Rajinikanth

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| **Rajinikanth** | |
| [Rajinikanth at the Inauguration of MGR Statue.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Rajinikanth_at_the_Inauguration_of_MGR_Statue.jpg)  Rajinikanth in 2018 | |
| **Born** | Shivaji Rao Gaekwad  12 December 1950 (age 71)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajinikanth#cite_note-shivaji-1)  [Bangalore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangalore), [Mysore State](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mysore_State) (now [Karnataka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karnataka)), India |
| **Other names** | * Rajni * Rajini * Thalaivar (lit. 'Leader') * Super Star * Style Mannan (lit. 'King of Style') |
| **Occupation** | * Actor * film producer |
| **Years active** | 1975–present |
| **Spouse(s)** | [Latha Rajinikanth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latha_Rajinikanth)    ​  (m. 1981)​ |
| **Children** | * [Aishwarya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aishwarya_R._Dhanush) * [Soundarya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soundarya_Rajinikanth) |
| **Relatives** | see [Rajinikanth family](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_South_Indian_film_families#Rajinikanth_family) |
| **Awards** | [Dadasaheb Phalke Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dadasaheb_Phalke_Award) (2020)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajinikanth#cite_note-DS-2) [Padma Vibhushan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padma_Vibhushan) (2016)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajinikanth#cite_note-pv-3) [NTR National Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NTR_National_Award) (2016) [Padma Bhushan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padma_Bhushan) (2000) [Kalaimamani](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalaimamani) (1984) ([See full list](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_nominations_received_by_Rajinikanth)) |

**Rajinikanth**[[a]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajinikanth#cite_note-5) (born **Shivaji Rao Gaekwad**;[[b]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajinikanth#cite_note-6) 12 December 1950) is an Indian actor, producer and screenwriter who works predominantly in [Tamil cinema](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_cinema). He has won many awards, including four [Tamil Nadu State Film Best Actor Awards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_Nadu_State_Film_Award_for_Best_Actor) and a [Filmfare Best Tamil Actor Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filmfare_Award_for_Best_Actor_%E2%80%93_Tamil). The [Government of India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_India) has honoured him with the [Padma Bhushan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padma_Bhushan) (2000) and the [Padma Vibhushan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padma_Vibhushan) (2016). He received the [Chevalier Sivaji Ganesan Award for Excellence in Indian Cinema](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chevalier_Sivaji_Ganesan_Award_for_Excellence_in_Indian_Cinema) at the [4th Vijay Awards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/4th_Vijay_Awards).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajinikanth#cite_note-:1-7) At the 45th [International Film Festival of India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Film_Festival_of_India) (2014), he was conferred with the "Centenary Award for Indian Film Personality of the Year". At the 50th edition of the [International Film Festival of India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Film_Festival_of_India) (2019), he was honoured with the Icon of Global Jubilee award.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajinikanth#cite_note-8) He is the second-highest grossing actor in Tamil cinema history, behind [M. G. Ramachandran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M._G._Ramachandran).[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajinikanth#cite_note-9) At the [67th National Film Awards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/67th_National_Film_Awards), he was awarded India's highest award in the field of cinema, [Dadasaheb Phalke Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dadasaheb_Phalke_Award).

Following his debut in [K. Balachander](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K._Balachander)'s 1975 Tamil drama [*Apoorva Raagangal*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apoorva_Raagangal), Rajinikanth's acting career commenced with a brief phase of portraying antagonistic characters in Tamil films. The Suresh Krissna-directed [*Baashha*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baashha) (1995) in which Rajinikanth played a [crime boss](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_boss), was a major commercial success in his career and earned him a 'god-like' status in [Tamil Nadu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_Nadu).[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajinikanth#cite_note-IE2-10) [*Sivaji*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sivaji_(film)) (2007) was the third Indian film to enter the [100 Crore Club](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/100_Crore_Club). He played dual roles, as a scientist and an [andro-humanoid robot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Android_(robot)), in the [science fiction film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science_fiction_film) [*Enthiran*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enthiran) (2010) and its sequel [*2.0*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2.0_(film)) (2018), both being [India's most expensive production at the time of their release](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_most_expensive_Indian_films), and among the [one of highest-grossing Indian films of all time](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_highest-grossing_Indian_films).[[c]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajinikanth#cite_note-12)

Rajinikanth is widely regarded as one of the most popular actors in the history of Indian cinema. His popularity has been attributed to his uniquely styled dialogues and idiosyncrasies in films, as well as his political statements and philanthropy. A philanthropist, he undertook a day-long fast in 2002 to protest the [Government of Karnataka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Karnataka)'s [decision to not release Kaveri River water into Tamil Nadu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaveri_River_water_dispute), and donated ₹10 million (US$130,000) toward a plan to interlink Indian rivers. Rajinikanth is