

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

I M A HISTORY VI SEMESTER

HISTORY OF KONGU NADU UPTO 1800 A.D (18MHI24C)

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Kannada folklore tells a tale of a young man, Sala, who saved his Jain guru, Sudatta, by striking dead a tiger he encountered near the temple of the goddess Vasantika at Angadi, now called Sosevuru. The word "strike" literally translates to "hoy" in Old Kannada, hence the name "Hoy-sala". This legend first appeared in the Belur inscription of Vishnuvardhana (1117), but owing to several inconsistencies in the Sala story it remains in the realm of folklore.^{[3][4]} The legend may have come into existence or gained popularity after King Vishnuvardhana's victory over the Cholas at Talakadu as the Hoysala emblem depicts the fight between the mythical warrior Sala and a tiger, the tiger being the emblem of the Cholas.^[5]

Early inscriptions, dated 1078 and 1090, have implied that the Hoysalas were descendants of the Yadava by referring to the Yadava *vamsa* (clan) as the "Hoysala *vamsa*". But there are no early records directly linking the Hoysalas to the Yadavas of North India.^{[6][7]}

Historians refer to the founders of the dynasty as natives of Malenadu based on numerous inscriptions calling them *Maleparolganda* or "Lord of the Male (hills) chiefs" (*Malepas*).^{[8][9][10][11][12][13][14][15]} This title in the Kannada language was proudly used by the

Hoysala kings as their royal signature in their inscriptions. Literary sources from that time in Kannada (*Jatakatilaka*) and Sanskrit (*Gadyakarnamrita*) have also helped confirm they were natives of the region known today as Karnataka.^{[16][17]}

The first Hoysala family record is dated 950 and names Arekalla as the chieftain, followed by Maruga and Nripa Kama I (976). The next ruler, Munda (1006–1026), was succeeded by Nripa Kama II who held such titles as *Permanadi* that show an early alliance with the [Western Ganga dynasty](#).^[18] From these modest beginnings, the Hoysala dynasty began its transformation into a strong subordinate of the Western Chalukya Empire.^{[19][20]} Through [Vishnuvardhana's](#) expansive military conquests, the Hoysalas achieved the status of a real kingdom for the first time.^{[21][22]} He wrested [Gangavadi](#) from the Cholas in 1116 and moved the capital from Belur to Halebidu.^{[23][24][25][26]}

Vishnuvardhana's ambition of creating an independent empire was fulfilled by his grandson Veera Ballala II, who freed the Hoysalas from subordination in 1187–1193.^{[27][28][29]} Thus the Hoysalas began as subordinates of the Western Chalukya Empire and gradually established their own empire in Karnataka with such strong Hoysala kings as Vishnuvardhana, [Veera Ballala II](#) and later [Veera Ballala III](#). During this time, the Deccan Plateau saw a four-way struggle for hegemony – [Pandyan](#), [Kakatiya](#) and [Seuna](#) being the other kingdoms.^[30] Veera Ballala II defeated the aggressive Pandya when they invaded the Chola kingdom.^{[31][32][33][34]} He assumed the title "Establisher of the Chola Kingdom" (*Cholarajyapratishthacharya*), "Emperor of the south" (*Dakshina Chakravarthi*) and "Hoysala emperor" (*Hoysala Chakravarthi*).^[35] He founded the city of [Bangalore](#) according to Kannada folklore.^[36]

The Hoysalas extended their foothold in areas known today as Tamil Nadu around 1225, making the city of Kannanur Kuppam near [Srirangam](#) a provincial capital and giving them control over

South Indian politics that began a period of Hoysala hegemony in the southern Deccan.^{[37][38][39][40]} [Vira Narasimha II](#)'s son [Vira Someshwara](#) earned the honorific "uncle" (*Mamadi*) from the Pandyas and Cholas. The Hoysala influence spread over Pandya kingdom also.^[41] Toward the end of the 13th century, [Veera Ballala III](#) recaptured territory in the Tamil country which had been lost to the Pandya uprising, thus uniting the northern and southern portions of the kingdom.^{[42][43][44][45]}

Major political changes were taking place in the Deccan region in the early 14th century when significant areas of [northern India](#) were under Muslim rule. [Alauddin Khalji](#), the Sultan of Delhi, was determined to bring South India under his domain and sent his commander, [Malik Kafur](#), on a southern expedition to plunder the Seuna capital [Devagiri](#) in 1311.^[46] The Seuna empire was subjugated by 1318 and the Hoysala capital [Halebidu](#) was sacked twice, in 1311 and 1327.^[45]

By 1336, the Sultan had conquered the Pandyas of Madurai, the Kakatiyas of [Warangal](#) and the tiny kingdom of Kampili. The Hoysalas were the only remaining Hindu empire who resisted the invading armies.^[47] [Veera Ballala III](#) stationed himself at [Tiruvannamalai](#) and offered stiff resistance to invasions from the north and the [Madurai Sultanate](#) to the south.^[48] Then, after nearly three decades of resistance, [Veera Ballala III](#) was killed at the battle of Madurai in 1343,^[44] and the sovereign territories of the Hoysala empire were merged with the areas administered by [Harihara I](#) in the [Tungabhadra River](#) region.^{[49][50]} This new Hindu kingdom resisted the northern invasions and would later prosper and come to be known as the [Vijayanagara Empire](#).^[51]

THE VIJAYANAGAR EMPIRE

Origin of Vijayanagar and its Foundation

Vijayanagar was a South Indian Hindu empire, founded in 1336 by Harihara I. Harihara was Bhavana Sangama's eldest son, of the Kuruba clan of Mysore (now Karnataka), and was founder of the Sangama dynasty, the first of four Dynasties to rule the empire. The original Capital was in the principality of Anegondi on the northern banks of the Tungabhadra River. It was later moved to nearby Vijayanagara on the river's southern banks during the reign of Bukka Raya I, after which the empire was named. Harihara's first exploit was to take control of the northern part of the Kingdom of Hoysala, securing its entire range after the death of their king, Veera Ballala III, in 1343. By 1346, an inscription indicates Harihara I as "*Purvapaschima Samudradhishavara*": "The ruler of the Eastern and Western seas" showing the true establishment of the city as an empire.

The Rise of the Empire

Hoysala was on a frontier, a border between the old Hindu India and the invading Muslims from the north. By 1336 most of the small Hindu Kingdoms in the South had been defeated by Delhi Sultans. After the death of Hoysala Veera Ballala III the Hoysala empire merged with the growing Vijayanagar empire, which formed a solid wall against the Northern warlike Sultanates.

The reign of Bukka Raya

By 1374 Bukka Raya I, successor to Harihara I, had defeated the Chiefdom of Arcot, the Sultan of Madurai and gained control over Goa in the west and the Tungabhadra-Krishna River doab in the north.

The reign of Harihara II

Harihara II, the second son of Bukka Raya I, expanded the empire beyond the Krishna River and brought the whole of South India under the control of Vijayanagara. Gajabetekara (or Deva Raya II) succeeded to the throne in 1424. He quelled rebelling feudal lords as well as the Zamorin of Calicut and Quilon in the south. He invaded the island of Lanka and defeated the leaders of Pegu and Tanasserim in Myanmar, bringing the empire nearly to its fullest extent.

The Tuluva Dynasty

In the late 15th century, after nearly two decades of conflict with rebellious chieftains, the empire had declined slightly. Saluva Narasimha Deva Raya in 1485 and general Tuluva Narasa Nayaka in 1491 managed to reconsolidate it somewhat, and started the second rise to power of the empire. The coming to power of Tuluva Narasa Nayaka in 1491 marked the start of the Tuluva Dynasty. In the following decades the Vijayanagar empire dominated all of Southern India and fought off invasions from the five Deccan Sultanates in the north. The empire reached its peak during the rule of Krishna Deva Raya when the armies of the empire were nigh unstoppable. Krishna Deva Raya annexed areas formerly under the control of the Sultanates in the northern Deccan and the territories in the eastern Deccan. He also built and commissioned many of the architecture that Vijayanagara is remembered for, and was one of the empire's greatest leaders, governing his subjects well, albeit harshly if they broke his laws. He was followed by Achyuta Raya in 1530 and then the final Tuluva, Sadasiva Raya, in 1541. Both of these were considered fairly weak rulers, and their reigns were the start of the final period of decline that eventually led to the downfall of the empire.

Origins[edit]

Originally, the Nayakas were [Telugu-speaking](#) Warrior-merchants who started as *kartakkals* (agents) of the Vijayanagar empire in southern regions of what would become Tamil Nadu. That region had long been a troubled province due to its distance from Vijayanagara and had been only been fully subjugated in the early 16th century under Veera Narasimha. The first Nayaka, Nangama, was a popular and able general of Krishnadevaraya. Krishnadevaraya sent Nangama Nayaka with a large army to bring Pandya Nadu back under imperial control. Although he was an able administrator he was a hard ruler and rejected any claims of authority from the petty chieftains, which made him unpopular. In addition, experienced officers like Nangama Nayaka were chafing under the strict control Krishnadevaraya imposed on them. Towards the end of Krishnadevaraya's reign, trouble erupted in the south as the Chola Nayakas openly revolted and fled to Travancore, while Nangama began defying central orders while still claiming power of deputy. In response, the emperor sent Nangama's son, Viswanatha, with a large army to recapture Madurai. Viswanatha Nayaka defeated his father and sent him as prisoner to Krishnadevaraya, who in turned pardoned Nangama Nayaka for his valued service. After defeating his father Krishnadevaraya made Viswanatha governor of Madurai and other Tamil provinces in 1529, beginning the Madurai Nayaka dynasty.^[5]

Another story goes that the Pandyas were under attack from the Cholas and appealed to Krishnadevaraya for help. He then sent Nangama Nayaka to restore the Pandyas to their rightful throne. Nangama defeated the Cholas, but instead claimed the throne for himself and deposed the Pandyan king. So Krishnadevaraya sent Nangama's son Viswanatha Nayaka to defeat him,

which he did. Thus he was made *nayaka* of the region. However, this story does not have epigraphic evidence to support it.^[6]

Rise to power^[edit]

Viswanatha Nayaka was not originally independent, but was treated as just another governor who the emperor had sent to keep control over the provinces. Originally he had control over Chola Nadu as well, which was ruled by a feudatory Chola prince, but this was transferred to the [Thanjavur Nayakas](#). In 1544, Viswanatha Nayaka helped Aliya Rama Raya's army subdue Travancore, which had been refusing to pay tribute.^[5]

Vishwanatha also rebuilt fortifications at Madurai and made travel safer. He cleared the jungle around the banks of the Kaveri near Tiruchirappalli and destroyed hideouts of robbers there. He also expanded the borders of the kingdom so it included most of modern southern and western Tamil Nadu at his death. However, many of the local chieftains were still chafing under his rule, and so to appease them, Viswanatha's chief minister, [Ariyanatha Mudaliar](#), assisted him in using the *palayam* or [poligar](#) system. The system was a quasi-federal organisation of the country, which was divided into multiple *palayams* or small provinces; and each palayam was ruled by a *palayakkarar* or a petty chief. Ariyanatha organized the [Pandyan](#) kingdom into 72 *palayams* and ruled over the 72 dry-zone poligar chiefs.^[7] Of these 72, [Kurvikulam](#) and Ilayarasanendal, which were ruled by [Kamma](#) Nayakas of the [Pemmasani](#) and Ravella clans, were considered royal *palayams*.^[8] In the last year of his life he abdicated the throne and was alive for his son's investiture with ruling power in 1564, and died thereafter.^[9]

Viswanatha's son, Krishnappa, was crowned in 1564.^[5] He immediately faced threats from nobles disgruntled with the new *palayam* system brought in by his father. These nobles, led by Tumbichchi Nayaka instigated a revolt among some of the polygars, which was crushed by

Krishnappa. In the same year, he sent a contingent to the Battle of Talikota but it could not arrive in time. This defeat made the Nayakas virtually independent. When the king of Kandy, a friend of Tumbichchi Nayaka, stopped sending tribute, Krishnappa then led an invasion of Kandy. In this invasion he killed the king of Kandy, sent the late king's wife and children to [Anuradhapura](#) and placed his own brother-in-law Vijaya Gopala Naidu as his viceroy there to ensure tribute.^[9]

After his death in 1572, power in the kingdom went to his son Virappa Nayaka. Some documents claim the two sons of Krishnappa Nayaka were co-rulers, while other historians claim some member of the royal family was associated with rule, but not actually a ruler, like a *yuva raja* system in many of the princely states. During this time he crushed another revolt of polygars who were illegitimate descendants of the Pandyas. Virappa reigned over a period of relative stability. His relations with his nominal Vijayanagara overlords varied by their strength, but were generally cordial. After his death in 1595, power passed to his eldest son Krishnappa Nayaka II. During this time he led an occupation of Travancore and recognized [Venkatapati Raya](#) as emperor of Vijayanagar. During his reign, Ariyanatha Mudaliar passed away, and he himself died in 1601.^[1]

The dynasty was established in 1399 by Yaduraya Wodeyar. He ruled [Mysore](#) under the Vijayanagara Empire until 1423.

After Yaduraya Wodeyar, the Mysore kingdom was succeeded by the Wadiyar rulers. The kingdom remained fairly small during this early period and was a part of the Vijayanagara

Empire. After the fall of the Vijayanagara Empire in 1565, the Kingdom of Mysore became independent and remained so until 1799.

During the reign of [Krishnaraja Wadiyar III](#) (1799–1868), the region came under the control of the [British Empire](#). His successors changed the English spelling of their royal name to Wadiyar and took the title of *Bahadur*. The last two monarchs of the dynasty, [Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV](#) and [Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar](#), also accepted the British decoration [Knight Grand Cross of The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire](#) (GBE).

The Vijayanagara Empire disintegrated in 1565. The power vacuum created soon after was exploited by Raja Wadiyar (ruled 1578-1617). He expanded the borders of the Mysore kingdom and in 1610 changed the capital city from Mysore to Srirangapatna; a rare island formed by the river [Kaveri](#), which provided natural protection against military attacks.

Later famous rulers of the dynasty included [Kanthirava Narasaraja I](#) (ruled 1638–1659), who expanded the frontiers of the Mysore kingdom to Trichy in Tamil Nadu. The dynasty reached its peak under [Chikka Devaraja](#) (ruled 1673–1704), who reformed the administration of the empire by dividing it into 18 departments (called Chavadis) and he also introduced a coherent system of taxation.

From 1760 to 1799, the rule of the dynasty was essentially nominal, with real power in the hands of the *dalwai*, or commanders-in-chief, [Hyder Ali](#) and his son [Tipu Sultan](#), who expanded the kingdom aggressively, but clashed with the [East India Company](#). After Tipu Sultan was killed by the British in the [Battle of Srirangapatna](#) in 1799, the Wadiyars were restored to a reduced kingdom.

Hyder Ali

Hyder Ali, *Haidarālī* (c. 1720 – 7 December 1782) was the [Sultan](#) and *de facto* ruler of the [Kingdom of Mysore](#) in [southern India](#). Born as Hyder Ali [Khan](#),^[*citation needed*] he distinguished himself militarily, eventually drawing the attention of Mysore's rulers. Rising to the post of [Dalavayi \(commander-in-chief\)](#) to [Krishnaraja Wodeyar II](#), he came to dominate the titular monarch and the Mysore government. He became the *de facto* ruler of Mysore as [Sarvadhikari](#) (Chief Minister) by 1761.^[*citation needed*] During intermittent conflicts against the [East India Company](#) during the [First](#) and [Second Anglo–Mysore Wars](#), Hyder Ali distinguished himself in military tactics, being the innovator of military use of the iron-cased [Mysorean rockets](#)^[*citation needed*]. He also significantly developed the [Mysorean economy](#).^[*citation needed*]

Though illiterate, Hyder Ali earned an important place in the history of southern India for his administrative acumen and military skills^[*citation needed*]. He concluded [an alliance](#) with the [French](#), and used the services of French workmen in raising his artillery and arsenal. His rule of Mysore was characterised by frequent warfare with his neighbours and rebellion within his territories. This was not unusual for the time as much of the [Indian subcontinent](#) was then in turmoil. He left his eldest son, [Tipu Sultan](#), an extensive kingdom bordered by the [Krishna River](#) in the north, the [Eastern Ghats](#) in the east and the [Arabian Sea](#) in the west.^[2]



The exact date of Hyder Ali's birth is not known with certainty. Various historical sources provide dates ranging between 1717 and 1722 for his birth.^[3] There are also some variations in

reports of his ancestry. According to some accounts, his grandfather was descended from a line tracing their lineage back to [Baghdad](#),^[4] while another traces his lineage instead to the area of present-day [Afghanistan](#).^[4] In a third account, written by one of his French military officers, Hyder himself claimed descent from the [Arabs Bani Hashim](#) clan of the [Quraysh](#), the tribe of [Muhammad](#).^[5] His father, [Fath Muhammad](#), was born in [Kolar](#), and served as a commander of 50 men in the [bamboo rocket artillery](#) (mainly used for signalling) in the army of the [Nawab of Carnatic](#).^[6] Fath Muhammad eventually entered the service of the [Wodeyar Rajas](#) of the [Kingdom of Mysore](#), where he rose to become a powerful military commander. The Wodeyars awarded him [Budikote](#) as a [jagir](#) (land grant), where he then served as [Naik](#) (Lord).^[3] Hyder Ali was born in Budikote; he was [Fath Muhammad](#)'s fifth child, and the second by his third wife.^[3] His early years are not well documented; he entered military service along with his brother Shahbaz after their father died in combat.^[7] After serving for a number of years under the rulers of [Arcot](#), they came to [Seringsapatam](#), where Hyder's uncle served. He introduced them to Devaraja, the *dalwai* (chief minister, military leader, and virtual ruler) of [Krishnaraja Wodeyar II](#), and his brother Nanjaraja, who also held important ministerial posts.^[8] Hyder and his brother were both given commands in the Mysorean army; Hyder served under Shahbaz, commanding 100 cavalry and 2,000 infantry.^[9]

Carnatic Wars[\[edit\]](#)

In 1748, [Qamar-ud-din Khan, Asaf Jah I](#), the longtime [Nizam of Hyderabad](#), died. The struggle to succeed him is known as the [Second Carnatic War](#), and pitted Asaf Jah's son [Nasir Jung](#) against a nephew, [Muzaffar Jung](#).

Both sides were supported by other local leaders, and French and British forces were also involved.

Devaraja had started vesting more military authority in his brother, and in 1749 Nanjaraja marched the Mysorean army in support of Nasir Jung. The army went to [Devanhalli](#), where the Mysoreans participated in the Siege of Devanahalli Fort.

The fort was held by Muzaffar Jung's forces and the siege was conducted by the [Marquis de Bussy](#).^[10] During the successful eight-month siege, Hyder Ali and his brother distinguished themselves, and were rewarded by the dalwai with enlarged commands.^[9]

Although Hyder Ali was from Mysore his early loyalties were to the "Nizam of Hyderabad", though whom Hyder Ali and his companions became [Sepoys](#) in the Deccan with partial investiture from the "Great Moghul" of that period.

By 1755 Hyder Ali commanded 3,000 infantry and 1,500 cavalry, and was reported to be enriching himself on campaigns by plunder.^[11] In that year he was also appointed [Faujdar](#) (military commander) of [Dindigul](#).^[12] In this position he first retained French advisers to organise and train his artillery companies. He is also known to have personally served alongside de Bussy, and is believed to have met both [Muzaffar Jung](#) and [Chanda Shahib](#).^[13]

In these early wars he also came to dislike and mistrust [Muhammed Ali Khan Wallajah](#), the [Nawab of the Carnatic](#). In fact Muhammed Ali Khan Wallajah and the Mysorean leaders were long at odds with each other, seeking territorial gains at the other's expense.^[14] Muhammad Ali Khan Wallajah had by then formed an alliance with the British, and he was accused by Hyder Ali in later years of effectively preventing him from making any sort of long-lasting alliances or agreements with the British.^[15]

Throughout the [Carnatic Wars](#), Hyder Ali and his Mysore battalions served alongside French commanders such as [Joseph Francois Dupleix](#), [Count de Lally](#) and de Bussy, he also

assisted [Chanda Sahib](#) on various occasions. Hyder Ali supported the claims of [Muzaffar Jung](#) and later sided with [Salabat Jung](#).

Skills[\[edit\]](#)

Early in his career, Hyder Ali retained as one of his chief financial assistants a [Brahmin](#) named Khande Rao. Hyder Ali, who was illiterate, was reported to be blessed with a prodigious memory and numerical acumen.

Hyder Ali could rival or outperform expert accountants with his great arithmetic skills and worked to develop a system, with Rao, that included checks and balances so sophisticated that all manner of income, including plunder of physical goods of all types, could be accounted for with little possibility for fraud or embezzlement.^[16]

This financial management may have played a role in Hyder Ali's rise in power.^[16]

Control of Srirangapatam[\[edit\]](#)

In 1757 Hyder Ali was called to Srirangapatam to support Devaraja against threats from Hyderabad and the [Marathas](#). Upon his arrival he found the Mysorean army in disarray and near mutiny over pay. While Devaraja bought his way out of the threats to Srirangapatam, Hyder Ali arranged for the army to be paid and arrested the ringleaders of the mutiny.^[17]

Campaigns against Calicut[\[edit\]](#)

Hyder Ali then led the [Mysorean campaigns against the Nairs](#) of [Malabar](#) (the [west coast](#) of India).^[18] For his role in these activities Hyder Ali was rewarded by Devaraja with the [jaghir](#) (regional governorship) of [Bangalore](#).^[19]

Hyder Ali captures Bangalore (1758)[\[edit\]](#)

In 1758 Hyder Ali successfully forced the Marathas to lift a siege of Bangalore. Hyder Ali's forces entered the city, thus capturing it.

By 1759 Hyder Ali was in command of the entire Mysorean army.^[17]

Nawab of Mysore (1759)[\[edit\]](#)

The young raja Krishnaraja rewarded Hyder Ali's performance by granting him the title *Fath Hyder Bahadur* or *Nawab Hyder Ali Khan*.^{[20][21]} Hyder Ali is also known to be the first ruler of Mysore to be granted the title of Nawab, thus it can be said that he was briefly the "Nawab of Mysore" by 1759.

Because of the ongoing conflicts with the Marathas the Mysorean treasury was virtually bankrupted, prompting the queen mother to force into exile Nanjaraj, who had assumed the position of dalwai upon his brother's death in 1758.^{[18][19]} Hyder Ali was a beneficiary of this action, rising in influence in the court.^[19]

Deposition of Khande Rao[\[edit\]](#)

In 1760 the queen mother conspired with Khande Rao, who had gone into the raja's service, to oust Hyder Ali. He was precipitously forced out of Seringapatam, leaving his family, including his son [Tipu Sultan](#), under house arrest.^{[19][22]}

The sudden departure left Hyder Ali with few resources. He may have been fortuitously aided at this time by the faraway [Third Battle of Panipat](#), in which the Marathas suffered a major defeat, Jan 1761. Because of this loss, the Marathas withdrew forces from Mysore and Hyder Ali's brother-in-law Makdum Ali chased them into Bidnur and Sunda.^{[23][24]}

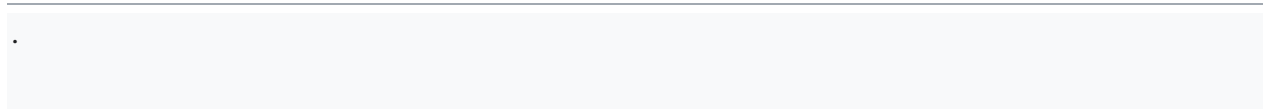
Hyder Ali soon consolidated his strength by placing Mirza Sahib as the commander of Sirsa, Ibrahim Ali Khan in [Bangalore](#) and Amin Sahib his cousin in Basnagar. Soon afterward Hyder Ali marched alongside Makdum Ali's forces, which numbered about 6,000, along with the 3,000 men from his garrison at [Bangalore](#), toward Seringapatam.^[22]

They clashed with Khande Rao's forces before reaching the capital. Khande Rao, with 11,000 men, won the battle, and Hyder Ali was forced to apply to the exiled Nanjaraj for support. Nanjaraj gave him command of his army, and the title of Dalwai.^{[24][25]}

With this force Hyder Ali again moved out against Khande Rao. The two armies faced each other again, but a deception by Hyder Ali convinced Khande Rao to flee instead of engaging in battle. Hyder Ali sent letters appearing to be from Nanjaraj to some of Khande Rao's commanders, confirming their agreement to hand Khande Rao over to Hyder Ali. Fearing a conspiracy, Khande Rao fled into Seringapatam.

After a minor battle against the now-leaderless army, Hyder Ali took over most of its remnants and surrounded Seringapatam.^[26] The ensuing negotiations left Hyder Ali in nearly complete military control of Mysore. Concessions that he extracted included the surrender of Khande Rao, who Hyder Ali imprisoned in Bangalore.^[27]

Ruler of Mysore



Hyder Ali assumed control of Mysore after overthrowing Khande Rao.

As Hyder Ali's control progressed, the Mughal Emperor [Shah Alam II](#) became the pensioner of the [East India Company](#) by the year 1765.

Causing Hyder Ali to formally styled himself [Sultan Hyder Ali Khan](#) in his correspondence with the Mughal Emperor [Shah Alam II](#). Hyder Ali retained his title during the first [Anglo-Mysore War](#) that raged in 1766, and onwards.

He was very cautious in his diplomacy with the [Nizam of Hyderabad](#), who was, according to an official Mughal [firman](#), the sovereign of all Muslim-ruled territories in southern India.^[28]

The English and the [Marathas](#) continued to refer to Hyder Ali and later his son Tipu Sultan as "[Nabobs](#)".

Expansion and alliances

Over the next few years Hyder expanded his territories to the north. Two key acquisitions were [Sira](#), taken from the Marathas, and the kingdom of [Bednore](#), where as a [casus belli](#) he agreed to support a claimant to its throne against usurpers.^[29] In 1763 he took its capital, [Ikkeri](#), which included a large treasury.^[30] He renamed the capital Haidernagar, and began styling himself *Hyder Ali Khan Bahadur*, a title that had been bestowed on him by [Salabat Jung](#) as reward for his taking of Sira.^[31] He moved most of his family to Ikkeri, a natural fortress, in the hopes that it would "serve him for a safe refuge".^[32] He assumed the trappings of the ruler of Bednore, began issuing coins, and established a system of weights and measures. He made sure his son Tipu received a quality education, "employing learned tutors" and "appointing a suitable hand of attendants" to see to his upbringing.^[33] He cultivated a suspicion of foreigners, specifically refusing to allow the [East India Company](#) to have a [resident](#) at his court.^[33] His security, however, was not assured in Bednore: a bout of illness and a widespread conspiracy against him convinced him that it would not make an ideal capital for his domain, and he returned to Mysore.^[34]

The taking of Bednore included several ports on the Malabar coast, including [Mangalore](#).^[35] Hyder used these ports to establish a small navy. The documentary record on the navy is fragmentary;^[36] Portuguese records indicate that the fleet was launched sometime between 1763 and 1765.^[37] It was apparently officered by Europeans, and its first admiral was an Englishman;^[37] by 1768 its admiral was a Mysorean cavalry officer named Ali Bey (or Lutf Ali Beg),^[38] apparently chosen by Hyder because he did not trust the European captains.^[37]

Hyder had amicable relations with the Christian population in Mangalore, which had long been under Portuguese influence and had a sizeable [Roman Catholic](#) population,^[39] and with Christians in general. He had a very close friendship with two [Goan Catholic](#) clergymen, Bishop Noronha and Fr. Joachim Miranda,^[40] and allowed a Protestant missionary to live at his court.^[41] Hyder's army also included Catholic soldiers, and he allowed Christians to build a church at Seringapatam, where French generals used to offer prayers and priests used to visit. Mangalorean historian A. L. P. D'Souza mentions that Hyder also had Christians in his administration. Pursuant to treaties concluded with the Portuguese, he also allowed Portuguese priests to settle disputes among Christians.^[42] However, many Mangaloreans (not just Christians) disliked him for the heavy tax burden he imposed on them.^[43]

Hyder Ali attacks

The Maratha Confederacy had just been routed at the [Third Battle of Panipat](#) by [Ahmad Shah Durrani](#) and the [Mughals](#) had been restored in the year 1761.

The Maratha Empire was most vulnerable and feeble to any attack and the [Peshwa's](#) power had been almost eliminated in all of India.

At this point in his life Hyder Ali decided to go to war with the Marathas and put an end to the threat they posed to his power.

He therefore attacked the Maratha aligned Rani of Bednore. She had appealed to the [Nawab of Savanur](#) for assistance when Hyder invaded. Hyder consequently threatened the Nawab, attempting to extort tribute from him.^[44] Failing in this, he overran that territory, reaching as far as [Dharwad](#), north of the [Tungabhadra River](#).^[45]

Since Savanur was a tributary of the Marathas, the [Peshwa](#) Madhavrao I countered with a strong force, and defeated Hyder near [Rattihalli](#). Following the victory the Marathas restored their power under the reign of Madhavrao Peshwa. The Maratha victory forced Hyder to retreat; he had to abandon Bednore, although he was able to remove its treasures to Seringapatam. Hyder paid 35 lakhs rupees in tribute to end the war, and returned most of his gains, although he did retain Sira.^{[45][46]}

In 1766 Hyder Ali [returned to the Malabar](#), this time at the invitation of the raja of [Cannanore](#), who sought independence from the [Zamorin](#), the ruler of [Calicut](#) who held sway over Cannanore. Hyder also claimed a debt of tribute from the Zamorin, who had supported Hyder's opponents in [earlier campaigns](#). After a difficult campaign, Hyder reached Calicut, where the Zamorin, after promising to make payment, failed to deliver. Hyder placed the Zamorin under house arrest and had his finance minister tortured. Fearing similar treatment, the Zamorin set fire to his palace and perished in the flames, ending [Eradi](#) dynastic rule of Calicut.^{[47][48]} After establishing control of Calicut, Hyder departed, but was forced to return several months later when the Nairs rebelled against the rule of his lieutenant, Reza Sahib. Hyder's response was harsh: after putting down the rebellion, many rebels were executed, and thousands of others were [forcibly relocated](#) to the Mysorean highlands.^[47]

Mysore's titular ruler Krishnaraja died in April 1766, while Hyder was in Malabar. Hyder had left orders that Krishnaraja's son [Nanjaraja Wodeyar](#) be invested should that happen, and he only later came to formally pay his respects to the new rajah. He took advantage of this opportunity to engage in a sort of house cleaning: the raja's palace was plundered, and its staff reduced to the point where virtually everyone employed there was also a spy for Hyder Ali.^[49]

First Anglo-Mysore War

After the [Battle of Buxar](#) the British led by [Hector Monro](#) decided to support the Maratha Confederacy against the [Shah Alam II](#), the [Nawabs](#) and Mysore.

As the power struggle between Mysore and the [Peshwa](#) continued it soon began to involve the British and other European trading companies.^[citation needed]

Being himself a former ally of the French, Hyder Ali expected the support of the British against the Marathas, but such support never materialized.

In 1766 Mysore began to become drawn into territorial and diplomatic disputes between the Nizam of Hyderabad and the [East India Company](#), which had by then become the dominant European power on the Eastern Indian coast. The Nizam, seeking to deflect the Company from their attempts to gain control of the [Northern Circars](#), made overtures to Hyder Ali to launch an invasion of the [Carnatic](#). Company representatives also appealed to Hyder Ali, but he rebuffed to them.^[50] The Nizam then ostensibly struck a deal with the Company administration in the [Madras Presidency](#) for their support, but apparently did so with the expectation that when Hyder Ali was prepared for war, the deal with the British would be broken. This diplomatic manoeuvring resulted in the start of the [First Anglo-Mysore War](#) in August 1767 when a company outpost at Changama was attacked by a combined Mysore-Hyderabad army under

Hyder Ali's command.^{[51][52]} Despite significantly outnumbering the [British force](#) (British estimates place the allied army size at 70,000 to the British 7,000), the allies were repulsed with heavy losses. Hyder Ali moved on to capture [Kaveripattinam](#) after two days of siege, while the British commander at Changama, Colonel Joseph Smith, eventually retreated to [Tiruvannamalai](#) for supplies and reinforcements.^{[51][53]} There Hyder Ali was [decisively repulsed](#) on 26 September 1767.^[54] With the onset of the monsoon season, Hyder Ali opted to continue campaigning rather than adopting the usual practice of suspending operations because of the difficult conditions the weather created for armies.^[55] After over-running a few lesser outposts, he [besieged Ambur](#) in November 1767, forcing the British to resume campaigning.^[56] The British garrison commander refused large bribes offered by Hyder Ali in exchange for surrender, and the arrival of a relief column in early December forced Hyder Ali to lift the siege.^[57] He retreated northward, covering the movements of the Nizam's forces, but was disheartened when an entire corps of European cavalry deserted to the British.^[58] The failures of this campaign, combined with successful British advances in the Northern Circars and secret negotiations between the British and the Nizam [Asaf Jah II](#), led to a split between Hyder Ali and the Nizam. The latter withdrew back to Hyderabad and eventually negotiated a new treaty with the British company in 1768. Hyder Ali, apparently seeking an end to the conflict, made peace overtures to the British, but was rebuffed.^[59]

In early 1768, the [Bombay Presidency](#) in [Bombay](#) organised an expedition to Mysore's Malabar coast territories. Hyder Ali's fleet, which the British reported as numbering about ten ships, deserted en masse, apparently because the captains were unhappy with the ousting of their British admirals and some even demanded the return of [Ali Raja Kunhi Amsa II](#), but Hyder Ali chose a cavalry commander Lutf Ali Beg as fleet commander.^[60] Owing to a British bluff, Lutf

Ali Beg also withdrew much of the Mangalore garrison to move on what he perceived to be the British target, [Onore](#). The British consequently captured Mangalore with minimal opposition in February.^[61] This activity, combined with the loss of the Nizam as an ally, prompted Hyder Ali to withdraw from the Carnatic, and move with speed to Malabar. Dispatching his son Tipu with an advance force, Hyder Ali followed, and eventually re-took Mangalore and the other ports held by the over-extended British forces.^{[61][62]} He also levied additional taxes as punishment against local malabari Nair chieftains which were then stripped of rights and authority.^[62]

After his reconquest, Hyder Ali learned that the Mangalorean Catholics had helped the British in their conquest of Mangalore, behaviour he considered treasonous.^[65] He summoned a Portuguese officer and several Christian priests from Mangalore to suggest an appropriate punishment to impose on the Mangalorean Catholics for their treachery. The Portuguese officer suggested the death penalty for those Catholics who helped the British as a typical punishment for the betrayal of one's sovereign in Catholic nations. But Hyder Ali exhibited a diplomatic stance and instead imprisoned those Christians who were condemned for treachery.^[66] He afterwards opened negotiations with the Portuguese, and reached an agreement with them that removed suspicion from the clergy and other Christians.^[67] The Mangalorean Catholic community flourished during the rest of Hyder Ali's reign.^[68]

During Hyder Ali's absence from the Carnatic, the British recovered many places that Hyder Ali had taken and only weakly garrisoned, and advanced as far south as [Dindigul](#).^[69] They also convinced the Marathas to enter the conflict, and a large force of theirs, under the command of Morari Rao, joined with Colonel Smith at [Ooscota](#) in early August 1768.^[70] This army then began preparations to besiege Bangalore, but Hyder Ali returned to Bangalore from Malabar on 9 August, in time to harass the allies before the siege could begin.^[71] On 22 August, Hyder Ali

and his Mysore forces attacked the Maratha camp during the [Battle of Ooscota](#), but was repulsed when faced with the large Maratha reinforcements.^[72] Hyder Ali was then foiled in an attempt to prevent the arrival of a second British column at the allied camp; the strength of these combined forces convinced him to retreat from Bangalore toward [Gurramkonda](#), where he was reinforced by his brother in law.^[73] He also attempted diplomatic measures to prevent a siege of Bangalore, offering to pay ten lakhs rupees and grant other land concessions in exchange for peace. The Company administration countered with a list of demands that included payments of tribute to the Nizam and several land concessions to the [East India Company](#). Hyder Ali specifically refused to deal with [Muhammed Ali Khan Wallajah](#), his nemesis in the Carnatic. The negotiations failed to reach common ground.^[73]

On 3 October, Hyder Ali, while moving his army from Guuramkonda back toward Bangalore, surprised a small garrison of [Muhammed Ali Khan Wallajah](#)'s men at a rock fort call Mulwagal, near Ooscota. British reinforcements were sent, and Colonel Wood was able to recover the lower fort but not the upper. The next day he went out with a few companies of men to investigate movements that might have been cover for enemy reinforcements. This small force, numbering four companies, was surrounded by Hyder Ali's entire army in the [Battle of Mulwagal](#).^[74] A strategem by another officer, Colonel Brooks, prevented the loss of this detachment; Colonel Brooks and another two companies dragged two cannons to the top of a nearby rise, and Brooks called out "Smith! Smith!" while firing the cannons.^[75] Both sides interpreted this to mean that Colonel Smith was arriving in force, and Hyder's troops began to retreat. This enabled Colonel Wood to join with Brooks and other reinforcements from Mulwagal before Hyder Ali realised his tactical error.^[75] Hyder Ali renewed his attack, but was eventually repulsed with heavy losses: he was estimated to lose 1,000 men while the British lost about 200.^[76] The severity of

the conflict convinced Colonel Smith that he would be unable to effectively besiege Bangalore without first inflicting a major defeat on Hyder Ali in open battle.^[77] Company officials blamed Smith for the failure to decisively defeat Hyder Ali, and recalled him to Madras. Hyder Ali took the opportunity to besiege [Hosur](#), and Colonel Wood marched in relief of the town. As Wood approached, Hyder Ali raised the siege, sneaked around Wood's column, and attacked his baggage train in [a battle](#) near [Bagalur](#). Hyder Ali successfully captured supplies and arms, and drove Wood in disgrace toward [Venkatagiri](#).^[78] Wood was consequently recalled and replaced by Colonel Lang.^[79]

Hyder Ali then raised additional forces in Mysore and went on the offensive. In November 1768 he split his army into two, and crossed the ghats into the Carnatic, regaining control of many minor posts held by the British. En route to [Erode](#) Hyder Ali overwhelmed one contingent of British, who were sent as prisoners to Seringapatam when it was established that one of its officers was serving in violation of a parole agreement. After rapidly establishing control over much of the southern Carnatic, his march approached Madras.^[79] This prompted the British to send an envoy to discuss peace; because of Hyder Ali's insistence that the Nawab of the Carnatic be excluded from the negotiations, they went nowhere. Hyder Ali then surprised Company authorities by taking a picked force of 6,000 cavalry and a small number of infantry, and made in three days a forced march of 130 miles (210 km) to the gates of Madras.^[80]

This show of force compelled the Company to negotiate further. Hyder Ali, who was seeking diplomatic leverage against the Marathas, wanted an alliance of mutual defence and offence.^[81] The Company refused to accede to an offensive military treaty; the treaty signed at Madras on 29 March 1769, restored the *status quo ante bellum*, except for Mysore's acquisition of [Karur](#), and also included language that each side would help the other defend its territory. In

summarising Hyder Ali's conduct of the war, biographer Lewin Bowring notes that he "evinced high qualities as a tactician and the sagacity of a born diplomatist."^[82]

Arab, Persian and Turkish relations[[edit](#)]

When Hyder took over the Malabar territories, he took advantage of the coastal access to develop relations with trading partners overseas. To this end he established port tariffs that were biased against European traders and preferential for Mysorean and Arab traders. Beginning in 1770 he sent ambassadors to [Abu Hilal Ahmad bin Said](#) in [Muscat](#) and [Karim Khan](#) in [Shiraz](#), then the capital of [Persia](#), seeking military and economic alliances.

In a 1774 embassy to [Karim Khan](#), the ruler of Persia, he sought to establish a trading post on the [Persian Gulf](#).^[*citation needed*] Karim responded by offering [Bandar Abbas](#), but nothing further seems to have passed between them on the subject.^[*citation needed*] Karim Khan later did send 1,000 troops to Mysore in 1776 in response to another embassy in 1775.^[*citation needed*]

Nursullah Khan, Hyder's ambassador, had more success in Muscat, where a trading house was established in 1776.

During the final years of his reign Hyder Ali also planned to send an embassy to the [Ottoman](#) Sultan [Mustafa III](#), but it was his son Tipu Sultan who succeeded in making direct contact with [Istanbul](#).^[83]

Second war with the Maratha Confederacy

Hyder, believing he would be supported by the British in conflict with the Marathas, began demanding tribute payments from smaller states on the frontiers between Maratha and Mysore

territories, and refused to pay tributes demanded by the Marathas. The Marathas responded in November 1770 with an invasion by an army of 35,000 men.^[84] Pursuant to their treaty, Hyder requested British assistance. The Company refused, and Hyder retreated, slashing and burning as he went to deny the bounty of the land to the Marathas.^[85] The Marathas captured much of north-eastern Mysore, and consolidated their gains during the monsoon season. Hyder offered to pay some of the tribute demanded, but his offer was rejected as insufficient, and the Marathas renewed the offensive after the monsoons.^[86] They advanced to the vicinity of Seringapatam, and then feigned a withdrawal to the north. When Hyder followed, they turned in force, and claimed to inflict serious casualties on Hyder's army, and captured most of its baggage.^[87] They then fruitlessly besieged Seringapatam for five weeks, before abandoning the effort and instead took Bangalore. Hyder again appealed to the British for help, but their pre-conditions and proposed terms were unacceptable to him, and an attempt by Hyder to get them to go on the offensive scuttled the negotiations.^[88] In 1772 Hyder finally sued for peace. He agreed to pay 3.6 million rupees in tribute arrears, and 1.4 million rupees in annual tribute, and ceded territory all the way to Bangalore.^[89] Upon his return to Seringapatam after the peace was concluded, Hyder learned that Nanjaraja, the titular ruler of Mysore, had been engaged in secret communications with the Marathas. Hyder ordered Nanjaraja strangled, and placed his brother Chamaraja on the throne.^[90]

The peace with the Marathas was short-lived. The Peshwa [Madhavrao I](#) died late in 1772, beginning a struggle for his succession. In 1773, Hyder used this opportunity to send Tipu with an army to recover territories lost to the Marathas to the north, while he descended into [Coorg](#), which provided a more secure route to the Malabar territories he wanted to recover from the Marathas.^[91] A claimant to the Coorg throne had asked for Hyder's assistance in 1770 when he was pre-occupied with the Marathas.^[92] He quickly captured Coorg's capital, [Merkara](#),

imprisoning Raja Vira Rajendra. He installed a [Brahmin](#) as Governor to collect revenues before continuing to Malabar, where by the end of 1774 he had recovered all his lost territory.^[93] The Coorgs rose in rebellion against his Governor, upon which Hyder returned to Coorg, crushed the rebellion, and hanged most of the ring-leaders.^[94] This did not stop the restive Coorgs from becoming a continuing problem for Hyder, and for, Tipu after his death.^[95]

In 1776 the young Raja [Chamaraja Wodeyar VIII](#) died. To choose a successor, Hyder had all of the children of the royal family brought together, and watched them play. A child, also named [Chamaraja Wodeyar IX](#), chose to play with a jewelled dagger, and was supposedly selected on that basis as the new Raja of Mysore.,^[94]

By March 1775, the leadership situation at [Poona](#), the Maratha capital, had stabilised, and the Marathas joined an alliance with the Nizam of Hyderabad to oppose Hyder. The Maratha army was routed by one of Hyder's Generals in 1776, and Hyder either bribed or sufficiently threatened the Nizam's military leaders so that they withdrew from the campaign.^[96] This only temporarily halted the conflict, which was fought with renewed vigor until 1779. Hyder successfully extended his domain to the [Krishna River](#) after a lengthy siege of [Dharwad](#). In a controversial action, Hyder in 1779, dealt harshly with [Madakari Nayaka](#), the ruler of [Chitradurga](#). Madakari had supported Hyder in earlier conflicts, but in 1777 had changed allegiance to the Marathas. After seizing Chitradurga, Hyder sent Madakari Nayaka to Seringapatam as a prisoner, where he died. Hyder further sent 20,000 of Madakari's followers to Seringapatam, where the boys among them were allegedly forcibly converted to [Islam](#) and formed into so-called *chela* battalions in the Mysorean army.^[97]

Second Anglo-Mysore War[[edit](#)]

Main article: [Second Anglo-Mysore War](#)

During the lengthy conflict with the Marathas, Hyder had several times requested the assistance of the East India Company, and it had each time been refused, in part due to the influence at Madras, of Hyder's enemy, the Nawab of Arcot.^[98] The British had also angered the Marathas by repudiating treaties, with whom they were at war for much of the 1770s,^[99] and they had also upset the [Nizam of Hyderabad Asaf Jah II](#) over their occupation of [Guntur](#).^[100]

In 1771, Maratha envoys had approached Hyder with a proposal to ally against the Company, with the goal of wresting control of eastern India from their rule. Since Hyder was at the time still attempting alliance with the British, he informed them of this offer, noting that he thought the Marathas would gain too much power and even threaten his own position under those circumstances.^[101] The Marathas, still at war with the British, renewed an offer of alliance in 1779. In this case, the alliance was to include the Nizam.^[99] His decision to join this alliance was prompted by two British actions. The first was the British capture by capitulation of the west-coast port of [Mahé](#), part of a concerted effort by the British to capture all French outposts following the 1778 French entry into the [American Revolutionary War](#). Hyder received much of his French-supplied equipment through this French-controlled port, and had provided troops for its defence.^[102] Furthermore, the action had provoked the Nairs on the Malabar coast to rise in rebellion again, although Hyder had quickly put this down. The second offence was the movement of British troops through territory under his control (and also other territory controlled by the Nizam) from Madras to Guntur. There was a skirmish in the hills, and the British detachment ended up retreating to Madras.^[103]

Hyder Ali began rebuilding his navy in 1778. Employing Joze Azelars, a Dutchman, he had built eight [ketches](#) with masts and 40 [cannons](#) and eight smaller [dhows](#). When the war broke out in

1779, Azelars noted that the [Brahmans](#) and their allies made every possible effort to halt progress of the newly rebuilt navy based at [Bhatkal](#).^[104]

The alliance planned to make virtually simultaneous attacks on British holdings all throughout India, while the Marathas agreed to honour Hyder's claims to territories he currently held north of the Tungabhadra River and reduced the amount of tribute he was required to pay under earlier agreements. Hyder expected to receive assistance from the French, especially in the Carnatic, the territory he sought to conquer.^[105] However, diplomatic actions by Governor [Warren Hastings](#) and the Company successfully convinced both the Nizam and the Marathas not to take up arms, and Hyder ended up fighting the war on his own.^[106]

He successfully gained alliances with [Ali Raja Bibi Junumabe II](#) of Cannanore [Arakkal Kingdom](#) and the Muslim [Mappila](#) community and later even met with Muslim [Malays](#) from [Malacca](#), who were in [Dutch](#) service.

Descent upon the Carnatic^[edit]

The army Hyder assembled was one of the largest seen in southern India, estimated to number 83,000.^[107] Carefully co-ordinating the actions of his subordinate commanders, he swept down the [Eastern Ghats](#) onto the coastal plain in July 1780, laying waste the countryside.^[107] Due to Hyder's secrecy and poor British intelligence, officials in Madras were unaware of his movements until the fires of burning villages just 9 miles (14 km) away were seen in Madras.^[108] Hyder himself organised the Siege of Arcot, while detaching his son *Karim Khan Sahib* to take [Porto Novo](#). The movement in August of [Sir Hector Munro](#) with a force of over 5,000 from Madras to [Kanchipuram](#) (Conjeevaram) prompted Hyder to lift the siege of Arcot and move to confront him. Word then arrived that Munro was awaiting the arrival of reinforcements from Guntur under Colonel William Baillie, so he sent a detachment under Tipu

to intercept them, and eventually followed in strength himself, when Munro sent a force from his army to meet Baillie.^[109] Tipu and Hyder surrounded Baillie's force, and compelled the surrender of about 3,000 men in the [Battle of Pollilur](#) on 10 September; it was the first effective use of rocket artillery and made a strong impression upon the British.^[110] Hyder then renewed the siege of Arcot, which fell in November.^[111]

Shortly after the outbreak of hostilities, Governor Hastings had sent General [Sir Eyre Coote](#) south from Bengal to take charge of British forces opposing Hyder. He arrived at Madras in November to take command from Munro.^[111] Coote marched into the Carnatic, and eventually occupied [Cuddalore](#).^[112] After being re-supplied there, he besieged [Chidambaram](#), where an assault on the fort was repulsed.^[113]

Hyder had in the mean-time descended into [Tanjore](#), with severe consequences. After extracting the allegiance of the Maratha king [Thuljaji](#), Hyder plundered the country, destroying cattle and crops.^[114] The economic output of Tanjore is estimated to have fallen by 90% between 1780 and 1782.^[115] Hyder's ravages were followed by alleged expeditions of plunder launched by the [Kallars](#). The economic devastation wrought by these attacks was so severe that Tanjore's economy did not recover until the start of the 19th century; the era is referred to in local folklore as the *Hyderakalam*.^[114]

With General Coote at Cuddalore, Hyder then made a forced march to interpose his army between Chidambaram and Cuddalore, cutting Coote's supply line. Coote marched to face him, and won a decisive victory in the [Battle of Porto Novo](#) on 1 July 1781; Coote estimated that Hyder lost 10,000 men in the battle.^[116] Hyder then dispatched Tipu in an attempt to prevent the junction of Coote's army with reinforcements from Bengal.^[117] This failed, and in late August the two armies [met again at Pollilur](#), chosen by Hyder as a place to make a stand, because it was the

site of his victory over Baillie the previous year.^[118] Hyder was defeated this time, although the battle was not decisive.^[119] While Coote re-grouped and searched for provisions, Hyder took the opportunity to besiege [Vellore](#).^[120] Madras authorities convinced the ageing Coote to put off his retirement and relieve the fortress there.^[121] Hyder and Coote [met in battle](#) at [Sholinghur](#), near Vellore. Hyder's artillery was ineffective, and the re-provisioned Vellore, which had been on the brink of surrender.^[122]

[Lord Macartney](#), who had recently arrived to take the Governorship of Madras, also brought news that [Britain was at war with the Dutch](#).^[123] Consequent to this, the Company was instructed to seize Dutch holdings in India, and Macartney had ordered a detachment from Tanjore, under Colonel Braithwaite, to capture the main Dutch post at [Negapatam](#). Hyder made an agreement with the Dutch to provide troops for its defence, but was himself forced away from Negapatam by Braithwaite.^[124] The British took Negapatam after a [three-week siege](#) in October and November 1781.^[125] This setback forced Hyder to withdraw from most of Tanjore.^[126]

In January 1782, General Coote, his health failing, again set out to re-provision Vellore. Hyder did not prevent the re-supply, but shadowed the British back toward [Tripassore](#), offering battle near Sholinghur. Coote successfully manoeuvred away from Hyder without battle.^[127] In February, Hyder detached Tipu with a sizeable force to recover Tanjore. Intelligence failures led the main British garrison to become surrounded by this superior force; Colonel Braithwaite and 2,000 men surrendered. Hyder was also pre-occupied by bad news from the west. A Mysorean force that had been besieging [Tellicherry](#) was broken, with its commander and his siege guns captured, and Coorg and Malabar were also descending into open rebellion. Hyder consequently sent forces west to deal with these matters, and was preparing to follow himself when word arrived on 10 March that a French force had landed at Porto Novo. Hyder immediately sent Tipu

from Tanjore to meet with them, and followed himself from Arcot. At this time he had a celebrated meeting with the French Admiral [Suffren](#), and the allies agreed on a plan to establish Cuddalore as a French base. Cuddalore was occupied without resistance on 8 April, and Hyder's army, joined by the French, marched toward Permacoil, which fell in May. Coote responded by marching toward [Arni](#), where Hyder had a major supply depot. Hyder and the French had been considering an assault on Wandiwash, but abandoned that idea and marched to face Coote. They [skirmished there](#) on 2 June. In August the British landed a force on the Malabar coast, to which Hyder responded by sending additional troops under Tipu to the west. The onset of the monsoon season then suspended most military activity on the eastern plain, and Hyder established his camp near [Chittoor](#).

Hyder, who had suffered from a cancerous growth on his back, died in his camp on 6 December 1782. Some other accounts record it as 7 December 1782 and some historical accounts in the Persian language record the death in dates ranging from Hijri 1 Moharram 1197 to Hijri 4 Moharram 1197 in the Islamic calendar. The differences in recorded dates may be due to the [lunar calendar](#) and the differences in moon sightings in the surrounding kingdoms.

Hyder's advisers tried to keep his death a secret until Tipu could be recalled from the Malabar coast. Upon learning of his father's death Tipu immediately returned to Chittoor to assume the reins of power. His accession was not without problems: he had to put down an attempt by an uncle to place Tipu's brother Abdul Karim on the throne.^[13] The British learned of his death within 48 hours of its occurrence, but the dilatory attitude of Coote's replacement, [James Stuart](#), meant that they were unable to capitalise on it militarily.

Hyder Ali was buried at the [Gumbaz in Seringapatam](#), the mausoleum raised by his son Tipu Sultan in 1782–84.^[129]

Mysore

In 1763, Hyder Ali and [Tipu Sultan](#) established their first naval fleet on the [Malabar Coast](#), under the command of [Ali Raja Kunhi Amsa II](#) a large and well armed fleet consisting of 10 [dhows](#) and 30 larger [ketches](#) in the Indian Ocean, in his attempts to conquer islands that had withstood the [Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb](#).^[130] In 1763 his allies, the Ali Rajas, sailed from [Lakshadweep](#) and [Cannanore](#) carrying on board [sepoys](#) and on its pennons the colours and emblems of Hyder Ali, and captured the [Maldives](#).^[131]

Ali Raja returned to Mysore to pay homage to Hyder Ali, presenting him the captured and blinded [Sultan of the Maldives Hasan 'Izz ud-din](#). Outraged at this excess, Hyder Ali stripped Ali Raja of the command of his fleet.^[132]

Hyder Ali, like his son [Tipu Sultan](#) protected foreign merchant ships, and the Mysore navy is even known to have protected and convoyed [Chinese](#) merchant ships in the region.^{[133][134][135]}

In 1768, Hyder Ali lost two [grabs](#) and 10 [gavilats](#) in a naval skirmish with forces of the [East India Company](#). He was left with eight garbs and ten galivats, most of them damaged beyond repair.^[136]

On 19 February 1775, two of Hyder Ali's ketches attacked [HMS Seahorse](#), which drove them off after a brief exchange of fire.

On 8 December 1780 [Edward Hughes](#) attacked Hyder Ali's fleet causing considerable damage once again. Mysore is known to have lost some of the best ships it ever constructed in that naval-battle at [Mangalore](#).^[137] But the British were unable to stop [Suffren](#)'s fleet in 1781.^[136]

Military rocket innovations

Hyder Ali was an innovator in the military use of [rockets](#), which were used against positions and territories held by the East India Company during the [Anglo-Mysore Wars](#). Although rocket technology originated in China and had made its way to India and Europe by the 13th century, development of accurate [cannons](#) had sidelined rockets as a military technology in Europe.^[138] Rocket technology was already in use when Hyder's father served (he commanded a company of 50 rocketmen), but it was Hyder who improved them and significantly expanded their use in the military. Technological innovations included the use of [high-quality iron casing](#) (better than was then available in Europe) for the combustion chamber, enabling the use of higher-powered explosive charges. He also organised companies of rocketmen who were experienced in aiming rockets based on the size of the rocket and the distance to the target. Rockets could also be mounted on carts that improved their mobility and made possible the firing of large numbers of them all at once.^[6] Rockets developed by Hyder and Tipu led to a renaissance of interest in the technology in Britain, where [William Congreve](#), supplied with rocket cases from Mysore, developed what became known as [Congreve rockets](#) in the early 19th century.^[139]

In Hyder's time the Mysorean army had a rocket corps of as many as 1,200 men, which Tipu increased to 5,000. At the 1780 [Battle of Pollilur](#), during the second war, Colonel William Baillie's ammunition stores are thought to have been detonated by a hit from one of Hyder's rockets, contributing to the British defeat.^[140]

Economic policy[[edit](#)]

Main article: [Economy of the Kingdom of Mysore](#)

The peak of Mysore's economic power was under Hyder Ali and his son [Tipu Sultan](#) in the post-[Mughal](#) era of the mid-late 18th century. They embarked on an ambitious program of economic development, aiming increase the wealth and revenue of Mysore.^[141]

Family^[edit]

Details are sketchy on Hyder's personal life. He had at least two wives. His second wife was Fakhr-un-nissa, the mother of Tipu, his brother Karim, and a daughter.^{[142][143]} He may have also married the sister of Abdul Hakim Khan, the [Nawab of Savanur](#); Bowring describes it as a marriage, but Punganuri Rao's translator, citing Wilks, claims this was a "concubine marriage".^{[142][144]} Karim and the daughter were both married to Abdul Hakim's children to cement an alliance in 1779.^[144]

Tipu Sultan

Tipu Sultan (born **Sultan Fateh Ali Sahab Tipu**,^[2] 20 November 1750 – 4 May 1799), also known as *Tipu Sahab* or the **Tiger of Mysore**,^[3] was the ruler of the [Kingdom of Mysore](#) based in [South India](#) and a pioneer of [rocket artillery](#).^{[4][5][6]} He introduced a number of administrative innovations during his rule, including a new coinage system and calendar,^[7] and a new land revenue system which initiated the growth of the [Mysore silk](#) industry.^[8] He expanded the iron-cased [Mysorean rockets](#) and commissioned the military manual *Fathul Mujahidin*. He deployed the rockets against advances of British forces and their allies during the [Anglo-Mysore Wars](#), including the [Battle of Pollilur](#) and [Siege of Seringapatam](#).^[citation needed]

[Napoleon Bonaparte](#), the [French](#) commander-in-chief, sought an alliance with Tipu Sultan. Both Tipu Sultan and his father used their French-trained army in alliance with the French in their struggle with the British,^{[9][10]} and in Mysore's struggles with other surrounding powers, against

the [Marathas](#), [Sira](#), and rulers of [Malabar](#), [Kodagu](#), [Bednore](#), [Carnatic](#), and [Travancore](#). Tipu's father, Hyder Ali, rose to power and Tipu succeeded him as the ruler of Mysore upon his father's death in 1782. He won important victories against the British in the [Second Anglo-Mysore War](#) and negotiated the 1784 [Treaty of Mangalore](#) with them after his father died from cancer in December 1782 during the Second Anglo-Mysore War.

Tipu's conflicts with his neighbours included the [Maratha–Mysore War](#) which ended with the signing of the [Treaty of Gajendragad](#).^[11] The treaty required that Tipu Sultan pay 4.8 million rupees as a one-time war cost to the Marathas, and an annual tribute of 1.2 million rupees in addition to returning all the territory captured by Hyder Ali.^{[12][13]}

Tipu remained an implacable enemy of the British [East India Company](#), sparking conflict with his [attack](#) on British-allied Travancore in 1789. In the [Third Anglo-Mysore War](#), he was forced into the [Treaty of Seringapatam](#), losing a number of previously conquered territories, including Malabar and [Mangalore](#). He sent emissaries to foreign states, including the [Ottoman Empire](#), [Afghanistan](#), and [France](#), in an attempt to rally opposition to the British.

In the [Fourth Anglo-Mysore War](#), Combined force of British East India Company supported by the [Marathas](#) & Nizam of Hyderabad . They defeated Tipu, and he was killed on 4 May 1799 while [defending his fort of Seringapatam](#).

In post-colonial [Indian subcontinent](#), he is applauded as a secular^{[14][15][16][17][18]} ruler who fought against [British colonialism](#),^{[19][20]} but has also been criticized for his repression of [Hindus](#) of [Malabar](#) and [Christians](#) of [Mangalore](#) for both religious and political reasons.^{[21][22][23][24][25][26]}



Tipu Sultan was born on 20 November 1750 (Friday, 20th [Dhu al-Hijjah](#), 1163 [AH](#)) at [Devanahalli](#),^[1] in present-day [Bangalore Rural district](#), about 33 km (21 mi) north of [Bangalore](#) city. He was named "Tipu Sultan" after the saint Tipu Mastan Aulia of [Arcot](#). Being illiterate, Hyder was very particular in giving his eldest son a prince's education and a very early exposure to military and political affairs. From the age of 17 Tipu was given independent charge of important diplomatic and military missions. He was his father's right arm in the wars from which Hyder emerged as the most powerful ruler of southern India.^[27]

Tipu's father, [Hyder Ali](#), was a military officer in service to the [Kingdom of Mysore](#) who had become the *de facto* ruler of Mysore in 1761 while his mother Fatima Fakhr-un-Nisa was the daughter of Mir Muin-ud-Din, the governor of the fort of [Kadapa](#). Hyder Ali appointed able teachers to give Tipu an early education in subjects like [Urdu](#), Persian, Arabic, [Kannada](#), [Quran](#), [Islamic jurisprudence](#), [riding](#), shooting and fencing.^{[1][28][29][30]}

Early military service

Tipu Sultan was instructed in military tactics by French officers in the employment of his father. At age 15, he accompanied his father against the British in the [First Mysore War](#) in 1766. He commanded a corps of cavalry in the invasion of [Carnatic](#) in 1767 at age 16. He also distinguished himself in the [First Anglo-Maratha War](#) of 1775–1779.^[32]

[Alexander Beatson](#), who published a volume on the [Fourth Mysore War](#) entitled *View of the Origin and Conduct of the War with Tippoo Sultaun*, described Tipu Sultan as follows: "His stature was about five feet eight inches; he had a short neck, square shoulders, and was rather corpulent: his limbs were small, particularly his feet and hands; he had large full eyes, small arched eyebrows, and an aquiline nose; his complexion was fair, and the general expression of his countenance, not void of dignity".^[33]

Second Anglo-Mysore War

In 1779, the British captured the French-controlled port of [Mahé](#), which Tipu had placed under his protection, providing some troops for its defence. In response, Hyder launched an invasion of the Carnatic, with the aim of driving the British out of [Madras](#).^[34] During this campaign in September 1780, Tipu Sultan was dispatched by Hyder Ali with 10,000 men and 18 guns to intercept Colonel Baillie who was on his way to join Sir [Hector Munro](#). In the [Battle of Pollilur](#), Tipu decisively defeated Baillie. Out of 360 Europeans, about 200 were captured alive, and the sepoys, who were about 3800 men, suffered very high casualties. Munro was moving south with a separate force to join Baillie, but on hearing the news of the defeat he was forced to retreat to Madras, abandoning his artillery in a water tank at [Kanchipuram](#).^[35]

Tipu Sultan defeated Colonel Braithwaite at Annagudi near Tanjore on 18 February 1782. Braithwaite's forces, consisting of 100 Europeans, 300 cavalry, 1400 [sepoys](#) and 10 field pieces, was the standard size of the colonial armies. Tipu Sultan seized all the guns and took the entire detachment prisoner. In December 1781 Tipu Sultan successfully seized Chittur from the British. Tipu Sultan had thus gained sufficient military experience by the time Hyder Ali died on Friday, 6 December 1782 – some historians put it at 2 or 3 days later or before, (Hijri date being 1 [Muharram](#), 1197 as per some records in Persian – there may be a difference of 1 to 3 days due to the Lunar Calendar). Tipu Sultan realised that the British were a new kind of threat in India. He became the ruler of Mysore on Sunday, 22 December 1782 (The inscriptions in some of Tipu's [regalia](#) showing it as 20 [Muharram](#), 1197 [Hijri](#) – Sunday), in a simple coronation ceremony. He then worked on to check the advances of the British by making alliances with the [Marathas](#) and the [Mughals](#). The Second Mysore War came to an end with the 1784 [Treaty of Mangalore](#).^{[clarification needed][36]}

Ruler of the Mysore

The [Maratha Empire](#), under its new [Peshwa Madhavrao I](#), regained most of Indian subcontinent, twice defeating Tipu's father, who was forced to accept Maratha Empire as the supreme power in 1764 and then in 1767. In 1767 Maratha Peshwa Madhavrao defeated both Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan and entered Srirangapatna, the capital of Mysore. Hyder Ali accepted the authority of Madhavrao who gave him the title of Nawab of Mysore.^[37]

However Tipu Sultan wanted to escape from the treaty of Marathas and therefore tried to take some Maratha forts in Southern India, which were captured by Marathas in the previous war. Tipu also stopped the tribute to Marathas which was promised by Hyder Ali.^[38] This brought Tipu in direct conflict with the Marathas, leading to [Maratha–Mysore War](#)^[38] Conflicts between Mysore (under Tipu) and Marathas:

- [Siege of Nargund](#) during February 1785 won by Mysore
- [Siege of Badami](#) during May 1786 in which Mysore surrendered
- [Siege of Adoni](#) during June 1786 won by Mysore
- [Battle of Gajendragad](#), June 1786 won by Marathas
- [Battle of Savanur](#) during October 1786 won by Mysore
- [Siege of Bahadur Benda](#) during January 1787 won by Mysore

Conflict ended with [Treaty of Gajendragad](#) in March 1787, as per which Tipu returned all the territory captured by [Hyder Ali](#) to [Maratha Empire](#).^{[38][13]} Tipu agreed to pay four year arrears of tribute which his father [Hyder Ali](#) had agreed to pay to [Maratha Empire](#) (4.8 million rupees), The Marathas agreed to address Tipu sultan as "Nabob Tipu Sultan Futteh Ally Khan".^[39]

The Invasion of Travancore by Sultanate of Mysore (1766–1790)^[edit]

In 1766, when Tipu Sultan was just 15 years old, he got the chance to apply his military training in battle for the first time, when he accompanied his father on an invasion of Malabar. After the incident- [Siege of Tellicherry](#) in [Thalassery](#) in North [Malabar](#),^[40] Hyder Ali started losing his territories in Malabar. Tipu came from [Mysore](#) to reinstate the authority over Malabar. After the [Battle of the Nedumkotta \(1789–90\)](#), due to the monsoon flood, the stiff resistance of the Travancore forces and news about the attack of British in [Srirangapatnam](#) he went back.^{[41][42]}

Third Anglo-Mysore War

In 1789, Tipu Sultan disputed the acquisition by [Dharma Raja of Travancore](#) of two [Dutch-held](#) fortresses in [Cochin](#). In December 1789 he massed troops at [Coimbatore](#), and on 28 December [made an attack](#) on the lines of Travancore, knowing that Travancore was (according to the [Treaty of Mangalore](#)) an ally of the [British East India Company](#).^[43] On account of the staunch resistance by the Travancore army, Tipu was unable to break through the Travancore lines and the Maharajah of Travancore appealed to the East India Company for help. In response, [Lord Cornwallis](#) mobilised company and British military forces, and formed alliances with the Marathas and the Nizam of Hyderabad to oppose Tipu. In 1790 the company forces advanced, taking control of much of the Coimbatore district.^[43] Tipu counter-attacked, regaining much of the territory, although the British continued to hold Coimbatore itself. He then descended into the Carnatic, eventually reaching [Pondicherry](#), where he attempted without success to draw the French into the conflict.^[43]

In 1791 his opponents advanced on all fronts, with the main British force under Cornwallis [taking Bangalore](#) and threatening Srirangapatna. Tipu harassed the British supply and communication and embarked on a "scorched earth" policy of denying local resources to the invaders.^[43] In this last effort he was successful, as the lack of provisions forced Cornwallis to withdraw to Bangalore rather than attempt a siege of Srirangapatna. Following the withdrawal, Tipu sent forces to Coimbatore, which they retook [after a lengthy siege](#).^[43]

The 1792 campaign was a failure for Tipu. The allied army was well-supplied, and Tipu was unable to prevent the junction of forces from Bangalore and Bombay before Srirangapatna.^[43] After [about two weeks of siege](#), Tipu opened negotiations for terms of surrender. In the [ensuing treaty](#), he was forced to cede half his territories to the allies,^[32] and deliver two of his sons as hostages until he paid in full three crores and thirty lakhs rupees fixed as war indemnity to the British for the campaign against him. He paid the amount in two instalments and got back his sons from Madras.^[43]

Napoleon's attempt at a junction

In 1794, with the support of French Republican officers, Tipu helped found the [Jacobin Club of Mysore](#) for 'framing laws comfortable with the laws of the Republic'. He planted a Liberty Tree and declared himself Citizen Tipoo.^[45]

One of the motivations of Napoleon's [Invasion of Egypt](#) was to establish a junction with India against the British. Bonaparte wished to establish a French presence in the Middle East, with the ultimate dream of linking with Tippoo Sahib.^[46] Napoleon assured the [French Directory](#) that "as soon as he had conquered Egypt, he will establish relations with the Indian princes and, together with them, attack the English in their possessions."^[47] According to a 13 February 1798 report by [Talleyrand](#): "Having occupied and fortified Egypt, we shall send a force of 15,000 men

from [Suez](#) to India, to join the forces of Tipu-Sahib and drive away the English."^[47] Napoleon was unsuccessful in this strategy, losing the [Siege of Acre](#) in 1799 and at the [Battle of Abukir](#) in 1801.^[48]

Although I never supposed that he ([Napoleon](#)) possessed, allowing for some difference of education, the liberality of conduct and political views which were sometimes exhibited by old [Hyder Ali](#), yet I did think he might have shown the same resolved and dogged spirit of resolution which induced Tipu Sahib to die manfully upon the breach of his capital city with his sabre clenched in his hand.

— Sir [Walter Scott](#), commenting on the abdication of [Napoleon Bonaparte](#) in 1814

Death[[edit](#)]

Fourth Anglo-Mysore War

[Horatio Nelson](#) defeated [François-Paul Brueys D'Aigalliers](#) at the [Battle of the Nile](#) in Egypt in 1798. Three armies marched into Mysore in 1799—one from [Bombay](#) and two British, one of which included Arthur Wellesley.^[49] They besieged the capital [Srirangapatna](#) in the [Fourth Mysore War](#).^[50] There were more than 26,000 soldiers of the British East India Company, approximately 4,000 Europeans and the rest Indians; while Tipu Sultan's forces numbered only 30,000. The betrayal by Tipu Sultan's brother in law in working with the British and weakening the walls to make an easy path for the British.^[citation needed]

When the British [broke through](#) the city walls, French military advisers told Tipu Sultan ^[51] to escape via secret passages, but he refused.^[52]

Tipu Sultan was killed at the Hoally (Diddy) Gateway, which was located 300 yards (270 m) from the N.E. Angle of the Srirangapatna Fort.^[53] He was buried the next afternoon at

the [Gumaz](#), next to the grave of his father. Many members of the British East India Company believed that [Nawab of Carnatic Umdat Ul-Umra](#) secretly provided assistance to Tipu Sultan during the war and sought his deposition after 1799.^[*citation needed*]

Administration[[edit](#)]

Tipu introduced a new calendar, new coinage, and seven new government departments, during his reign, and made military innovations in the use of rocketry.

Mysorean rockets

Dr [APJ Abdul Kalam](#), the former [President of India](#), in his Tipu Sultan Shaheed Memorial Lecture in Bangalore (30 November 1991), called Tipu Sultan the innovator of the world's first war rocket. Two of these rockets, captured by the British at Srirangapatna, were displayed in the [Royal Artillery Museum](#) in London. According to historian Dr [Dulari Qureshi](#) Tipu Sultan was a fierce warrior king and was so quick in his movement that it seemed to the enemy that he was fighting on many fronts at the same time.^[54] Tipu managed to subdue all the petty kingdoms in the south. He was also one of the few Indian rulers to have defeated British armies.

Tipu Sultan's father had expanded on [Mysore's use of rocketry](#), making critical innovations in the rockets themselves and the military logistics of their use. He deployed as many as 1,200 specialised troops in his army to operate rocket launchers. These men were skilled in operating the weapons and were trained to launch their rockets at an angle calculated from the diameter of the cylinder and the distance to the target. The rockets had twin side sharpened blades mounted on them, and when fired *en masse*, spun and wreaked significant damage against a large army. Tipu greatly expanded the use of rockets after Hyder's death, deploying as many as 5,000 rocketeers at a time.^[55] The rockets deployed by Tipu during the [Battle of Pollilur](#) were much

more advanced than those the British East India Company had previously seen, chiefly because of the use of iron tubes for holding the propellant; this enabled higher thrust and longer range for the missiles (up to 2 km range).^[51]

British accounts describe the use of the rockets during the third and fourth wars.^[56] During the climactic battle at Srirangapatna in 1799, British shells struck a magazine containing rockets, causing it to explode and send a towering cloud of black smoke with cascades of exploding white light rising up from the battlements. After Tipu's defeat in the fourth war the British captured a number of the Mysorean rockets. These became influential in British rocket development, inspiring the [Congreve rocket](#), which was soon put into use in the [Napoleonic Wars](#).^[51]

Navy[\[edit\]](#)

In 1786 Tipu Sultan, again following the lead of his father, decided to build a navy consisting of 20 battleships of 72 cannons and 20 frigates of 62 cannons. In the year 1790 he appointed Kamaluddin as his *Mir Bahar* and established massive dockyards at [Jamalabad](#) and Majidabad. Tipu Sultan's board of admiralty consisted of 11 commanders in service of a *Mir Yam*. A *Mir Yam* led 30 admirals and each one of them had two ships. Tipu Sultan ordered that the ships have [copper-bottoms](#), an idea that increased the longevity of the ships and was introduced to Tipu by [Admiral Suffren](#).^[57]

Economy

The peak of [Mysore's economic power](#) was under Tipu Sultan in the late 18th century. Along with his father Hyder Ali, he embarked on an ambitious program of economic development, aiming to increase the wealth and revenue of Mysore.^[58] Under his reign, Mysore overtook [Bengal Subah](#) as [India's dominant economic power](#), with highly

productive [agriculture](#) and [textile manufacturing](#).^[59] Mysore's average income was five times higher than [subsistence](#) level at the time.^[60]

Tipu Sultan laid the foundation for the construction of the [Kannambadi](#) dam (present-day [Krishna Raja Sagara](#) or KRS dam) on the [Kaveri](#) river, as attested by an extant stone plaque bearing his name, but was unable to begin the construction.^{[61][62]} The dam was later built and opened in 1938. It is a major source of drinking water for the people of Mysore and Bangalore.

The [Mysore silk](#) industry was first initiated during the reign of Tipu Sultan.^[63] He sent an expert to [Bengal Subah](#) to study [silk](#) cultivation and processing, after which Mysore began developing polyvoltine silk.^[64]

Under Tipu Sultan, Mysore had some of the world's highest [real wages](#) and [living standards](#) in the late 18th century, higher than Britain, which in turn had the highest living standards in Europe.^[59] Mysore's average [per-capita income](#) was five times higher than [subsistence](#) level,^[60] i.e. five times higher than \$400 (1990 [international dollars](#)),^[65] or \$2,000 per capita. In comparison, the highest national per-capita incomes in 1820 were \$1,838 for the Netherlands and \$1,706 for Britain.^[66]

Road development[\[edit\]](#)

Tipu Sultan was considered as pioneer of road construction, especially in Malabar, as part of his campaigns, he connected most of the cities by roads.^[67]

Foreign relations[\[edit\]](#)

Mughal Empire

Both Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan owed nominal allegiance to the [Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II](#); both were described as [Nabobs](#) by the [British East India Company](#) in all existing treaties. But

unlike the [Nawab of Carnatic](#), they did not acknowledge the overlordship of the [Nizam of Hyderabad](#).^[68]

Immediately after his coronation as *Badshah*, Tipu Sultan sought the investiture of the Mughal emperor. He earned the title "*Nasib-ud-Daula*" with the heavy heart of those loyal to Shah Alam II. Tipu was a selfdeclared "[Sultan](#)" this fact drew towards him the hostility of [Nizam Ali Khan](#), the Nizam of Hyderabad, who clearly expressed his hostility by dissuading the Mughal emperor and laying claims on Mysore. Disheartened, Tipu Sultan began to establish contacts with other Muslim rulers of that period.^[69]

Tipu Sultan was the master of his own diplomacy with foreign nations, in his quest to rid India of the [East India Company](#) and to ensure the international strength of [France](#). Like his father before him he fought battles on behalf of foreign nations which were not in the best interests of Shah Alam II.

After the [eunuch](#) Ghulam Qadir had Shah Alam II blinded on 10 August 1788, Tipu Sultan is believed to have broken into tears.^[70]

After the [Fall of Seringapatam](#) in 1799, the blind emperor did remorse for Tipu, but maintained his confidence in the [Nizam of Hyderabad](#), who had now made peace with the British.

Afghanistan

After facing substantial threats from the [Marathas](#), Tipu Sultan began to correspond with [Zaman Shah Durrani](#), the ruler of the Afghan [Durrani Empire](#), so they could defeat the British and Marathas.^[71] Initially, Zaman Shah agreed to help Tipu, but the Persian attack on Afghanistan's Western border diverted its forces, and hence no help could be provided to Tipu.

Ottoman Turkey

In 1787, Tipu Sultan sent an embassy to the [Ottoman](#) capital Constantinople, to the Ottoman [Sultan Abdul Hamid I](#) requesting urgent assistance against the [British East India Company](#). Tipu Sultan requested the Ottoman Sultan to send him troops and military experts. Furthermore, Tipu Sultan also requested permission from the Ottomans to contribute to the maintenance of the [Islamic](#) shrines in [Mecca](#), [Medina](#), [Najaf](#) and [Karbala](#).

However, the Ottomans were themselves in crisis and still recuperating from the devastating [Austro-Ottoman War](#) and a new conflict with the [Russian Empire](#) had begun, for which Ottoman Turkey needed British alliance to keep off the Russians, hence it could not risk being hostile to the British in the Indian theatre.

Due to the Ottoman inability to organise a fleet in the Indian Ocean, Tipu Sultan's ambassadors returned home only with gifts from their Ottoman foes.

Nevertheless, Tipu Sultan's correspondence with the Ottoman Turkish Empire and particularly its new Sultan [Selim III](#) continued till his final battle in the year 1799.^[69]

Persia and Oman

Like his father before him, Tipu Sultan maintained friendly relations with [Mohammad Ali Khan](#), ruler of the [Zand Dynasty](#) in [Persia](#). Tipu Sultan also maintained correspondence with [Hamad bin Said](#), the ruler of the [Sultanate of Oman](#).^[72]

France

Both Hyder Ali and Tipu sought an alliance with the French, the only European power still strong enough to challenge the British East India Company in the subcontinent. In 1782, Louis XVI concluded an alliance with the [Peshwa Madhu Rao Narayan](#). This treaty enabled [Bussy](#) to

move his troops to the [Isle de France](#) (now [Mauritius](#)). In the same year, French Admiral [De Suffren](#) ceremonially presented a portrait of Louis XVI to Haidar Ali and sought his alliance.^[73]

[Napoleon](#) conquered [Egypt](#) in an attempt to link with Tipu Sultan.^[citation needed] In February 1798, Napoleon wrote a letter to Tipu Sultan appreciating his efforts of resisting the British annexation and plans, but this letter never reached Tipu and was seized by a British spy in Muscat. The idea of a possible Tipu-Napoleon alliance alarmed the British Governor, General Sir [Richard Wellesley](#) (also known as Lord Wellesley), so much that he immediately started large scale preparations for a final battle against Tipu Sultan.

Social system[\[edit\]](#)

Judicial system[\[edit\]](#)

Tipu Sultan appoints Judges from both communities for Hindu and Muslim subjects. **Qadi** for Muslims and **Pandit** for Hindu in each province. Upper courts also having similar system.^[21]

Moral Administration[\[edit\]](#)

Usage of liquor and prostitution were strictly prohibited in his administration.^[74] Usage and agriculture of [psychedelics](#), such as [Cannabis](#), were also prohibited.^[75]

Polyandry in Kerala was prohibited by Tipu Sultan. He passed a decree for all women to cover their breasts, which was not practised in Kerala in previous era.^{[76][77]}

The decree is as follows:

In the whole of the territories of the Balaghat (i.e., in the country below the ghats) most of the Hindu women go about with their breasts and heads uncovered. This is animal-like.

No one of these women should hereafter go out without a fuller robe and a veil.^[78]

Religious policy[\[edit\]](#)

On a personal level, Tipu was a devout Muslim, saying his prayers daily and paying special attention to mosques in the area.^[79] As a Muslim ruler of a predominantly Hindu country, some of his policies have evoked controversy. The mainstream view considers Tipu's administration to have been tolerant.^{[16][80]} Regular endowments were made during this period to about 156 Hindu temples,^[15] including the famed [Ranganathaswami Temple](#) at [Srirangapatna](#).^[80]

His religious legacy has become a source of considerable controversy in India, with some groups (including Christians^{[81][82]} and even Muslims) proclaiming him a great warrior for the faith or *Ghazi*^{[83][84]} for both religious and political reasons.^[80] On one hand, many sources mention the appointment of Hindu officers in Tipu's administration^[14] and his land grants and endowments to Hindu temples,^{[85][17][86]} which are cited as evidence for his religious tolerance. On the other hand, various sources describe the massacres,^{[87][88]} imprisonment^{[89][90][91]} and forced conversion^{[92][93][94][95][96]} of Hindus ([Kodavas of Coorg](#), [Nairs of Malabar](#)) and Christians ([Catholics of Mangalore](#)), the destruction of churches^[97] and temples,^[98] and the clamping down on Muslims ([Mappila of Kerala](#), the [Mahdavia](#) Muslims, the [rulers of Savanur](#) and the people of [Hyderabad State](#)), which are sometimes cited as evidence for his intolerance.

British accounts[\[edit\]](#)

Historians such as Brittlebank, Hasan, Chetty, Habib, and Saletare, amongst others, argue that controversial stories of Tipu Sultan's religious persecution of Hindus and Christians are largely derived from the work of early British authors (who were very much against Tipu Sultan's independence and harboured prejudice against the Sultan) such as [James](#)

[Kirkpatrick](#)^[99] and [Mark Wilks](#),^[100] whom they do not consider to be entirely reliable and likely fabricated.^[101] A. S. Chetty argues that Wilks' account in particular cannot be trusted.^[102]

[Irfan Habib](#) and Mohibbul Hasan argue that these early British authors had a strong vested interest in presenting Tipu Sultan as a tyrant from whom the British had liberated Mysore.^[101] This assessment is echoed by Brittlebank in her recent work where she writes that Wilks and Kirkpatrick must be used with particular care as both authors had taken part in the wars against Tipu Sultan and were closely connected to the administrations of [Lord Cornwallis](#) and [Richard Wellesley, 1st Marquess Wellesley](#).^[103]

The French were allies of Tipu Sultan. Francois Fidele Ripaud de Montaudevert, a French soldier who fought for Tippu, in his diary entry of 14 January 1799 writes: "I'm disturbed by Tipu Sultan's treatment of these most gentle souls, the Hindus. During the siege of Mangalore, Tipu's soldiers daily exposed the heads of many innocent Brahmins within sight from the fort for the Zamorin and his Hindu followers to see."^[104]^[*better source needed*]

Relations with Muslims^{[[edit](#)]}

During his campaigns of clamping down on groups that helped the British, Tipu Sultan targeted several Muslim groups, including the [Mappila](#) Muslims of Malabar, the Mahadevi Muslims, and the [Nawab of Savanur](#) and [Nizam](#).^[*citation needed*]

Relations with Hindus^{[[edit](#)]}

Hindu officers^{[[edit](#)]}

Tipu Sultan's treasurer was Krishna Rao, [Shamaiya Iyengar](#) was his Minister of Post and Police, his brother Ranga Iyengar was also an officer, and [Purnaiya](#) held the very important

post of "Mir Asaf". Moolchand and Sujana Rai were his chief agents at the Mughal court, and his chief "Peshkar", Suba Rao, was also a Hindu.^[14]

Regular endowments to 156 Hindu temples[\[edit\]](#)

The Editor of Mysore Gazette reports of correspondence between his court and temples, and his having donated jewellery and deeded land grants to several temples, which he was compelled to for forming alliances with Hindu rulers. Between 1782 and 1799 Tipu Sultan issued 34 "Sanads" (deeds) of endowment to temples in his domain, while also presenting many of them with gifts of silver and gold plate.^[86]

The Srikanteswara Temple in Nanjangud still possesses a jeweled cup presented by the Sultan.^[105] He also gave a greenish [linga](#); to Ranganatha temple at Srirangapatna, he donated seven silver cups and a silver [camphor](#) burner. This temple was hardly a stone's throw from his palace from where he would listen with equal respect to the ringing of temple bells and the [muezzin](#)'s call from the mosque; to the [Lakshmikanta Temple](#) at [Kalale](#) he gifted four cups, a plate and [Spittoon](#) in silver.^{[17][86]}

Sringeri incident, Maratha sacking, and rebuilding temple[\[edit\]](#)

During the [Maratha–Mysore War](#) in 1791, a group of [Maratha](#) horsemen under Raghunath Rao Patwardhan raided the temple and *matha* of [Sringeri Shankaracharya](#). They wounded and killed many people, including Brahmins, plundered the monastery of all its valuable possessions, and desecrated the temple by displacing the image of goddess Sarada.^[106]

The incumbent *Shankaracharya* petitioned Tipu Sultan for help. About 30 letters written in [Kannada](#), which were exchanged between Tipu Sultan's court and

the [Sringeri Shankaracharya](#), were discovered in 1916 by the Director of Archaeology in [Mysore](#). Tipu Sultan expressed his indignation and grief at the news of the raid:^{[106][107]}

"People who have sinned against such a holy place are sure to suffer the consequences of their misdeeds at no distant date in this Kali age in accordance with the verse: "Hasadbhik kriyate karma rudadbhir-anubhuyate" (People do [evil] deeds smilingly but suffer the consequences crying)."^[108]

He immediately ordered the Asaf of [Bednur](#) to supply the Swami with 200 *rahatis* (*fanams*) in cash and other gifts and articles. Tipu Sultan's interest in the Sringeri temple continued for many years, and he was still writing to the Swami in the 1790s.^[109]

Controversial figure^[edit]

In light of this and other events, historian B. A. Saletare has described Tipu Sultan as a defender of the Hindu [dharma](#), who also patronised other temples including one at Melkote, for which he issued a Kannada decree that the Shrivaisnava invocatory verses there should be recited in the traditional form.^[110] The temple at Melkote still has gold and silver vessels with inscriptions indicating that they were presented by the Sultan. Tipu Sultan also presented four silver cups to the Lakshmikanta Temple at Kalale.^[110] Tipu Sultan does seem to have repossessed unauthorised grants of land made to [Brahmins](#) and temples, but those which had proper *sanads* (certificates) were not. It was a normal practice for any ruler, Muslim or Hindu, on his accession or on the conquest of new territory.

Noted for his persecution of Christians, historian Thomas Paul notes that Tipu had shifted his hatred for the British to Catholics of Mangalore and other Christian communities of [South](#)

[India](#).^[111] According to historian Praxy Fernandes, Tipu Sultan was "an enlightened monarch who followed a secular policy towards his subjects."^[16]

[C. Hayavadana Rao](#) wrote about Tipu in his encyclopaedic court history of Mysore. He asserted that Tipu's "religious fanaticism and the excesses committed in the name of religion, both in Mysore and in the provinces, stand condemned for all time. His bigotry, indeed, was so great that it precluded all ideas of toleration". He further asserts that the acts of Tipu that were constructive towards Hindus were largely political and ostentatious rather than an indication of genuine tolerance.^[112]

In Contrary to the writings of Historian B.A. Saletare, an article published by the New Indian Express in Nov 2016, mentions about the mass murdering of the Mandyam Iyengars. it states as "On the evening of Deepavali that more than 700 Mandyam Iyengars who congregated at Narasimhaswamy temple on the banks of Cauvery at Srirangapatna town, capital of Tipu Sultan, were killed by Tipu's army on charges of colluding with British while supporting Maharani Lakshammanni, according to Lakshmi Thatchar, a Sanskrit scholar and a researcher.^[113]

Persecution of Lingayats[\[edit\]](#)

After Haider Ali was appointed the military chief of the Hindu [Wadiyar dynasty](#) of Mysore and led a coup, the [Lingayats](#) of Karnataka came under Islamic rule in the late 18th century.^[114] During this period, the followers of Lingayatism were persecuted.^[115]

Persecution of Hindus outside Mysore

Tipu got Runmust Khan, the [Nawab of Kurnool](#), to launch a surprise attack upon the [Kodavas](#) who were besieged by the invading Muslim army. 500 were killed and over

40,000 Kodavas fled to the woods and concealed themselves in the mountains.^[116] Thousands of Kodavas were seized along with the Raja and held captive at Seringapatam.^[117]

Mohibbul Hasan, Prof. Sheikh Ali, and other historians cast great doubt on the scale of the deportations and forced conversions in Coorg in particular. Hassan says that it is difficult to estimate the real number of [Kodava](#) captured by Tipu.^[118]

In a letter to Runmust Khan, Tipu himself stated:^[119]

"We proceeded with the utmost speed, and, at once, made prisoners of 40,000 occasion-seeking and sedition-exciting [Kodavas](#), who alarmed at the approach of our victorious army, had slunk into woods, and concealed themselves in lofty mountains, inaccessible even to birds. Then carrying them away from their native country (the native place of sedition) we raised them to the honour of Islam, and incorporated them into our [Ahmedy](#) corps."

^[120]

North Malabar

In 1788, Tipu entered into Malabar to quell a rebellion. [Nairs](#) were surrounded with offers of death or circumcision. [Chirakkal](#)'s Nair Raja who was received with distinctions for surrendering voluntarily was later hanged. Tipu then divided Malabar into districts, with three officers in each district given the task of numbering productive trees, collecting revenue and giving religious orders to Nairs.^[citation needed]

Destruction of the Palace at Vittala:

In 1784, Tippu Sultan captured Achutha Heggade, king of Vittala. He beheaded him and set fire to the ancient royal palace of the Domba- Heggade kings of Vittala. It was an ancient

and sacred palace of the dynasty whose age goes back to the period when the first kings settled in that area.^[121]^[failed verification]

Inscriptions^[edit]

On the handle of the sword presented by Tipu to [Marquess Wellesley](#) was the following inscription:^[122]

"My victorious sabre is lightning for the destruction of the unbelievers. [Ali](#), the Emir of the Faithful, is victorious for my advantage, and moreover, he destroyed the wicked race who were unbelievers. Praise be to him (God), who is the Lord of the Worlds! Thou art our Lord, support us against the people who are unbelievers. He to whom the Lord giveth victory prevails over all (mankind). Oh Lord, make him victorious, who promoteth the faith of Muhammad. Confound him, who refuseth the faith of Muhammad; and withhold us from those who are so inclined from the true faith. The Lord is predominant over his own works. Victory and conquest are from the Almighty. Bring happy tidings, Oh Muhammad, to the faithful; for God is the kind protector and is the most merciful of the merciful. If God assists thee, thou will prosper. May the Lord God assist thee, Oh Muhammad, with a mighty great victory."

During a search of his palace in 1795, some gold medals were found in the palace, on which the following was inscribed on one side in Persian: "Of God the bestower of blessings", and the other: "victory and conquest are from the Almighty". These were carved in commemoration of a victory after the war of 1780.^[123]

The following is a translation of an inscription on the stone found at Seringapatam, which was situated in a conspicuous place in the fort:^[122]

{{quote|"Oh Almighty God! dispose the whole body of [Kafirs](#) (infidels)! Scatter their tribe, cause their feet to stagger! Overthrow their councils, change their state, destroy their very root! Cause death to be near them, cut off from them the means of sustenance! Shorten their days! Be their bodies the constant object of their cares (i.e., infest them with diseases), deprive their eyes of sight, make black their faces (i.e., bring shame), destroy in them organs of speech! Slay them as Shedaud (i.e. the Prince who presumptuously aimed at establishing a paradise for himself and was slain by command of God); drown them as Pharaoh was drowned, and visit them with the severity of the wrath. Oh Avenger! Oh Universal Father ! I am depressed and overpowered, grant me thy assistance."^[123]

The *Mysore Gazetteer* states that this inscription should have been engraved after the [Cornwallis Treaty](#), stating it showed his inveterate rancour and determined hostility to the English.^[123]

Persecution of Mangalorean Catholics

Background : Hyder Ali learned that the Mangalorean Catholics had helped the British in their conquest of Mangalore, behaviour he considered treasonous^[124] He summoned a Portuguese officer and several Christian priests from Mangalore to suggest an appropriate punishment to impose on the Mangalorean Catholics for their treachery. The Portuguese officer suggested the death penalty for those Catholics who helped the British as a typical punishment for the betrayal of one's sovereign in Catholic nations. But Hyder Ali exhibited a diplomatic stance and instead imprisoned those Christians who were condemned for treachery^[125]

Tipu is considered to be anti-Christian by several historians.^{[126][127][128]} While Alan Machado in his book 'Slaves of Sultans', argues that by expelling Christian priests, Tipu was only following precedent set by European rivals.^{[129][130]} Historian [J. B. Prashant More](#) in his paper 'Tipu Sultan and the Christians' argues that Tipu's encounters and dealings with the Christians of both European and Indian origin were in accordance with the spirit of his times and also had a political dimension.^[131] The captivity of [Mangalorean Catholics](#) at [Seringapatam](#), which began on 24 February 1784 and ended on 4 May 1799, remains the most disconsolate memory in their history.^[132]

Soon after the [Treaty of Mangalore](#) in 1784, Tipu gained control of Canara.^[133] He issued orders to seize the Christians in Canara, confiscate their estates,^[134] and deport them to Seringapatam, the capital of his empire, through the [Jamalabad fort](#) route.^[135] However, there were no priests among the captives. Together with Fr. Miranda, all the 21 arrested priests were issued orders of expulsion to Goa, fined Rupees 200,000, and threatened death by hanging if they ever returned.^[97]

Tipu ordered the destruction of 27 Catholic churches. Among them included the Church of Nossa Senhora de Rosario Milagres at [Mangalore](#), Fr Miranda's Seminary at Monte Mariano, Church of Jesu Marie Jose at [Omzoor](#), Chapel at [Bolar](#), Church of Merces at [Ullal](#), Imaculata Conceição at [Mulki](#), San Jose at Perar, Nossa Senhora dos Remedios at Kirem, Sao Lawrence at [Karkal](#), Rosario at [Barkur](#), Immaculata Conceição at Baidnur.^[97] All were razed to the ground, with the exception of [The Church of Holy Cross](#) at [Hospet](#), owing to the friendly offices of the Chauta Raja of [Moodbidri](#).^[136]

According to [Thomas Munro](#), a Scottish soldier and the first collector of Canara, around 60,000 people,^[137] nearly 92 percent of the entire Mangalorean Catholic community, were

captured; only 7,000 escaped. [Francis Buchanan](#) gives the numbers as 70,000 captured, from a population of 80,000, with 10,000 escaping. They were forced to climb nearly 4,000 feet (1,200 m) through the jungles of the [Western Ghat](#) mountain ranges. It was 210 miles (340 km) from Mangalore to Seringapatam, and the journey took six weeks. According to British Government records, 20,000 of them died on the march to Seringapatam.^{[[citation needed](#)]}

According to Mr. Silva of [Gangolim](#), a survivor of the captivity, if a person who had escaped from Seringapatam was found, the punishment under the orders of Tipu was the cutting off of the ears, nose, feet and one hand.^{[[138](#)][[139](#)]} *Gazetteer of South India* describes Tipu Sultan forcibly circumcising 30,000 West Coast Christians and deporting them to Mysore.^{[[140](#)]}

Tipu's persecution of Christians even extended to captured British soldiers. For instance, there were a significant number of forced conversions of British captives between 1780 and 1784.^{[[citation needed](#)]} Following their disastrous defeat in the 1780 [Battle of Pollilur](#), 7,000 British men along with an unknown number of women were held captive by Tipu in the fortress of Seringapatnam. Of these, over 300 were circumcised and given Muslim names and clothes and several British regimental drummer boys were made to wear [ghagra cholis](#) and entertain the court as *nautch* girls or dancing girls. After the 10-year-long captivity ended, James Scurry, one of those prisoners, recounted that he had forgotten how to sit in a chair and use a knife and fork. His English was broken and stilted, having lost all his vernacular idiom. His skin had darkened to the swarthy complexion of [negroes](#), and moreover, he had developed an aversion to wearing European clothes.^{[[141](#)]}

During the surrender of the Mangalore fort which was delivered in an armistice by the British and their subsequent withdrawal, all the [Mestizos](#) and remaining non-British foreigners were killed, together with 5,600 Mangalorean Catholics.^{[[citation needed](#)]} Those

condemned by Tipu Sultan for treachery were hanged instantly, the gibbets being weighed down by the number of bodies they carried. The Netravati River was so putrid with the stench of dying bodies, that the local residents were forced to leave their riverside homes.^[97]

The Archbishop of Goa wrote in 1800, *"It is notoriously known in all Asia and all other parts of the globe of the oppression and sufferings experienced by the Christians in the Dominion of the King of Kanara, during the usurpation of that country by Tipu Sultan from an implacable hatred he had against them who professed Christianity."*^[97]

Tipu Sultan's invasion of the Malabar had an adverse impact on the [Syrian Malabar Nasrani](#) community of the Malabar coast. Many churches in the [Malabar](#) and [Cochin](#) were damaged.^[citation needed] Most of the coconut, arecanut, pepper and cashew plantations held by the Syrian Malabar farmers were also indiscriminately destroyed by the invading army. As a result, when Tipu's army invaded Guruvayur and adjacent areas, the Syrian Christian community fled Calicut and small towns like Arthat to new centres like Kunnankulam, Chalakudi, Ennakadu, Cheppadu, Kannankode, [Mavelikkara](#), etc. where there were already Christians. They were given refuge by Sakthan Tamburan, the ruler of Cochin and Karthika Thirunal, the ruler of Travancore, who gave them lands, plantations and encouraged their businesses. Colonel Macquay, the British resident of Travancore also helped them.^[142]^[failed verification]

The coinage system^[edit]

The coinage of Tipu Sultan is one of most complex and fascinating series struck in India during the 18th century. Local South India coinage had been struck in the area that became [Mysore](#) since ancient times, with the first gold coinage introduced about the 11th

century (the elephant [pagoda](#)), and other pagodas continuing through the following centuries. These [pagoda](#) were always in the South Indian style until the reign of [Haidar Ali](#) (1761-1782), who added pagodas with Persian legends, plus a few very rare gold mohurs and silver rupees, always in the name of the [Mughal](#) emperor [Shah Alam II](#) plus the Arabic letter "ح" as the first letter of his name. His successor, Tipu Sultan, continued to issue [pagodas](#), mohurs and [rupees](#), with legends that were completely new. As for copper, the new large [paisa](#) was commenced by Haidar Ali in AH1195, two years before his death, with the elephant on the obverse, the mint on the reverse, and was continued throughout the reign of Tipu Sultan, who added other denominations. Tipu Sultan introduced a set of new [Persian](#) names for the various denominations, which appear on all of the gold and silver coins and on some of the copper. They were:

Copper: Qutb "قطب" for the 1/8 paisa ([Persian](#) for the [pole star](#)) -- Akhtar "اختر" for the 1/4 paisa (star) -- Bahram "بهرام" for the 1/2 paisa (the planet [Mars](#)) -- Zohra "زهره" for the paisa (the planet [Venus](#)) -- either Othmani "عثمانی" for the double-paisa ([the third caliph](#) of the Rashidun) or Mushtari "مشتری" (the planet [Jupiter](#)).

Silver: Khizri "خضری" for the 1/32 rupee ([Khizr](#) the prophet) -- Kazimi "کازمی" for the 1/16 rupee (for [Musa](#), the seventh Shi'ite Imam) -- Ja'fari "جعفری" for the 1/8 rupee ([Ja'far al-Sadiq](#), the sixth Shi'ite Imam) -- Bâqiri "باقری" for the 1/4 rupee ([Muhammad al-Baqir](#), the fifth Imam) -- Abidi "عبیدی" for the 1/2 rupee ([Ali Zain al-'Abidin](#), the fourth Imam) -- Imami for the rupee (reference to the [12 Shi'ite Imams](#)) -- Haidari "حیدری" for the double-rupee (lion, for [Ali b. Abi Talib](#), who was both the fourth caliph and the first Shi'ite Imam).

Gold: Faruqi "فاروقی" for the pagoda ([Umar al-Faruq](#), the second caliph) -- Sadîqi "صدیقی" for the double-pagoda ([Abu Bakr](#) al-Sadiq, the first caliph) -- Ahmadi "احمدی" for the four-

pagoda ("most praised ", one of the name of the Prophet [Muhammad](#)). During his first 4 years, the large gold coin was the [mohur](#), with an average weight of about 10.95g (AH1197-1200), replaced with the four-pagoda of 13.74g with the calendar change to the Mauludi "مولودی" system (AM1215-1219).

Coinage dating system[\[edit\]](#)

The denomination does not appear on the [Hijri](#) dated gold coins, but was added on all the Mauludi dated pieces.

At the beginning of his first year, Tipu Sultan abandoned the [Hijri](#) dating system and introduced the Mauludi system (from the Arabic word "walad ", which means "birth "), based on the [solar](#) year and the birth year of the Prophet [Muhammad](#) (actually 571 AD, but for some perplexing reason reckoned as 572 by Tipu Sultan for his staff).

From the beginning of his reign, Tipu Sultan added the name of the Indian cyclic year on the large silver and gold coins, including this double-pagoda, together with his regnal year. Each of the names is Persian, though in several examples, the meaning of the names in India was different from the Iranian meaning (not indicated here). According to the Indian meanings, these are the cyclic years: Zaki "زكي" for cyclic 37, which corresponded to his year 1 ("pure ") -- Azâl "ازل" for 38 ("[eternity](#) ", year 2) -- Jalal "جلال" for 39 ("splendor ", year 3) -- Dalv "دلّو" for 40 (the sign of [Aquarius](#), year 4) -- Shâ "شاه" for 41 ("king ", year 5) -- Sârâ "سارا" for 42 ("fragrant ", year 6) -- Sarâb "سراب" for 43 ("[mirage](#) ", for year 7) -- Shitâ "شتا" for 44 ("winter ", year 8) -- Zabarjad "زبرجد" for 45 ("topaz ", year 9) -- sahar "سحر" ("[dawn](#) ", year 10) -- Sâher "ساجر" ("magician ", year 11).^[143]

Assessment and legacy

Assessments of Tipu Sultan have often been passionate and divided. Successive [Indian National Congress](#) governments have often celebrated Tipu Sultan's memory and monuments and relics of his rule while the [Bharatiya Janata Party](#) has been largely critical. School and college textbooks in India officially recognize him as a "freedom-fighter" along with many other rulers of the 18th century who fought European powers.^[144]

In 1990, a television series on him, *[The Sword of Tipu Sultan](#)* was directed by [Bollywood](#) actor [Sanjay Khan](#) based on a [historical novel](#) by Bhagwan Gidwani.

The original copy of the [Constitution of India](#) bears a painting of Tipu Sultan.^[145]

The 14th and current Indian president [Ram Nath Kovind](#) hailed Tipu Sultan in his address to the Karnataka Assembly on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the state secretariat [Vidhana Soudha](#) saying “Tipu Sultan died a heroic death fighting the British. He was also a pioneer in the development and use of Mysore rockets in warfare. This technology was later adopted by the Europeans.”^[146]

Tipu Sultan is also admired as a hero in Pakistan. Pakistan's Prime Minister [Imran Khan](#) has said that he admires Tipu Sultan as a freedom fighter.^[147]

Family[[edit](#)]



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Tipu had several wives.^{[[citation needed](#)]} One of them, *Sindh Sahiba*, was quite renowned for her beauty and intelligence and whose grandson was *Sahib Sindh Sultan* also known as His Highness Shahzada Sayyid walShareef Ahmed Halim-az-Zaman Khan Sultan Sahib. Tipu's family was sent to Calcutta by the British. Many other descendants continue to live in [Kolkata](#).

His [sons](#) are:

1. [Shahzada](#) Sayyid walShareef Hyder Ali Khan Sultan (1771 – 30 July 1815)
2. Shahzada Sayyid walShareef Abdul Khaliq Khan Sultan (1782 – 12 September 1806)
3. Shahzada Sayyid walShareef Muhi-ud-din Ali Khan Sultan (1782 – 30 September 1811)
4. Shahzada Sayyid walShareef Mu'izz-ud-din Ali Khan Sultan (1783 – 30 March 1818)
5. Shahzada Sayyid walShareef Mi'raj-ud-din Ali Khan Sultan (1784? – ?)
6. Shahzada Sayyid walShareef Mu'in-ud-din Ali Khan Sultan (1784? – ?)
7. Shahzada Sayyid walShareef Muhammad Yasin Khan Sultan (1784 – 15 March 1849)
8. Shahzada Sayyid walShareef Muhammad Subhan Khan Sultan (1785 – 27 September 1845)
9. Shahzada Sayyid walShareef Muhammad Shukrullah Khan Sultan (1785 – 25 September 1830)
10. Shahzada Sayyid walShareef Sarwar-ud-din Khan Sultan (1790 – 20 October 1833)

11. Shahzada Sayyid walShareef Muhammad Nizam-ud-din Khan Sultan (1791 – 20 October 1791)
12. Shahzada Sayyid walShareef Muhammad Jamal-ud-din Khan Sultan (1795 – 13 November 1842)
13. Shahzada Sayyid walShareef Munir-ud-din Khan Sultan (1795 – 1 December 1837)
14. [His Highness](#) Shahzada Sir Sayyid walShareef [Ghulam Muhammad Sultan Sahib](#), [KCSI](#) (March 1795 – 11 August 1872)
15. Shahzada Sayyid walShareef Ghulam Ahmad Khan Sultan (1796 – 11 April 1824)
16. Shahzada Sayyid walShareef Hashmath Ali Khan Sultan (expired at birth)^{[[citation needed](#)]}

Tipu Sultan had lost his sword in a war with the [Nairs](#) of [Travancore](#) during the [Battle of the Nedumkotta \(1789\)](#), in which he was forced to withdraw due to the severe joint attack from the Travancore army and British army.^{[[148](#)]} The [Nair army](#) under the leadership of [Raja Kesavadas](#) again defeated the army of Tipu near Aluva. The Maharaja, [Dharma Raja](#), gave the famous sword to the Nawab of [Arcot](#), from whom the sword was taken away forcibly by the British after annexing Arcot and sent to London. The sword was on display at the Wallace Collection, No. 1 Manchester Square, London.

Tipu was commonly known as the **Tiger of Mysore** and adopted this animal as the symbol (*bubri/babri*)^{[[149](#)]} of his rule.^{[[150](#)]} It is said that Tipu Sultan was hunting in the forest with a French friend. They came face to face with a tiger there. The tiger first pounced on the French soldier and killed him. Tipu's gun did not work, and his dagger fell on the ground as the tiger jumped on him. He reached for the dagger, picked it up, and killed the tiger with it. That earned him the name "the Tiger of Mysore".^{[[citation needed](#)]} He even had French engineers

build a mechanical tiger for his palace.^[151] The device, known as [Tipu's Tiger](#), is on display in the [Victoria and Albert Museum](#), London.^[152] Not only did Tipu place relics of tigers around his palace and domain, but also had the emblem of a tiger on his banners and some arms and weapons. Sometimes this tiger was very ornate and had inscriptions within the drawing, alluding to Tipu's faith - Islam.^[153] Historian [Alexander Beatson](#) reported that "in his palace was found a great variety of curious swords, daggers, fusils, pistols, and blunderbusses; some were of exquisite workmanship, mounted with gold, or silver, and beautifully inlaid and ornamented with tigers' heads and stripes, or with Persian and Arabic verses".^[154]

The last sword used by Tipu in his last [battle, at Sri Rangapatnam](#), and the ring worn by him were taken by the British forces as war trophies. Till April 2004, they were kept on display at the [British Museum](#) London as gifts to the museum from Maj-Gen Augustus W.H. Meyrick and Nancy Dowager.^[155] At an [auction](#) in London in April 2004, [Vijay Mallya](#) purchased the sword of Tipu Sultan and some other historical artefacts, and brought them back to India.^[156]

In October 2013, another sword owned by Tipu Sultan and decorated with his *babri* (tiger stripe motif) surfaced and was auctioned by [Sotheby's](#).^[157] It was purchased for [£98,500](#)^[158] by a telephone bidder.

Tipu Sultan Jayanti[\[edit\]](#)

In 2015, the [Government of Karnataka](#), under the leadership of then Chief Minister [Siddaramaiah](#) from the [Congress](#) party, began to celebrate Tipu's birth anniversary as the "Tipu Sultan Jayanti".^[159] The Congress regime declared it as an annual event to be celebrated on 20 November.^[160] It was officially celebrated in Karnataka initially by the Minority Welfare department, and later by the Kannada & Culture department. However, on

29 July 2019, the next Chief Minister [B. S. Yediyurappa](#), who belongs to the [Bharatiya Janata Party](#) (BJP), ordered the celebrations cancelled, saying: "Legislators from [Kodagu](#) had highlighted incidents of violence during Tipu Jayanti." The previous Congress government's decision to organise the Jayanti was also seen as the party's move to pander to the minorities. Objecting against the cancellation of the celebrations, the previous Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said: "BJP has cancelled it because of their hatred towards minorities. It's a big crime. He [Tipu] was a king of Mysore and fought against the British [as] a freedom fighter. It was during his time when the foundation was laid for the [Krishna Raja Sagara](#) dam. He also tried to improve industry, agriculture and trade". The previous year, not a single JD(S) leader, including the then chief minister HD Kumaraswamy, attended the event, turning it into a fiasco.^[159]

The [Lok Sabha](#) Congress leader, [Mallikarjun Kharge](#), also earlier criticized BJP and [RSS](#) for their opposition against holding the celebrations, and asked: "When RSS can celebrate [Nathuram Godse](#), can't we celebrate Tipu Sultan?"^[161]