



Vendor Evaluation Checklist for Selecting a Line Producer in India

Introduction

India's film industry, valued at ₹19,700 crore in 2024, relies on line producers to navigate its complex landscape of diverse terrains, bureaucratic hurdles, and cultural nuances, delivering over 2,000 films annually and thriving OTT content for platforms like Netflix and Amazon Prime Video. As strategic vendors, line producers bridge creative visions with practical execution, managing budgets, crews, and compliance from Mumbai's bustling streets to Ladakh's high-altitude deserts. This vendor evaluation checklist provides a structured framework to assess line producers based on their capabilities in organization, production management, regional expertise, technical skills, and compliance. Using criteria drawn from successful projects like *Bajirao Mastani* and *The White Tiger*, it enables filmmakers and studios to select top-tier line producers who deliver Hollywood-standard results on Indian budgets. Evaluate each capability with a Yes/No response or a 1–5 rating (1 = Poor, 5 = Excellent) and add notes for qualitative insights.

Vendor Evaluation Checklist

Organizational and Leadership Capabilities

Capability	Evaluation (Yes/No or 1–5)	Notes
Hyper-Organization: Demonstrates meticulous planning for budgets, schedules, and crew coordination, using tools like Movie Magic Budgeting (e.g., <i>Brahmastra</i> 's ₹400 crore budget).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No / Rating: ____	
Confident Leadership: Unifies diverse crews with filmmaking knowledge, fostering collaboration (e.g., leading a 60-person crew for a Hyderabad OTT shoot).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No / Rating: ____	
Skillful Delegation: Assigns tasks efficiently, adapting to challenges (e.g., delegating fixers for Chennai permit issues, saving ₹5 lakh).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No / Rating: ____	
Problem-Solving: Resolves crises swiftly, such as equipment failures or delays (e.g., securing backup locations for <i>Laxmii</i> in Pune).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No / Rating: ____	
Effective Communication: Builds trust with department heads and clients, discussing technical setups (e.g., lighting with DP for a night shoot).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No / Rating: ____	
Adaptability: Manages unpredictable settings like monsoon delays or union disputes (e.g., <i>Kantara</i> 's Karnataka coastal shoot).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No / Rating: ____	



Pre-Production Expertise

Capability	Evaluation (Yes/No or Rating)	Notes
Script Breakdown and Budgeting: Analyzes scripts for cost estimates, creating day-by-day budgets (e.g., <i>Ponniyin Selvan</i> 's historical costume budgeting in	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	
Crew Hiring: Sources specialized talent via local networks, saving 10–15% (e.g., hiring costume designers for <i>Brahmastra</i> in Mumbai).	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	
Business Logistics: Secures LLCs, deal memos, and insurance (₹20–50 lakh for mid-budget films), ensuring GST/TDS compliance.	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	
Department Collaboration: Aligns creative needs with budgets (e.g., vibrant Goa sets for a romantic drama within ₹15 lakh).	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	
Equipment Sourcing: Negotiates vendor bids for gear like 4K cameras, saving 20% (e.g., <i>Sardar Udham</i> 's Amritsar shoot).	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	
Permit Acquisition: Secures municipal or ASI permits efficiently (e.g., Varanasi ghats shoot avoiding prayer hours).	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	

Production Management Skills

Capability	Evaluation (Yes/No or 1– Rating)	Notes
Daily Operations Management: Oversees call sheets and departments for efficiency (e.g., <i>Delhi Crime</i> 's Chandni Chowk early-morning shoots).	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	
Crisis Resolution: Addresses issues like equipment failures swiftly (e.g., Kolkata night shoot generator replacement, saving ₹7 lakh).	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	
Crew Coordination: Manages large, diverse crews (e.g., <i>Bajirao Mastani</i> 's 500+ crew across Rajasthan and Maharashtra).	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	
Post-Production Prep: Secures editing suites and organizes assets (e.g., booking VFX studios for an action film's explosion sequences).	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	
Cost Control: Prevents overruns with proactive measures (e.g., <i>Laxmi</i> 's crowd management in Pune, saving ₹3 lakh).	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	

Post-Production and Financial Closure

Capability	Evaluation (Yes/No or 1–5 Rating)	Notes
Post-Production Oversight: Monitors editing, sound, and VFX, managing overruns (e.g., <i>Tumbbad</i> 's ₹5 lakh VFX reallocation).	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	
Budget Closure: Reconciles expenses (e.g., ₹30 lakh crew wages) and	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	
Equipment Returns: Ensures timely return of cameras and props, avoiding late fees (e.g., <i>Kumbalangi Nights</i> ' Kerala wrap-up).	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	
Documentation: Organizes paperwork for legal/financial closure, preventing	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	

Regional and Compliance Expertise



Capability	Evaluation (Yes/No or 1–5)	Notes
Mumbai Union Handling: Negotiates with FWICE for fair wages without budget inflation (e.g., <i>Shantaram</i> 's Dharavi shoot).	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	
Delhi ASI Permits: Secures heritage site approvals, navigating delays (e.g., <i>Sardar Udham</i> 's Red Fort shoot during Diwali).	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	
FCRA and Tax Compliance: Manages GST, TDS, and FCRA for foreign crews (e.g., <i>The White Tiger</i> 's \$15 million budget).	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	
State Incentives Knowledge: Leverages subsidies like Madhya Pradesh's 25% rebate (e.g., <i>Padmaavat</i> 's Rajasthan permits).	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	
High-Altitude Logistics: Handles extreme terrains with specialized gear (e.g., <i>3 Idiots</i> ' Pangong Lake at 4,350 meters).	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	
Risk Assessments: Conducts safety checks for sensitive areas (e.g., Assam's Kaziranga for BBC documentaries).	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	
Multi-Sector Experience: Adapts to feature films, documentaries, commercials, and branded content (e.g., <i>Kumbalangi Nights</i> ' indie logistics).	[] Yes [] No / Rating: ____	

Instructions for Use

- **Evaluation:** Check “Yes” or “No” for each capability based on the line producer’s portfolio, references, or interview responses, or assign a 1–5 rating (1 = Poor, 5 = Excellent) for nuanced assessment.
- **Notes:** Document specific evidence (e.g., past projects, tools used) or concerns to support evaluations.
- **Decision-Making:** Prioritize vendors with high ratings or “Yes” responses in critical areas like crisis resolution, compliance, and regional expertise. Compare notes for qualitative insights to select the best fit for your project’s scale, genre, and location.