

Achamma Mathai

Achamma Mathai was an Indian social worker, women's rights activist,^[1] a co-founder of *Dr. John Mathai Centre*, an institute of Information Technology, Economics, Management, Theatre Arts and Music under the University of Calicut and the wife of John Mathai, the first Railway Minister of India and a former Finance minister.^[2] During her stay in Delhi, when her husband was serving in the Union Ministry, she was reported to have been involved in activities related to children's education.^[3] During the riots that followed Indian independence, she worked alongside Sucheta Kripalani for the rehabilitation of the riot victims.^[1] She served as a member of the Advisory Committee for Libraries in 1955^[4] and as the chairperson of the Central Social Welfare Board in the early Sixties.^[5] The Government of India honoured her in 1954, with the award of Padma Shri, the fourth highest Indian civilian award for her contributions to the society,^[6] placing her among the first recipients of the award.

References

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Achamma Mathai, from a 1936 issue of *The Indian Listener*

Born	<u>Kerala, India</u>
Occupation	Social worker
Spouse	<u>John Mathai</u>
Awards	<u>Padma Shri</u>



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