

Dr L Subramaniam and Kavita Krishnamurthy to launch music course

The undergraduate degree will be performance-oriented, with training in musical event management, digital marketing and audio/video engineering



Both Dr Subramaniam and Krishnamurthy have over a decade of experience in mentoring students of music; the three-year bachelor's degree course will be launched in June at Vishwakarma University in Kondhwa (above)

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A chance to be a part of the team that works on the Lakshminarayana Global Music Festival (LGMF), which has hosted legendary artists such as Yehudi Menuhin and Gangubai Hangal, is one of the student assignments on a new Bachelor of Arts in music course in the city. Being offered by the Vishwakarma University in Kondhwa, the three-year course, designed by Padma Bhushan awardee and violinist Dr L Subramaniam and Padma Shri awardee and noted film playback singer Kavita Krishnamurthy, will focus on industry expertise and performance. Both Dr Subramaniam and Krishnamurthy have over a decade of experience in mentoring students of music, having co-founded the Subramaniam Academy of Performing Arts in Bengaluru in 2007. "Dr Subramaniam and Kavita ji are world-renowned performers who bring a vast and varied amount of music performing and teaching experience to the table. They are also extremely experienced with modern music technologies and processes applied in the music industry. Above all, Dr Subramaniam and Kavita ji have agreed to

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— Ruchira Kedar, Hindustani classical vocalist

take sessions in this degree programme. Learning from these maestros is an opportunity and a great value in itself for the students," says Dr Siddharth Jabade, vice chancellor of Vishwakarma University.

At LGMF, students will be trained to work in various departments, including lighting, sound management, stage management and artist management, all of which are key areas in music event management. "There is an emphasis on practical training from well-established artists. This degree in music will pave a path for diverse career progressions that could lead one to foray into becoming a performer, music industry professional, accompanist, expert in music technology-related domains," says Dr Jabade.

Around 70 per cent of the course, which includes semesters dedicated to Hindustani music, Carnatic music

and Western music, will be dedicated to practical learning. "Normally, music courses are headed by academicians, but this course will have performers at the helm; so it's unique," says city-based Hindustani classical vocalist Ruchira Kedar, assistant professor and music faculty at Vishwakarma University.

International musicians and faculty members from leading music colleges from across the world are also expected to be roped in as guest faculty, says Kedar. "The USP of this undergraduate degree programme in music is its inclusive and global approach to learning music. A well-rounded curriculum that includes subjects like audio/video engineering, digital marketing, live event management, African, European, Latin American music, etc., would definitely prove to be a valuable addition to a student's knowledge and would eventually lead them to become global musicians," adds Jabade. The curriculum for this undergraduate programme in music is designed in recognition of this need of the hour, Jabade further adds.

The course, which is designed by the Lakshminarayana Global Centre of Excellence, co-founded by Dr Subramaniam and Krishnamurthy, will be launched on June 1 and will admit 60 students in its first batch.

Corporators ask PMC to not levy fines on societies

As per solid waste management mandate, civic body penalises housing socs that fail to segregate waste

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In an exemplary move, Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) had decided to penalise housing societies that fail to process their garbage within their compounds. However, now corporators from the civic body have demanded that PMC stop levying fine on the societies that do not possess garbage processing plants. They have further put forth a proposal, asking the civic body to provide financial help to the societies that cannot afford to set up these units. The commissioner has stated that he will look into the demands and take decision accordingly.

PMC has been struggling for a while to get the solid waste generated in the city processed. According to the existing law, societies generating wet waste over 100kg are supposed to get it processed within the premises. Small plants for vermicomposting are to be set up by the societies. But while there are 564 housing complexes within PMC limit, which generate the fixed quantity of waste, only 254 of them seem to be following the norm. Despite repeatedly sending notices to the remaining ones, many societies have still not been able to initiate the process of segregating their waste. To make the rest fall in line, PMC authorities had decided to come down heavily on the offenders and had levied a fine of Rs 1.81 lakh on 30 societies in March and April.

But the initiative does not seem to have gone down well with corporators from various political parties. Raising their concern over the fine in the general body meeting, the corporators have demanded that PMC stall penalising the old housing societies.

Claiming that the societies are suffering due to the decision, Shiv Sena corporator Pramod alias Bala Oswal said, "Many societies collect maintenance sum to the tune of Rs 200 to 300 each month, which is put to use for various upkeep-related purposes in the society. These are mostly old societies. Now with this paltry amount, the householders cannot afford to shell out money on setting up garbage processing units and digging the pits."

"Also, if such a huge amount of fine is going to be levied on these societies, then it will be difficult for them to contribute towards the upkeep as well. PMC should take this aspect into consideration and stop charging the fine to societies," he said.

Claiming that PMC should consider the problem of lack of funds, Congress leader Arvind Shinde added, "These societies do not have sufficient money to pay towards this programme."

"Municipal corporation gets a lot of funds through corporate social responsibility initiatives. They should see if some of that fund could be directed towards building the plants," he added.

Leader of the house, Shrinath Bhimale suggested that first society members should be counselled. "Instead of immediately taking action against these societies, we should first make them aware of the issues at hand and counsel them. Meetings should be organised with the society members. Till then the officers should be instructed not to levy fines."

Responding to the queries, commissioner Saurabh Rao said, "The fine is being levied as per the mandate of the by-laws for solid waste management. However, we will see if anything can be done to give support to the smaller and older societies as demanded by the corporators."

FILE PHOTO



According to the existing law, societies generating wet waste over 100 kg are supposed to get it processed within their premises by setting up plants

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