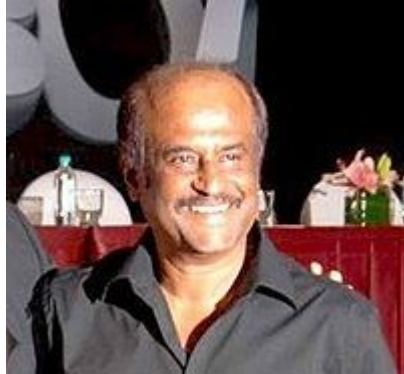


# Rajinikanth

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## Rajinikanth



Rajinikanth in 2010

Shivaji Rao Gaikwad

<b>Born</b>	December 12, 1949 (age 60) <sup>[1]</sup> <a href="#">Bangalore</a> , <a href="#">Karnataka</a> , <a href="#">India</a>
<b>Residence</b>	<a href="#">Chennai</a> , <a href="#">Tamil Nadu</a> , <a href="#">India</a>
<b>Occupation</b>	<a href="#">Film actor</a> , <a href="#">producer</a> , <a href="#">screenwriter</a>
<b>Years active</b>	1975–present
<b>Spouse</b>	Latha Rangachari (1981–present)
<b>Children</b>	<a href="#">Aishwarya Rajinikanth</a> <a href="#">Soundarya Rajinikanth</a>

**Rajinikanth** ([Tamil](#): ரஜினிகாந்த்), born **Shivaji Rao Gaikwad** ([Marathi](#): शिवाजीराव गायकवाड), is an [Indian film actor](#) and [media personality](#). He made his debut as an actor in *[Apoorva Raagangal](#)* (1975), a [Tamil film](#) directed by [K. Balachander](#), whom the actor considers his mentor. He then worked in Tamil cinema often portraying antagonistic characters and gradually rose to acting in lead roles. Other than acting, Rajinikanth also worked as a [producer](#), [screenwriter](#), and [playback singer](#). Apart from his film career, he is also a philanthropist, spiritualist and serves as an [influence in the politics of Tamil Nadu](#).

Rajinikanth is a recipient of the [Padma Bhushan](#), India's third highest civilian honour, for his contribution to [Indian cinema](#). Post-1978, he became known as the "[superstar](#)" of Tamil cinema and has held a [matinee idol](#) status in the [popular culture](#) of India.<sup>[1]</sup> His mannerisms and stylized delivery of dialogue in films attributes to his mass popularity and appeal.<sup>[1]</sup> He was named one of the most influential persons in South Asia by

*Asiaweek*.<sup>[1][2]</sup> While acting in many Indian languages, he has also appeared in the cinemas of other nations, including [in that of the United States](#). After being paid ₹26 [crores](#) (US\$5.9 million) for his role in *Sivaji* (2007), he became the highest paid actor in Asia after [Jackie Chan](#).<sup>[3][4]</sup>

## Contents

[hide]

- [1 Early life](#)
- [2 Career](#)
  - [2.1 Negative roles: 1975-1977](#)
  - [2.2 Breakthrough: 1978-1991](#)
  - [2.3 Peak years: 1992-1999](#)
  - [2.4 Sabbaticals: 2000-2003](#)
  - [2.5 Return to success: 2005-2007](#)
  - [2.6 Kuselan controversy: 2008](#)
  - [2.7 Recent work: 2009-present](#)
- [3 Popularity](#)
- [4 Awards and honours](#)
- [5 Personal life](#)
  - [5.1 Family](#)
  - [5.2 Religion](#)
- [6 Politics](#)
  - [6.1 Alliances](#)
  - [6.2 Social work](#)
- [7 Controversies](#)
- [8 Philanthropy](#)
- [9 Notable filmography](#)
- [10 Further reading](#)
- [11 References](#)
- [12 External links](#)

## Early life

Rajinikanth was born Shivaji Rao Gaikwad in a [Maharashtrian](#) family,<sup>[5]</sup> to mother Jijabai and father Ramoji Rao Gaikwad, on December 12, 1949 in [Bangalore](#), [Karnataka](#), India.<sup>[6]</sup> He was the youngest of four children and has two older brothers and a sister. After the death of his mother at the age of 5,<sup>[7]</sup> he struggled with an impoverished lifestyle during his childhood. During that time, he often did odd jobs as a [coolie](#) in his community.<sup>[8]</sup> He attended the Acharya Patasala for elementary education and had his higher education at the Ramakrishna Mission in Bangalore.

Between 1968 and 1973 he worked in many places in [Chennai](#), thus moving continuously from Bangalore to Chennai. He performed various jobs before joining the then [Bangalore Transport Service](#) (BTS) as a [bus conductor](#). In 1973, his friend and co-worker Raj Bahadur motivated him to join the Madras Film Institute and also financially supported him for 2 years during his studies.<sup>[9][6][10]</sup>

## Career

As of 2010, Rajinikanth has acted in over 150 films, including [Tamil](#), [Kannada](#), [Telugu](#), [Malayalam](#), [Hindi](#), [English](#), and [Bengali](#) films.<sup>[11]</sup> After the release of his first Bollywood film, *Andha Kanoon*, Rajinikanth did not make as much of an impact in the [Mumbai](#)-based industry as he did in the south. He still appeared in several Hindi films, such as *Chaalbaaz*, *Uttar Dakshin*, *Girafaar* and *Hum*. He appeared in a supporting role in the American film *Bloodstone*, co-produced by [Ashok Amritraj](#) in 1988, with much fanfare in India at the time of its release.<sup>[12]</sup> He also made brief stints in the [German](#) and [Japanese film industries](#). His film *Muthu* was dubbed into [Japanese](#) and became a major hit in Japan.<sup>[13]</sup> In 2005, his film *Chandramukhi* was dubbed in [German](#) and released in all German-speaking nations.<sup>[14]</sup> Despite his [first language](#) being [Marathi](#), Rajinikanth has not yet acted in any [Marathi films](#).

### Negative roles: 1975-1977

Rajinikanth debuted in [Tamil cinema](#) as a cancer patient in *Apoorva Raagangal* in 1975. The following year he acted in his first [Kannada](#) film, *Katha Sangama* which was directed by [Puttanna Kanagal](#). He entered [Telugu cinema](#) through *Anthuleni Katha*, which was directed by [K. Balachander](#), whom Rajinikanth has called his "guru" or mentor. Though Rajinikanth refers to director K. Balachander as his mentor, it was director [S. P. Muthuraman](#) who revamped Rajinikanth's image entirely. Muthuraman first experimented with him in a positive role in *Bhuvana Oru Kelvikkuri* (1977), as a failed lover in the first half of the film and a protagonist in the second. Muthuraman has since directed Rajinikanth in 25 films.

### Breakthrough: 1978-1991



Rajinikanth as depicted in *Aarilirunthu Arubathu Varai* (1979)

Around this time [Mullum Malarum](#) (1978), directed by [J. Mahendran](#), established Rajinikanth in the Tamil film arena as a film hero. The success of *Bhuvana Oru Kelvikkuri* prompted Muthuraman to make a mushy melodrama with Rajinikanth as a hero sacrificing everything for his siblings in [Aarilirunthu Arubathu Varai](#) (1979). These films were the turning points in Rajinikanth's career; he changed from an actor who merely enthralled the audiences to one who could also evoke emotions. The acceptance of Rajinikanth sans his stylized mannerisms proved he had at last become a "star" from a "common actor." His film roles were mainly as a villain during the period 1975 to 1977, co-starring frequently with [Kamal Haasan](#) as the protagonist, in movies like [16](#) [Vayadhinilae](#), [Moondru Mudichu](#) and [Avargal](#). In 1978, Rajinikanth acted in the film [Bairavi](#).

During this phase of his career, when he was reaching dazzling heights, Rajinikanth abruptly chose to quit acting, but was coaxed back.<sup>[15]</sup> He continued acting with the blockbuster Tamil film [Billa](#), which was a remake of the blockbuster Bollywood movie *Don*. With its phenomenal success he was accepted as a full-fledged hero. *Billa* was followed by a row of hits, namely [Murattu Kaalai](#), [Pokkiri Raja](#), [Thanikattu Raja](#), [Naan Mahaan Alla](#), [Pudukavithai](#), and [Moondru Mugam](#). K. Balachander's first home production, [Netrikan](#) proved to be yet another milestone in Rajni's career. He acted in his first cameo role alongside [Meena Durairaj](#), who was a child actor then, in the movie [Anbulla Rajinikanth](#) (1984).

More box-office hits dominated the 80s: [Padikkathavan](#), [Thee](#), [Velaikaran](#), [Dharmathin](#), [Thalaivan](#), [Mr. Bharath](#), and [Maaveeran](#).<sup>[16][17]</sup> In his 100th movie, [Sri Raghavendra](#), he played the Hindu saint [Raghavendra Swami](#).

### **Peak years: 1992-1999**

The majority of his movies released during the nineties were extremely successful, notably [Thalapathy](#), [Mannan](#), [Annamalai](#), [Uzhaippali](#), [Veera](#), [Badsha](#), [Muthu](#),<sup>[18]</sup> and [Padayappa](#). Rajinikanth wrote his first screenplay and made a special appearance in the film [Valli](#) (1993), which failed to make an impact at the box office. His film [Badsha](#) was released in 1995. His film [Muthu](#) was the first Tamil film to be dubbed into Japanese as *Muthu: The Dancing Maharajah* and became very popular in Japan.<sup>[19]</sup>

### **Sabbaticals: 2000-2003**

The new millennium began very well for Rajinikanth; *Padayappa* had rewritten previous box office records. Finally, after more than a three year sabbatical from cinema, at 52 years of age, he starred in his home production, [Baba](#), which released on August 15, 2002 amid much fanfare and hype. The film did poorly at the box office due to a very weak screenplay, which Rajinikanth himself had written, in his second stint at screenplay-writing after [Valli](#). The thin screenplay revolved around the story about a gangster who later engages in spirituality; it was a colossal disappointment and was viewed as a tremendous loss when compared to his previous box office successes throughout his career. It fell short of market expectations and the high bids reportedly translated to

heavy losses for the distributors. Rajinikanth himself repaid the losses incurred by the distributors.<sup>[20][21]</sup> Rajinikanth thereafter reported that he planned to quit acting to take part in social and political activities.

### **Return to success: 2005-2007**



Rajinikanth (right) in *Sivaji* (2007).

After the *Baba* debacle, Rajinikanth mulled over numerous scripts with many directors, including [K. S. Ravikumar](#), and finally chose to act in director [P. Vasu](#)'s film *Chandramukhi*. Many people within the industry had written Rajinikanth off after the *Baba* fiasco, essentially saying "the bloom was off the rose" and that "the gold does not glitter anymore".<sup>[22]</sup> In essence, many viewed *Chandramukhi* as Rajinikanth's comeback film, his make or break movie and in the end, when it was released on April 14, 2005, it went on to create new box office records and smashed his own previous records and once and for all removed any doubt within the industry with regards to Rajinikanth's box office clout and incomparable appeal to the masses. *Chandramukhi* broke the record of being the longest running Tamil film, as of 2007.<sup>[23]</sup>

Just after *Chandramukhi*'s release, it was reported that [AVM Productions](#) were to produce a film directed by [S. Shankar](#) starring Rajinikanth, the largest collaboration yet for a Tamil film. The film was titled *Sivaji* and released on June 15, 2007 after two years of filming and meticulous production. With massive international anticipation, it subsequently went on to become a major blockbuster, being ranked among other major [Bollywood](#) and [Hollywood](#) releases of the year. *Sivaji* became the first Tamil movie to be charted as one of the top-ten best films of United Kingdom and South Africa box-offices upon release.<sup>[24][25]</sup> Rajinikanth received a salary of ₹26 crores, approximately US\$5.3 million at the time, for his role the film, which made him become the second highest paid actor in all of Asia.<sup>[3][4]</sup>

### **Kuselan controversy: 2008**

Following *Sivaji*, Rajinikanth worked with P. Vasu again for *Kuselan*, a remake of the [Malayalam](#) film *Kadha Parayumbol*, in which Rajinikanth played an extended cameo role as himself, a star in the Indian film industry, and as a best friend to the main character. According to Rajinikanth, the film somewhat narrates his early life. The film performed poorly at box offices; many distributors incurred major losses due to the film, which Rajinikanth voluntarily settled with his own budget after pressure from different sections of the film world.<sup>[26][27]</sup>

## Recent work: 2009-present

During the course of the production for *Sivaji*, Ocher Studios, the animation company of Rajinikanth's daughter [Soundarya Rajinikanth](#), in association with Adlabs announced their intention of producing a [CGI](#) animation film starring an animated version of *Rajinikanth*. In 2010, Rajinikanth appeared in *Enthiran*, a [science fiction film](#) directed by [S. Shankar](#). *Enthiran* is reported to be the costliest Indian film ever made, with a budget of ₹162 crores (US \$36 million).<sup>[28]</sup> The film released on October 1, 2010, and is said to have grossed 205 crores on its opening day alone.<sup>[29]</sup> It received generally positive reviews; on the review-aggregation website ReviewGang, the film scored 7.5 out of 10 based on 5 reviews.<sup>[30]</sup> Rajinikanth will soon be lending his voice to the lead character in the animation film *Sultan the Warrior*, which is being directed by his daughter [Soundarya Rajinikanth](#).

[A. R. Murugadoss](#) had previously shown interest in directing Rajinikanth in his next feature film after *Ghajini*.<sup>[31]</sup> Rajinikanth has stated that he is interested in starring in [Pyramid Saimira](#)'s next production, in order to compensate for *Kuselan*.<sup>[32]</sup>

## Popularity

Rajinikanth is consistently touted as the most popular South Indian film actor of his time.<sup>[33]</sup> Rajinikanth's popularity mostly originates from his uniquely styled dialogues and mannerisms in films, as well as his political statements and philanthropy. It is also suggested by the media that some popular actors who worked with Rajinikanth earlier in their careers, such as [Gouthami Tadimalla](#) and [Nayanthara](#), were recognized because of their association with Rajinikanth, giving other aspiring actors the urge to work with him.<sup>[34]</sup> Some fellow actors, such as [Cho Ramaswamy](#), have commented that Rajinikanth has the potential to be successful in Indian politics due to his popularity and fan base alone.<sup>[35]</sup>

After the release of *Muthu* (1995), Rajinikanth became the only Indian actor to earn a Japanese fan base, opening a new market for [Tamil films](#) in the nation. Other films of Rajinikanth also released in Japan and garnered immense success, notably *Baba* (2002), *Chandramukhi* (2005), and *Sivaji* (2007).<sup>[36]</sup> During a visit to Japan in 2006, Indian Prime Minister [Manmohan Singh](#) acknowledged the success of *Muthu* in the country during a speech, justifying the positive [relationship between the two nations](#).<sup>[37][38]</sup> *Chandramukhi* is notable for being the longest-running Tamil film in India, playing for a total of over 800 days. *Sivaji* was instrumental in making one of the largest releases for an Indian film in the world; the film entered the list of top ten films of the United Kingdom upon release. *Chandramukhi* and *Sivaji* were also released in South Africa, where they eventually became high box-office grossers.<sup>[39]</sup> A clip from his 1990 [Tamil](#) film *Adhisaya Piravi* became a hugely popular viral video *Little Superstar*, an internet phenomenon in 2006.

A survey conducted in 2008 by [Loyola College](#) in [Chennai](#) suggested that Rajinikanth's popularity was decreasing in [Tamil Nadu](#). The survey saw late actors [M. G. Ramachandran](#) and [Sivaji Ganesan](#), as well as [Joseph Vijay](#), topping the list with

Rajinikanth closely following them, though he was still ahead of other actor-turned-politicians, such as [Vijayakanth](#). However, the low result was attributed to *Kuselan*, which released at the time of the survey with an unsuccessful outcome at box offices.<sup>[40]</sup>

## Awards and honours

Rajinikanth received his first [Filmfare Award](#) for [Best Tamil Actor](#) in 1984 for [Nallavanuku Nallavan](#). He later received Filmfare Award nominations for his performances in *Muthu* (1995) and *Sivaji* (2007).<sup>[41]</sup> Rajinikanth also received [Tamil Nadu State Film Awards](#) in the [Best Actor](#) category for his roles in [Moondru Mugam](#) (1982), *Muthu* (1995), *Padayappa* (1999), *Chandramukhi* (2005), and *Sivaji* (2007). He also received awards from Cinema Express and Filmfans Association for his on-screen performances and off-screen contributions in writing and producing.<sup>[42]</sup>

Rajinikanth received the [Kalaimamani](#) award in 1985 and the M. G. R. Award in 1989, both from the Government of Tamil Nadu. In 1995, the [South Indian Film Artistes' Association](#) presented him with the Kalaichelvam Award. He was named and honoured with the [Padma Bhushan](#) award, India's third highest civilian honour, in 2000 from the Government of India.<sup>[43]</sup> He was selected as the Indian Entertainer of the Year for 2007 by [NDTV](#), competing against the likes of [Shahrukh Khan](#).<sup>[44]</sup> The Government of Maharashtra honoured him with the Raj Kapoor Award the same year. He received the [Chevalier Sivaji Ganesan Award for Excellence in Indian Cinema](#) at the [2010 ceremony](#) of the [Vijay Awards](#).<sup>[45]</sup>

## Personal life

### Family

He married Latha Rangachari, an Iyengar,<sup>[46]</sup> whom he met during an exclusive interview,<sup>[47]</sup> on February 26, 1981, at the age of 31 in [Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh](#). They have two daughters named [Aishwarya Rajinikanth](#) and [Soundarya Rajinikanth](#). His wife, Latha Rajinikanth, currently runs a school named The Ashram. His elder daughter, [Aishwarya Rajinikanth](#), married actor [Dhanush](#) on November 18, 2004 and they have two sons named Yathra and Linga.<sup>[48]</sup> His younger daughter, [Soundarya Rajinikanth](#), works in the film industry as a [director](#), [producer](#) and [graphic designer](#). She married industrialist Ashwin Ramkumar on September 3, 2010.<sup>[49]</sup>

### Religion

Rajinikanth is a follower of [Hinduism](#), [spiritualism](#), and a strong believer of [spirituality](#).<sup>[50]</sup> As a reader, he also enjoys books on such topics.<sup>[51]</sup> He is also a practitioner of [yoga](#) and meditation.<sup>[7]</sup> Rajinikanth is known for visiting temples prior to the release of each of his films; for instance he visited the [Tirumala Venkateswara Temple](#) before the release of *Sivaji* in 2007 and visited [Sathya Sai Baba](#) at [Prasanthi Nilayam](#) in [Andhra Pradesh](#) before the release of *Kuselan* the following year.<sup>[52][53]</sup> He also occasionally leaves for

pilgrimage to the [Himalayas](#).<sup>[7]</sup> He has often referred to [Swami Satchidananda](#), [Raghavendra Swami](#), [Mahavatar Babaji](#), and [Ramana Maharishi](#) as his favourite spiritual leaders.<sup>[54]</sup>

Some of the films Rajinikanth has appeared in lightly allude to his spiritual and religious activities in real life. His films *[Sri Raghavendra](#)* (1985) and *[Baba](#)* (2002) are based on Raghavendra Swami and Mahavatar Babaji, respectively. He also promotes spiritualism in his speeches during film related events.<sup>[55]</sup>

## Politics

Several local fan associations of Rajinikanth in [Tamil Nadu](#) have continuously wanted him to take active participation in politics. In this regard, a few fans in [Coimbatore](#) started their own political party in 2008 for Rajinikanth, in an attempt to pressure his entry in politics. The party was named the Desiya Dravadar Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (DDMMK), introducing its own flag and symbol for the party.<sup>[56]</sup> After learning about this, Rajinikanth wrote an open letter to the media and declared that he had no connection with these events and warned fans not to indulge in such activities and that he would take legal action if they failed to adhere. He also mentioned that he was not interested in politics and thus, was only committed to working in films. He added that nobody can force him to enter politics, just as no one can stop him from entering it.<sup>[57]</sup>

Rajinikanth joined in support of Tamil actor [Ajith Kumar](#), who spoke against the forceful inclusion of Tamil cinema personae in political affairs.<sup>[58]</sup> He attended an event organised in support of the [Sri Lankan Tamil](#) cause with the Tamil film fraternity in late 2008, taking part in a one-day fast demanding the government of Sri Lanka to stop the war, the murder of innocent civilians and to give Tamils their rights and their traditional land, stating this was in the best interests for the people of the island.<sup>[59]</sup>

## Alliances

In 1995, Rajinikanth announced that he is willing to support the [Indian National Congress](#) after meeting Prime Minister [Narasimha Rao](#).<sup>[60]</sup> An opinion poll conducted by the magazine *[Kumudam](#)* predicted that Congress with Rajinikanth's support might win up to 130 seats in [Tamil Nadu](#) Assembly. In 1996, when the Congress Party decided to align with [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam](#) (AIADMK), Rajinikanth supported [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam](#) (DMK)-[Tamil Maanila Congress](#) (TMC) alliance. The TMC used a bicycle as their election symbol and used an image of Rajinikanth riding a bicycle from the film *[Annamalai](#)* in their posters. Rajinikanth said, "Even God cannot save Tamil Nadu if AIADMK returns to power." Rajinikanth wholeheartedly supported the DMK and TMC alliance and asked the people of Tamil Nadu and his fans to vote for that alliance. This alliance had a complete victory in 1996.<sup>[60]</sup>

In 1996, Rajinikanth supported the DMK-TMC alliance in parliamentary elections.<sup>[61]</sup>

## Social work

In 2002, Rajinikanth undertook a daylong fast to protest the [Government of Karnataka's decision to not release Kaveri River water into Tamil Nadu](#)<sup>[62]</sup> and announced that he would contribute ₹10,000,000 toward a plan to interlink the Indian rivers. He met with Indian Prime Minister [Atal Bihari Vajpayee](#) and many experts to canvass support for the project.<sup>[63]</sup> However, most other members of the Tamil film industry, including members of the [South Indian Film Artistes' Association](#) (SIFAA), organized their own solidarity protest. Film director [Bharathi Raja](#) stated that Rajinikanth was on the verge of dividing the film industry and called him "traitor who had a tacit understanding with the Karnataka government".<sup>[64]</sup>

During the 2008 hunger strike organized by SIFAA during the [Hogenakkal water dispute](#), he reprimanded Karnataka politicians. Further, he appealed to leaders not to inflame the water project issue for political gains and requested that the issue should be resolved soon. He urged the Karnataka politicians "to speak the truth." "People are equal to God. They cannot be fooled and will not remain silent if you continue to act in such manner," he stated.<sup>[65]</sup> Leader of the Pro-Kannada group [Karnataka Rakshana Vedike](#) Vatal Nagaraj demanded an apology from Rajinikanth and threatened that he would not be allowed in the state of Karnataka and all his films would be boycotted for Rajinikanth's speech against Kannada politicians.<sup>[66]</sup>

## Controversies

In 2002, during Rajinikanth's own [hunger strike](#) for agitating the state of [Karnataka](#) to release [Kaveri River](#) water into [Tamil Nadu](#), another hunger strike was organized by the Tamil film directors' association. Rajinikanth had yet continued with his own strike, leading to several criticism of Rajinikanth. Director [Bharathi Raja](#), who also condemned other actors and politicians of Tamil Nadu, had stated that Rajinikanth was on the verge of dividing the film industry.<sup>[64]</sup>

Also in 2002, [Pattali Makkal Katchi](#) leader [S. Ramadoss](#) condemned him for smoking and posing with [beedis](#) in his film *Baba*. He was criticised for spoiling Tamil youth by glorifying smoking and drinking. PMK volunteers attacked theatres which screened the movie *Baba* and usurped film rolls and burnt it.<sup>[67]</sup> Famous film producers like [M. Saravanan](#) accused Ramadoss saying that cigarette smoking and drinking are shown in all movies and that *Baba* was just being "picked on" by the PMK leader because of his popularity in [Vanniar](#) areas which is considered PMK bastion. To stop controversies, Rajinikanth reported that he was not going to act in any roles that require him to drink or smoke. In keeping his words, the roles he appeared in thereafter did not show the actor drinking or smoking.

Following the release of *Kuselan* in [Karnataka](#) on August 1, 2008, Rajinikanth thanked the [Kannada film industry](#) for allowing the release of his latest film and lifting the ban. He gave an open statement clarifying his stand to the people of Karnataka and regretted for not being clear in his speech during the [South Indian Film Artistes' Association's](#) hunger strike for the [Hogenakkal Integrated Drinking Water Project](#), which many

Kannada activists and politicians found offending. Actors [Sathyaraj](#), [Radha Ravi](#), and [R. Sarathkumar](#) condemned the apology as a "disgrace to Tamils."<sup>[68]</sup>

## Philanthropy

He converted one of his banquet halls, the Raghavendra Marriage Hall, to a charitable trust to help the needy. As of 2007, he planned to construct a new hospital and a new school on a piece of land near [Chennai](#).<sup>[69]</sup>

## Notable filmography

Main article: [Rajinikanth filmography](#)

Year	Title	Role(s)	Language	Awards
1975	<a href="#">Apoorva Raagangal</a>	Abaswaram	<a href="#">Tamil</a>	
1976	<a href="#">Moondru Mudichu</a>		Tamil	
	<a href="#">16 Vayathinile</a>	Parattai	Tamil	
1977	<a href="#">Bhuvana Oru</a>	Aravind	Tamil	
	<a href="#">Kelvikkuri</a>			
1977	<a href="#">Bhuvana Oru</a>	Aravind	Tamil	
	<a href="#">Kelvikkuri</a>			
1978	<a href="#">Mullum Malarum</a>	Kaali	Tamil	
	<a href="#">Ninaithale Inikkum</a>		Tamil	
1979	<a href="#">Aarilirunthu</a>	Santhanam	Tamil	
	<a href="#">Arubathu Varai</a>			
1980	<a href="#">Billa</a>	Billa, Raja	Tamil	
	<a href="#">Murattu Kaalai</a>	Kalaiyan	Tamil	
1981	<a href="#">Thillu Mullu</a>	Indran/ Chandran	Tamil	
1982	<a href="#">Moondru Mugam</a>	Alex Pandian, Arun, John	Tamil	Winner: <a href="#">Tamil Nadu State Film Award for Best Actor</a>
1984	<a href="#">Nallavanuku</a>	Manickam	Tamil	Winner: <a href="#">Filmfare Best Tamil Actor Award</a>
	<a href="#">Nallavan</a>			
1985	<a href="#">Sri Raghavendra</a>	<a href="#">Raghavendra Swami</a>	Tamil	
1991	<a href="#">Thalapathi</a>	Surya	Tamil	
1992	<a href="#">Annamalai</a>	Annamalai	Tamil	
1993	<a href="#">Yejaman</a>	Vanavarayan	Tamil	
1995	<a href="#">Badsha</a>	Manickam	Tamil	
	<a href="#">Muthu</a>	Muthu, Ejamaan	Tamil	Winner: <a href="#">Tamil Nadu State Film Award for Best Actor</a> Nominated: <a href="#">Filmfare Best</a>

1997	<a href="#"><i>Arunachalam</i></a>	Arunachalam, Vedachalam	Tamil	<a href="#">Tamil Actor Award</a>
1999	<a href="#"><i>Padayappa</i></a>	Aarupadayappan	Tamil	Winner: <a href="#">Tamil Nadu State Film Award for Best Actor</a>
2005	<a href="#"><i>Chandramukhi</i></a>	Dr. Saravanan, King Vettaian	Tamil	Winner: <a href="#">Tamil Nadu State Film Award for Best Actor</a>
2007	<a href="#"><i>Sivaji</i></a>	Sivaji Arumugam	Tamil	Winner: <a href="#">Tamil Nadu State Film Award for Best Actor</a> Nominated: <a href="#">Filmfare Best Tamil Actor Award</a>
2010	<a href="#"><i>Enthiran</i></a>	Dr. Vaseegaran, Chitti Babu	Tamil	

## Further reading

- Sreekanth, Gayathri (2008). *The Name is Rajinikanth*. Om Books International. ISBN 9788129113559.

## References

- <sup>^</sup> <sup>[a](#)</sup> <sup>[b](#)</sup> <sup>[c](#)</sup> <sup>[d](#)</sup> [Asian Tribune](#) Retrieved 14 December 2009
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#### Actions

#### Search

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- [Contents](#)
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## Rajinikanth

**Born** - 12 December 1949  
**Achievements** - Rajinikanth is an immensely popular actor of the South Indian film industry. Recipient of the coveted Padma Shri Award in the year 2002, he has worked in a string of hit



films like Murattukaalai, Pokkiri Raja, Thanikattu Raja, Naan Mahaan Alla and Moondru Mugam.

Rajnikanth is a celebrated actor of the South Indian film industry i.e. Tollywood. Born on 12 December 1949, Rajnikanth's was originally named Shivaji Rao Gaekwad. The most unique feature about Rajnikanth's acting is that he can enact comedies, drama, suspense and thrillers with absolute ease. In recognition of marvelous contribution to Indian cinema, he was recently awarded the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India in the year 2002. To know more, read on this biography of Rajnikanth.

Rajnikanth hails from a Marathi family of Bangalore in the Karnataka state and was the fourth child of his parents, Jijabai and Ramoji Rao. Although his mother tongue is Marathi, yet Rajnikanth never acted in any Marathi movies till date. His childhood was spent in poverty and he worked as a bus conductor prior his film career. However, it was during this period that Rajnikanth sharpened his acting skill by participating in various theatre plays. In the year, 1973, he joined the Madras Film institute to acquire a basic course in acting.

Initially while working in Tamil cinema, Rajnikanth was given supporting roles like that of a cancer patient in the 1975 film, Apoorva Raagangal directed by K. Balachander. Balachander gave Rajnikanth the name, by which the world now acknowledges him. But it was director, SP Muthuraman who actually revamped Rajnikanth's image by casting him in varied roles. For instance, Rajnikanth was given a positive role in film, Bhuvana Oru Kelvikkuri (1977). By this time, film Mullum Malarum had Rajnikanth a firm foothold in the Tamil film arena.

The period from 1980 to 1989 was the real turning point in the career of Rajnikanth as it took him to soaring really high. However, Rajnikanth abruptly decided to leave acting, but ultimately was coaxed back into it after sometime. He starred in Billa that was a remake of Amitabh Bachchan's Don and it turned out to be a blockbuster hit silencing all his critiques. This was followed by more successful films like Murattukaalai, Pokkiri Raja, Thanikattu Raja, Naan Mahaan Alla and Moondru Mugam.

That popularity of Rajnikanth can simply be gauged by the fact that even two decades after the release of his old hits, they continue to make profits at the box office. K. Balachander's first home production, Netrikan proved to be yet another milestone in Rajini's career. And in his 100th movie, Sri Raghavendra, he played the Hindu saint Raghavendra Swami. Another of Rajnikanth's recent hits was Shivaji released in the first half of 2007.

