

**Press Release**

**ANJOLIE ELA MENON CONFERRED**

**DAYAWATI MODI AWARD FOR ART, CULTURE AND EDUCATION FOR 2013**

**New Delhi, 18 November 2013:** The Dayawati Modi Foundation today awarded one of India's leading contemporary artists, Anjolie Ela Menon, with the prestigious 'Dayawati Modi Award for Art, Culture and Education' for the year 2013 for her contribution towards Indian Art and Culture. The award comprising a cash prize of Rs. 2.51 lakhs, a silver shield and scroll of honour was presented to the distinguished artist to mark the 98th birth anniversary of Late Smt. Dayawati Modi.

**Shri V. Narayanasamy**, Hon'ble Minister of State for Prime Minister's office, Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India, felicitated Mrs. Anjolie Ela Menon with the award today at an event held in the capital at Sri Sathya Sai Auditorium, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

While congratulating Mrs Anjolie Ela Menon, Shri V. Narayanasamy said, "Mrs Anjolie Ela Menon is not only a great artist but she has also put India on the international map in the field of art. We are all extremely proud of her and look forward to seeing more of her work. I also wish to thank the Dayawati Modi Foundation for its continuing and untiring efforts in recognizing the talent and work of gifted persons in the fields of art, culture and education. It is awards such as these that encourage the upcoming generation to make an effort to excel in their areas of expertise."

The distinguished artist thanked the foundation for its support and said, "I am greatly humbled to have been chosen for this award which puts me on the same platform as distinguished celebrities such as His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Mother Teresa, to name just a few. I thank all of you for believing in me. It is precisely this kind of belief that encourages and motivates me to continue with my work."

Anjolie Ela Menon was born in 1940 in Bengal and is one of India's best-known artists. She had her first solo exhibition in 1958 in Delhi followed by 48 others. Menon's trajectory over the last five decades is testimony to the evolution of an artist who has constantly broken fresh ground

with confident panache. She received the Padma Shri from the government of India and the “Chevalier des Arts” from the French government. In recognition of her outstanding genius and significant contributions to Indian Art and Culture, the Dayawati Modi Foundation for Art, Culture & Education, has the privilege to bestow upon her the Dayawati Modi Award for Art, Culture & Education, 2013.

The noted artist joins the impressive list of previous awardees, which includes names like His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Amitabh Bachchan, Mother Teresa, late Jagjit Singh, Pandit Jasraj, Asha Bhonsle, Pandit Ravi Shankar, late Tyeb Mehta, Prof Lokesh Chandra, Dr. Karan Singh. **Very recently, the award was presented to Mr. Simon Beaufoy, noted British screenwriter, who wrote the screenplay for the movie Slumdog Millionaire.**

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Satish Kumar Modi, President of Dayawati Modi Foundation said, “It gives me immense pleasure to confer the Dayawati Modi Award on Mrs. Anjolie Ela Menon for her magnificent contribution to Indian Art and Culture. She is an amazing artist and muralist and I have tremendous admiration for her work.”

**About the award:**

*Dayawati Modi Award is among the highest cash awards in the country in the field of Art, Culture and Education. The award has been instituted by the Dayawati Modi Foundation for Art, Culture and Education of the Modi group in the memory of Late Smt. Dayawati Modi, wife of Late Rai Bahadur Gujar Mal Modi, founder of the Modi Group. Late Smt Dayawati Modi was a great philanthropist and an educationist. The Foundation has established schools and colleges, libraries and hostels for students. It also seeks to spread the knowledge of Indian art and culture through cultural shows, exhibitions and seminars. The annual Dayawati Modi Award is a step in this direction and awards a person of eminence in the field of art, culture and education.*

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