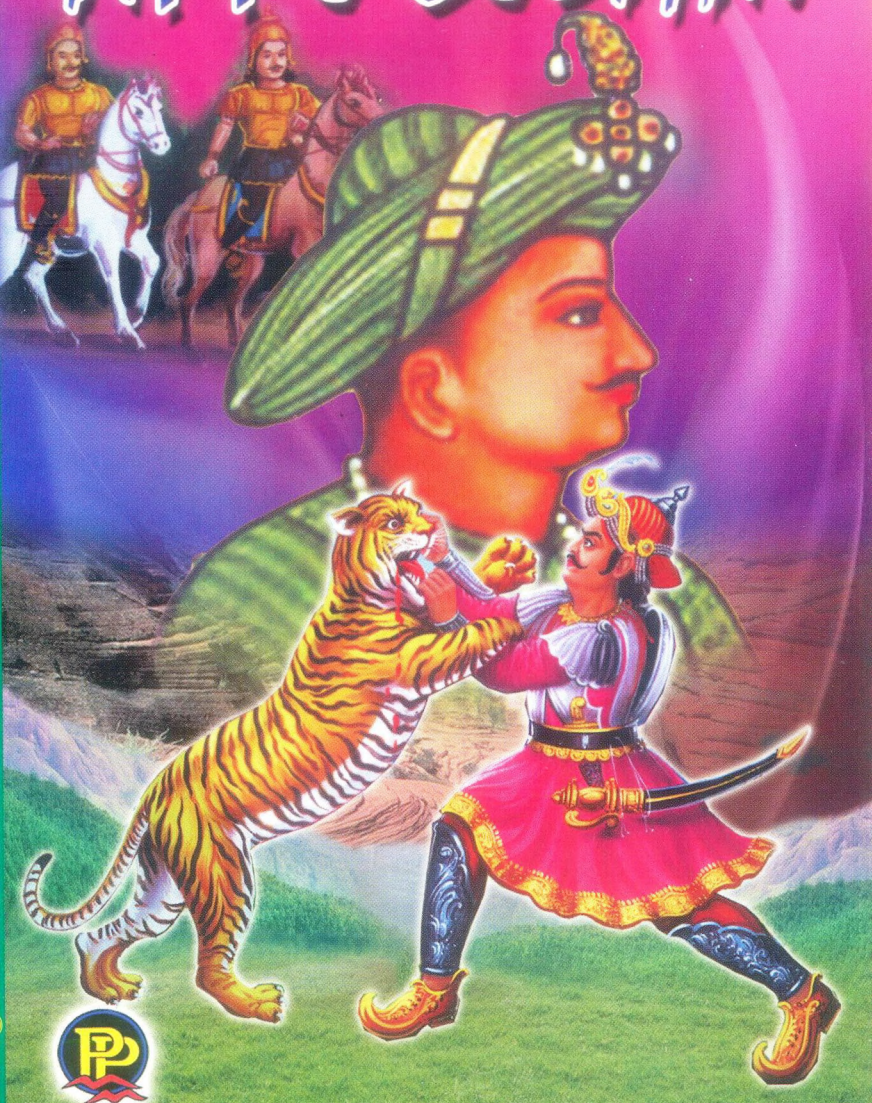


TIPPU SULTAN



TIPU SULTAN



H. Parameshwar Hegde

M.Sc., M.A.,



PARU PRAKASHANA,

Station Road, GADAG—582 101

Phone : 234520(Shop), 236059(House)

"Tipu Sultan"

Writer :

H. Parameshwar Hegde

M.Sc., M.A..

Published by :

**Paru Prakashana,
Station Road,
Gadag-582101.**

All Rights Reserved by the Publishers

New Edition 2006

Honnagudi Printers.Gdg. Ph 235224



CONTENTS

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1 | <i>Family History</i> |
| 2 | <i>The Great Hyder Ali</i> |
| 3 | <i>Tipu's Birth</i> |
| 4 | <i>Tipu's Great Kingdom</i> |
| 5 | <i>Exploring The Foreign Grounds</i> |
| 6 | <i>The Great Warriors</i> |
| 7 | <i>Tipu and The Marathas</i> |
| 8 | <i>Tipu the Great Secularist and Reformer</i> |
| 9 | <i>The Great Builder</i> |
| 10 | <i>Tipu and The Sufism</i> |
| 11 | <i>Tipu As a War Lover</i> |
| 12 | <i>The Best Administrator</i> |
| 13 | <i>Tipu As a Nature Lover</i> |
| 14 | <i>The Fourth Mysore War</i> |

1 Family History

During the mid-eighteenth century. When the British presence was being felt almost everywhere in India there existed a state of confusion in the Indian Continent. During this period of turmoil Hyder Ali ascended the throne of Mysore.

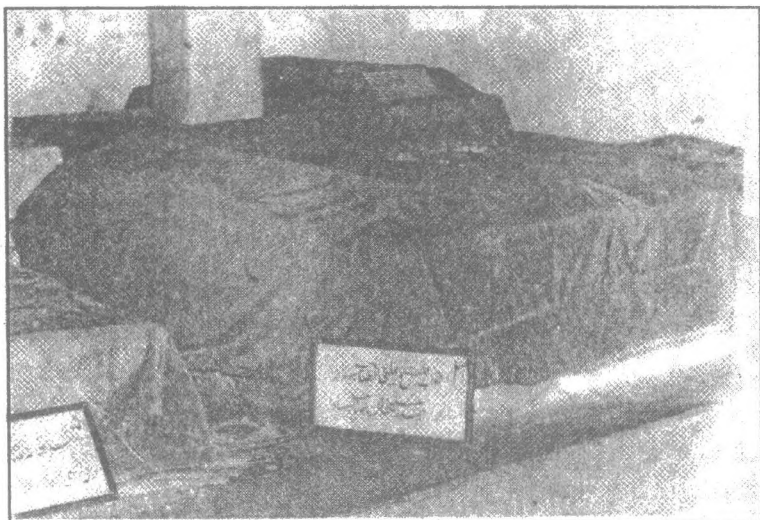
Hyder Ali's forefathers came from Mecca. His great grandfather, Sheikh Wali Muhammed was a saintly man. From the Punjab he migrated to Gulbarga along with his son Muhammed Ali during the days of Muhammed Adil Shah. He had four war-loving sons. Later he settled in Kolar. His youngest son Fath Muhammed worked for the Nawab of Arcot and later for the Raja of Mysore and the Nawab of Sira. He had two sons, Shahbaz and Haidar Ali. When his father died Haidar Ali turned towards Devanhalli and settled there.

By dint of his hard work and talents, he rose to the position of Naik from ordinary soldier and was placed in command of 50 horses and 200 foot.

Even though Mysore was ruled by the wodeyar dynasty their power had been reduced to a great extent. It was actually Hyder, Tipu's father who

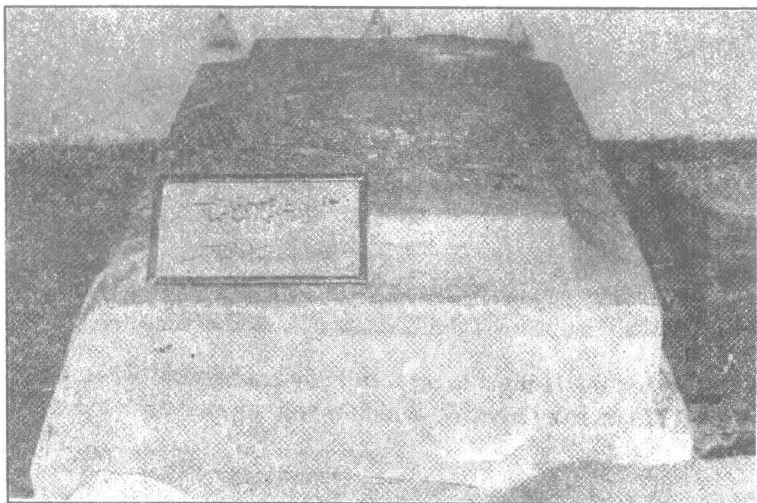
ruled Mysore. with the rise of Hyder to power he had to face many a problem. The prominent among them was the envy of his neighbours, the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Marathas. They never wanted Mysore to emerge as a powerful force.

After the death of his ailing wife Haider Ali married Fakh-Un-Nissa, whose brother Mir Ali Raza Khan was the Governor of Gurram Konda. For about five years they had no issue.



The grave of Fath Muhammed (Haider Ali's father)

When Fatima Begum was in a family way, she was summoned by Hazarath Tipu Mastan of Arcot in her dream.



The grave of Shahbaz (Haidar Ali's elder brother).

Hazarat Tipu Mastan was a great Sufi. He lived under a Neem tree without any roof. Torrential rains and prickly heat could not change his abode. Nawab Sadatullah Khan of Arcot wanted to provide him a shelter, but the saint refused his offer. And the saint breathed his last under the same Neem tree.

The Nawab constructed a square shaped tomb around his grave.

The dreamy holy summons took the couple to Arcot. They had covered 297 km. from Devanhalli and reached the threshold of the tomp. They prayed for the safe delivery.



Their prayer was answered at Devanhalli on November 20, 1750. The parents reverently named the child, Tipu Sultan after the saint's name.

History records that after the birth of his son Haider Ali's fortunes reached a bizzy height and ultimately became an independent ruler of Mysore and shifted the capital to Srirangapatna.

The English were many time proved as cunnings. They were quick to guess the motives of the Indian rulers; They approached the Nizam and the Marathas and formed a united force to attack Mysore. The prime reason of the English was prompted due to the fact that Hyder had an inbuilt hatred to the foreign settlers. Hyder Ali never compromised with the English and always fought them with the only intention of destroying the British.

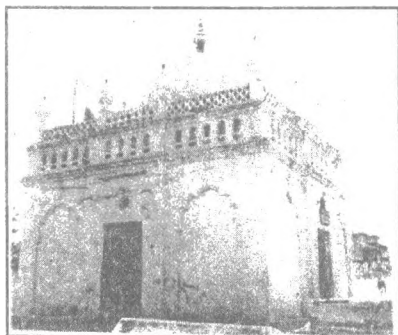


2 The Great Hyder Ali

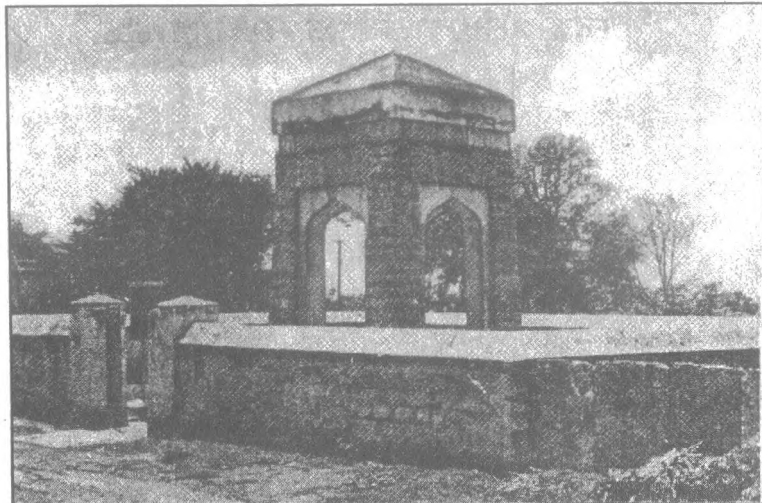
Hyder Ali was a self-made man, daring in battlefields and ruthless in administration. He could rule skilfully to the much advantage of the, Sultanat-e-Khudadad and its people.

In 1766 Hyder faced his first test of military skill and bravery when the Marathas, the Nizam and the English jointly invated Mysore, this was the first Mysore war.

But the English had not counted on Hyder's abilities, and were confident of victory. He first dis engaged the Marathas from the war. Then won over the Nizam to his own side. Once the English were isolated Hyder attacked them with all his military power, reducing them to a great extent. The English suffered a severe defeat.



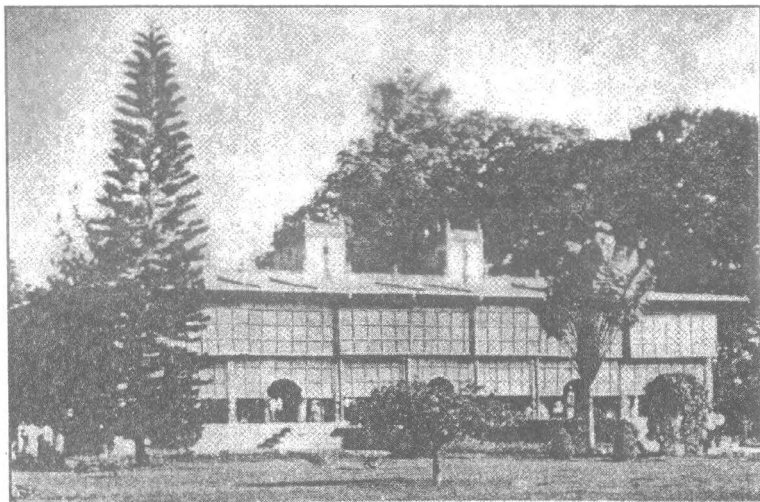
The tomb of Hazarat Tipu Mastan Ouliya at Arcot



The monument at Devanhalli (35 km. from Bangalore)



A monumental treason! A grand mansion with massive pillars. General Harris and later Purnaiya stayed here. (Srirangapatna)



The Daria Daulat Baugh at Srirangapatna.

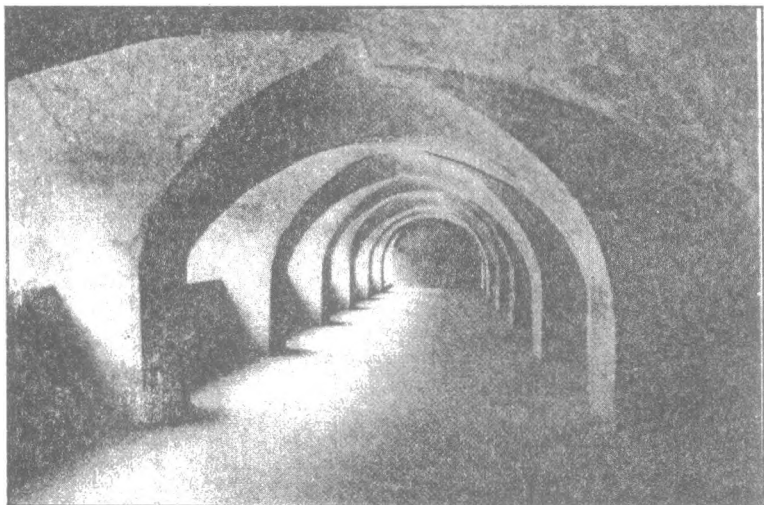
In 1780 Hyder Ali formed an alliance with all the leading powers in India, and attacked the British. The Carnatic which was under the control of the British was wrested away from them and the British were forced to retreat to Madras.

Hyder Ali was illiterate but he took great care to educate his son. He was trained by Martinet Ghazi Khan in such a way that later he could rule over hearts of his people and face the English in the battle field. Since his childhood he never showed the white feather. Once Hyder Ali found little Tipu engrossed in the books and writing. He feared that his son might grow to be

a man of letters rather than a man of sword. He cautioned his son that for ruling over the kingdom, only pen was not enough, sword too was indispensable.

Hyder Ali in 1760 laid out the gardens near the place selected for his summer palace in Bangalore. A beautiful garden popularly known as Khan Baugh already existed at Sira in that period. That garden was laid out by Aurangzeb's representative Dilawar Khan.

It is said that once little Tipu Sultan was walking in the garden along with his father. When suddenly the prince saw roses in full bloom he



The Dungeons. Mortuary of the English vainglory. Many English Generals and others convicted were held here by Tipu Sultan.



exclaimed in poetic naivete "Lal Baugh". The garden thus got its present name. It shows that not only Hyder Ali but his son Tipu Sultan too loved beautiful surroundings. Hyder Ali had imported several plants from Delhi, Lahore and Multan.

Tipu Sultan improved the plant collection with his specimens from France, China and Turkey.

During the successful military campaigns in the South Hyder Ali died on December 7, 1782 at Narasingarayanapet near Chittoor. His body was brought to Kolar. As desired by Tipu Sultan his father's body was taken to Srirangapatna where later Tipu built a grand mausoleum.



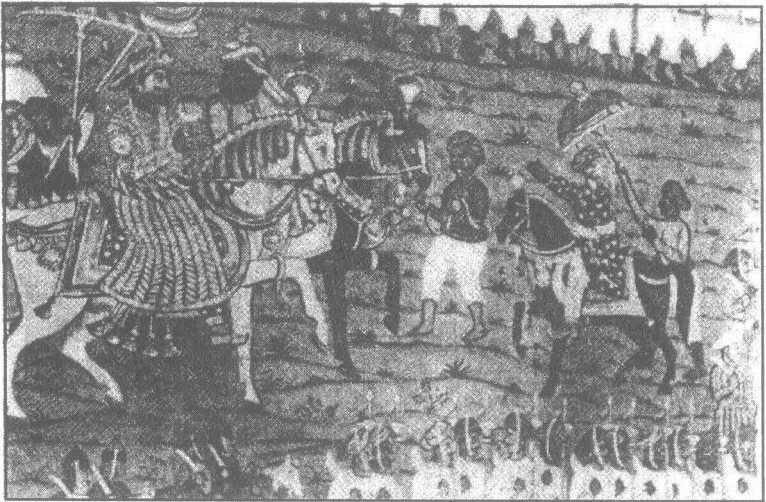
Tipu was born on November 10th 1750 at Devanahalli in Kolar District. Tipu's name came from the holy saint, Tipu Mastan Aulia to whose tomb Tipu's mother used to frequent to pray for a son. He was also called Fateh Ali.



Tipu Sulthan (Tiger of Mysore)

What is there in Tipu's name ? Some writers like Denys Forrest believe that "Tipu" means 'Tiger' in Kannada. Some others say that it is the anglicised form of 'Teepu'. The closest English approximation is the endearment "Sweetie".

Certainly these assertions are based on wrong inferences. The fact is that it was not at all the



Traitor Mir-Sadik (right), a snake in the battlefield!
Mural paintings in the Daria Daulat Baugh show military campaigns of Haidar Ali and Tipu (left).

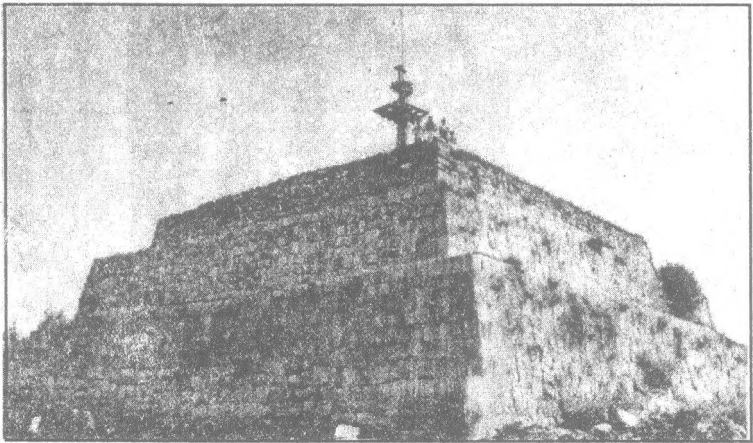
saint's name given by his parents. It was his epithet.

In the medieval period some of the Sufis not following the shariat were known by their epithets which they earned from the people

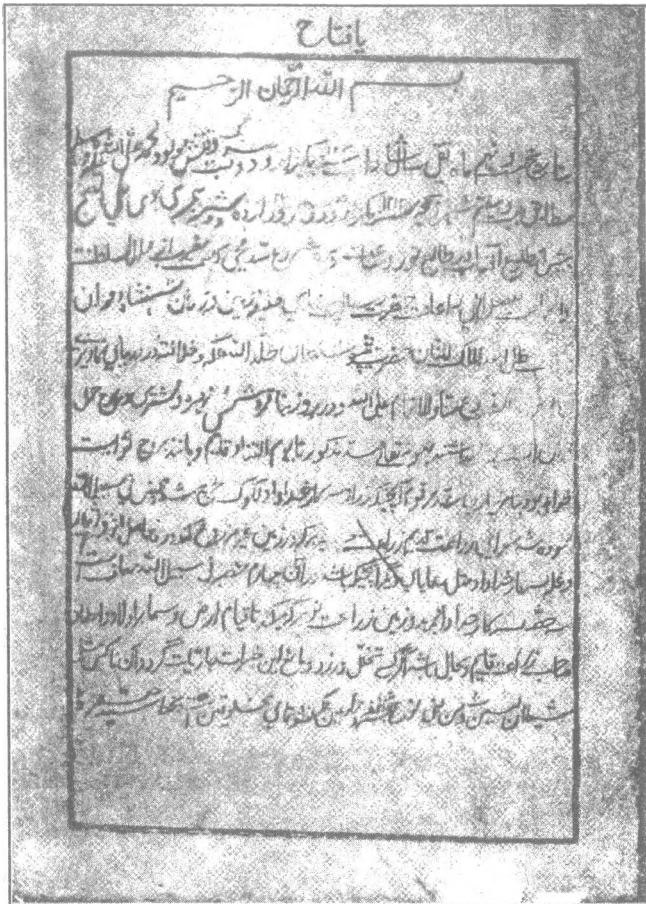
because of their appearance belongings and miracles. The majzoob tribe of Sufis did not bother about their names or ancestry. They were all one with God. Hence they came to be called "Mastan" the intoxicated. Hazarat Tipu Mastan of Arcot came from Arabia.

Tipu was well versed in scholastic learning and received very good training in administration and warfare. He used to accompany his father in his campaigns in an early age itself.

So he was exposed to military and war atmosphere from an early age. In the first Mysore war Tipu was entrusted to Negotiate with the Nizam, which he did in admirable manner and



The Flagpost, near the Mysore Gate of Tipu's Fort in Srirangapatna. General Allan had surveyed the Capital from here on the fatal day i.e. May 4, 1799. He had seen Tipu conducting a *darbar*.




Tipu's tablet fixed in the massive gate of the world famous terraced Brindavan Gardens (18 km. from Mysore). This inscription in persian says, "The start is from me, but its completion rests with God."

produced favourable results when the glorious Hyder the picture of resistance to the English.



When the great Hyder the picture of resistance to the English died in December 1782 Tipu succeeded him. He defended his title in admirable fashion and the English wondering how to break Tipu.

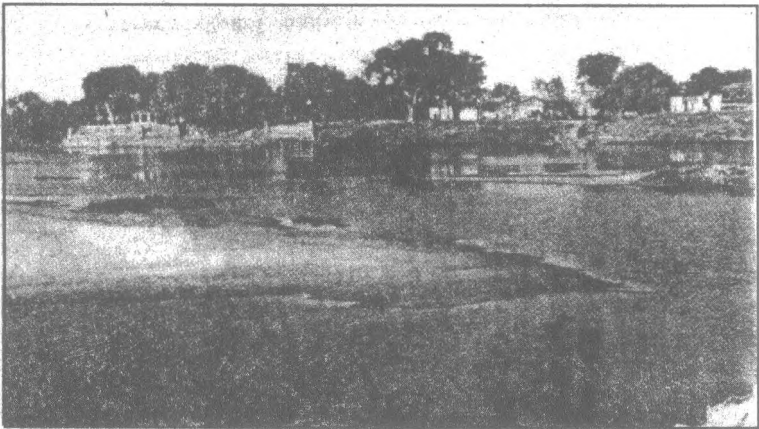
Tipu inherited a powerful kingdom which extended from the Krishna in the North to Dindigal in the South, about 400 miles in length and from Malabar in the West to the Eastern ghats about 300 miles in the width.



The very proportion and might of his kingdom was the cause of jealousy among Tipu's neighbour, the Marathas and the Nizam.

At the time of his rise to power he was in the midst of the second Mysore war with English which was extending without any useful purpose. Tipu acted swiftly.

In a few swift campaigns he frustrated the English by defeating them at various fronts. He was supported by the French who cut off all the supplies to the English from Bengal, making Tipu's task much easier.



The Cauvery - the everflowing river. This "living river" had witnessed the rise and fall of Tipu Sultan.



The English worried about the new ruler of Mysore, who could not be a pawn in their hands as had been the case of other princes of India.

This time the English hastily offered for having a peace with Tipu. There were in a hope-less position and were faced with a possible prospect of losing heavily.

Tipu was reluctant to accept the peace proposal. But news of France entering into peace with Britain reached India and the French withdrew from the war. Taking all these factors into consideration. Tipu agreed for peace and a treaty known as the treaty of 'Mangalore', was signed in Mangalore on March 11, 1784.

Thus Tipu earned his first honours after his rise to power.

writing about the great soldier, Pandit Nehru says that, "he was a remarkable man and one of the notable figures, in India's history.

He had some kind of national ideal and possessed the qualities of leader with vision. Continually suffering from a painful disease his self-discipline was great (It was about Hyder Ali).

The English had been humbled for a second time, since the first Mysore war. Earlier, they



Tipu Sultan's Palace in Bangalore.

had been humbled by Haider and now by his able son Tipu Sultan.

The treaty of Mangalore also disappointed the Marathas who had plotted already to join the English and attack Mysore to recover some territory which they had conceded to Mysore in earlier wars.

The second Mysore war had also ended in a big victory for Tipu and a humiliating experience for the English.

Soon after the war, Tipu realised the discontent among his neighbours. He realised that on one hand the English with whom he had signed the treaty of Mangalore could not be trusted and on the other hand, the Nizam



A secular relic of Tipu. The Ganesha temple inside the Bangalore Fort.

and the Marathas were waiting for an opportune moment to begin their hostilities with Mysore.

Tipu had always sought for a united force comprising of all Indian rulers to attack the English and destroy their presidencies in Madras, Bombay and Calcutta.



The Tiger kills a Tiger. A carving in the Bangalore Fort.

He was aware of the discontent among the Indian Kings who were always vary of each other and the English were exploiting the situation to their advantage by pitting one against each other.

In the bargain, they were reducing the Indian powers and enhancing their power by controlling more and more parts of the Indian Territory.



Tipu could see their ulterior motive. But Marathas and the Nizam could not be convinced enough to view the situation from Tipu's angle Tipu was disappointed.



Knowing fully well that he could not get complete and sincere support from his neighbours in his crusade against the British, Tipu started exploring the foreign grounds to find support to fight the British.

The Turks were a great force in Europe at that time. In 1784 soon after the second Mysore war had ended he sent his ambassadors to constantinople to explore the possibility of Turkish help to fight against the British.

Tipu not only wanted to safeguard his territory but he also sought to destroy the British threat once and for all and end their expansion in India.

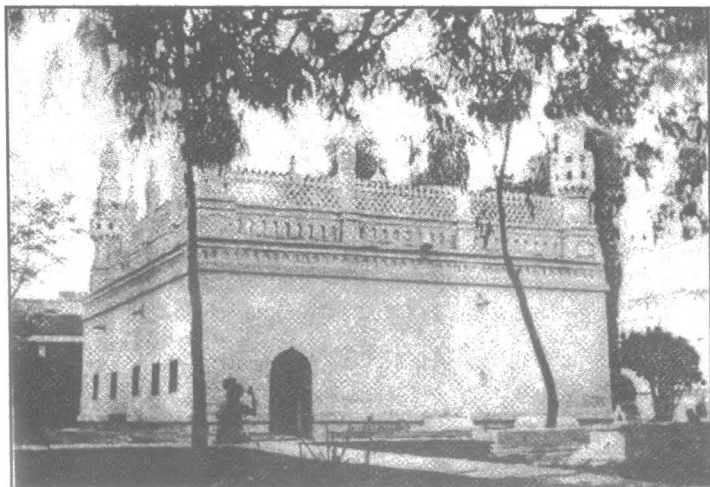
Tipu even proposed a treaty between Mysore and Turkey, inwhich he sought for a large troop from Turkey whose expenditure he would bear. He requested the Sultan of Turkey to send him a large number of troops to Mysore, who were to be under his orders for his proposed war with English.

He also sought for trade and commerce with Turkey. But the Sultan of Turkey expressed his inability to send his men to Mysore stating that,

the Russians were threatening to take over entire Europe and Turkey was fully engaged in resisting the Russians.

It was also a reality that in order to check the Russian threat in Europe, the Turks had reached an agreement with Britain.

As per this agreement the Turks were aligned with the British to face the Russians. Under these conditions, the Sultan of Turkey was not in favour of enraging the British by sending his troops to Mysore to fight the British. After four years of counseling the ambassadors returned to India.



Saidani Bibi Ki "**dargah**" at Kolar (64 km. from Bangalore)
A tomb where Haidar Ali's parents and elder brother Shahbaz
are buried.

Later Tipu turned to the French, and he sent his ambassadors to France to meet the French Emperor. He requested the French premier to send him 10,000 troops.

Again France also expressed their inability to help Tipu as France was in the midst of an economic and social problem.

Thus Tipu's efforts to obtain assistance from different parts of the world to fight the British remained unfruitful.



Shelly has said that war is the statesman's game and Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan loved this game. Like his father, Tipu was surrounded by enemies. He too liked storms and tempests and nothing could hold him back. He loved Tigers.

Several roaring Tigers greeted him whenever he moved in the vicinity of his palace.

His flag soldiers, uniforms swords, guns, coins,



TIPU SULTAN



buildings and the Mosque all had Tiger stripes. Tipu's flag had green stripes on a red field with a sun in the centre; his war tents were green.

When Tipu was hardly fifteen he had accompanied his father to the battle fields. Both Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan defeated the English at Pollilur, Tanjore and Bidnur.

Tipu gave more importance to artillery than cavalry. The British had modern weapons. After the third Mysore war he too paid greater attention to the casting of better quality guns, acquired from France.

Tipu had a great "Park of rockets".

He fired the rockets for the first time in India in 1780, defeated the English at Pollilur. These rockets had a range of 3 km.

The French had praised Tipu's artillery.

With the conclusion of the treaty of Mangalore, there was a period of great uncertainty about the prospects of peace in South India.

The English had taken it as an opportunity to reorganise their troops and might for a future war with Tipu. That there will be another war with Tipu was a foregone conclusion for them.

But by signing the treaty, they had



Beautiful jewel box made of ivory with the scenes and designs of the Tipu era. Birds and animals are shown in action along with delicate flowery designs.

temporarily ensured that Tipu would not trouble them for some time. But they were Bent upon avenging the twin humiliation of their forces in the first and second Mysore war.

From this treaty Sultan had also earned the apathy of the Marathas who had all along hoped to attack Mysore for regaining their territories which now formed part of Tipu's empire, with the active help of the English.

But Tipu sensing the eminent danger had concluded the treaty and had thwarted their attempts.



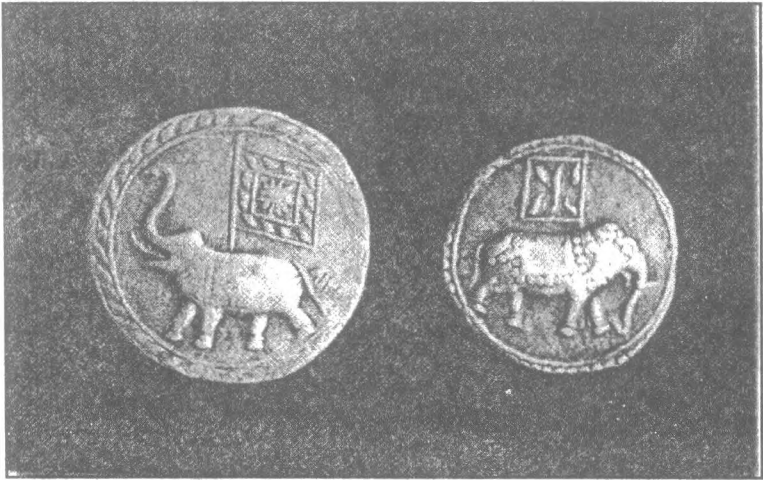
(Tipu was far-sighter ruler.) This gave the Marathas enough reason to seek the aid of the Nizam to begin their hostilities on Mysore. Since his coming to power in 1761 the Nizam considered himself to be the undisputed ruler of the South. But, on seeing Tipu rise as a major power in the South by humbling the might of British forces he too was jealous of Tipu.

Eventhough he was never powerful enough to attack Mysore on his own he would always side with Marathas or the English, when they were at war with Mysore.

Had the Indian rulers realised the gravity of the situation caused by the rapid expansion of the British controlled territories in India and had they fought the British unitedly, our country would never have been subjected to the dreadful rule of the English known popularly as the British Raj for two centuries.

It is only because of this rule of our country by a foreign power that, India is still considered as a developing country.

Thus due to their personal motives the Nizam and the Marathas drawn closer to each other. The two met in Yadgir in June 1784 and agreed to wage a war with Tipu in the ensuing year. They were confident that with their combined



Copper coins (*Usmani*) with Elephants and *babari* markings introduced by Haidar Ali and adopted by Tipu.

might, they will be able to destroy Tipu and share the whole of Mysore among themselves.

The Marathas were also confident that they would be able to get the support from the English once the war was underway. However they could not start a war without any valid reason and waited for an opportunity to attack Mysore. In 1785 the opportunity came.



The Desai of Naragund which was earlier under the Maratha but was annexed by Hyder and was under the control of Mysore was supposed to pay annual tribute to Mysore. But the Desai was reluctant to pay the tribute and had not paid it for a few years.

Tipu in order to penalise him asked him to pay the arrears immediately and also enhanced the tribute. The Desai refused to Tipu's conditions and approached the Marathas to intervene.

The Marathas declared that Tipu's action was unjust. This enraged Tipu. He felt that the matter was purely within his territory and the Marathas had no right to interfere in his internal matters.

Tipu knew that on an earlier occasion the Desai had sought the help of English to liberate him from subordination to Tipu. In order to resolve the matter as quickly as possible.

Tipu sent a detachment to Nargund. After a brave fight the Desai lost the battle. Nana the Maratha chief who had watched all along still was reluctant to start the war as he wanted to

prepare well to make the war into a decisive victory.

However a section of the troops under Nana attacked the army of Tipu. But they were forced to retreat after incurring heavy losses. Then Nana sent a new force under Parashuram Bhaui to retrieve Nargund. But once again they incurred heavy losses and casualties.

Nana was feeling very unsure to continue his military campaigns due to lack of preparations. But to cover up the defeats he sent a big force under Tukogi Holkar. Nana expected Holkar to penetrate deep into Tipu's territory and cause him some embarrassment.



A medallion cast after the fall of Srirangapatna. A British Lion with his Union Jack falls upon the **Tiger of Mysore**. Treachery glorified!

The situation appeared grim for Tipu. He was alone and he was fighting with his own countrymen, ganging up against him. He had no other alternative, but to defend his territory. But internally he was very sad to fight his own countrymen instead of fighting the foreigners, who were sitting pretty and coolly watching the Indian powers destroying and humiliating each other.

Tipu was wary of the English even when he was fighting with the Marathas and Nizam.

After every battle he would send his representatives seeking peace to the Marathas and the Nizam, but the allies who were bent upon destroying Tipu took no notice to his requests.

The only curious aspect of this war was the English who did not join the allies in this war. They were approached by the Marathas for their support. They agreed to provide troops but at the last minute they changed their mind and quoted the treaty of Mangalore as their reason to stay away from the war.

In reality the British wanted the Southern forces to cripple each other as far as possible, so that they can gain control of the whole of South at a later date.



Tipu had great ambitions. Thomas Fuller says that, great and good are seldom the same man. But History records that Sultan was both great and good. He adopted secular policies towards his subjects.

Tipu donated huge sums and presented articles to the Hindu shrines at Sringeri, Melkote, Nanjangud and Srirangapatna.

A Linga donated by Tipu is worshipped even today in the Nanjangud Temple.

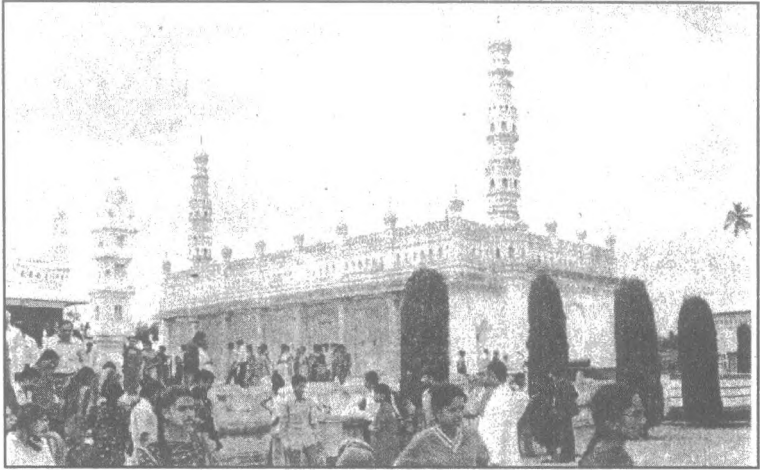
Tipu's Fort in Bangalore has a Ganapathy temple intact as if the fort has not seen the different periods of Kempe Gowda and Tipu.

Tipu had introduced "Rahati" coins with the images of Shiva Parvati, Sringeri Sharada and Udupi Krishna with Kannada and Persian numerals.

In his capital Tipu had gifted silver vessels to the Ranganath Swami temple for performing Puja.

It is interesting to note here that even today only his articles are used in the temple for

conducting sacred rituals. They are kept nearest the deity after use. On all the articles it is written in Kannada that Nawab Tipu Sultan had donated them.



Tipu's Prayer Hall

The Sultan whenever he was in the capital used to visit the temple after his morning prayer punctually. History records that the front portion of the huge temple was built by Hyder Ali.

Like his father Tipu Sultan always kept religion from politics. He provided annual grants to 156 temples in his kingdom.

The Dasara in Mysore and Karaga in Bangalore were celebrated on a grand scale in the days of Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan. Tipu was

"an enlightened ruler who raised the Hindus to high positions in his Government granted them complete freedom of worship. Conferred grants on temples and Brahmins, gave money for the consecration of images and on an occasion even ordered a building of a temple."

Bisheshwar Prasad says like this.

"Tipu worked hard to promote the welfare of his people according to his light and supervised every department of government.

His sphere of activity not merely comprised maintenance of law and order and protection of the state from external danger but also extended, the activities like commerce and industry and raising the level of social behaviour and moral conduct of his people and officers."

Tipu was a great reformer. His rule did not last even for two decades but he brought many changes in the cultural, political and economic spheres.

The Dasara is the most important festival in Mysore, in which the Hindu royal family has been participating enthusiastically. Legend has it that on the Chamundi Hill the demon King Mahishasura was slain by Goddess Chamundeshwari. During the festival human sacrifices were made on the hill. Tipu issued a "Firman" to stop this inhuman custom.



Tipu's administration as well as his army was well-knit. He traded with other states and countries.

In those days, sandalwood oil, silks black pepper, cardamom, carpets and ivory articles were exported through the land and sea routes.

Tipu had imported silk worms and saffron seeds. There were 21 silk farms in his kingdom.

Bhatkal, Mangalore and Honnavar were the major ports during his reign.

Tipu enforced the shariat and the Hindu Law in his kingdom. In each city he appointed qzis to supervise the day to day affairs of the Muslims. Tipu granted Jagirs to other religious leaders for their services. He abolished the 'Zamindari' system.

The farmers were taxed according to their crops annually one fourth of the produce. If the crops failed they had tax exemption. He laid the foundation stone of an irrigational project, "Sadd-e-Mohi" across the river Cauvery, where later Sir M. Visvesvaraya constructed a dam on the same site.

On the main gate of the dam, inscriptions in the Persian and English say that, "The start is from me, But the completion rests with God."

Corrupt officials and anti-social elements were

punished with heavy-hand. Tipu made primary education compulsory; he had introduced postal service in his state. Anybody could see him and his father through the mace-bearer.

Tipu stopped many age-old indecent customs in his kingdom. Because of many welfare measures and reforms he had won the hearts of his subjects. Some of his detractors, considered his reforms as an interference in their religion.



Tipu patronized artists and architects forts, Grand Mosques and other monuments awake memories of Tipu Sultan. The fort in his capital has several decorated arched gates.

There was a beautiful palace, in the vicinity of Ranganathaswamy temple. During the seige of his capital, srirangaptna it was destroyed. It was destroyed by the invading armies in 1799.

But interestingly enough the English made all efforts to preserve the Dungeons where English officers like colonel Baillie General Baird and Colonel Brathwaite and others were imprisoned by Tipu.

Tipu Sultan had renamed major towns and forts in his kingdom. Some of the important monuments in Srirangapatna and elsewhere are as follows;

The Lal Mahal :

It was built by Hyder Ali near the Ranganath Swamy temple. It was a simple but impressive structure with an open Balcony or Durbar hall overlooking the parade ground and with another hall opening on to the garden behind.

Monsieur D.L.T. who worked for Hyder Ali writes about the palace;

"His apartments are commonly covered with white muslin spread upon the most superb Persian carpets, ornamental with festoons of flowers of the utmost lightness and delicacy. Tipu Sultan had renovated the same. His garden "contained many cyphresses and fountains, and the trees were grafted and bore many kinds of fruits.

Lord valentie describes the palace as follows.

The private residence of Tipu Sultan consists of but one square, three sides of which are divided into two storeys with a verandah of a painted wood in front. Behind were many small rooms used by him as warehouses.

The fourth consists of a single room the same height as the rest of the building. This was the Darbar.... where he sat or wrote and received ministers. The walls were painted with verses from the holy Quran. Beside the palace was Tipu's Military School. This School was demolished by the English after the fall of the Tipu.

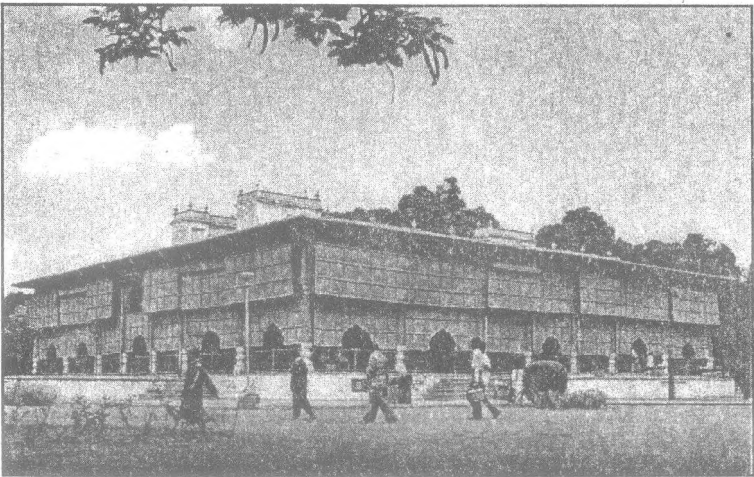
The Daria Daulat Baugh :

Near Tipu's fort lies his summer palace called Daria Daulat, with a fine garden. This wooden

endifice is a beautiful example of saracenic architecture.

Its interesting features are the mural paintings of battle scenes and flowery designs. Besides Tipu's personal belongings and other articles of his period are paintings by European artists.

Mural paintings show military campaigns of Hyder Ali and Tipu. Tipu received his guests here. Hyder Ali had started the construction of the palace in 1778. It was completed by Tipu in 1789.



View of Dariya Daulat Palace

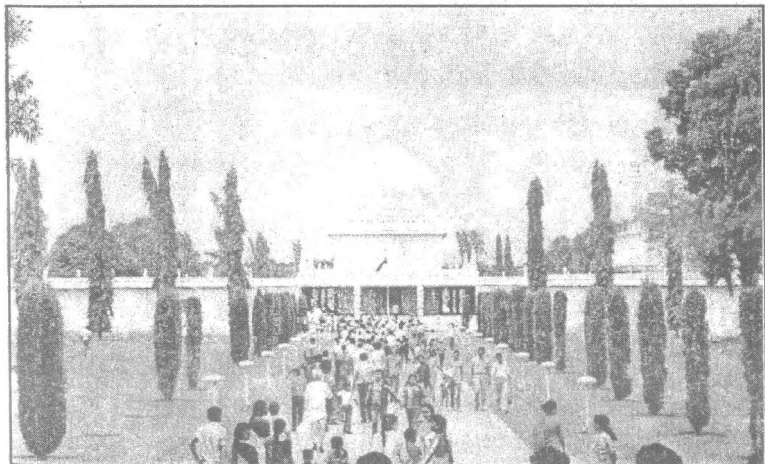
The Gumbaz :

It is an impressive square-shaped Mausoleum with beautiful ivory-inlaid doors and black marble pillars. Here is buried Tipu Sultan by the side of his parents Hyder Ali and Fatima Begum. A persian verse says on one of the doors;

Tipu Sultan suddenly attained martyrdom.
He sacrificed his life in the way of God.

The only eyesore in the Gumbaz is a huge donation box. Outside the tomb are the graves of Tipu's relatives and commanders.

The Masjid-e-Aqsa with two small minarets is in the same vicinity outside the Mosque we can see a solar clock here also. The Gumbaz was built by Tipu in 1784.



Entrance View of Gumbaz



The Lal Baugh Palace :

There was an impressive palace of Tipu in the Lal Baugh, Srirangapatna. It had two storeys and upstairs.

Buchanan had seen it in 1800. Talking about the palace he says, "Though built of mud, it possesses a considerable degree of elegance and is the handsomest native building that I have ever seen. It was pulled down by the English and the material was used in the construction of St. Stephen's Church and The Holy Trinity Church of Ootacamund.

The Bangalore Palace

The palace a wooden structure resembles the Daria Daulat Baugh. As we enter the palace five well decorated and painted arches welcome us. It was also known as 'Rashk-e-Janat'.

The Bangalore Fort :

Inside the Fort is a temple of Ganesha. Tipu Sultan had fortified Kempe Gowda's Fort but with due respect he had preserved the temple.

Gumbad-E-Shahi :

It is popularly called 'Saidani Bibi-ki Durgah'. It is situated near the tomb of Hazarat Qutub Ghouri a great saint.

Here are laid to rest Hyder Ali's parents grand



parents his elder brother Shahbaz and other kinsmen. The grave of Fath Muhammed is exceedingly large, when Hyder Ali died, his friends had brought the body here for the last rites. Later it was shifted to the Gumbaz.

The Krishnagiri Fort :

It is one of the most precipitous forts of Tipu. He had fortified this fort originally built by Krishnadevaraya. The headless bodies of great saints, Sayyed Shah Bahauddin and Sayyed Shah Shahabuddin have been buried here.

Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan had granted a "Jagir" to this Durgah for its maintenance.

Tipu's underground Durbar hall Court and stables are in good condition.

The walls of this fort has the figures of Hanuman Surya, Nandi, Linga, Elephants, Mouse, Fish, Monkey and various Gods and Goddesses.

Some excellent erotic carvings can be seen here. Tipu the secular Sultan has left the carvings untouched.

The Fort in Srirangapatna :

Talking about Tipu's fort in Srirangapatna Major Dirom say, "The fort and outworks occupy about a mile of a West end of the island and the

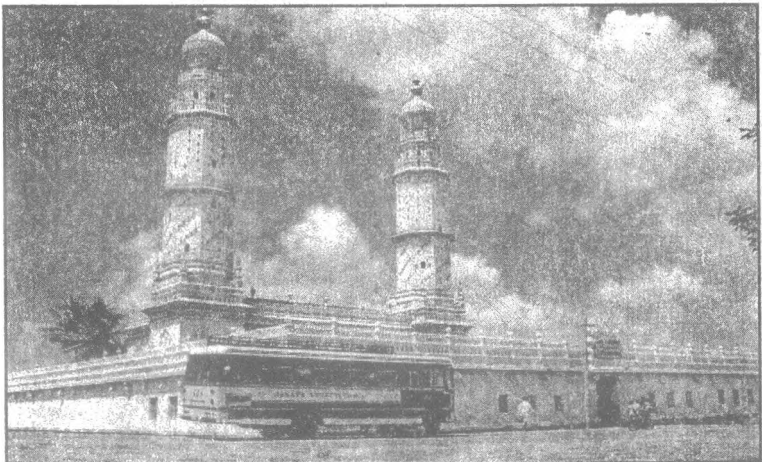
Lal Bagh about the same portion of the East end.

The whole space between the fort and the Lal Bagh except the small enclosure called Daulat Bagh on the North bank near the fort was filled before the war, with houses had formed an extensive suburb of which the village of Ganjam the is only remaining fort."

The Masjid-E-Ala :

Tipu after ascending the throne constructed this beautiful Mosque with two tall graceful minarets in 1784.

After climbing the steps of the minarets, we can have bird's eye-view of Srirangapatna and



Masjid



surroundings. Here only at the clarion call of Tipu, his soldiers had decided to sacrifice their precious life along with the sultan.

The complete Mosque was painted by Tipu with the "Babari" motif. After the fall of the Sultan the English whitewashed the painting.



In spite of his father's interests and strict training of statecraft Tipu naturally was inclined towards "Sufism". No sufi or saint went unrewarded from him. He respected them and sought their advice.

Reuben Levy defines Sufism as "a system of Theosophic Mysticism which began to gain converts in Persia, soon after the Islamic conquest. Its earliest exponents were themselves Arabs and ascetics who wore rough garment of wool which gave the movement the name under the Abbasid Caliphs."

The Sufism has influenced and transformed materialistic human values into an ideal religious life. Thanks to our great Sufis the various communities professing conflicting faiths came closer forgetting their narrow religious or regional outlook. Because of their everlasting influence over the Indian thought we find some orthodox people in Ajmer who call themselves, "Husaini Brahmins."

The Sufis led normal life based on the Quran and Hadith. But none could match their self

control self-sacrifice, patience and abundant trust in God.

Tipu Sultan had all these qualities. Talking about these Sufis the Quran says, "Allah is well pleased with them and they with him. Thus shall the God-fearing be rewarded."

It is said that people had gathered to offer prayers at Tipu's newly constructed Mosque in his capital. A Theologian said that he who had not missed a single prayer should come forward. Tipu alone confessed that he had offered the prescribed five times prayers, and he was the first to lead the congregation.

To continue war after the death of father, requires extraordinary courage and faith in God. When the news of Hyder Ali's death which was kept a secret was leaked out to his enemies they had rejoiced at it; hoping that Hyder Ali's untimely death will demoralise Tipu's army. On the contrary, Tipu as a rock faced his foes. The enemy camp had no courage to defeat the Sultan. In war or peace Tipu always thought of God.

Sufism and Bhakti movement spread the message of universal brotherhood and devotion to God in the country when it was badly needed in the caste-ridden Indian society. Tipu Sultan

irrespective of caste and status had extended the hand of friendship to his neighbours, but they could not foresee the consequences of the English policy of "divide and rule."

Tipu had 15 mints in his kingdom. He had minted several coins and given names after great Muslims and called them Hydari, Ahmadi, and Zohra etc.

His coins do not say anything about Tipu. Likewise other coins also do not bear his name and only a sentence of the above nature referring to the prophet is found which indicated his firm belief in him.

Tipu loved God, His chosen prophet, his country and his people. And all will agree that he was a Sufi.



Tipu like his father was a war lover. Full scale war broke out between the allies and Tipu in May 1786. Badami was attacked and the allies took control of Badami.

In June 1786 Ganjendragarh was taken over. Tipu on hearing of the outbreak of hostilities marched to Adoni and captured it, inspite of heavy reinforcements sent by Nizam. Tipu soon crossed the Tungabhadra and launched a surprise attack on the Marathas in October 1786 in the middle of the night.

Eventhough this attack did not prove to be of any great help. Tipu carried out a similar attack in November 1786 and inflicted serious loses on the Marathas.

In January 1787, Tipu captured the very strong fort of Bahadur Banda. Tipu did not stop for a moment and went on attacking the allies at crucial junctures and started to snatch away strategic positions from the allies.

His men and their might was dreaded by the allies. Whenever, Tipu attacked the allies, he was successfull. The war dragged on and on. It entered the second year.



Eventhough Tipu could display his military skills to a great extent, he was at the most defensive in his approach. He was only concerned with safeguarding his territory.

He had no intentions of attacking and humbling his neighbours. Due to Tipu's defensive approach and the mindless hostilities on the part of the allies the war was extended for a long period.

Finally the two warring factions saw reason and cease-fire was resorted to on February 10, 1787. Tipu was inclined to have peace with his neighbours, for he still had hopes that he could persuade them to join him in his struggle against the British.

Nana on his part was also anxious to end the war as the allies were facing a tough time and the English had kept themselves away from the war scenario.

A peace treaty was signed at Gajendragarh in April 1787. In this treaty, Tipu had agreed to many of the allies conditions regarding mutual restoration of occupied territories inspite of proving his superiority in the war.

Tipu had aimed at winning the support of his neighbours by giving them concessions in the terms of treaty. English were his prime enemy

and he had been unnecessarily dragged into a war which he never intended to get involved.

So he agreed to pretty easy terms with the allies. The allies were embarrassed with the knowledge that their combined effort had been thwarted by Tipu. Tipu had emerged as the supreme lord of the South by repulsing the attack on his territories and inflicting heavy losses to the allies forces.

In the contrast, he had surrendered a few forts captured by him to the Marathas in order to win them over to fight the British unitedly.



Apart from being the great warrior who led his troops to glorious victories, Tipu was an able administrator.

He was very energetic and involved himself in the affairs of his state with a zeal rarely seen. He adopted many western methods in running the Government. He reorganised his armed forces.

The troops number which was at 30,000 at the time of the first Mysore war had swelled to 88,000 by the Second Mysore war.

Tipu undertook to the manufacture of arms in Mysore itself. His field guns manufactured locally had a better range than the English guns. He even had a decent Navy, but it was primarily entrusted with the duty of safeguarding merchants sailing in the seas from the attack of pirates.

Mysore did not had a sea-port before Hyder. Hyder acquired the sea-port in 1764. This port was developed into a trading centre by Tipu.

Tipu's state was actively involved in export of pepper sandalwood, cardamom, rice chillies

etc. Tipu even established factories in foreign countries. He had established trade relations with China, France Turkey and Iran.

Tipu tried to develop relations with foreign countries not only for trade purpose but he also sought their military help. Even while developing trade relations Tipu was exploring the possibilities of obtaining troops from other countries. Within his state Tipu monopolised the trade of gold tobacco sandalwood precious metals Elephants, Pepper and Timber.

His factories at Srirangapatnam, Bangalore, Bidnur and Chitradurga employed workmen, for manufacturing scissors, guns, muskets, hour-glasses, watches, cutlery. Apart from the above, gun powder glassware, steel wires and musical instruments were also manufactured.

A sugar mill was in Chennapatna, and Chinese experts were invited to assist the locals in the production of fine-quality sugar.

Silver cloth of very fine quality was produced by weavers in Bangalore. Roads were built, forts were strengthened, large gardens were established and towns and cities were beautified with a lot of care.

The central administration was run by 18 departments, including finance and police.

Tipu kept the complete control of each department with himself. He was the supreme legislature, judicial and executive authority in his state.

He was his own Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and the Chief, Tipu was aware about the social evils and undertook reforms to eradicate them.

Notable among them were the ban of sale of liquor ban on prostitution, stay on polyandry and women were to cover their body in an correct manner.

Tipu was very orthodox in his religion but he was very tolerant. He held the Hindu religion in high regard.

Tipu presented gold and silver vessels an Elephant and a few jewels to the Narayanswamy temple in Melkote. Likewise he made hearty donations to many temples.

The people of his state were very happy and contented with Tipu and is way of handling administration. The British tried to spread false propaganda that Tipu was against Hindus and he was treating Hindus with hatred. But Tipu never feared about it.

Many visitors to his state both Indian and



foreign were surprise to see the prosperity and general happiness of the subjects.

Mysore had prospered a lot under Tipu.



Tipu being a great man himself was fond of nature. He loved greenery and birds. He had constructed beautiful tanks near his palaces for rearing fish.

He had said "Animals and birds are a part of God's creation. Their wanton destruction will upset nature's balance."



River Kaveri

Tipu had imported seeds and plants from far-off places and watered regularly. Fan-shaped trees were very common in his kingdom besides other ornamental and commercial plants.



Tipu's Mosque in Srirangapatna and the Daria Daulat Baugh both have holes in the minarets. Pigeons and other birds have made them their homes and tell us the story of their lover, Sultan. The story which has come to them from generation to generation.

Sixteen k.m. from Mysore is situated the Ranganathittu Bird's sanctuary. It is a heaven of the migratory feathered visitors from lands as far as off as Siberia.

Chirping birds flutter away the stillness of the place during mornings and evenings.

The birds of Ranganathittu Bird's sanctuary near Tipu's capital have been flying all over the world singing Tipu's praises.



Tipu had started rebuilding his defences and economy after third Mysore war. Tipu continued exploring possibilities of finding help from various sources.

The alliance among the British, the Nizam and the Marathas had broken by 1795 when the Nizam with the help of the British, fought a war with the Marathas.

Tipu renewed his activities by approaching his neighbours to form an alliance against the British. He even sent his representatives to French colonies out side India to garner their support. However his attempts were largely unfruitful.

The only warrior fighting the English armies was not encouraged in his ventures by anybody. However that did not defer him from continuing his efforts to find friends to help him over come the English.

Tipu was destined to fight the English alone and when the time came he fought bravely and confronted them with admirable courage.

The Indian rulers were no longer regarded as equals by the English and they were to exist as sub-ordinates, to them or face destruction. The English were well established by this time and could exercise their powers to a great extent.

No Indian ruler dared to oppose them except Tipu. Wellesley had decided to destroy Tipu in order to hasten the English effort to rule India.

In spite of his reduced territory. Tipu was still a formidable enemy who could fight like a Tiger.

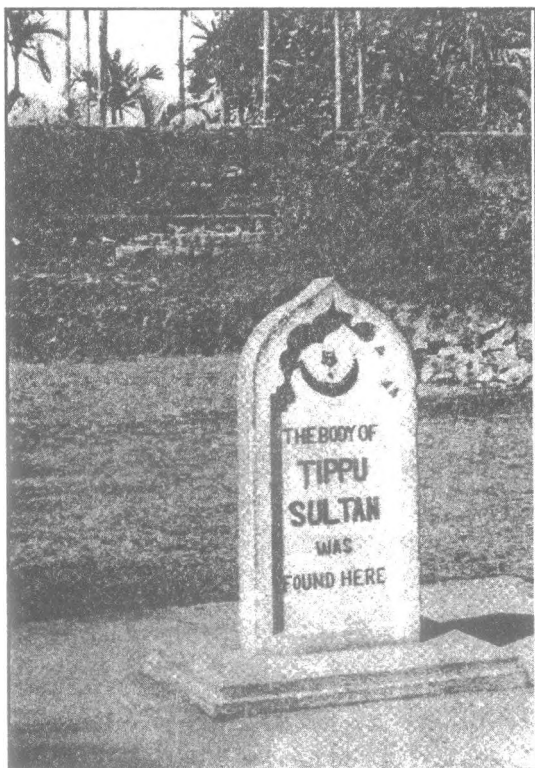
While the preparations for the war had already commenced. Wellesley sent his representatives to Tipu. They insisted that Tipu should sign a similar pact as the subsidiary alliance signed by the Nizam and like him, Tipu should also become a subordinate to the English.

An enraged Tipu knowing fully well that signing such a treaty was disastrous, refused to comply.

This act of Tipu in the face of grave danger to his kingdom can best be described as exemplary.

Wellesley ensured that his troops greatly outnumbered Tipu's army. Wellesley felt confident of defeating Tipu.

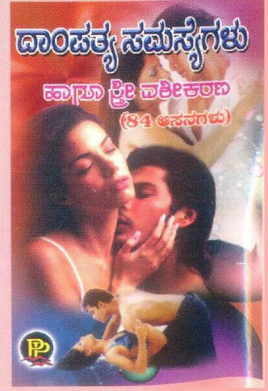
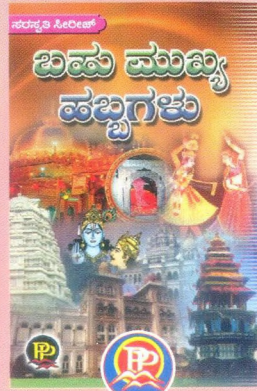
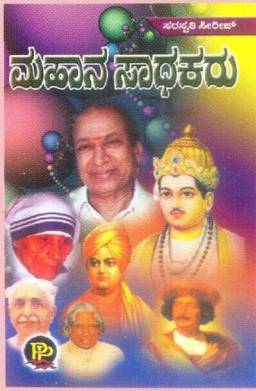
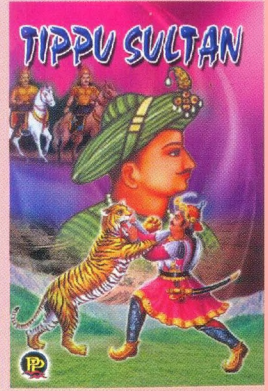
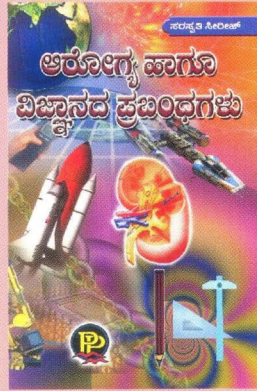
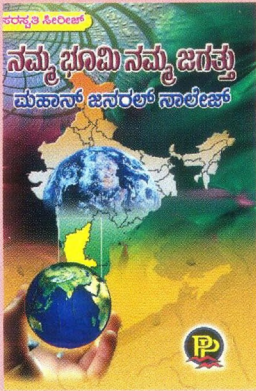
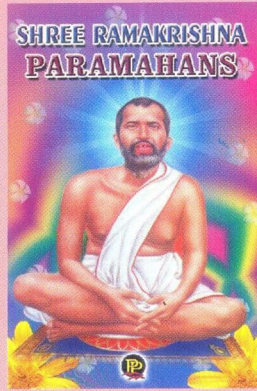
The British armies approached from all the sides. Tipu's men fought bravely, resisting the English advances. They gave a tough fight to the English. Tipu was forced to retreat back into his fort at Srirangapatnam. The final battle began. One of the most ferocious wars was fought. Tipu's men inflicted great casualties on the British. But they fell and along with them, Tipu Sultan the Tiger of Mysore also fell.



The great Sultan had laid down his life protecting his country. He had fought till the end. Tipu had preferred death rather than being a sub-ordinate to the Britishers.

With the death of Tipu the English Empire was firmly rooted in India.





ಹಾರು ಪ್ರಕಾಶನ, ಗದಗ

TIPPU SULTAN

