

'They Make A Great Pair': Ranabaali Director On Casting Rashmika Mandanna Opposite Vijay Deverakonda



Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda's upcoming film *Ranabaali* is one of the most-awaited films. Well, director Rahul Sankrityan opened up about casting Rashmika Mandanna as the female lead and the impact of the duo's popularity on the project. During a conversation, the filmmaker shared details about the thought process behind bringing Rashmika on board for the film.

In conversation with *Variety India*, Rahul Sankrityan shared the story behind the casting of Rashmika Mandanna as Vijay Deverakonda's on-screen wife, Jayamma. He said, "Initially, we were discussing multiple options for this character. But we wanted a female actor with a pan-India presence because we want to pitch this story to the national audience as well. And that is how we signed Rashmika. They make a great pair and there is good chemistry between them."

The director continued, "It is just a happy coincidence that they have got married because there is already a huge interest in them as a couple, and they also play a couple in this film. Actually, I wasn't aware that they were going to make their relationship official. But after some time, Vijay informed me about their wedding plans. Their real-life relationship will help my film."

The first look of *Ranabaali* was unveiled on Monday, January 26, offering a striking visual introduction to Vijay Deverakonda's character. The teaser shows Vijay as a fierce warrior mounted on a horse, dragging a British officer across rugged terrain — a raw, confrontational image

that hints at rebellion, resistance, and buried histories.

Set in 19th-century India, *Ranabaali* is inspired by real-life events said to have occurred between 1854 and 1878 during British rule. The first glimpse suggests the film explores a dark chapter of colonial history, referencing large-scale violence, staggering economic plunder and human loss during that period.

In the film, Vijay plays a freedom fighter named *Ranabaali*, a character positioned as fierce and uncompromising in his rebellion. Rashmika will portray Jayamma, a pivotal role expected to anchor the emotional core of the story. Actor Arnold Vosloo is set to appear as the antagonist, Sir Theodore Hector.

The makers have locked September 11, 2026, as the film's theatrical release date.

When Samantha Ruth Prabhu Opened Up About Motherhood: 'My Child Will Be My Universe'



The rumours of Samantha Ruth Prabhu expecting her first child with second husband Raj Nidimoru circulated after pictures and videos from *Maa Inti Bangaaram*'s celebration surfaced online. While the couple hasn't reacted to the ongoing chatter, social media is abuzz with speculation that Samantha is all set to embrace motherhood.

Amid this, an old comment by the actress about whether she would continue to work after becoming a mother has resurfaced on social media.

Back in 2018, a few months after marrying her then-husband Naga Chaitanya, the actress had spoken about giving her child her undivided attention. Samantha Ruth Prabhu had said, "When I have a child, that child is going to be my universe. I have the greatest respect for working mothers."

Further speaking about how her childhood had influenced her desire to make her baby her entire

world, the actress continued, "My childhood was not very rosy. For all adults who haven't had a very rosy childhood, the first thing they will tell you is that they want to give their child everything that they did not have. That's something that has stuck with me. So, I think the first few years after I have a child, I would not be anywhere. That child will be everything for me."

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Samantha Ruth Prabhu Reportedly Pregnant With First Child

As per *Pinkvilla*, Samantha Ruth Prabhu is pregnant and expecting her first baby with Raj Nidimoru. A source close to the development told the portal, "It's a

very special phase for Samantha and Raj. They are both extremely excited and have been spending a lot of quality time together as they prepare for this new journey."

The source further added that the two are cherishing this time as they prepare to welcome their child later this year. The baby is reportedly due in December 2026.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu's Work Front
On the professional front, Samantha Ruth Prabhu's latest Telugu film, *Maa Inti Bangaaram*, has recently hit theatres. Directed by Nandini Reddy, the film was released on June 18, 2026.

The movie features Samantha in the lead role alongside Gulshan Devaiah and Diganth Manchale. The film has been one of the actress' most talked-about recent projects and marks her return to Telugu cinema.

Nayanthara Celebrates Samantha Ruth Prabhu's Maa Inti Bangaaram Success: 'You Deserve All The Love'

Samantha Ruth Prabhu is celebrating the success of the recently released film, *Maa Inti Bangaaram*. The action comedy entertainer has been going strong at the box office. Praise is coming from all corners. Nayanthara also joined the list and cheered for Samantha. She also penned a sweet message wishing love and success to the entire team.

Taking to her Instagram stories, Nayanthara shared the film poster and wrote, "Happy for u sammmmm @samantharuthprabhuoffl You deserve all the love n success .bigggg congratulations to the entire team of MIB." Samantha Ruth Prabhu's latest Telugu film, *Maa Inti Bangaaram*, has recently hit theatres. Directed by Nandini Reddy, the film was released on June 18, 2026.

Maa Inti Bangaaram Box Office Day 2
The movie features Samantha in the lead role alongside Gulshan Devaiah and Diganth Manchale. The film has been one of the actress' most talked-about recent projects and marks her return to Telugu cinema. According to trade website *Sacnilk*, *Maa Inti Bangaaram* earned ₹6.57 crore on its second day in theatres. The increase comes after the film collected ₹5.35 crore on its opening day. With this, the film's total India net collection has reached ₹11.92 crore, while its India gross stands at ₹13.95 crore. The Day 2 performance marks a notable jump from its opening figures and suggests that audiences are continuing to turn up for the Nandini Reddy directorial. The film has also managed to out-



perform the first-day collections of titles such as *Yashoda*, *Ghaati* and *The Girlfriend*.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu To Welcome First Baby
Samantha Ruth Prabhu is reportedly set to enter a new phase in her personal life. According to a *Pinkvilla* report, the actress is expecting her first child with filmmaker Raj Nidimoru. The report claims that Samantha is currently in her first trimester and that the baby is due in December 2026. As per *Pinkvilla*, Samantha Ruth Prabhu is pregnant and expecting her first baby with Raj Nidimoru. A source close to the development told the portal, "It's a very special phase for Samantha and Raj. They are both extremely excited and have been spending a lot of quality time together as they prepare for this new journey."

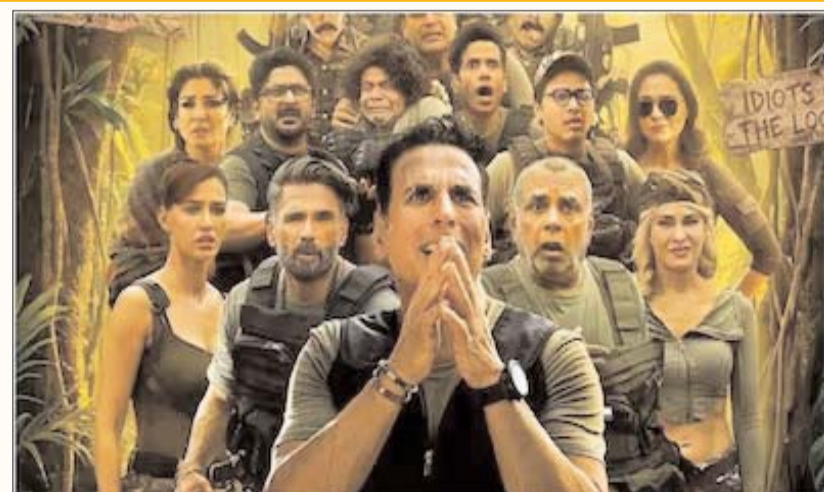
The source further added that the two are cherishing this time as they prepare to welcome their child later this year. The baby is reportedly due in December 2026.

Welcome To The Jungle Cleared After 18 CBFC Cuts, Disha Patani And Jacqueline's 'Sensual Visuals' Deleted

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has granted *Welcome To The Jungle* a U/A 16+ certificate, but only after mandating extensive changes across both dialogue and visuals. In total, the film—starring Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty, Disha Patani, Jacqueline Fernandez and others—underwent 18 cuts before receiving approval for theatrical release, leading to alterations in multiple scenes.

Several lines were modified or removed due to concerns over political sensitivity and crude language. A dialogue in the film mentioning "Paani of Kashmir" was deleted entirely, while the phrase "desh ki tatti" was also removed. Military-related terminology was altered, with "Gorkha Regiment" changed to "Tum army se ho?" and the word "General" replaced consistently with "Officer" or "Sir" throughout the film.

Multiple comedic dialogues were rewritten to soften their tone. The line "Kaala paida hua hai, koyla hai" was revised to



"saadah paida hua hai, namoona hua hai", while "Yaad karo kurbani, munh mein bhar lo paani" was changed to "Jo shaheed hone ja raha tha, uske munh mein bhar lo paani".

The word "andha" was replaced with "dheela", and the name "Azaruddin" was modified to "Allaudin". Additionally, "screwed" was replaced in two instances, and a 10-second scene featuring the phrase "na diya"

was removed.

On the visual front, the CBFC ordered significant cuts including sensual bikini shots, close-ups of women's hips, and repeated hip-movement choreography were removed or replaced. Several 'sensual visuals' featuring Disha Patani and Jacqueline Fernandez were cut from the final version. A scene showing a vulgar hand gesture was also deleted and replaced.

Despite these extensive revisions, the final certified runtime stands at 164.50 minutes, or 2 hours, 44 minutes, and 50 seconds.

Welcome To The Jungle is scheduled to release in cinemas on June 26, 2026. Directed by Ahmad Khan, the film promises to bring back the trademark chaos and confusion of the *Welcome* franchise, but on a much bigger canvas.

The film aims to take the madness of the earlier instalments forward while introducing a new set of characters and situations.

The film features Akshay Kumar in the lead role, along with Suniel Shetty, Arshad Warsi, Disha Patani, Jacqueline Fernandez, Raveena Tandon, Lara Dutta, Jackie Shroff, Urvashi Rautela, Paresh Rawal, Johnny Lever, Rajpal Yadav, Shreyas Talpade, Tusshar Kapoor, Krushna Abhishek, Kiku Sharda and Daler Mehendi, among others.



Light, airy and straight out of a Pinterest board, Radhika Seth's lace-trimmed babydoll dress is perfect for romantic brunches, vacations and every photo-op in between.