



Kiran Nadar on getting Padma Shri: The journey continues

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Kiran Nadar, the prominent art collector based in Delhi, has been recognised in the list of Padma awardees for 2024. Despite her extensive contributions to the art world as the founder and chairperson of the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Nadar admits that receiving the Padma Shri was never her primary goal.

Reflecting on the honour, Nadar expresses, "When I picked up art collection, I wanted people, especially in India, to see and relate to it... Getting the Padma Shri was never on my agenda. But getting it is a fantastic feeling." While some may speculate that such recognition could facilitate her efforts to make art more accessible, Nadar maintains that the award doesn't directly impact her journey: "I'm

happy about it, but I'm not saying that now that the Padma has happened, it will make my journey much easier. These two are not linked. The journey has to take place anyway."

With a collection boasting "13,000 works", she hopes to encourage more people to engage with art, regardless of their background or initial hesitation. "A lot of people find it difficult to relate (to art) or become nervous about going to a show or an artist because they feel they don't belong there. I feel people need to break that. Anyone can appreciate art!"

It's not that usual for those who are not artists and only patrons to be conferred this award. State this, and Nadar opines, "So while I am not an artist, I'm a lover of art, and I want to make art an easily understandable subject for the common man. I think that's why the award is being given to someone who is not an artist but works in the sphere of art."