

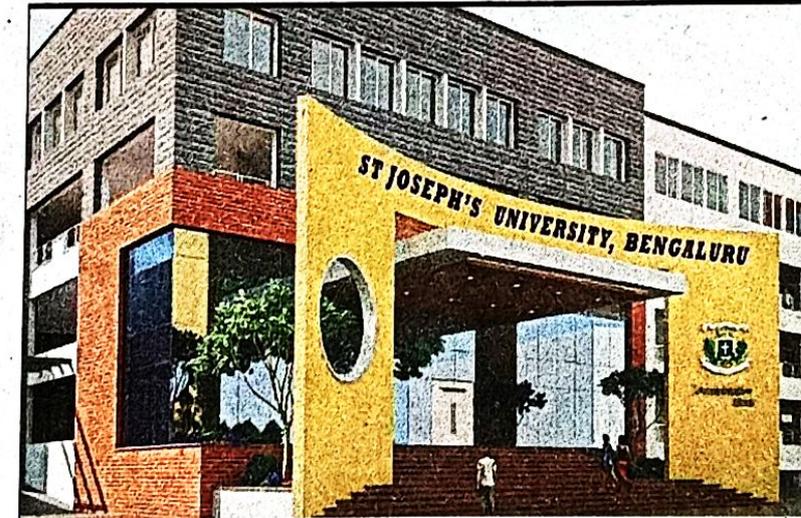
St Joseph's College upgraded to varsity; alumni give a thumbs up

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: St Joseph's College, one of the oldest in Karnataka, has now been declared a private varsity under the Centre's Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan scheme. It is the only private aided college to have been upgraded to university status under RUSA in the country.

Established in 1882 by Fathers of the French Foreign Mission, St Joseph's University has been offering commerce, science and humanities courses in the state. Since 1937, it has been managed by Karnataka Province of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). In 1986, it became the first affiliate college to offer postgraduate courses in Karnataka and two years later, the first in the state to build and run a research centre.

Government of Karnataka formally conferred the much sought-after status on the institution on July 2. The process began in 2013 when St Joseph's College (Autonomous) applied to RUSA of the ministry of education, formerly the ministry of human resource development, seeking to be upgraded to a university. RUSA's purpose was to create new universities by upgrading existing autonomous colleges.



NEW CHAPTER: The new university is expected to be fully operational for academic year 2022-2023 and will function under PPP model

In 2018, St Joseph's was picked to be one of the first colleges to undergo the upgrade and in February 2021, the state government passed St Joseph's University Bill. The bill became an Act when it was notified on July 2 this year.

"We have set many standards of excellence among colleges and also have one of the highest National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) scores. Many colleges applied under RUSA but St Joseph's College was the only private institute to apply and achieve it," Fr Victor Lobo, principal, said at a press conference.

The university is expected

to be fully operational for academic year 2022-2023 and will be functional under a public-private partnership model.

The college has been alma mater for many individuals who have made their name in various fields. Among its famous alumni are historian Janaki Nair, civil servants Lakshminarayana, Frank Noronha, TS Krishnamurthy and Pradeep Arya, political leaders MY Ghorpade, Kumar Bangarappa and Rajeev Gowda, and spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravishankar. It had a commemorative stamp released by India Post in 2009.

Noronha, former principal director-general of Press Infor-

“With the university status, the college can fulfil its mission of imparting quality education with more ease. Course modifications, campus improvements, technical developments, etc. can happen more smoothly. The impact of this change will be felt among the student community, state and country

Lakshminarayana |

ALUMNI AND PANCHAYAT RAJ
DELIMITATION CHIEF

mation Bureau, and former principal spokesperson for government of India, said the college has been a second parent to him. "I grew up in Hassan district in the 1970s where we had no access to modern education and English language. When I enrolled into St Joseph's, the first month was very hard and I wanted to run away but the commitment of educators is so strong that I eventually became a college athlete, gold medallist and went on to work under five different prime ministers of India. St Joseph's College, Lalbagh Road, getting a university status is a proud moment for all its alumni," he stated.