

Devendra Fadnavis's big claim: 'Urban naxals' involved in Rahul Gandhi's yatra

Devendra Fadnavis said the 'urban naxals' held a meeting in Kathmandu in November, just ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections, to trigger unrest in the state.

Mumbai. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has alleged that "urban naxal" outfits were involved in the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra, and they held a meeting in Nepal to hatch a conspiracy to destabilise BJP-led governments. Speaking in the Assembly, Fadnavis said the meeting was held in Kathmandu on November 15, just ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections, to trigger unrest in the financial capital.



Fadnavis said the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) had started a probe into the use of "terror funds" in the elections, asserting that there was "evidence of foreign interference".

"On November 15, a meeting was held in Kathmandu that was attended by some organisations which took part in the (Rahul Gandhi-led) Bharat Jodo Yatra and issues like opposing EVMs, and introduction of ballot papers in Maharashtra and BJP-ruled states were discussed," the Chief Minister told the Assembly.

Rahul Gandhi went on a cross-country foot march ahead of the Lok Sabha election to

► Devendra Fadnavis says urban naxal outfits held meeting in Nepal
► Claims they planned to trigger unrest in Maharashtra ahead of polls
► Says there was evidence of foreign interference in elections

garner support for the Congress. Fadnavis further

claimed that 40 of the 180 outfits that took part in Rahul Gandhi's yatra were named as frontal organisations by former Home Minister RR Patil during the Congress-NCP government. "On February 18, 2014, during the Manmohan Singh government, the Centre mentioned 72 frontal organisations in the Lok Sabha, out of which 7 were part of the Bharat Jodo Yatra," he further said.

The Chief Minister said these organisations campaigned for the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in the Maharashtra Assembly polls.

"There was evidence of foreign interference in Indian elections. The opposition is allowing their shoulders to be used by someone else," Fadnavis said. Fadnavis's claim comes at a time when the government presented the Maharashtra Special Public Security Act, 2024, in the Assembly to deal with "urban naxalism". The legislation proposes steps to deal with the "increasing presence of Naxalism in urban centres".

Navy chief to visit Mumbai to assess situation after 14 deaths in boat crash

The Navy Chief will review the situation after an accident between a naval speedboat and a ferry in Mumbai which left at least 14 people dead and 99 others injured.

New Delhi. Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi will visit Mumbai today to review the situation after an accident between a naval speedboat and a ferry that left at least 14 people dead and 99 others injured. Admiral Tripathi will also be given a detailed briefing on the accident by the officials of the Western Naval Command, sources told. The Navy Chief will also visit the spot off the Mumbai coast where the accident took place. He will also meet the injured personnel admitted to the naval hospital at INHS Ashwini in Mumbai. He will also be given a detailed briefing on the accident. A Navy craft undergoing engine trials lost control and collided with the passenger ferry 'Neel Kamal'



off Karanja near Mumbai. Of the 113 persons on board both vessels, 13 died and 98, including two injured, were rescued. Two people are still missing. There were six people on board the Navy craft, two of whom survived. Earlier on Thursday, the Indian Navy

instituted a 'Board of Inquiry' to probe the incident. The Navy said Search and Rescue (SAR) efforts had continued through the night of December 18-19 in the vicinity of the accident.

Two people from the ferry are still reported to be missing and search and rescue (SAR) operations to this end are in progress by eight Navy craft and a naval helicopter augmented by a Coast Guard vessel. "A Board of Inquiry has been ordered into the accident to establish the facts of the case," the Navy said. A probe into the incident is also being conducted by the Mumbai police after a case was registered against the Navy craft driver at Colaba police station.

DK Shivakumar says arrested Karnataka BJP leader's vulgar language 'not new'

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said BJP MLC CT Ravi's use of offensive language against Congress leaders was a pattern of derogatory behavior. He accused Ravi of disrespecting leaders like Siddaramaiah and Rahul Gandhi in the past.

Karnataka. Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar lashed out at BJP leader CT Ravi for his history of using derogatory language, calling it a "culture" Ravi had consistently displayed. Speaking to the media at the Circuit House in Belagavi on Friday, Shivakumar recalled several instances where Ravi had used offensive terms against Congress leaders, including referring to Siddaramaiah as "Sidramulla Khan."

"This is not new," Shivakumar said, referring to Ravi's repeated use of vulgar language. "We all know the kind of derogatory terms he has used in the past against Siddaramaiah and others. Is this the culture of Chikkamagaluru? Indian culture? Or BJP culture? I have never seen such low-level behaviour in Chikkamagaluru. He is the only one with such a despicable attitude," he remarked.

Shivakumar's comments came in response to a media question about Ravi's recent actions, which included calling Congress leader Rahul Gandhi a drug addict during an Assembly discussion about



the Union Home Minister's disrespect toward Dr Ambedkar. Ravi also allegedly used the word "prostitute" multiple times against Congress Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar when she defended her party's stance. "Is it wrong for our ministers to defend our leaders, just as the BJP defends theirs? Does this justify using such language?" Shivakumar asked, pointing out that Ravi had used the offensive word 12 times. He challenged the media to report these facts and offered to

provide records of Ravi's past statements.

Shivakumar also addressed concerns over the Speaker's handling of the issue. "The Speaker is a senior leader, and I respect him. However, his conduct in this matter was disappointing. He should have allowed a discussion and investigated what happened," he said. Shivakumar expressed disappointment that the Speaker had only summoned both sides to write statements instead of taking immediate action.

Regarding allegations of police misconduct, Shivakumar dismissed claims that the police had roamed around all night, stating, "I don't know what the police did. Allegations are made without basis." He added that while the police had been courteous, it was inappropriate for BJP leaders to hold meetings at the Khanapur police station. He stressed that the Congress would not interfere in police operations but insisted that Lakshmi Hebbalkar should not face issues in her constituency.

Arrested Karnataka BJP leader CT Ravi claims state police want to murder him

CT Ravi, the BJP MLC who was arrested for allegedly using a derogatory word against Karnataka minister Laxmi Hebbalkar, claimed there was a threat to his life from the Karnataka government, especially DK Shivakumar and Hebbalkar.

Karnataka. BJP Member of Karnataka Legislative Council CT Ravi, who was arrested on Thursday by Belagavi police, claimed there was a threat to his life from the Congress government. Ravi was taken into custody after an FIR (First Information Report) was registered against him, for allegedly using derogatory remarks against Congress leader and Karnataka cabinet minister Laxmi Hebbalkar in the Legislative Council earlier in the day.

He was first taken to Khanapur police station and later moved to Ram Durga station. The Karnataka BJP, on the other hand, claimed that Ravi was made to sit in a car and was taken around the city in the vehicle till this morning.

In a post on social media platform X, CT Ravi said the police were plotting



something against him. In the post he claimed that the Karnataka police took three hours to administer first aid to a man who sustained a head injury in police custody. He said that he had been sitting in a police vehicle and driven around for the past five to six hours.

"They are plotting something by parking their vehicles in a deserted area and talking on the phone. The police department and the Congress government are responsible for any trouble I face," he wrote in the post.

In another tweet, posted at 4.45 am this morning, Ravi shared pictures of the head injury with a caption, "No one is safe in Karnataka". Karnataka BJP also shared a video on X, along with the post that stated that a former minister (Ravi) accused a sitting MLA, the Congress in Karnataka, and the state government of plotting to murder him.

Saw fire everywhere, broke bus windows to escape: Eyewitness on Jaipur inferno

Jaipur. Sunil had little idea that a normal journey to Jaipur from Rajsamand would turn tragic as he left home with his friend, who recently got selected as a junior accountant, on Friday. As their bus was crossing the Jaipur-Ajmer highway, a massive fire broke out near a petrol pump after a chemical-laden truck collided with an LPG tanker and several other vehicles. The inferno left six dead, and over 40 people battling serious burn injuries. Over 40 vehicles were also gutted in the incident in Rajasthan's Bhankrota area. Sunil, who had a close shave, said he was lucky to escape with just burn injuries to his hand. However, some of his fellow passengers on the bus were not so fortunate.

"We were on a bus that was coming from Rajsamand. I was going to Jaipur with my friend



to submit some documents after he got selected as junior accountant. Suddenly, a huge explosion occurred near our bus. We just saw fire everywhere. The bus also caught fire," Sunil said.

The passengers soon found out that the main gate was jammed. "We had to break the windows to come out. Around 8-10 people came out with us. However, several people got trapped inside the bus. Some suffered burn injuries and one also died," Sunil said.

Around 20 fire tenders were rushed to the spot to douse the flames. The injured were taken to Jaipur's Sawai Man Singh Hospital for treatment. Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma visited the Sawai Man Singh Hospital and directed the officials to ensure the best treatment for the injured. Visuals from the area showed massive flames engulfing the fuel station as fire tenders tried to extinguish the flames. A senior police officer in Bhankrota said it was very difficult to control the fire initially as fire brigade teams were not able to reach the burning vehicles.

RSS chief jabs aspiring 'leaders of Hindus' over temple-mosque disputes

► Mohan Bhagwat's remarks stressed India's unity in diversity, condemning divisive tactics. He called for an inclusive, harmonious model, urging the country to set an example of coexistence for the world.

New Delhi. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday took a jibe at aspiring Hindu leaders for stirring up "Ram-temple-like" disputes at various places across India. He said that India should be set as an example of inclusivity and harmony. Calling attention to India's pluralistic society, the RSS chief said that Christmas is observed in Swami Ramakrishnan Mission, emphasising that "only we can do this because we are Hindus".

"We have been living in harmony for a long time. If we want to provide this harmony to the world, we need to create a model of it. After the construction of the Ram Mandir, some people think they can become leaders of Hindus by raking up similar issues in new places. This is not acceptable," he was quoted as saying by news agency.

He said that Ayodhya's Ram temple was built since it was a matter of faith for all Hindus, shunning any political motivation. Without naming any sites, he said, "Every day a new matter (dispute) is being raked up. How can this be allowed? This cannot continue.

India needs to show that we can live together." Speaking in Pune as a part of a lecture series on the "Vishwaguru Bharat" theme, the RSS Chief said that Indians should learn from previous mistakes and work towards making their



country a role model for the world. Recently, several demands for surveys of mosques to uncover hidden temples have been brought before the courts, although Bhagwat did not specify any in his lecture. He also said that certain external groups have brought with them a firm resolve, seeking to restore their

former rule. "But now the country runs as per the Constitution. In this setup, people choose their representatives who run the government. The days of hegemony are gone," he said.

Drawing two parallel examples from the Mughal Empire, the RSS Chief said that though Mughal emperor Aurangzeb was identified by his unyielding adherence, however, his descendant Bahadur Shah Zafar in 1857 prohibited cow slaughter.

"It was decided that Ram Mandir in Ayodhya should be given to Hindus, but the British sensed it and created a rift between the two communities. Since then, this sense of 'algavwad' (separatism) came into being. As a result, Pakistan came into existence," he said.

The RSS chief questioned the "language of dominance," saying, "What is its purpose if everyone identifies themselves as Indians?" "Who is a minority, and who is a majority? Everyone is equal here. The tradition of this nation is that all can follow their own forms of worship. The only requirement is to live in harmony and abide by rules and laws," he said.

► RSS chief criticises leaders for creating temple-mosque disputes
► Bhagwat calls for India to be a model of harmony
► Emphasises inclusivity in India's pluralistic society

Harshdeep Kaur

Turns 38: Interesting Facts About The 'Sufi Ki Sultana'

Having been in the Indian music industry for over two decades now, playback singer Harshdeep Kaur has truly proven that a musician's shelf life is not contained to a limited period but has the potential to be etched in people's memories forever. With humble beginnings in 2003, it has been over 20 years since Harshdeep Kaur entered the industry, bringing her unique Sufi twist to the typical Bollywood songs. The singer celebrates her 38th birthday today, on Monday, December 16. As we celebrate the singer's special day, let's take a look at some of some interesting facts about her.

Harshdeep Kaur Birthday: Interesting Facts

1. Harshdeep was born to a family of musicians and she was introduced to music at the very young age of six. While her father was a fine guitarist, she ended up learning Indian classical music from Tejpal Singh and Western classical from George Pullinkala.
2. Before making it into the music industry, Harshdeep took part in the MTV Video Gaga Contestant at 16, later even winning the title. In 2008, she won the singing competition Junoon: Kuch Kar Dikhaane Ka, where she was declared the Sufi Ki Sultana.
3. Harshdeep, who belongs to the Sikh community, is seen sporting a turban owing to religious reasons. While she would earlier perform with a dupatta on her head, it was on her brother-in-law's advice that she switched to a turban.
4. Not many know that Harshdeep played music narrators in Colors TV's Bani-Ishq Da Kalma, further also appearing in several seasons of Coke Studio in India.
5. In her celebrated musical career over the years, Harshdeep Kaur has proven her mettle as a recognised playback singer. From registering her voice with the serene Ik Onkar from Rang De Basanti to delivering some memorable tracks, she continued molding and experimenting with her music. Some of her most popular songs include Dilbaro from Alia Bhatt's Raazi, Katiya Karun from Rockstar composed by AR Rahman, and Gud Naal Ishq Mitha from Sonam Kapoor's Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga.



Urvashi Dholakia

Shweta Tiwari Almost Reunited For A Show Before Viral Ad: 'This 16-year Gap...'

Urvashi Dholakia and Shweta Tiwari's latest advertisement for YouTube has gone viral in no time. It features the duo, reprising their characters of Komolika and Perna from their popular television series, Kasautii Zindagii Kay. While their war of words remains intact, this time around they're seen speaking the Gen-Z lingo, adding an unexpected twist to their rivalry. At the same, Urvashi's Komolika is heard telling Perna, "Catfights are a misogynistic trope designed to reinforce patriarchal norms." Reacting to the wave of nostalgia netizens have been washed with, Urvashi exclusively tells News18 Showsha, "There are thousands of comments and I'm trying to read as many of them. But I'm so overwhelmed with all the positive responses. I think YouTube has hit the nail on the head. When they approached me and I read the script, I thought that it would either go completely wrong or completely right!"

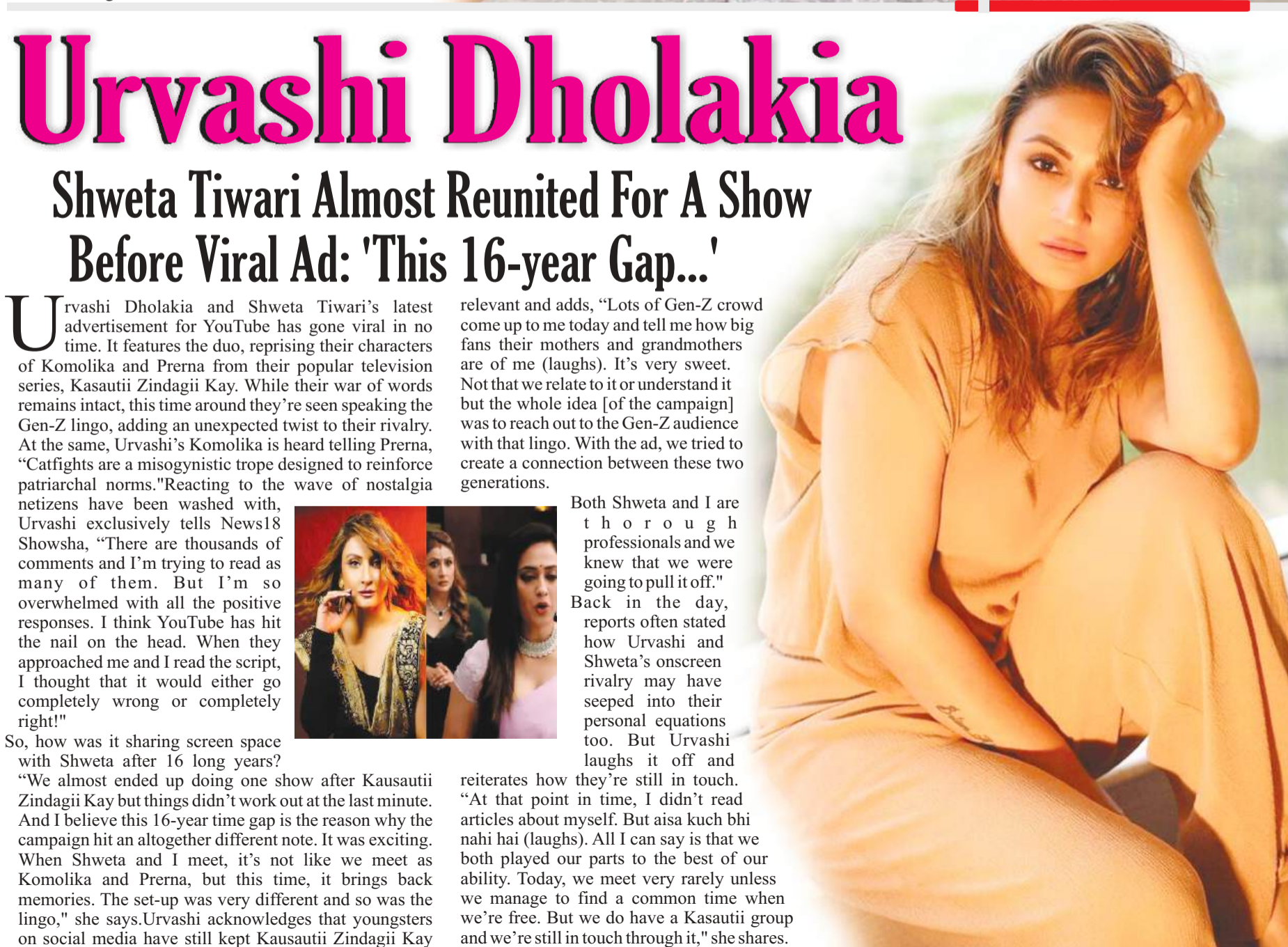
So, how was it sharing screen space with Shweta after 16 long years?

"We almost ended up doing one show after Kasautii Zindagii Kay but things didn't work out at the last minute. And I believe this 16-year time gap is the reason why the campaign hit an altogether different note. It was exciting. When Shweta and I meet, it's not like we meet as Komolika and Perna, but this time, it brings back memories. The set-up was very different and so was the lingo," she says. Urvashi acknowledges that youngsters on social media have still kept Kasautii Zindagii Kay

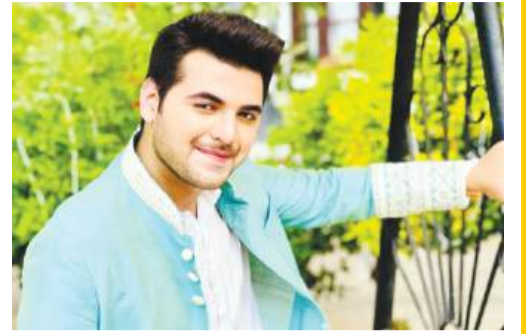
relevant and adds, "Lots of Gen-Z crowd come up to me today and tell me how big fans their mothers and grandmothers are of me (laughs). It's very sweet. Not that we relate to it or understand it but the whole idea [of the campaign] was to reach out to the Gen-Z audience with that lingo. With the ad, we tried to create a connection between these two generations."

Both Shweta and I are thorough professionals and we knew that we were going to pull it off." Back in the day, reports often stated how Urvashi and Shweta's onscreen rivalry may have seeped into their personal equations too. But Urvashi laughs it off and

reiterates how they're still in touch. "At that point in time, I didn't read articles about myself. But aisa kuch bhi nahi hai (laughs). All I can say is that we both played our parts to the best of our ability. Today, we meet very rarely unless we manage to find a common time when we're free. But we do have a Kasautii group and we're still in touch through it," she shares.



Vihan Verma Accuses Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Mein Of Favouritism, Calls It 'Frustrating'



TV actor Vihan Verma became a household name after he starred in Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Mein. He used to play the role of Mohit in the show, which also featured Neil Bhatt, Ayesha Singh and Aishwarya Sharma in the lead. Months after quitting the show, Vihan has now opened up about facing discrimination on the sets of the popular show. On being asked if he was ever treated unfairly on the sets of GHKKPM, Vihan told us, "To be honest, I wouldn't say I was treated unfairly, but there were days when I felt certain situations could have been more in my favour if I were a senior actor. This is quite common. People always favour seniors over newcomers, and rightly so. However, there are times when you don't expect someone to favour another person solely based on their age and seniority."

The young actor further made a shocking statement and claimed that the lead actors of a show are often favoured. "There's always an extra inclination towards the lead pair. Because they're the faces of the show, they shoot more days and hours than the rest of the cast. I faced a similar situation when I was made to wait in my room because one of the leads had a prior commitment and had to leave early, so the team was trying to wrap up their work first. While this is practical, it can be frustrating when you have your own personal commitments," he said.

However, Vihan also clarified that such incidents did not take a toll on his mental health. "I'm very secure in my work. I don't compare my status to someone else's. Everyone has had their fair share of journeys, and we all deserve better days. So, no, this hasn't affected my mental health in any way. It would take someone to stoop very low to hurt me mentally," he shared.

The actor also recalled the time when he learned that his scenes were cut short. "I came across a rumour that some of my scenes were cut because of one of the leads. Honestly, at that point, I was heartbroken because I was new to the show, and it's challenging to establish yourself in a hit show where people have great dynamics. I didn't clarify with the actor at that time, but I did much later. If something like this happens, where an actor has the authority to cut someone's lines, I think the makers are to be blamed, not the actor."

Katrina Kaif Stuns In Ethnic Outfit, Spotted At Mumbai Airport As She Leaves For Shirdi



Katrina Kaif never fails to leave fans stunned with her stunning sartorial choices, and this time was no different. The Bollywood actress channeled desi vibes, and was spotted in a beautiful ethnic suit as she was spotted at the private airport in Mumbai this morning. Katrina is reportedly heading to Shirdi to offer prayers. A video shared by paparazzo Manav Manglani shows Katrina Kaif arriving at Kalina airport in Mumbai. She was seen getting out of the car, before quickly heading inside the airport. However, as the paparazzi called out her name, she politely smiled and waved at them. The actress looked radiant as ever in an ivory kurta paired with matching flared palazzos, and a sheer organza dupatta with a scalloped hem. She left her tresses open, and wore dark sunglasses. Check out the video below!

As soon as the video surfaced on social media, fans gushed over Katrina Kaif's beauty. They dropped several heart emojis to express their love for her. Katrina Kaif and her hubby Vicky Kaushal celebrated their 3rd wedding anniversary on December 9. They went for a short trip to celebrate the special occasion, and only returned to Mumbai a few days ago. Their third wedding anniversary celebration was all about adventure, sightseeing, jungle and quality time with each other. Katrina Kaif shared several glimpses from their jungle adventure, giving fans a sneak-peek into their celebration. "48 hrs in the jungle," she wrote, while dropping photos from the getaway.

On the professional front, Katrina Kaif was last seen in Sriram Raghavan's mystery thriller film 'Merry Christmas' along with Vijay Sethupathi. The film was released in theatres on 12th January 2024. Katrina hasn't yet announced her next film. Fans had eagerly been waiting for updates on the film Jee Le Zaraa, starring Katrina, Alia Bhatt and Priyanka Chopra. While the film was announced in 2021, it faced several delays, with the dates of the actors becoming an issue. However, Zoya Akhtar and Farhan Akhtar have assured that the film has not been shelved and there is active effort being made to align everyone's schedules.