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High profile serial

DD Directorate is abuzz these days with the announcement of serializing Vishyanath Satyanarain's Telugu novel **Sahashrapan**. For DD the novelty in this Jnanpith awarded novel is its translation which was done by none other than the Prime Minister Mr Narasimha Rao! The proposal of the serial was put forward by Suhas Vision India on July 24, 1989 when Mr Rao was Minister, External Affairs, but the proposal was given the go-ahead only in time when Mr Rao became the PM. The 52-episode proposal has been cleared for 18 episodes only. The serial is also being talked about for its production team. The much awarded subject has T. S. Nagbharna as director and NSD's J. N. Kaushal as its script and dialogue writer and V. Sarla Rao as the

music director. The serial is being produced by Telugu writer P. Venu Kumar.

The serial has Girish Karnad, Uttara Baokar, Swapna Sundri, Zarina Wahab in stellar roles supported by artists from the Delhi stage.

Right from day one the approval has kicked up a lot of dust. According to sources, the serial initially had been rejected by Mandi House, though the producers refute the charge. According to him the then DG, Doordarshan, Shiv Sharma had asked for the serial's review in 1989. The producer and director had raised objections when this 52-episode proposal was given approval for 13 episodes only August 22, 1990. After a year in July 1991, DD responded only in asking for the music director's consent letter and the matter moved further after one year in July 1992 when the Mandi House bosses approved 18 episodes for the serial. As sources have it, **Sahashrapan** was approved for 18 episodes only after screenplays of all the episodes were seen by DD and suggested with some changes. The serial has already raised very high expectations because of a number of big names associated with it. The script of the serial is said to be quite strong.

