

Choona Hai Aasman isn't a Saara Aakash...

By: Tushar Joshi

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Iqbal Khan gears up to play a flight lieutenant in his new show



Come fly with me: Iqbal Khan

Iqbal Khan is back. After playing the casanova Angad in *Kaisa Yeh Pyaar Hai* and Shiv in *Karam Apna Apna*, Iqbal, who's back on the telly after nine months, has gone in for a completely new look for his new show, *Choona Hai Aasman* which airs on Star One.

A drama that revolves around the air force, Khan shot for the show with real Sukhoi fighter jets in Jodhpur. Here's the actor talking about why he took so long to take up a new show and the feel of sitting in the cockpit of a Sukhoi jet.

What are you playing in *Choona Hai Aasman*?

I play flight lieutenant Abhimanyu. He's a well-disciplined man who lives his life by a certain set of rules. My look is clean-shaven and I've cropped my hair really short for the role. Even though he may seem strict at times, there are various shades to his character.

How was the experience of shooting in a Sukhoi?

It was mindblowing. I seriously have no words to describe how it feels to wear the uniform and enter the cockpit. We shot with Su-30s in Jodhpur. Although we never took to the sky, just the feel of entering the plane was tremendous.

One can't sit inside the cockpit for more than ten minutes as the air inside gets used up. There are loads of buttons in the cockpit and trust me you don't want to press any of them!

Did you do any research or homework for this role?

Yes we were trained for two months on every aspect of the air force and how the planes work. It was more about getting into the skin of the character than anything. The love and passion of these guys for the country is outstanding and that came naturally to all of us. We worked a lot on the body language.

Is the show related in any way to *Saara Aakash*?

No. I want to clear this misconception. *Choona Hai Aasman* isn't a sequel to *Saara Aakash* !
