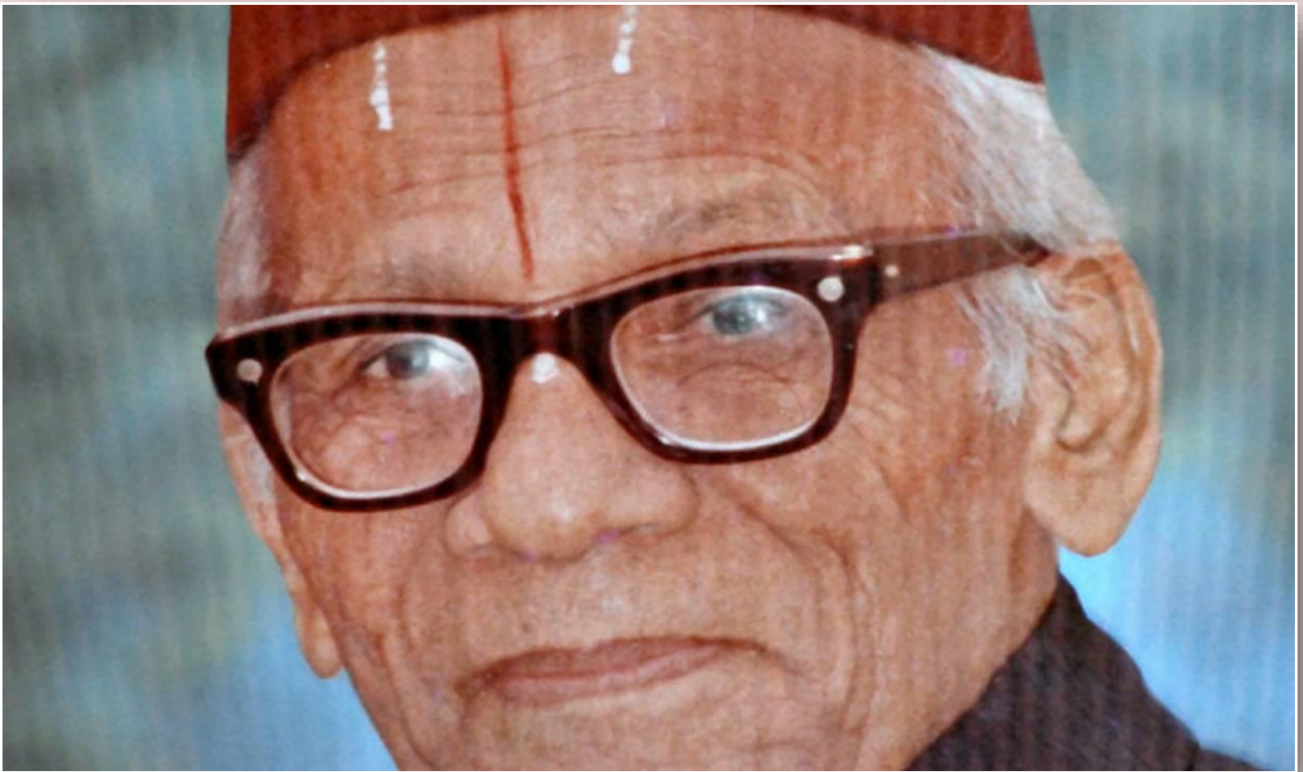




INTACH

MASTI VENKATESH IYENGAR



EARLY LIFE

Masti Venkatesh Iyengar was born on the 6th of June 1891 Hongenahalli, a town in the district of Kolar in Karnataka. He acquired his nickname from the name of the village he grew up in.

In 1914, Masti received a Master's degree in English literature in 1914 from Madras University. After that he cleared the civil service examination and held various posts around Karnataka. He rose to the level of the District Commissioner.

Masti was famously known as Maasti Kannadada Aasti, which means Maasti of Kannada literature. This title owes much to the fact that he was a part of the famous Nvodaya movement which stormed Kannada literature on a massive scale.

HIS WORK

Reputed as an ingenious writer, Masti had written a total of 120 books in Kannada and 17 books in English.

He was a fearless writer and we get to see much of his aggression in his award-winning novel on the last Kodava King, Chikkavira Rajendra. This work faced much criticism from the Kodava community who did not appreciate the negativity attributed to the king.

However, Masti won the Jnanpith award for this novel.

OTHER LITERARY PURSUITS

Masti wrote poems on social, philosophical and aesthetic concepts. He composed and translated several crucial plays. From 1944- 1965, he was also the editor of the monthly journal Jivan. He was in fact given the title of Rajasevasakta by the Maharaja of Mysore, Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar.



Masti used the penname, Srinivasa. His first notable work, the Kelavu Sanna Kategalu, which was a collection of short stories, was widely recognised and critically acclaimed for the transition in Kannada literature.

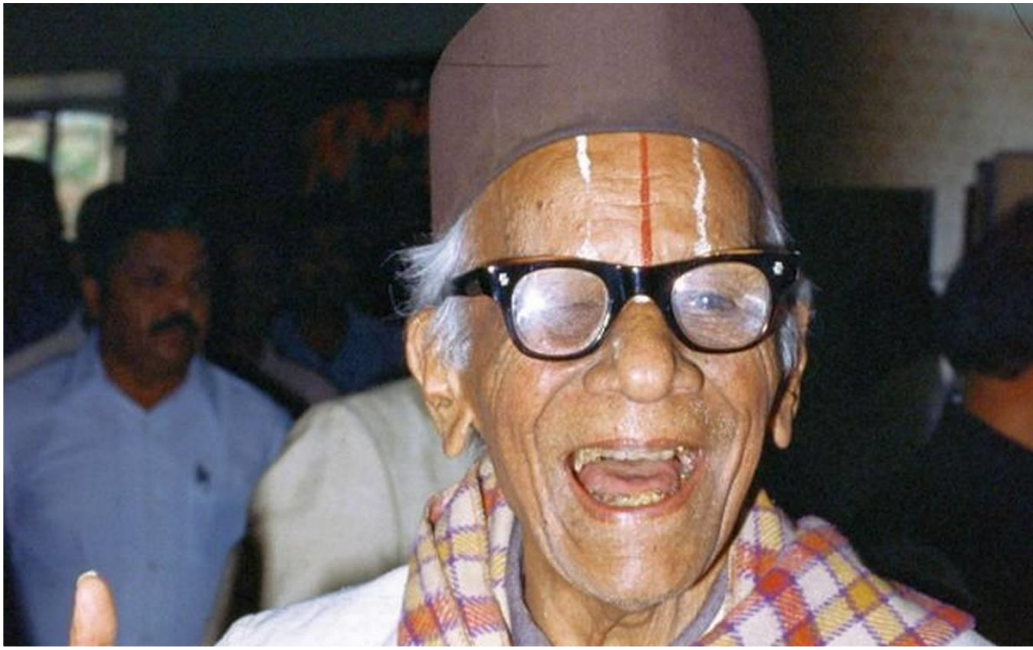
Masti Iyengar had started composing stories as early as his student days. His first published work became the history of modern Kannada short stories. He came to be recognised as the “Brahma of Kannada Stories”. He uses a very unique language in his writing and the themes are richly embedded in realities, which allows the readers to relate better. A great example for this is the Subbanna, based on the life of a musician. This work has been translated into several Indian and foreign languages.

DID YOU KNOW?

Masti Venkatesh Iyengar published his first work called Rangana Maduve in 1910.

OTHER LITERARY WORKS

Masti's Kelavu Sanna Kategalu (Some Short Stories) was the first prominent work in Kannada literature. He has also translated a number of important plays. He has composed poems on aesthetic, social and philosophical themes. His other works include Channabasava Nayaka, a three-volume autobiography named "Bhava", Subanna, and many more.



Since 1933, an award had been introduced, "Masti Venkatesh Iyengar Award", which is given to well-known writers of Karnataka. His house, located in Basavanagudi area in Bangalore has been converted into a museum which is maintained by the Masti Venkatesha Iyengar Jeevana Karyalaya Trust.

Masti's other house in Maasti village, Malur Taluk has been converted into a library and maintained by the Departments of Government of Karnataka. In fact, the Masti Memorial School was started in his memory in 2006-07.

ACTIVITY:

Find out the name of the last work that Masti got published.



ACTIVITY

a) Find out the names of five other works done by Masti Venkatesh Iyengar.

b) Learn more about Masti's work Mathugara Ramanna and why it is famous.

REFERENCES

<https://www.karnataka.com/personalities/masti-venkatesha-iyengar/>

<http://www.karnatakavision.com/masti-venkatesh-iyengar.php>

<https://www.poemhunter.com/masti-venkatesha-iyengar/biography/>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/musical-side-of-masti-family/article6872588.ece>