TEN YEARS, STILL RISING

Actress Disha Patani reflects on her decade-long Bollywood journey



Ten years in the film industry can change an actor in more ways than one. For Disha Patani, the journey has been about finding her footing, trusting her instincts and becoming more confident in her choices. Having made her Bollywood debut with MS Dhoni: The Untold Story (2016), the actress has also starred in films such as Baaghi 2, Malang and Kalki 2898 AD among others.

'I've learned to trust my instincts'

Looking back at a decade in the industry, the Welcome To The Jungle actress says the biggest change has been the sense of self she has developed along the way. "I'm a lot more grounded and surer of who I am today. I've learned to trust my instincts — both in the characters I choose on screen and the style statements I make off it," she says while talking to ETimes at the Juicy Couture's After Dark event. The journey, however, has also brought its share of challenges and scrutiny. Disha says the public attention has taught her to focus on what truly matters. "Never let external opinions dictate your self-worth. I have learnt to stay focused on my work and believe in surrounding myself with positive energy. When you put in hard work every single day, it builds an inner strength that reflects in everything you do and wear. My confidence comes from discipline," she adds.

Drawing confidence from discipline

Known for her fitness regimen, Disha believes that the confidence she carries comes from self-discipline. Fitness, she says, goes beyond physical appearance and has played an important role in shaping her mindset. "Fitness isn't just about how you look; it's a mental anchor. When you put in the hard work every single day, it builds an inner strength that reflects in everything you do and wear. My confidence comes from discipline," she signs off. —ETimes

'Panchayat' makers' posts leave fans guessing

Panchayat' fans eager to revisit Phulera will have to hold on a little longer, as OTT platform has hinted in a cryptic update that Season 5 will not release in 2026, despite earlier reports pointing to a year-end arrival. However, the makers have put up two social media posts in quick succession, and viewers are now guessing that an official announcement may be close.

The makers took to social media on Sunday to confirm that 'Panchayat Season 5' will not be releasing this year. The opening slide of the post said, "Panchayat Season 5 iss saal nahi aaega (Panchayat Season 5 won't come this year)." The next slide showed Durgesh Kumar, who plays Bhushan Sharma, better known as Banrakas. The caption read, "Batate hue khed hai, Panchayat ka agla season qaid hai (Regrettably, the next season of Panchayat is locked)."



The next day, on November 16, the makers put out one more post, this time with Sunita Rajwar as Kranti Devi. Her character seemed set on taking charge of Phulera. —ETimes

SRK to be in 'Koffee With Karan 9' finale?

The final season of 'Koffee With Karan' is turning out to be an emotional one for host Karan Johar, as the popular celebrity chat show prepares to sign off after a 22-year run. According to a recent report, the season finale will be particularly special for the filmmaker, with Shah Rukh Khan reportedly set to make an appearance alongside two other guests.



The finale will also mark the television debut of Karan's twins, Roohi and Yash, on the show. Shah Rukh holds a special place in the show's history, having been its first guest when it premiered in 2004. His appearance in the final episode is expected to bring the journey full circle for Karan. The episode was reportedly shot while Shah Rukh was busy filming for 'King'. With the actor juggling work commitments and preparations for the film, his limited time may explain why he could not be part of the entire episode. Reports also suggest that Suhana Khan will join the conversation. —ETimes

'Samuk' teaser unveiled

The makers of Akshay Kumar's upcoming sci-fi survival action thriller 'Samuk' have unveiled its motion poster, giving a look into the film's dark and mysterious world. The film is set in a misty forest backdrop as the poster shows the actor standing in a rugged cave-like setting, dressed in dark gear.

The motion poster opens with the tagline, "The mission is Human. The enemy is not." It then features a large, scaly, clawed appendage hanging menacingly above an eerie woodland, hinting at the threat faced by the characters. The visuals move to a dark, moss-covered cave with water flowing over rocks. Akshay appears as a lone figure at the entrance, silhouetted against a bright light. Along with the motion poster, the makers hinted at another announcement. Their social media post read, "#SAMUK unveils at 2.07 pm."

The film is being developed as a sci-fi survival-action thriller. The film is directed by Kanishk Varma.

The makers have scheduled Samuk for a theatrical release on May 28, 2027. Further details about the storyline and the rest of the cast are awaited. —ETimes



SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Hidden history

The Kannada movie Sangeetha Bar and Restaurant, starring Komal Kumar (affectionately called "Sensational Star" by his friends, fans, and well-wishers), Meghana Raj, and Anusha Rai, is set to be released shortly. As part of the promotional programmes, the team organised an event to release the movie's teaser. BJP Rajya Sabha MP and actor-cum-producer Jaggesh unveiled the teaser and wished good luck to the cast and crew of the movie. "I happened to watch a few scenes of the movie. Each one reflects director Sandesh Shetty's hard work and dedication. He is sure to become a famous director in Sandalwood in the future. The film is definitely worth discussing. I wish all the best to the cast and crew," Jaggesh said.



It is said that Komal Kumar plays the artist in a king's court while Meghana Raj plays the queen. The movie also stars Anusha Rai, Pramod Shetty, Vajradheer Jain, Sandesh Shetty, Prakash Thuminad, Raghu Ramanakoppa, Utsav, Karthik Rao, Sirija, Vardhan and others.

Director Sandesh Shetty Ajri said the filming of the movie has been completed.

Acting debut

Some Kannada movies have made headlines because of their budget and star cast, while others have hogged the limelight with unique titles and taglines. The upcoming movie, Lord Gaga, is set to join the list of such films with its unique title, interesting content, and concept. With this movie, Shoonya, who is known for handling the megaphone for the Kannada movie Head Bush in 2022, makes his debut as a hero in Sandalwood.

The movie, with its unique title, has already created a buzz among moviegoers.



The movie's team released its title and motion poster a few months ago. Now, the teaser has been unveiled, and the team is contemplating releasing the trailer and songs shortly.

Lord Gaga is written and directed by YK who is known for directing Kannada movie Gilki. The movie Lord Gaga is backed by Muki Raghunathan under the Zero Gravity Films banner.

As its title suggests, the movie Lord Gaga belongs to the cult genre. "The movie has all elements including love, romance, and feelings. It is a romantic psychological thriller," said the director.

The movie stars Shoonya, Swaroopini, Disha. Producer Muki Raghunathan has also played a character in the movie.