

Serial promises adventure, drama

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The starcast of Star One's *Choona Hai Aasman* (a love story set against an Air Force backdrop) was present in the capital recently. Actors Iqbal Khan, Vivan Bathena and Janvi Chhedha shared their experiences of working in the serial.

Television actor Iqbal Khan, of *Kaisa Yeh Pyaar Hai* fame has made an impressive comeback through this show. Speaking about his role in the serial, he said, "I play the role of Flight Lieutenant Abhimanyu Adhikari. He is a man of few words, but he comes up with one liners with shades of subtle humour. He is an intense person, who doesn't have any time for love."

Actor Vivan Bathena is playing the role of Flight Lieutenant Samarat Singh Shekhawat, an expert in the technicalities of a wide range of war explosives. He said, "My character has the gift of the gab and loads of attitude, but he is a charmer. A spoilt rich brat, he fiercely believes in living in the moment. Although he takes life quite easy, he is fiercely competitive. He joined the IAF for its glamorous lifestyle, but is very dedicated to his work."

Theatre artiste, Janvi Chhedha, who portrays the character of Sameera, a weapon system officer seemed quite upbeat about her role. "My character is of one of the first Indian women to fly a Sukhoi 30. She is no-fuss, no-nonsense kind of person, who is always ready to take on challenges and does not hesitate to get into tough situations to prove her point. She loves her family and country immensely," she said.

The starcast of *Choona Hai Aasman*, underwent rigorous training to get the feel of the character. "We were trained for about two-and-a-half months, before we started shooting for the serial. We learnt marshal art and kick-boxing and have used real jet planes for shooting which was an awesome experi-



(Above) Janvi Chhedha and Iqbal Khan; (right) Vivan Bathena in *Choona Hai Aasman*

The entire cast of *Choona Hai Aasman* underwent rigorous training to get the right feel and look of an Air Force officer

ence," said Janvi.

Vivan added, "We had real officers to teach us the mannerisms and attributes of an Air Force officer."

It has been long observed that patriotic soaps start off with drama, but gradually end up being love sagas, like it happened in *Saara Akash*. Interestingly, the cast of this show has high hopes from the serial and promises that it won't go off track.

"The serial begins with a love story and Air Force is in the backdrop. It is not just about planes and Air Force pilots, but about human emotions. It focuses on the life of a few Air Force pilots, who together form an anti-terrorist squad," informed Iqbal Khan.

