



Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/dr-joseph-mar-thoma

Why in News

India has celebrated the **90th birthday of Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma**, a reverend father and distinguished member of Mar Thoma Church.

- He is the current Marthoma Metropolitan (higher rank of Bishop) of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church.
- The **Mar Thoma Church** is closely linked with the noble ideals of **Saint Thomas**, the Apostle (each of the twelve chief disciples of Jesus Christ) of Lord Christ.

Key Points

- **The Mar Thoma Church** is also known also as the Mar Thoma **Syrian Church of Malabar**.
- It was founded by Saint Thomas (Mar Thoma), one of the **twelve disciples of Jesus Christ**, and known by the name of the Apostle, in the year AD 52.
- Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar is one of the **oldest denominations** of Christianity.
- It is an autonomous **Oriental Indian church headquartered at Thiruvalla, Kerala**, India, which has over 1.6 million followers across the globe.
- **Oriental Indian churches:** The Oriental Orthodox Churches are a group of Christian churches adhering to the ideology that Jesus is a one person in two nature's i.e. divine and human.

Source: PIB