DECR Chairman met with the Primate of the Malankara Church of India



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On the 28th of September, during his **visit to India**, Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate, visited the Palace of the Malankara Catholicos - the administrative centre of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, - and met with its Primate, His Holiness Catholicos Baselios Marthoma Mathews III.

His Holiness Catholicos conveyed warm wishes to His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Rus', recalling with gratitude his recent **visit to Russia**, which included a **meeting with the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church**, **visits to holy places** in Moscow and St. Petersburg, as well as to the **St. Petersburg Theological Academy**, where he studied fr om 1977 to 1979.

For his part, Metropolitan Anthony warmly greeted the Primate of the Malankara Church on behalf of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Rus' and thanked him for the hospitality extended to the visiting delegation of the Russian Orthodox Church to India.

During the meeting they discussed issues of co-operation between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Malankara Church of India, as well as a number of other topics of mutual interest.

At the end of the conversation, which took place in a warm fraternal atmosphere, the participants of the meeting exchanged memorable gifts.

The meeting was attended by hierarchs and heads of departments of the Malankara Church, the Secretary of the DECR for Inter-Christian Relations Hieromonk Stefan (Igumnov) and the Assistant to the DECR Chairman, Priest Alexander Ershov.

After the talk, His Holiness Catholicos and Metropolitan Anthony visited the crypt wh ere the deceased Primates of the Malankara Church rest.

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