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September 9, 2026 [0 Comment](#)

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Karnataka Minister Ramalinga Reddy, Archbishop Peter Machado and Jesuit leaders attend inauguration

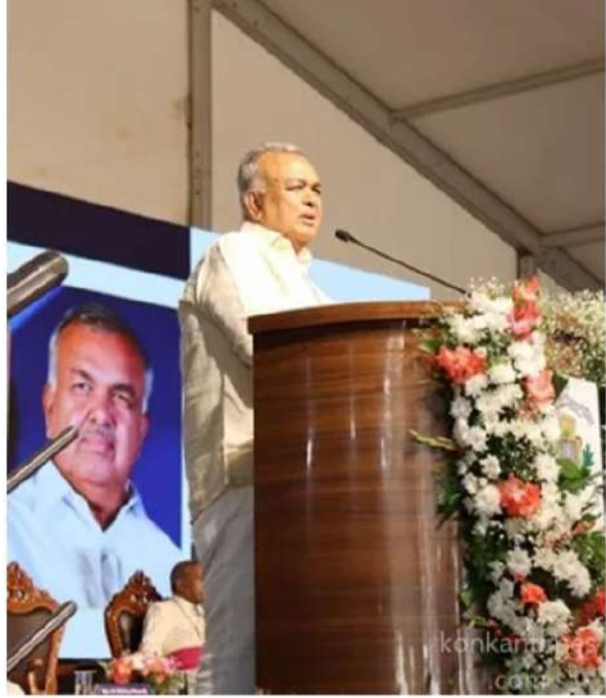
Bengaluru, September 5, 2026: St Joseph's University (SJU) formally inaugurated its new B-Block campus at SOS Post, Kalena Agrahara, on Bannerghatta Road, on September 5. The ceremony brought together senior government officials, Catholic clergy, university administrators, faculty and students.

Karnataka Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment **Ramalinga Reddy** was the chief guest. Archbishop of Bangalore, His Grace Most Rev. **Dr Peter Machado**, led the prayer of blessing, while Rev. **Fr Dionysius Vaz SJ**, Provincial of the Karnataka Jesuit Province and Chancellor of St Joseph's University, addressed the gathering on behalf of the Bangalore Jesuit Educational Society (BJES), the university's governing body.

The two-and-a-half-hour programme began with a prayer song by the KALAH team, followed by the Karnataka State Anthem. A welcome dance by the SJU Dance Team and the SJU Anthem by the University Choir preceded a video presentation on the new B-Block campus.

The dignitaries were welcomed with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. Rev. **Dr Victor Lobo SJ**, Vice Chancellor of St Joseph's University, delivered the welcome address, noting that the Inauguration coincided with Teachers' Day, observed on September 5 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.







Recalling Radhakrishnan's conviction that teachers should be regarded as "the best minds in the country", Dr Lobo highlighted the role of educators in transmitting knowledge and human excellence to future generations.

"We are opening the portals not just of the university's gates, but also to ideas, innovation and relationships," Dr Lobo said. "I invite you to B-Block not as a completed building, but like an unfinished story — one that we will write together, and especially you, the students."

Archbishop Machado then led the prayer of blessing and addressed the gathering. In a lighter moment, he said he had wondered what the "B" in B-Block stood for — "is it Bannerghatta?" — before joking that he had decided it meant **"Best Block"**, drawing laughter and applause.

Highlighting the university's social mission, Archbishop Machado said, **"St Joseph's University stands for the poor. It stands for those who cannot afford education. It is embedded in values and has a place for everyone."** He added that the university's commitment to excellence was one of the reasons why many aspired to be part of it.

The Chief Guest, Archbishop Machado, Chancellor Fr Dionysius Vaz and the BJES Vice President were felicitated on the occasion. The foundation stone of the SJU B-Block was then unveiled jointly by the dignitaries.

Addressing the gathering in Kannada, Minister Ramalinga Reddy said St Joseph's University represented discipline and moral values, which, he noted, were essential for shaping responsible and well-rounded citizens along with academic education. He also highlighted the significance of the university's continued growth in the Bannerghatta Road area.

Chancellor Rev. **Fr Dionysius Vaz SJ** reflected on the importance of vision and leadership, quoting Robert K. Greenleaf: **"Not much happens without a dream. And for something great to happen, there must be a great dream."**

Referring to the role of teachers, Fr Vaz also quoted psychologist Carl Jung, who observed that while people look back with appreciation to brilliant teachers, they remember with gratitude those who touched their human feelings.

Linking these reflections to the university's mission, Fr Vaz said, **"We strive to make men and women that extend empathy to all."**

Rev. **Dr Alphonse Pius Fernandes SJ**, Director of SJU-B-Block, proposed the vote of thanks, acknowledging the university administration, government dignitaries, faculty, staff and students who contributed to the organisation of the event.

The programme concluded with the National Anthem by the University Choir, after which the dignitaries proceeded to the boardroom.

Students and faculty members also expressed their enthusiasm about the new campus. Zainab described the occasion as an opportunity to be part of the university's continuing legacy at Bannerghatta, while Aleena spoke of the enthusiasm and energy among students.

Rahul S., General Secretary of the Student Council, described the inauguration as the first major event for the student community and expressed hope that it would mark the beginning of an exciting campus journey. Another student, Anubhav, summed up the atmosphere as "fun, energetic and vibrant campus life."

Maria, a member of the Mathematics faculty, said she was happy and proud to be part of the inauguration and described herself as "proud to be a Josephite."

Also present were Rev. Dr Melwyn Pinto SJ, Pro-Chancellor; Rev. Dr Joseph Antony D'Mello SJ, Rector, Mount St Joseph; and Dr V. Christo Selvan, Convenor of the B-Block Inauguration Committee.