at the Embassy and I are very happy to welcome you all to another Indian Film Festival, this time, as promised, celebrating the Centenary of the iconic showman of Bollywood, Raj Kapoor. I am well aware how the name of Raj Kapoor evokes so much nostalgia in Armenia and it is to revive that magic that we are organizing this Film Festival.

2. Raj Kapoor was born on 14 December 1924. In India and across the world, his cinematographic legacy is being celebrated in a very big way. In 1948, at the age of 24, Raj Kapoor established his own studio, R.K. Films, and became the youngest film director of his times. During this three-day Festival, we will be screening four of his well-known films including the iconic “Awaara” or “The Vagabond”, produced and directed by him in 1951. The film this evening, “Satyam Shivam Sundaram” (The Truth, God and Beauty), was directed and produced by him in 1978. The other two movies in this retrospective are “Anari” (“The Innocent”) - 1959 and “Teesri Kasam” (“The Third Vow”) of 1966.

3. Recognizing his enormous body of work, Raj Kapoor was bestowed with several accolades including 3 National Film and 11 Filmfare Awards in India. The Filmfare Lifetime Achievement award is named after him. In 1987, the Government of India honoured him with India's highest award in cinema, the Dada Saheb Phalke Award, for his contribution to the arts. This was shortly before he passed away in 1988.

4. I would like to take this opportunity this evening to inform all of you that India will be hosting the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit or WAVES 2025 from 30 April – 04 May in Mumbai, the home of our Hindi Film Industry, also popularly called Bollywood. This is the first time that under one banner, there will be Broadcasting & Infotainment, Digital Media & Innovation, AVGC-XR (Animation, Visual Effects, E-Sports, Comics, Augmented and Virtual Reality, Metaverse & Extended Reality) and of course, Films. Invitations will be extended to all relevant segments in Armenia for participation in this unique Summit.

5. Before concluding, let me mention that we are planning to organize a Festival of Mithun Chakraborty or "Jimmy" movies from 28-30 March 2025. We do hope you enjoy these festivals which bring back the delights of yesteryears!

Thank you! Namaskar!

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