



## Representatives of Indian monasticism arrived in Russia



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On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, representatives of the women's monasticism of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church – nun Dina and nun Sheba, from the Virgin Mary-Bethlehem Nunnery – had arrived in Moscow.

The purpose of the visit is to study the monastic experience of the Russian Orthodox Church and use it in Indian monasteries in the future. The project is being implemented within the framework of the Working Group for the Development of Bilateral Relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and

the Malankara Church of India. With the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Rus', the guests will stay for two months at the Holy Vvedensky Tolga Nunnery of the Yaroslavl Metropolis.

On the same day, the director of the Santula Trust Psychiatric Hospital (Kerala, India), Priest Edward George, arrived in Russia as part of the Indian delegation to participate in the V International Conference "The Care of the Church for the Mentally Ill".

Upon arrival in Moscow, the guests from India visited the Pokrovsky Stavropegial Nunnery, where they venerated the relics of Blessed Matrona of Moscow, a saint revered by Indian Christians.

Hierodeacon Peter (Akhmatkhanov) of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate met

with representatives of the Malankara Church

at the Pokrovsky monastery and welcomed them on behalf of Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the Department for External Church Relations. The guests were also welcomed by the Abbess of the Holy Vvedensky Nunnery, Abbess Barbara (Tretiak), who told the Indian nuns about the Tolga Monastery.

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