

Press Release

# **Anand Patwardhan's "War and Peace" on DD National**

Saturday 14 October 2006, by [PATWARDHAN Anand](#) (Date first published: 14 October 2006).

**After a long legal fight, Anand Patwardhan's "War and Peace" is set on DD National on Sunday morning 10.30, 15<sup>th</sup> October.**

It never rains, it pours! Fast on the heels of *Father, Son and Holy War* which Doordarshan (DD) telecast last Sunday morning, DD National is set to telecast Anand's anti-nuclear documentary *War and Peace* on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30 AM

While *Father, Son and Holy War* took 11 years in court, *War and Peace* has had its own share of legal and extra legal battles.

## **A chronology of events**

1. In February 2002 "War and Peace" a 163 minute anti-nuclear documentary won the Best Film/Video award at the Mumbai International Film Festival.
2. A few months later the Central Board of Film Certification under the obvious influence of the ruling BJP, refused to grant the film a certificate unless 21 cuts were made.
3. After a long appeals procedure, the matter finally went to court. In April 2003 the Bombay High Court ruled that the film be granted a "U" certificate without a single cut.
4. Ironically, in 2004, the same film won a National award for the Best Non-feature film. It was then submitted for telecast on Doordarshan. On five previous occasions the courts have ordered Doordarshan to show Anand's national award winning films.
5. The heads of Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati

agreed to telecast if certain sequences were removed from the film. Anand refused and a long battle of attrition followed.

6. With Anand threatening to return his National award and go to court once again, DD agreed in writing to telecast the film but attempted to set the time slot at 11.30 PM on a Sunday night. Anand countered that as his film was long and would end only after 2.15 AM, this would constitute “censorship by sleep”.

7. Finally in November 2005 DD agreed in writing to telecast the entire film at 10.30 PM on two successive Sundays. Almost a year then passed with DD refusing to set the actual dates of telecast.

8. In April 2004 DD dropped a bombshell by going back on its commitment to telecast the entire film and formally asking for cuts. Anand refused this and the matter went into limbo.

9. On August 25 the Supreme Court passed a landmark judgement criticizing DD and Prasanna Kumar for forcing Anand to go to court for the telecast of each of his National Award winning films and ordering the telecast of the uncut Father, Son and Holy War.

10. On 8<sup>th</sup> of October DD complied with the order. This coming Sunday they will go a step further and show War and Peace, for once without being forced to do so by court.

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**P.S.**

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