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### Press Release

## **All should Join hands for communal harmony and coexistence; Urges a Joint meeting of the Grand Mufti of India and the Head of Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church**

New Delhi: Supreme head of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, H.H Baselios Marthoma Mathews III, met the Grand Mufti of India H.E Sheikh Abubakr Ahmad, at Calicut, Kerala.

Both religious leaders talked about the current social situation and the need to strengthen the harmony between the two communities. They shared thoughts to maintain communal peace and coexistence and measures to foster fruitful interfaith discussions between religions.

The critical points of the mutual conversation of both leaders are as follows;

-All people should come forward to stop the recent attempts by vested interests to create unrest among minority groups; often, there are attempts to confuse and cause misunderstanding among each other. There are continuous efforts for this purpose in social media and other platforms. Realizing this, everyone should stand for communal unity and peace in the country.

-The use of alcohol and drugs is rampant in our society. Drugs have a significant role in all the recent shocking murders in Kerala. Even students are addicted to deadly drugs. The meeting said both sessions would Organize systems to educate people and students about the effects of drug addiction.

-It will awaken the government to the need for urgent intervention to eradicate the scourge of drug addiction. The authorities should intervene to prohibit liquor and intoxicants and give substantial penalties to those involved in drug abuse crimes.

-In higher education, the systems of both communities will work harmoniously to use each other and provide better educational facilities to economically backward and ordinary people.

-Encourage creative platforms for maintaining mutual friendships through educational institutions, public spaces and social media.

-Share positive messages between communities through Mahal and parochial systems to maintain the ancient brotherly atmosphere of the country.

-Will find places to work together in the areas needed for the country's and society's progress.

-Both leaders also stated that they would initiate further the long-standing harmony and goodwill among the minority communities.

Uniting against communal polarization and racism is the need of the hour. Marthoma Mathews III said that Sheikh Abubakr's stand against terrorism and racism is commendable and praised. Grand Mufti reacted that the interventions made by Marthoma Mathews against communal disagreements among minorities were very beneficial.

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