

TAMIL FILM ACTIVE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

# CINEMA TRADE GUIDE







#### **Tamil Film Active Producers Association**

Regd. No. SRG/Chennai South/250/2020 under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act 1975



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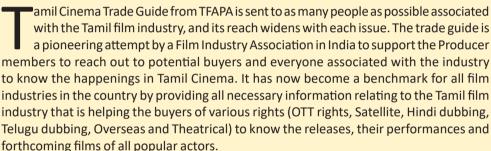
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### TAMIL CINEMA TRADE GUIDE WIDENS ITS REACH WITH EACH ISSUE



Our monthly Trade Guide presents various details about the industry, including New Tamil Film releases for the month, important happenings, informative articles analyzing the developments during the month, Ormax Media report on All-India Box Office, New Tamil films expected to release in the coming months and details of Lead Actors with their forthcoming film details for Producer members to know the film commitment of each actor, that may help to approach them suitably.

Team TFAPA is continuously working towards ensuring Tamil Cinema Trade Guide offers every possible information for Producers to refer to and do their best, enabling them to reach out to the right buyers to sell their films and at the same time, help the buyers of various rights of films to know the happenings in Tamil cinema and consider acquiring rights for the films up for release. By advertising or featuring your film or business related to the film in the Trade Guide, your film or business can reach a wider audience among potential buyers and can help in the business of the film.

This July 2025 issue covers the analysis of first 6 months (Jan to June 2025) of Tamil Cinema in detail. Hope you will find the information provided useful to plan your film production.

The Trade Guide is distributed freely to all members of TFAPA and everyone associated with Tamil Cinema in some way. We welcome any suggestions or feedback to improve the content of the Trade Guide. Members of TFAPA can also contribute their articles or any learning to feature in the trade guide if useful to all the other members. You can write to us at tfapa2020@gmail.com for any support required.

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G. Dhananjeyan Editor - Publisher







# Tamil Cinema faces huge challenge at the Box Office in June 2025

The most expected Kamal Haasan – Mani Ratnam's *Thug Life* failed to live up to the film's huge expectations, resulting in a big disappointment to the industry. The film earned just around ₹40 crore in Tamil Nadu and around ₹100 crore worldwide box office, which is way below the expectations the film had due to the star cast and excellent promotions the team did from the launch of the film.

June 2025 had fewer releases, with just 14 new films and none of them set the box office on fire. *Kuberaa*, a Telugu-Tamil bilingual with Dhanush received a reasonable response in Tamil Nadu while it did commendable in Telugu markets (AP, Telangana and Karnataka) and Overseas. Vijay Antony's *Maargan* had a decent weekend and the film is expected to pick up in the coming days. Overall, June 2025

was a disappointing month for Tamil Cinema, with no film bringing in significant revenues at the box office. As of June 2025, Tamil Cinema had 128 new film releases, which is more than Jan-June 2024 releases, that were at 124 films. Of these 128 films, only Madha Gaja Raja, Dragon, Kudumbasthan, Perusu, Fire, Murmur, Good Bad Ugly, Retro, Tourist Family, Maaman, Kuberaa, DNA and Maargan can be considered as commercial successes for Producers. Thirteen films working at the box office out of 128 is just 10% success rate, which is very low and makes the situation challenging for the industry. We recommend Producers to be cautious on the subject and budget of their new films as the success of smallbudget films is rare and limited as per the details presented in the Trade Guide regularly.

The list of 14 new films released in June 2025 and details of Satellite channels and OTT platforms that have acquired these films so far are presented below. More of these new releases may be acquired by satellite channels and OTT platforms in the coming months and will be updated.











	S.No	Date	Film Title	Production Banner	Director Name	Lead Actor	Theatre/ OTT Release	Satellite rights	OTT rights	Genre
	1	05-Jun	Thug Life	Raajkamal Films International	Mani Ratnam	Kamal Haasan - STR	Theatre	Vijay TV	Netflix	Thriller
55	2	05-Jun	Peranbum Perumgobamum	E5 Entertainment	Sivaprakash	Vijith Bachan	Theatre			Family
	3	06-Jun	Paramasivan Fathima	Lakshmi Creations	Esakki Karvannan	Vemal	Theatre			Family
The same of the sa	4	06-Jun	Madras Matinee	Madras Motion Pictures	Kaarthikeyan Mani	Kaali Venkat	Theatre		Amazon Prime & Tentkotta	Family
E	5	13-Jun	Padai Thalaivan	VJ Combines - Dass Pictures	U. Anbu	Shanmuga pandian	Theatre			Action
Ž.	6	13-Jun	Guts	OPRP Productions	Rangaraj	Rangaraj	Theatre			Action
	7	13-Jun	Holocaust	Shutterframes Production	Vishnu Chandran	Jayakrishnan	Theatre			Thriller
	8	20-Jun	Kuberaa	Sree Venkateswara Cinemas - Amigo Creations	Shekar Kamula	Dhanush - Nagarjuna	Theatre	Vijay TV	Amazon Prime	Thriller
A.	9	20-Jun	DNA	Olympia Movies	Nelson Venkatesan	Atharvaa	Theatre	Vijay TV	Hotstar	Thriller
Sala Sala Sala	10	20-Jun	Chennai City Gangsters	BTG Global	Vikram Rajeshwar & Arun Keshav	Vaibhav	Theatre			Comedy
	11	27-Jun	Maargan	Vijay Antony Film Corporation	Leo John Paul	Vijay Antony	Theatre	Vijay TV	Amazon Prime	Thriller
-	12	27-Jun	Love Marriage	Assure Films - Rise East Entertainment	Shanmuga Priyan	Vikram Prabhu	Theatre			Family
AGULTON.	13	27-Jun	Good Day	New Monk Pictures	N. Aravindhan	Prithviraj Ramalingam	Theatre			Family
ä	14	27-Jun	Thirukkural	Ramana Communications	A.J. Balakrishnan	Kalai Cholan	Theatre			Biopic

Tamil Cinema has lined up many expected films like *Thalaivan Thalaivii, 3BHK, Maarisan, Freedom, Coolie, Madharasi, Dude, Bison, Sardar 2* in the next four months (July to October 2025). The industry expects them to succeed in a big way to give good momentum to Tamil Cinema.





















### **IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS**

DURING JUNE 2025



• Magenta - Shanthanu New Film Pooja

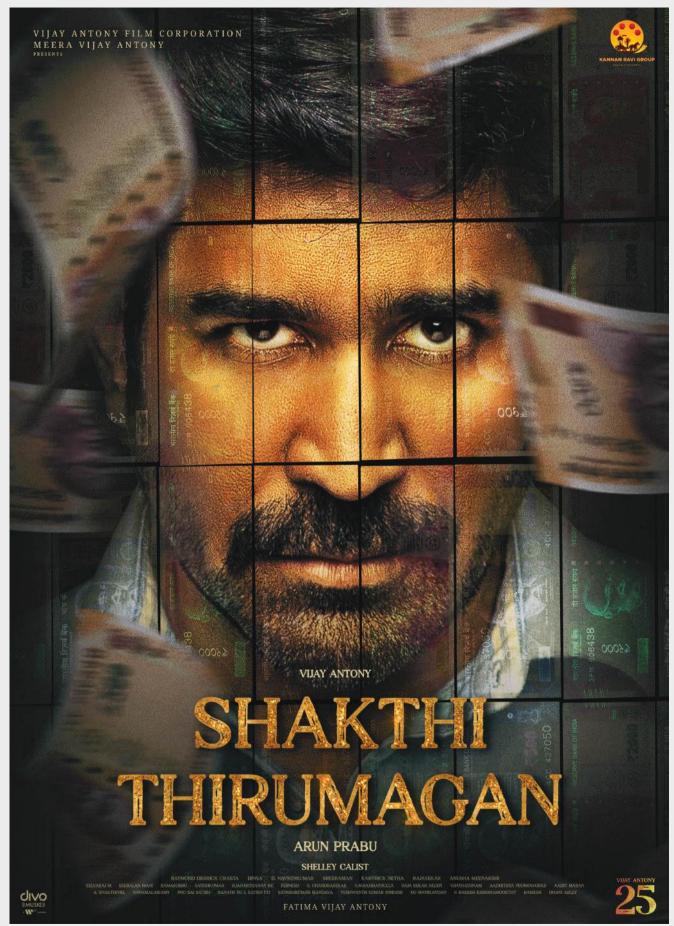


Aiith Vinavaka Films – Vemal New Film Pooia

### Freedom of Expression is guaranteed for Filmmakers by the Supreme Court



Supreme Court ruled against the verdict of the Karnataka High Court, which sought an apology from Shri Kamal Haasan on his statement that the Kannada language is born out of Tamil, which led to the film *Thug Life* not releasing in Karnataka. The verdict is a morale booster to Shri Kamal Haasan and all filmmakers and Producers and no one, including the State Government, can stop a film from releasing in theatres once it is censored. This verdict will be the benchmark for the future of the Indian Film Industry, though the Producers have claimed they have lost ₹30 crore due to the ban imposed on the film.





# **Challenging Times for Big Budget-Big Star Films in Tamil Cinema**

The result of the recent big film *Thug Life* in Tamil cinema has shocked the entire industry. Gone are the days when producers get a decent revenue when big films do not meet expectations. Now, audiences have become merciless, and they shut the gates if big films receive negative or mixed word of mouth. *Thug Life* was released with massive expectations because it marked the reunion of



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the two legends— Mani Ratnam and Kamal Haasan, but after the first show, the film crashed at box office due to unanimous negative word of mouth. Imagine a movie of *Thug Life's* stature collecting below ₹40 crores in TN.

Ajith Kumar is among the rare actors who consistently hit ₹100 Cr. in Tamil Nadu box office, irrespective of word of mouth in recent times. Films like *Thunivu* and *Valimai*, which received mixed reviews, collected between ₹100 − 120 Cr. in Tamil Nadu. But *Vidaamuyarchi* had a closing collection of only ₹83 Cr. in Tamil Nadu, as the film didn't meet the fans' expectations.

Kanguva is another film that had a similar fate to *Thug Life* at the box office last year. Suriya's recent film *Retro* collected (around ₹50 crore), which is lower than the collection of a medium-budget

film *Tourist Family* (**₹63.80 Cr.**) in TN, has shocked the entire industry. These trends indicate that there is no breathing space for biggies as social media is not sparring anyone.

If a big-budget film fails to impress the critics and audience, troll pages on Instagram and 'X' (formerly Twitter) post pre-release interviews of actors and technicians who speak highly about their films and compare it with the final film to troll. There is nothing wrong with actors and technicians exhibiting their confidence via their speeches, but they would've never dreamt that it would haunt them after the film's release.

It's sad to see Siddharth, who had to underplay his upcoming film 3 BHK, saying that watch it only if you liked the trailer, songs, actors, and other things involved in the project. He humbly requested people not to watch the film just because he said to watch it, based on how he was trolled for the debacle with *Indian 2*, on which he had high confidence

and spoke in many interviews during the promotions.

Earlier, there was some respite for these big films. Audiences used to respect the budget, hard work, and big names involved, but today, they only want to watch a film based on



the quality of content and not because of other attributes. Also, this big failure raises questions about the stardom of many actors. If only good films can run at the box office what happened to the star power? So, are there no superstars in Tamil Cinema who can withstand the negativity and achieve box-office success?

Besides Vijay's *The Greatest Of All Time* (₹455 Cr.) and Rajinikanth's *Vettaiyan* (₹240 Cr.), none of the films of other stars with mixed reviews were able to put up average/decent numbers at the box office. On the other hand, we witness a meteoric rise in the collections of actors with comparatively lesser stardom, given the content is good. *Tourist Family* collected nearly ₹80 Cr. and *Dragon* collected ₹150 Cr. clearly telling us that content is today's superstar.

We all know that stars can only bring a good opening and the fate of a film only depends on the content. However, the recent failures of films featuring big stars tell us that even their opening weekend collection is questionable. Many of







Below the belt reviews, thousands of meme pages trolling films, brutal reviews from the audiences in the public opinion videos, political parties using their IT wing handles to spread negativity against stars who spoke against their ideologies and so many other factors are taking away crores of money invested from these biggies by Producers.

These recent failures only tell us that producers have no other choice but to roll out only good quality content irrespective of the size of their films and do not depend on the star power of actors. Audiences don't have the appetite for mediocrity and with ever-growing online negativity impacting offline collections, it's better to be safe than sorry!





# FACTORS INFLUENCING A FILM'S SUCCESS



While trolls and online reviewers can influence how a film is perceived, they don't solely determine its success. Ultimately, a film's success is a complex equation involving factors like critical reception, audience engagement, box office performance, cultural impact, etc. Reviewers can influence initial reactions and shape public opinion, but a film's lasting success depends on its ability to resonate with audiences and create a positive cultural footprint.

#### • Critical Reception:

Reviews from critics (Websites, Newspapers, Magazines, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook and Book My Show) can impact public perception and potentially influence ticket sales. In fact, for most small and medium-budget



films, this is the key for the initial response from the audience for those who usually do not come to watch such films in theatres. When the critical reception is big, they do book the tickets. For big-budget, big-star films, the critical reception plays a strong role in avoiding trolls and negative word of mouth and brings large audiences to theatres on subsequent days.

#### Audience Engagement:

Word-of-mouth, social media posts and buzz, and fan communities all contribute to a film's success by

indicating audience interest and connection. Today the audience go out of the way to celebrate a good film and become the brand ambassador for such films. Audience engagement for a film becomes the biggest crowdpuller to theatres.



#### • Box Office Performance:

The most obvious indicator is how much money the film earns, reflecting its popularity and marketing. The critical reception and audience engagement with the film determines this, which becomes the talk of the box



office to bring in more audience to theatres.

#### Cultural Impact and a talking point:

Films that spark trends, generate parodies or leave a lasting cultural legacy often achieve higher success as they become a talking point among audience and influence a larger population.

#### Other factors:

Genre of the film, release date, clash with other films, star power, promotions and the quality of the storyline and script all play significant roles in the success of a film.

#### The Role of Reviewers:

#### • Influencing Initial Perception:

Reviewers can shape initial audience perceptions of a film, potentially impacting opening weekend box office numbers.



#### Independent and Small Films:

Critics often play a more significant role in influencing

the success of independent or smaller releases as they are able to create a buzz among audience to watch such films.

#### The Impact of Trolls:

#### Review Bombing:

Trolls can engage in review bombing, flooding review platforms with negative feedback to retaliate against perceived issues with a film.



#### • Impact on Audience Engagement:

While review bombing can be disruptive, it can also draw attention to the film, potentially increasing viewership. However, in the long run, a film's success is determined by how well it connects with audiences, not by the actions of a few trolls unless



they are targeted attacks on a film based on its star or any political reason.

#### **Conclusion:**

Trolls and reviewers can influence public perception and potentially impact a film's initial success, but ultimately, a film's success is determined by a combination of factors including its ability to resonate with audiences, generate positive



buzz, and achieve a lasting cultural impact. Filmmakers must pay attention to critical reviews and audience feedback, while recognizing that the audience holds the ultimate power in determining a film's success.

- An interesting article sourced from Quora.

#### **Promising New Talents: Future of Tamil Cinema**



Jason Sanjay



Shanmuga Pandian



Surya Sethupathi



Akash Murali



Elviin



Rudra



Dharshan Ramkumar



Ajay Dhishan



Pavish



VJ Siddhu



Hari Bhaskar



Akshan Kumar



Tharshan



Darshan



Ashwin Kumar



Teejay Arunasalam



Aegan



Rakshan



Mugen rao



Mic set Sriram



KPY Bala



Rhaanath



RJ Vijay



Kanna Rav

Not including popular young actors Pradeep Rangathan, Dhruv Vikram, Kavin, Harish Kalyan, HipHop Aadhi, Manikandan, Arjun Das and Rio Raj, who are already listed in pages 22 and 23 with their films

#### **TAMIL CINEMA: JAN – JUNE 2025 SUMMARY**

Tamil Cinema witnessed a not so encouraging progress during the first 6 months in 2025. While the number of films increased compared to previous years, box office collections, revenues from other avenues have come down, negativity for big-budget films has risen substantially, leading to each one of them underperforming at the box office, especially in Tamil Nadu.

#### Highlights:

- 128 new films were released in the Jan-June 2025 period, which is more than 124 released during the same (Jan-June 2024) period.
- Tamil Cinema earned a total revenue of ₹1,625 crore (net revenue to Producers) during this period and incurred a loss of ₹250 Crore, despite having some big commercial hits like Dragon, Tourist Family, Retro, Kudumbasthan, which earned good profits for producers.



- Total Gross Box Office of Tamil Cinema world-wide in the first 6 months is estimated at ₹1,400 crore and out of it, Top 20 films have contributed to ₹1,040 crore, which is 74% of the total gross box office revenues.
- Only 13 films out of 128 (10% success ratio) can be termed as commercial successes: Madha Gaja Raja, Dragon, Kudumbasthan, Perusu, Fire, Murmur, Good Bad Ugly, Retro, Tourist Family, Maaman, Kuberaa, DNA and Maargan.
- 76% (98 films) of the 128 new films belong to the small-budget category (less than ₹5 Crore).

#### New Film Releases in Jan – June 2025 period:



New films are flooding the box office each week and on an average 5 films are getting released but the success ratio is down to 10%. Many small budget films are releasing namesake in 30 to 50 screens and getting removed within a day or two, not even recovering their Qube/distribution cost.

#### **Summary of Films Released in Various Budget Ranges:**

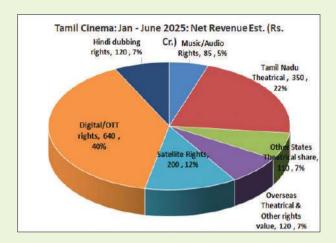
Budget Category	Approximate Budget	# Films	% of Films	Selected list of films in the Budget category		
Mega Budget	More than Rs.100 Crore	5	4%	Vidaamuyarchi, Good Bad Ugly, Retro, Thug Life & Kuberaa		
A++	Rs.50 to 100 Crore	1	1%	Veera Dheera Sooran - Part 2		
A+	Rs.25 to 50 Crore	7	5%	Madha Gaja Raja, Nesippaya, Kadhalikka Neramillai, Dragon, Agasthiya, TEST & ACE		
Α	Rs.15 to 25 Crore	5	4%	Vanangaan, NEEK, DD Next Level, Maaman & Maargan		
B+	Rs.8 to 15 Crore	6	5%	Sabhdam, Kingston, Gangers, SUMO, Tourist Family & DNA		
В	Rs.5 to 8 Crore	6	5%	Kudumbasthan, Baby and Baby, Sweat Heart, Padaithalaivan, Chennai City Gangsters & Love Marriage		
С	Rs.3 to 5 Crore	30	23%	Perusu, Mr. House Keeping, Ten Hours & Eleven		
D	Less than Rs.3 Crore	68	53%	Fire, Murmur, Gentle Woman, Yemakadhagi, Kaadhal Enbadhu Podhu Udamai & Good Day		
	Total: Jan - June 2025	128	100%			

Only notable films that gained attention or commercial success are listed in the C and D budget categories. Under all other budget categories, the entire list of films is listed as they were limited.

#### **Net Revenue to Producers Estimated:**

Net Revenue Estimates from various rights	Rs. Crore	% Share
Music/Audio Rights	85	5.2%
Tamil Nadu Theatrical	350	21.5%
Other States Theatrical share	110	6.8%
Overseas Theatrical & Other rights value	120	7.4%
Satellite Rights	200	12.3%
Digital/OTT rights	640	39.4%
Hindi dubbing rights	120	7.4%
Tot. Revenue to Producers (Jan-June'25)	1,625	

 Net Revenue to Producers is estimated based on actual revenues the Producers would have earned through various rights exploited for each of the films released.



- Key contributors are: Digital/OTT rights contributed to the highest at 40%, followed by Tamil Nadu theatrical rights share at 22% and Satellite rights at 12%. Overall, non-theatrical rights contributed to 64% of the total revenues earned.
- Only the Producer/Distributor share (not the gross box office) through theatrical distribution is considered as revenues for each film to Producers.

#### Summary of Tamil Cinema in Jan to June 2025:

Summary during Jan - June 2025	Rs. Crore
Total Investment (Production Cost) - Estimated	1,750
Print and Publicity cost - Estimated	125
Total Investment during this period	1,875
Total Revenues to Producers through all rights	1,625
Net Loss incurred by Tamil Cinema in Jan-June'25	250

#### **Overall Outlook:**

Though the industry had just 10% success ratio, the loss incurred is estimated at ₹250 Crore (or 13% of the total investment made), which is reasonable considering the kind of uncertainty prevailing in the industry now. However, 64% contribution to the revenues coming from non-theatrical rights poses a challenge that unless the content is strong and has a strong pre-release appeal to attract the Satellite channels, OTT platforms, Hindi dubbing rights and music companies, it may not be easy for Producers to recover their investment. But the industry is improving and the second half is expected to be even better with many most expected films of top actors are scheduled to release.

Top 20 Films: Territory-wise Gross Box Office Estimates: Jan to June 2025

-				GROSS BOX OFFICE COLLECTION EST. (Rs.in Cr.)						
S.No.	Release Date	Film Name	Lead Actor	Tamil Nadu	Entire Overseas	Kerala	Karnataka	Andhra / Telangana	North India	Total Gross
1	10-Apr	Good Bad Ugly	Ajith Kumar	153.00	69.00	4.95	14.60	6.60	2.50	250.65
2	21-Feb	Dragon	Pradeep Ranganthan	78.65	34.20	3.50	11.25	21.25	5.15	154.00
3	20-Jun	Kuberaa (Forecast)	Dhanush	22.00	32.00	1.50	11.50	70.00	3.00	140.00
4	06-Feb	Vidaamuyarchi	Ajith Kumar	82.25	40.00	3.30	9.25	2.45	0.75	138.00
5	01-May	Retro	Suriya	51.60	26.00	4.75	7.75	7.95	2.00	100.05
6	05-Jun	Thug Life	Kamal-STR	43.65	42.00	3.10	-	6.05	3.25	98.05
7	01-May	Tourist Family	M. Sasikumar	63.80	15.90	1.85	5.10	0.60	0.75	88.00
8	27-Mar	Veera Dheera Sooran - Part 2	Vikram	42.50	17.00	2.00	3.10	2.85	2.55	70.00
9	12-Jan	Madha Gaja Raja	Vishal	53.00	6.80	0.25	1.40	1.15	0.40	63.00
10	16-May	Maaman	Soori	38.48	2.00	0.35	1.63	0.16	0.28	42.90
11	24-Jan	Kudumbasthan	Manikandan	25.75	2.00		0.75			28.50
12	16-May	Devil's Double Next Level	Santhanam	17.20	2.00	0.10	1.20	0.10	0.12	20.72
13	14-Jan	Kadhalikka Neramillai	Ravi Mohan	10.30	4.60	0.15	0.40		0.30	15.75
14	27-Jun	Maargan (Forecast)	Vijay Antony	8.50	1.60	0.40	0.50	3.00	-	14.00
15	24-Apr	Gangers	Sundar C	11.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	-	-	13.00
16	23-May	ACE	Vijay Sethupathi	7.50	2.00	0.25	1.00	1.40	-	12.15
17	21-Feb	Nilavukku Enmel Ennadi Kobam	Dhanush	7.75	3.00	0.05	0.80	0.10	0.05	11.75
18	20-Jun	DNA (Forecast)	Atharvaa	8.50	2.00	0.50	0.50	-	-	11.50
19	10-Jan	Vanangaan	Arun Vijay	8.75	1.55	0.05	0.15	-	-	10.50
20	28-Feb	Sabhdam	Aaadhi	4.21	0.20	0.20	0.20	3.69	-	8.50
		TOP 20 FILMS		585.39	235.85	22.80	56.98	120.75	18.60	1,040.37
		% Share of each territory		56%	23%	2%	5%	12%	2%	

<sup>\*</sup> The above is only an Estimated Gross Box Office collection of Top 20 Films by Box Office Trackers and not Official from Producers. For Highlighted films, the box office numbers were early forecasts from the Trade

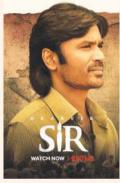




### Has Bilingual Films lost their charm?

Producing bilingual films (in two languages) simultaneously was seen as a cost-effective plan for most Producers starring an actor who is popular in two languages. A recent example can be Dhanush, who did Vaathi (Tamil) / Sir (Telugu) and Kuberaa (in both Tamil and Telugu). Both films were produced by Telugu Producers and made by popular Directors in Telugu. However, these films, which worked well in Telugu, did not get the expected success in Tamil as they were seen more as Telugu films by Tamil audiences and were not treated on par with a straight Tamil film made by a Tamil filmmaker, despite featuring Dhanush, who is a leading Hero in Tamil. The same happened to Sivakarthikeyan's film Prince, which was initially planned as a bilingual with a Telugu producer and Telugu director. The film did not work in both languages. Karthi tried the same with





Thozha (Tamil) and Oopri (Telugu) as a bilingual with Nagarjuna. Again, the film worked well in Telugu but not that much in Tamil.

Clearly, cultural differences, primary casting from Telugu, and the making of the film, which suits the Telugu audience well, cannot connect with the Tamil audience. Producers who assume that by casting popular actors from both languages, the film will work are making a mistake as such films often connect only in one language. Hence, it is better Producers to plan and produce it in a primary language (whether Tamil or Telugu) and release it in dubbed versions in other languages. That way, the expectations will be less in other markets and the film, if it connects well as a dubbed version may bring in the box office collections. Take for example, Lucky Baskhar, starring popular Malayalam actor Dulquer Salman. Despite that, the film was made only in Telugu and was released in dubbed versions in Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi. The film worked well not just in Telugu and dubbed versions, as there were no expectations in these markets and the film came as a surprise and achieved big box office success. Their strategy of not announcing it as a bilingual or trilingual enabled them to focus only on one (Telugu) language and make it well with no compromises to meet the expectations of other language audiences.

Producers and filmmakers must remember that the audiences of each language are different, and their way of accepting a film is different from that of others.

Theme/Subject/Production values: Tamil and Malayalam audiences look for rooted, native and emotional content, while Telugu audiences look for larger-than-life imaginative stories with huge production values.

- Backdrop/Location: The place of the story makes a big difference in acceptance for a film. If the film is primarily based on one language, the audiences of other languages cannot relate to that.
- **Duration of the film:** Tamil audiences look for crisp and fast paced films (less than 2 hours and 30 minutes) while Telugu audiences are fine with longer duration (2.45 to 3 hours) films. Malayalam audiences are perfectly fine with slow-paced, longer-duration films with a simple plot.
- Plot Heavy films: Tamil and Telugu audiences look for plot-heavy films with multiple twists and turns in the script, while Malayalam audiences are fine with even a single twist in the story, if that is appealing.
- **Entertainment elements:** Tamil and Telugu audiences look for entertainment elements like action, comedy and songs while it is not necessary in Malayalam films.
- Casting of the film: Tamil and Malayalam audiences look for relatability with popular actors from their language even for character roles. However, Telugu audiences accept other language actors for character roles. Hence, many Tamil actors are working on Telugu films now (like VTV Ganesh, Jayaprakash, 'Aadukalam' Naren, Nasser, etc.).

The above is just a small list of differences in the expectations of each language audience. By doing a Tamil-Telugu bilingual, most filmmakers cannot do justice to

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both the language audiences. In Kuberaa, the entire film is happening outside Tamil Nadu, alienating the Tamil audience who cannot relate to the story.

The recent changes in the audience's expectations clearly explain that there is no charm in making bilinguals, though it may be cost effective in production. It is time Producers and Filmmakers focus and make their film in the main language (Tamil or Telugu) well. To exploit the popularity of the lead actor, they can look at releasing in dubbed versions in other markets without any expectations of the box office. That may work at times than presenting it as a bilingual or trilingual and not succeeding in both or just in one market.





### THE INDIA BOX OFFICE REPORT:

#### **MAY 2025**

May 2025 turned out to be a strong month at the India Box Office, recording ₹1,136 Cr in gross collections, driven by *Raid 2* and *Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning*.

#### **Summary of the Report:**

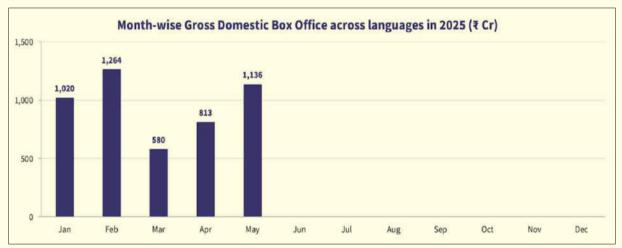
- Films released in May 2025 grossed ₹1,136 Cr at the domestic box office, making it the second-best month of the year after February
- The cumulative box office for Jan-May releases in 2025 stands at ₹4,812
   Cr, which is 27% higher compared to the same period in 2024
- Raid 2 emerged as the top film of the month, grossing over ₹200 Cr, followed by Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning, which grossed over ₹115 Cr

#### **Cumulative Box Office: May 2025**

May 2025 turned out to be the second-best month of the year so far at the India box office (just behind February), grossing ₹1,136 Cr, including projected future collections of May releases still running in theatres. Hindi film *Raid 2* and Hollywood film *Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning* were the major contributors, together accounting for 28% of the month's box office collections.



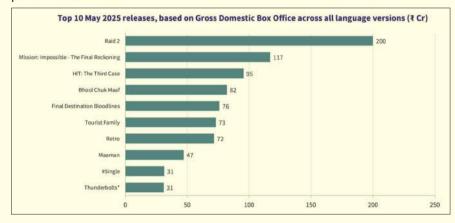




The cumulative box office for 2025 releases stands at ₹4,812 Cr, which is 27% higher than the same period in 2024.

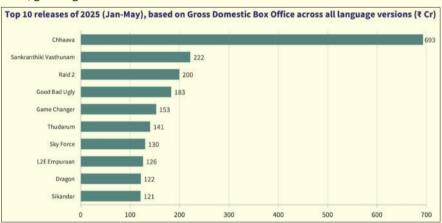
#### Top 10 Films at All-India Level:

The chart below lists the top 10 films released in May 2025 based on their box office performance in India.



Raid 2, starring Ajay Devgn, has emerged as the top film of the month, grossing over ₹200 Cr (including projected collections, as the film is still running in some theatres), and is now the second-highest-grossing Hindi film of 2025 behind Chhaava.

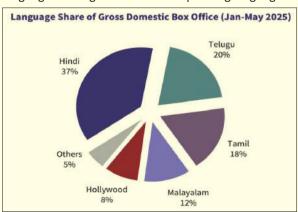
With three Hollywood films in this month's Top 10 highest-grossing films, i.e., *Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning, Final Destination Bloodlines,* and *Thunderbolts\**, May 2025 has turned out to be the strongest month for Hollywood in India since July 2023, grossing ₹262 Cr.



The top 10 list of the highest-grossing films of 2025 so far has four Hindi films and two each from Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam languages.

#### Box Office Share by Language in May 2025:

For language share calculation, language-wise box office of films released in multiple languages is assigned to the corresponding language.



Hollywood films' strong box office performance in May has boosted Hollywood's share from 4% to 8%, bringing it to a similar level as last year.













### Promotions in Tamil cinema: Is it a Necessity or a Formality now?

In the good old days of Tamil cinema, one thing that always stood as a talking point for films, both big and small, was the amount of money spent on the marketing and promotions of a film. Right from films such as *Kandasamy* to *Theri* to *Kabali* to *2.0*, Tamil cinema has explored various ways of putting promotions of a film on the Indian Map or on an Airplane itself, creating a lot of interesting things to talk about. And rightly so, in those days, audiences turned up to theatres as they enjoyed the big buzz the film had carried, understanding the fact that bigger promotions equal a bigger film.

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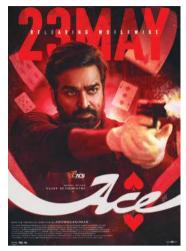


But as time passed and we walked into the post-Covid world in Kollywood, the audiences evolved faster than the filmmakers and producers for two reasons. The first one being the exposure to films from across the country and the globe through OTT platforms and the abundance of time, and the second reason being the number of times they got disappointed by getting tickets to a big film. Slowly, promotions started to get a rundown, and scrutinizing resources became all the more important for producers.

Slowly, filmmakers and producers in Tamil cinema realize the fact that promotions need to be done carefully from hereon, as audiences are very smart in picking content to watch every week, and the urge to create enough buzz to watch the film is the main target, where 'word of mouth' becomes the biggest weapon.

In the recent example of *Thug Life*, there was a hard stop on the film's promotions after it started to receive a negative response on day one. With almost a month of whirlwind promotions before the release day, the team going mute after the release was difficult and disappointing to watch. A little bit of firepower and some answers from the team would have made it even better for them. On the other hand, Soori's *Maaman* set a good example for the industry as the actor led through a state-wide

promotional tour and continued the same after the release by doing some grassroot level marketing for the film, despite the film receiving mixed reviews and divided opinion from the audience in its opening weekend. Soori never gave up on his film and persisted with his promotions, which worked wonders at the box office as it improved in the second weekend and then continued to do well for three weeks. On the other hand, Vijay Sethupathi's Ace came with limited buzz and ended up as a box office failure, with not many promotions being taken up by the team. Vijay Sethupathi acknowledged in an interview that not many people were aware that





the film was released due to poor promotions before its release.

With a high number of films releasing every week (four to five on an average) and the audiences' urgency towards watching small and mid-range films going down with each passing weekend and shorter OTT window (4 weeks), it is important to have a sustained promotional campaign for every film, regardless of the size. It is also crucial to zero in on the film's target audiences and catapults each kind of film to the audiences most likely to warm up quickly to its genre, appeal and modelling. In the recent past, films such as *Tourist Family* and *Kudumbasthan* focused more on their post-release campaigns which created a positive aura and a 'FOMO' (Fear Of Missing Out) feeling for the audiences and tipped them to watch the film in theatres.

Ultimately, a good film doesn't need promotion by itself, as good word of mouth works wonders and brings in more audiences to theatres. However, promotion is necessary to make everyone know that there is a good film out there in theatres.

# Tamil Cinema: Month-wise, Films that gained attention during 2025

In this section, Trade Guide will present films in each month that gained attention, which means commercial success or critical success or both. Trade Guide looks at the Commercial Success of films, which means how a film has earned revenues through the exploitation of various rights (India Theatrical, Overseas rights, Satellite, Digital/OTT, Music, Hindi and other Dubbing rights etc.) for a Producer, irrespective of whether the film was critically acclaimed or not. The films listed below have gained attention and most of them have also become commercially successful due to the strong content offered to the audience.

The table below will be updated each month based on the films that gained the attention of the audience and trade.

			gained the a	ttention of the aud	ience and trade.
Month	Film 1	Film 2	Film 3	Film 4	Film 5
January 2025	PICHETT JUCKBUS VA	VAMILY BLANCH UNTER    DAY   STATE   S		Fil	
February 2025	WORLDWIDE GROSS  100  VIDERMUYERCH	CRORES!	greiampu ignijāna	A STANK	KAADINA SEADHU BODHU UDARAL WAAN MAY SON AND SEAD
March 2025	<b>PUDRAY</b>	MURMUR Sten 0750-2850 1966	entewoman  Financial Control of Control  Financial	Chostos S	MARCH 14  PERUSU
April 2025	200 CR	HOLE		H	
May 2025	RETRO	WORLDWIDE CROSS 3	Impresive Footfalls in And Week	BLOCK RUNNING SURSANIA	
June 2025	TOO A	BOOKINGS INCREASED COLLECTION INCREASED	MAARCAN	ய ஜுன் 27 முதல் தேட்	



# TAMIL FILMS OF LEADING ACTORS EXPECTED IN 2025 - 26





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Leading Actors (Select List in random order)	Films expected	Producer (s)
Rajinikanth	Jailer 2 / Coolie	Sun Pictures
Kamal Haasan	Yet to be announced	-
Vijay	Jana Nayagan	KVN Productions
Ajith Kumar	Yet to be announced	-
Suriya	Karuppu / Suriya 46	Dream Warrior Pictures / Sithara Entertainments
Vikram	Dhruva Natchathiram / Chiyaan 63	Ondraga Entertainment / Shanthi Talkies
Dhanush	Idly Kadai	Dawn Pictures
Sivakarthikeyan	Madharasi / Parasakthi	Sri Lakshmi Movies / Dawn Pictures
Karthi	Vaa Vaathiyaar, Sardar 2 / Karthi 29	Studio Green Films / Prince Pictures / Dream Warrior Pictures
Silambarasan TR	STR 49 / STR 50 / God of Love	Dawn Pictures / Atman Cine Arts / AGS Entertainment
Ravi Mohan	Genie / Karathey Babu / Parasakthi	Vels Film International / Screen Scene Entertainment & Dawn Pictures
Vishal	Thupparivalan - 2	Vishal Film Factory
Raghava Lawrence	Benz / Hunter / Kaala Bhairava	Passion Studios- G Squad - Goldmines Telefilms / Goldmines Studios
Arya	Mr. X / Ananthan Kaadu	Prince Pictures / Mini Studios
Vijay Sethupathi	Train / Thalaivan Thalaivi	V Creations / Sathya Jothi Films
Pradeep Ranganathan	LiK / Dude	Seven Screen Studio / Mythri Movie Makers
R. Madhavan	Adhirshtasaali	AA Media Corporation
Vishnu Vishal	Mohan Das / Aaryan / Irandu Vaanam	Vishnu Vishal Productions / Sathya Jyothi Films
Vijay Antony	Agni Siragugal / Sakthi Thirumagan / Lawyer	Amma Creations / Vijay Antony Film Corporation
Arun Vijay	Agni Siragugal / Retta Thala	Amma Creations / BTG Universal
Jiiva	Golmaal	Jaguar Studios
Soori	Mandaadi	RS Infortainment
Santhanam	STR 49	Dawn Pictures
RJ Balaji	Happy Ending	Million Dollar Studios
M. Sasikumar	Naa Naa, Pagaivanukku Arulvai / Freedom & My Lord / Evidence #8	Multiple Producers & Olympia Movies / Five Star Creations
Prabhudeva	Flashback, Michael Musasi & Moon Walk	Abhishek Films, Joy Film Box Entertainment & Behindwoods
Siddharth	Untitled film / 3 BHK	Passion Studios / Shanthi Talkies
Kavin	Kiss / Mask / Hi	Romeo Pictures / Grass Root Films / Seven Screen Studio

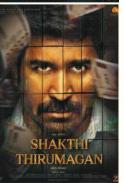














# TAMIL FILMS OF LEAD ACTORS EXPECTED IN 2025 - 26













Lead Actors (Select List in alphabetical order)	Films expected	Producer (s)
Aadhi	Yet to be announced	-
Aari Arjunan	4th Floor / Untitled film	Mano Creation / Madras Deck Entertainment
Arjun Das Arulnidhi	Once More / Bomb Untitled Film	Million Dollar Studios / Gembrio Pictures Film with Director Muthiah
Ashok Selvan	AS 23	Happy High Pictures
Atharvaa	Address / Thanal / Parasakthi / Idhayam Murali	Ajey Krishna / Annai Film Production / Dawn Pictures / Dawn Pictures
Bharath	Munnarivaan / Kalidas 2	Libra Productions / Sky Pictures
Dhruv Vikram	Bison	Applause Entertainment & Neelam Productions
Dinesh	Thandakaaranyam / Karuppu Pulsar	Neelam Productions / Yasho Entertainment
G.V. Prakash Kumar	ldi Muzhakkam / Untitled film / Mental Manathil / Blackmail / Immortal	Skyman Films International / Neelam Productions / Parallel Universe Pictures / JDS Film Factory / Ak Film Factory
Gautham Karthik	Criminal / Mr.X (with Arya)	Parsa Pictures-Big Print Pictures / Prince Pictures
Harish Kalyan	Nooru Kodi Vanavil / Diesel / HK 15	Balaji Kapa / SP Cinemas / Think Studios
Hip Hop Adhi	Yet to be announced	-
Jai	Karuppar Nagaram / Jai 32 / Untitled Film / Untitled Film	R. Ramesh / Mithun Mithra Productions / Studio Green / BV Frames
Kalaiyarasan	Yet to be announced	-
Kalidas Jayaram	Yet to be announced	-
Kathir	Aasai / Maanavan	Eagle's Eye Entertainment / Fortune Studios
Kreshna	Untitled Film / Kreshna 23 / Kreshna 25	EVEG Entertainment / Dawn Creations / Manu Manthra Creations
Manikandan	Untitled	Neelam Productions
Mahat Raghavendra	Kadhale Kadhale	Sri Vaari Films
(Master) Mahendran	Arindam	Raw 1 Media
Mirchi Shiva	Saloon / Golmaal / Paranthu Po	Inder Kumar / Jaguar Studios / Jio Hotstar
Nakkul	The Dark Heaven	Team B Productions
Prashanth	Prashanth 55 with Dir. Hari	Staar Movies
Rio Raj	Aan Paavam Pollathathu	Drumstick Productions
Sathish	Yet to be announced	-
S.J. Suryah	Many films in Key roles	Yet to be announced as the Lead Hero
Shantanu Bhagyaraj	Untitled Film / Magenta	Studio Green / Brand Blitz Entertainment
Sibi Sathyaraj	Yet to be announced	
Srikanth	Theenkirai / Operation Laila	TWD Media / Selrin Production
Taman Kumar	Jenma Natchathiram	Amoham Studios
Vaibhav	Aalambana	KJR Studios
Vasanth Ravi	Indra	JSM Movie Production & Emperor Entertainment
Vemal	Desingu Raja 2 / Untitled Film	Infinity Creations / Ajith Vinayaka Films
Vetri	Iravu	M.S. Murugaraj
Vidaarth	Kaagangal / Untitled / Madhiyaalan	Mayavaram Pictures / Cuviyam Films / Studio Jockey Entertainment
Vikram Prabhu	Rathamum Sathaiyum / Pagaiye Kaththiru / Untitled	Karthik Advaith / Kandhan Arts / Seven Screen Studios
Vikranth	Will / The Killer Man	Footsteps Productions / Big Bang Cinemas
Yogi Babu	Medical Miracle / Constable Nandhan/ Untitled	A1 Productions / Shankar Productions / Dev Cinemas

















# RAKKAYÎE









### **EXPECTED IN 2025 - 26**

Lead Actress (Select List in random order)	Films expected	Producer (s)	
Nayanthara	Mannangatti / Rakkayie / Mookuthi Amman 2	Prince Pictures / Drumsticks Productions & MovieVerse Studios / Vels Film International	
Trisha	Karuppu	Dream Warrior Pictures	
Keerthi Suresh	Revolver Rita / Kanni Vedi	Passion Studios / Dream Warrior Pictures	
Rashmika Mandana	Rainbow / Girl Friend	Dream Warrior Pictures / Geetha Arts	
Pooja Hegde	Jananayangan	KVN Productions	
Nithya Menen	Idly Kadai / Thalaivan Thalaivi	Dawn Pictures / Sathya Jyothi Films	
Sai Pallavi	Yet to be announced	-	
Jyotika	Yet to be announced	-	
Shruti Haasan	Coolie / Chennai Story / Train	Sun Pictures / Guru Films / V Creations	
Samantha Prabhu	Yet to be announced	-	
Parvathy	Yet to be announced	-	
Aishwarya Rajesh	Karuppar Nagaram / Theeyavar Kulaigal Nadunga / Valaiyam	RR Filmmakers / GS Arts / Axcess Film Factory	
Aditi Shankar	Once More	Million Dollar Studios	
Andrea Jeremiah	Pisasu 2 / Manushi / Mask	Rockfort Entertainment / Grass Root Films / Grass Root Films	
Krithi Shetty	Vaa Vaathiyaar / LiK / Genie	Studio Green Films / 7 Screen Studios / Vels Film International	
Mamitha Baiju	Jana Nayagan / Irandu Vaanam / Suriya 46	KVN Productions / Sathya Jyothi Films / Sithara Entertainments	
Kayodu Lohar	Idhayam Murali / STR 49 / Immortal	Both by Dawn Pictures / AK Film Factory	
Hansika Motwani	Gandhari / Man	Masala Pix / Madras Studios	
Priya Bhavani Shankar	Yet to be announced	-	
Tamannaah Bhatia	Yet to be announced	-	
Dushara Vijayan	Yet to be announced	-	
Priyanka Mohan	Yet to be announced	-	
Aishwarya Lekshmi	Yet to be announced	-	
Malavika Mohanan	Yet to be announced	-	
Raashi Khanna	Yet to be announced	-	
Varalakshmi Sarathkumar	Untitled film	Studio Green Films	
Kajal Agarwal	Yet to be announced	-	
Vani Bhojan	Pagaivanukku Arulvai / Untitled film	4 Monkeys Studios / Studio Green Films	
Ivana	Yet to be announced	-	
Kayal Anandhi	Mangai	JSM Pictures	
Sai Dhanshika	The Proof / Yogi Da	Golden Studios / Sri Monica Cini Films	











# New Tamil Films Expected to release from July 2025 onwards...

The following is the list of films that are expected to release from July 2025 onwards as per the release date announced by the Producers. This is only a tentative list and will be updated every month.

Producers are requested to make a note of the release schedule and plan their releases based on this. We sincerely request Producers not to plan their releases if already 3 or 4 films have scheduled a release date.

G IN	Date	Film Title	Production Banner	Director Name	Lead Actor	Theatre / OTT	Satellite rights	OTT rights	Genre
	04-Jul	Paranthu Po	Seven Seas & Seven Hills Producton	Ram	Mirchi Shiva	Theatre	Vijay TV	Jio-Hostar	Family
	04-Jul	3 внк	Shanti Talkies	Sri Ganesh	Siddarth- Sarath Kumar	Theatre	Vijay TV	Amazon Prime	Family
MUTALWAY THE PROPERTY OF THE P	04-Jul	Akkenam	A & P Groups	Uday K	Arun Pandian - Keerthi	Theatre			Thriller
	04-Jul	Phoenix	AK Braveman Picturess	'ANL' Arasu	Surya Sethupathi	Theatre			Sports
MILLION	10-Jul	Freedom	Vijaya Ganapathi's Pictures	Sathyasiva	M Sasikumar	Theatre			Thriller
Madharasi	11-Jul	Desinguraja 2	Infinity Creations	S. Ezhil	Vemal	Theatre			Comedy
15T OCTOBER	11-Jul	Oho Enthan Baby	Vishnu Vishal Studioz	Krishnakumar Ramakumar	Rudra	Theatre		NetFlix	Love
190	18-Jul	Maarisan	Super Good Films	Sudheesh Sankar	Vadivelu- Fahadh Fazil	Theatre		NetFlix	Comedy
	25-Jul	Thalaivan Thalaivi	Sathya Jyothi Films	Pandiraj	Vijay Sethupathi	Theatre		Amazon Prime	Family
	25-Jul								
	01-Aug	Blackmail	JDS Film Factory	Mu.Maran	G.V. Prakash Kumar	Theatre			Thriller
	14-Aug	Coolie	Sun Pictures	Lokesh Kanagaraj	Rajinikanth	Theatre	Sun TV	Netflix	Action
	22-Aug								
VAATHIYAAR	27-Aug	Revolver Rita	Passion Studios-The Route	JK Chandru	Keerthi Suresh	Theatre		Netflix	Action- Comedy
	05-Sep	Madharasi	Sri Lakshmi Movies	A.R. Murugadoss	Sivakarthikeyan	Theatre			Action
	05-Sep	Shakthi Thirumagan	Vijay Antony Film Corporation	Arun Prabhu	Vijay Antony	Theatre	Vijay TV	Jio-Hostar	Action
MRX	12-Sep								
	18-Sep	Love Insurance Kompany	Seven Screen Studios	Vignesh Shivan	Pradeep Ranganathan	Theatre			Fantasy Love
	26-Sep								
	01-Oct	Idly Kadai	Dawn Pictures	Dhanush	Dhanush- Arun Vijay	Theatre		Amazon Prime	Family
	10-Oct								
BISON	17-Oct	Sardar 2	Prince Pictures	PS Mithran	Karthi	Theatre			
	17-Oct	Bison	Neelam Productions	Maari Selvaraj	Dhruv Vikram	Theatre		NetFlix	Sports
	17-Oct	Dude	Mythri Movie Makers	Keerthiswaran	Pradeep Ranganathan	Theatre		NetFlix	Action
	24-Oct								
	31-Oct								
DHRUVA	07-Nov								
	14-Nov								
No all	21-Nov								
列举作	28-Nov								
SHAKTRI THIRUMAGAN	05-Dec	The Raja Saab	People Factory	Maruthi	Prabhas	Theatre			
	12-Dec								
	19-Dec								
	26-Dec								
A STATE OF	02-Jan								
FREEDOM	09-Jan	Jananayagan	KVN Productions	H. Vinoth	Vijay	Theatre	Sun TV	Amazon Prime	Action
*	* All the abo	ove release dates a	re tentative, as per trade reports ar	nd subject to change	. Will be updated e	very month			





















TFAPA is growing every month with the addition of new members. TFAPA is an Active Producer Association taking up several new initiatives to benefit its members and Tamil film industry at large. TFAPA is respected for its active participation and quick support of its members and the industry at large. As of June 2025, the active membership of TFAPA is more than 355 and Team TFAPA wishes to thank the members for trusting the Association and being a part of this growing family. In this section, we feature the new Producer members who joined during June 2025 to TFAPA, to introduce them to the entire community of TFAPA members and also to the film trade. At TFAPA, we are delighted to welcome 6 new members who joined us in June 2025, whose details are below. We wish all the new members great success in their film production journey and assure them of the support of our Association.

S.No.	MEMBERSHIP TYPE	COMPANY NAME	PRODUCER'S NAME
1.	New Producer Member	M/s JSJ MEDIA ENTERTAINMENTS	Mr. JASON SANJAY
2.	New Producer Member	M/s TAKE OK PRODUCTIONS	Mr. K. VENKATA SUBBA REDDY
3.	New Producer Member	M/s NOISE AND GRAINS PRIVATE LIMITED	Mr. SRINIVASAN.P - Mr. ASHOKCHAND MAHAVEER
4.	New Producer Member	M/s Mr. PICTURES	Mr. R. RAJARAJAN
5.	New Producer Member	M/s SV PRODUCTIONS	Mr. SHIVASHANKAR.S
6.	New Producer Member	M/s JSM MOVIE PRODUCTION	Mr. A JAFFER SADIQ

With their addition, TFAPA's family has grown further and became stronger. Our current strength of active producer members is as given below:

#### Summary of TFAPA Members as of 30th June 2025:

Type of Members	Number of Members as of 30.06.2025
New Producer Members	271
Associate Members	21
Primary Members	59
Corporate Members	4
Total Active Members	355



TFAPA provides several services to its members efficiently and a few of them are listed below:

- 1. Title registration if no objection is received within 72 hours of receipt of application.
- 2. Publicity clearance for Censor purposes within 48 hours of receipt of application.
- 3. In addition, TFAPA helps the members to get the Censor certification in the other three South Indian languages by coordinating with other language associations and using that issue letter.
- 4. Dispute resolution within 48 hours of receipt of complaints/disputes from members relating to trade, FEFSI, or any Technician or Actor.
- 5. Recommendation to FEFSI for shoot commencement on the same day of receipt of the request.
- 6. Supporting the members in the business of their film, within the gambit of the Association by tying up with various business units and technology firms.
- 7. Regular information on the happenings in the industry and guidance wherever required.
- 8. Tariff/cost negotiation for various activities to benefit the members.
- 9. Tamil Cinema Trade Guide to all its members to know more about the happenings in the industry.
- 10. Regular meetings to brief the members on the changes happening in the industry.
- 11. Many other services or support as required from time to time.

Owned, Printed and Published by TAMIL FILM ACTIVE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION (TFAPA) from E2/G, Gemini Parsn Apartments, Old No.599, New No.448A, Anna Salai, Chennai – 600 006 and Printed at The Safire Industries, 3/28, Vembakottai Road, Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu – 626 123.

To Advertise in this monthly Trade Guide, please contact: Ms. Prasanna Lakshmi at 9566064204.

Designer: **Senthil Govindasamy** PRO for the Association: **Nikil Murugan** 

FOR INTERNAL CIRCULATION AMONG TFAPA MEMBERS AND TRADE. MAGAZINE IS UNDER REGISTRATION







## TAMIL CINEMA TRADE GUIDE

Issue - 16/2025 A Ready Reckoner on Tamil Cinema

July 2025

