

R.K. Laxman

October 25, 2021

In news- Recently, the Prime Minister of India has paid tributes to legendary cartoonist R K Laxman on his 100th birth anniversary.

A brief note on R K Laxman-

- He was **known for his cartoon creation 'The Common Man'**.
- He was **born on 24 October 1921 in Mysore, Karnataka.**
- He was also known as "Pied Piper of Delhi".
- He **created the daily comic strip 'You Said It', which chronicled Indian life and politics** through the eyes of the "**common man,**" a bulbous-nosed bespectacled observer dressed in a dhoti and a distinctive checked coat who served as a silent point-of-view character for readers.
- While at Maharaja's College in Mysore, **he illustrated stories by his novelist brother, R.K. Narayan,** in *The Hindu* newspaper.
- He subsequently turned to creating political cartoons for local newspapers
- **He worked at *The Free Press Journal* in Mumbai (Bombay) with Bal Thackeray,** who was a cartoonist before founding the Shiv Sena political party.
- **In 1951 Laxman moved to *The Times of India*,** where he created *You Said It*.
- He **died in January 2015 in Pune at the age of 93.**
- In 2005, he was **awarded the Padma Vibhushan,** India's second highest civilian honour.

His other works-

- He published numerous short stories, essays, and travel

articles, some of which were collected in *The Distorted Mirror* (2003).

- He also wrote the novels *The Hotel Riviera* (1988) and *The Messenger* (1993) and an **autobiography, *The Tunnel of Time*** (1998).
- He created a popular mascot for the Asian Paints Ltd group called "Gattu" in 1954.
- His creations also include the sketches drawn for the television adaptation of *Malgudi Days* which was written by his elder brother R. K. Narayan, directed by Shankar Nag, and a Konkan coast based Hindi sitcom, *Wagle Ki Duniya*.