

**Shivaji Rao Gaikwad**<sup>[a][4]</sup> (born 12 December 1950), known professionally as **Rajinikanth**,<sup>[b]</sup> is an Indian actor who predominantly works in [Tamil cinema](#).<sup>[6]</sup> In a career spanning over five decades, he has done 170 films<sup>[c]</sup> that includes films in [Tamil](#), [Hindi](#), [Telugu](#), [Kannada](#), [Bangla](#), and [Malayalam](#).<sup>[7]</sup> He is widely regarded to be one of the most successful and popular actors in the history of [Indian cinema](#).<sup>[8]</sup> The [Government of India](#) honoured him with the [Padma Bhushan](#) in 2000 and the [Padma Vibhushan](#) in 2016, India's third and second highest [civilian honours](#) respectively, the [Dadasaheb Phalke Award](#) in 2019, the highest Indian award in the field of cinema, and the [IFFI Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award](#) for his contributions to world cinema.<sup>[10][11]</sup>

Major centres of [film](#) production across the country include [Mumbai](#), [Hyderabad](#), [Chennai](#), [Kolkata](#), [Kochi](#), [Bengaluru](#), [Bhubaneswar-Cuttack](#), and [Guwahati](#).<sup>[details 1]</sup> For a number of years, the Indian film industry has ranked first in the [world](#) in terms of annual film output.<sup>[28]</sup> In 2024, Indian cinema earned ₹11, 833 [crore](#) (\$1.36 billion) at the Indian box-office.<sup>[5]</sup> [Ramoji Film City](#) located in Hyderabad is certified by the [Guinness World Records](#) as the largest film studio complex in the world measuring over 1,666 [acres](#) (674 [ha](#)).<sup>[29]</sup>

Indian cinema is composed of [multilingual](#) and [multi-ethnic](#) film art. The term '[Bollywood](#)', often mistakenly used to refer to Indian cinema as a whole, specifically denotes the Hindi-language film industry. Indian cinema, however, is an umbrella term encompassing multiple film industries, each producing films in its respective language and showcasing unique cultural and stylistic elements.

In 2021, [Telugu cinema](#) emerged as the largest film industry in India in terms of box office.<sup>[30][31]</sup> In 2022, [Hindi](#)

[cinema](#) represented 33% of box office revenue, followed by [Telugu](#) representing 20%, [Tamil](#) representing 16%, [Bengali](#) and [Kannada](#) representing 8%, and [Malayalam](#) representing 6%, with [Marathi](#), [Punjabi](#) and [Gujarati](#) being the other prominent film industries based on revenue.<sup>[32][33]</sup> As of 2022, the combined revenue of [South Indian](#) film industries has surpassed that of the Mumbai-based Hindi-language film industry (Bollywood).<sup>[34][35]</sup> As of 2022, Telugu cinema leads Indian cinema with 23.3 [crore](#) (233 million) tickets sold, followed by Tamil cinema with 20.5 crore (205 million) and Hindi cinema with 18.9 crore (189 million).<sup>[36][32]</sup>

Indian cinema is a global enterprise,<sup>[37]</sup> and its films have attracted international attention and acclaim throughout [South Asia](#).<sup>[38]</sup> Since [talkies](#) began in 1931, Hindi cinema has led in terms of box office performance, but in recent years it has faced stiff competition from Telugu cinema.<sup>[39][31]</sup> Overseas Indians account for 12% of the industry's revenue.<sup>[40]</sup>