Transport dept to walk the talk on pollution

Sangamesh Honamalni | ENS
Bangalore, November 1

"TECHIES are very fashionable and they have very little affection towards their mother tongue. They do not even respect their motherland. As they are kids of globalisation, they only adopt English as their lifestyle." If this is your opinion about techies, then you have to change it. The "think globally, act locally" policy is driving them to do good to their mother tongue as well as their motherland.

Roshan Ramesh Pai, a Bangalorite working as an IT consultant in London and his team, are the best example for this positive trend. Inspired by the revival of the Welsh language, he has taken up the project to make an online dictionary of his language. His website savemylanguage.org has been functional for the last five years. According to his website, Konkanis a language spoken by mainly the Gowda Saraswathi Brahmins (GBs) of Dakshina Kannada district. But there are some other communities also which speak Konkani in Karwar and Goa. Roshan clarifies, "Konkanis, as spoken in Mangalore by the GBs, represents the dialect that is spoken by the majority of Konkani speakers in Karnataka. The Konkani spoken by a majority of Konkanis in say Bangalore, for example, is of that dialect."

However, Roshan says that his team has a plan of including as many sub-dialects as possible in future. He requests other Konkanis speaking communities to come forward to be volunteers. Though he has 60 members in his team across the world, all are of GB community. But many visitors to the site are speakers of various other Konkanis dialects too. All words contributed by enthusiastic cannot get direct access to the dictionary due to stringent review process.

Dr Sudheer Manohar Tadkodkar, head of the department of Marathi, Goa University, is voluntarily involved in the project as mentor and guiding on technical matters. The team of 60 volunteers includes bank professionals, housewives and students. Some are helping through Facebook, others reviewing words and some others adding new words.

The dictionary, which has been updated with 6,500 words at the moment, also includes proverbs, metaphors, idioms, euphemisms and even research papers on the language. The team has not demanded any direct help from Karnataka Konkan Academy. But members of the Academy are aware of this project. It is committed to publish the dictionary in print form once it reaches an estimated 10,000 words.

Volunteers have started a petition to get the dictionary as a gift on Konkano Jayanti on December 1. The team is also planning a Konkani awareness event on December 5 and a "Konkani Walk" on December 7.

The Konkanis have started a "Konkani set for big renaissance" campaign in Mangalore, supported by the Konkan Academy, to spread the message of Konkani among the youth.

Online campaign

Konkani set for big renaissance

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"The disturbances in power supply caused by the maintenance work." (Besides, we are all been experiencing problems at some stations that has been our supply logistics said. The city at present around 49 lakh install while the average peak demand is 5000 MW."