



Chapter 1

Prologue

After the decline of the Vijayanagar Empire in the 16th century, Mysore region became the core zone of the present state of Karnataka. The rulers of Bijapur, Mughals and the Marathas in the northern region had paid less attention to Kannada language and its people. Though Tipu Sultan was killed in 1799 A.D. and the rule of Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar III (1794-1868) was weak, still Mysore continued as the nerve centre of Karnataka's cultural activities for over 150 years, despite the fact that British Commissioners also ruled for 50 years (1831 to 1881), when the Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar III lost power in 1831.



Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV

The Maharajas of Mysore had traditionally encouraged modern education and promoted Kannada on a wider scale. They also patronized cultural and literary activities and inspired both private individuals and institutions. Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV (1884-1940) is termed as the 'Morning Star of Kannada Renaissance'. The traditional agraharas were revived and the activities of the religious monasteries (mathas) and temples encouraged the teaching and learning of music and dance, as well as literary activities, such as recitation of Sanskrit and Kannada Classics. Folk arts also got encouragement through temple festivities. The introduction of printing resulted in the publication of old classics, new books and growth of newspapers.

Jewels of Administration

In the northern Karnataka region, due to the presence of the Mughals and Marathas, Kannada language had been neglected. Since Marathi and Urdu were the dominant languages in the region, Kannada Language and its culture received little encouragement. As a result, very few Kannada schools were founded in that region for long.

Early History

Although the history of the Mysore dynasty can be traced to 1399 A.D., its real growth was significant only after 1610 A.D., when King Raja Wodeyar



Raja Wodeyar



Kanthirava Narasaraja-I



Chikkadeva Raja



Kanthirava Narasaraja-II

made Srirangapatna his capital. Later, Kanthirava Narasaraja Wodeyar I (1638-62 A.D.) issued his own coins (Kanthirayi pagoda and panams), and Chikkadevaraja (1673-1704 A.D.) expanded its area to Bangalore and other regions after he accepted Mughal control. He encouraged irrigation and also undertook various development works. These rulers renovated old temples, built new ones and encouraged fine arts with great involvement. They celebrated Dasara and other festivities with pomp and glory and also encouraged literature. The celebrated poet Sanchi Honnamma was in their court.

As Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar's son and successor, Kanthirava Narasaraja Wodeyar II (1638-1659) was disabled, a line of administrators called *dalvayis* secured power. They were close relatives of the royal family and engaged themselves in their own ambitious expansionist activities. This resulted in the financial bankruptcy of the State and paved the way for the usurpation by Hyder Ali. Thereafter, although the agraharas, temples and other religious institutions lost royal patronage and cultural life got eclipsed, mosques and *madrasas* which increased in number, helped the spread of literacy among *muslims*.



Hyder Ali

New Mysore State

When the British defeated Tipu and conquered the Mysore kingdom, it was far bigger in size than what Hyder inherited from the Mysore family. The Mysore territory had more than trebled and measured 80,000 square



miles, and its revenue had risen from 43 lakh Pagodas to 110 lakh Pagodas. Though Tipu's territories shrunk in size after the Third Anglo-Mysore War, it was substantially larger than the Mysore Kingdom's original area and it was only 62,000 square miles in 1786. When Governor General Wellesley decided to divide the newly conquered territory, he wrote to his English masters thus, "If I have divided the whole territory equally between the Company and the Nizam, it would have afforded strong grounds for the jealousy of the Marathas, and would have aggrandised the Nizam's power beyond the bounds of discretion and would have in hands a territory so extensive, as it might



Tipu Sultan



Dewan Purnaiah

have been difficult to manage, especially in the present state of the Company's service in the Presidency."

In accordance with the decision of the British, the Mysore state was handed over to the Wodeyar family in 1799 A.D. and the territories included the regions of Malnad, Keladi, Chitradurga, Madhugiri, Balam, Tarikere, Anekal, Hoskote, Doddaballapur and Chikkaballapura which were formerly ruled by the feudatories of the Vijayanagar Empire, which never subjected to the Mysore Kingdom before 1761. Moreover some territories, in north-western Tamilnadu were part of Mysore. Besides, it also included regions which had been forcefully occupied by Hyder Ali; hence some of the rulers were not willing to accept the new arrangement of 1799 A.D. But absence of powerful men like Hyder and Tipu, was a matter of relief to them.

The administration of Dewan Purnaiah, the Commissioners and the succeeding Dewans from 1881 A.D. onwards, not only brought peace and tranquillity to Mysore, but also prosperity. Agriculture, irrigation, industry, technology, education, transport and communications developed faster here than in other parts of the State. This subsequently helped Karnataka to emerge as an advanced State. Compared to this, many British Presidencies like Orissa and Bihar lagged far behind even after six decades of Independence, though they were under the direct rule of the British for over two centuries.

New Administrators

The men who administered Mysore either as Dewans or as Commissioners from 1799 A.D. created an atmosphere that was congenial for cultural awakening. Economic growth was evident because the men at the helm of affairs acted on their own and took progressive decisions, inspite of challenges like famine and epidemics like the plague.

The State was endowed with rich natural resources such as forests of teak and sandalwood and minerals like gold and iron. River water was utilised for irrigation and ground water for drinking. The terrain was suitable for the generation of Hydro-electric power. Introduction of coffee plantations and the silk industry also helped Mysore to achieve substantial economic growth. The credit for all this development goes to the Dewans, beginning with Dewan Purnaiah, and the Commissioners who were instrumental in bringing about major changes in all areas. For this reason, they may be termed as the Jewels of Administration of Mysore. Each one of them kept the wheels of development and progress rolling.

The two decades that followed Dewan Purnaiah, was a period of confusion and turmoil. Some of the Commissioners except Cubbon and Bowring, knew that their posting were to be only a stop-gap arrangement. But the modern path of progress helped Mysore State to move forward and it became a Model Princely State under such men. There were British Presidencies whose administrators did not always had commitment or love or the challenging spirit that Mysore's administrators possessed. They were mostly guided by imperial interests only. Nor was the British bureaucracy interested in the Presidency areas growing in industry and compete with their own home country. They wanted to secure raw material for their industries at home and ready markets for their home products.

The eagerness to usher in electric power, new technology, education, railways, new crops and modern methods of cultivation dominated the minds of Mysore administrators. Purnaiah was an able administrator and had the ability and capacity to fulfil the expectations of the British overlords. Commissioners like Cubbon and Bowring had a strong desire to improve the infrastructure, spread education and establish a modern administrative set up. They also made use of the Mysore army and its resources to strengthen and expand their Empire even during the days of Dewan Purnaiah.

Mysore, an Asset to the Empire

Mysore proved to be an important asset to the British Empire during the World Wars. It supplied army, resources and other essential materials to serve the imperial interests. Thus this particular period of Mysore history is an interesting field for study.

In 1799 A.D., Purnaiah became the first Dewan and also Regent of the child prince. After Purnaiah's retirement, for almost two decades there was a period of confusion due to an administrative break down, revolt and chaos. The British took over the administration and managed the State with the civil servants. There was a series of officers called Commissioners. Of these Mark Cubbon and Lewin Bowring were in charge for long periods of time and left their own indelible stamp in modernising the State's administration.

Even when Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar III (1794 – 1868) was out of power, he was not only loyal to the British (even during the great turmoil of 1857-1858), but also continued efforts to secure the throne back to his family. His persevering efforts succeeded and the British agreed to crown the adopted son of the Maharaja as the ruler. Rendition started in 1881 A.D. and C.Rangacharlu became the first Dewan after the Rendition.

New Arrangement

After Tipu's fall, Arthur Wellesley (younger brother of Governor General Lord Wellesley) was appointed Military Governor of Srirangapatna. For the settlement of the newly acquired territory, the Governor General appointed a Commission consisting of Gen. Harris, Col. Arthur Wellesley, Lt.Col. William Kirkpatrick and Barry Close with Malcolm and Major Munro as Secretaries and Edward Golding as Assistant Secretary. The Commission drew up the Partition Treaty with Mysore which was signed on 4 June 1799. The Commission had



Arthur Wellesley



William Kirkpatrick



Barry Close



Major Munro

been authorised by the Governor General to sign the Subsidiary Alliance to crown Krishnaraja Wodeyar III and appoint Purnaiah as Dewan.

The Company decided not to retain the entire territory of Tipu as they did not have the men and resources to manage such a vast area of hilly, forest tracts. They had decided to retain Mysore kingdom and also decided to crown the member of the Hindu royal family as per the secret agreement they had with Maharani Lakshmi Ammanni, the widow of Krishnaraja Wodeyar II (1734-66), whom Hyder had set aside making him a mere figurehead. After his death in

1766, Hyder had run the administration in the name of maharaja's two sons and Nanjaraja (1766-76) on his death, the other son Chamaraja VIII (1770-76). On the expiry of the last named, he crowned Chamaraja IX (1770-96), adopted by Rani Lakshmi Ammanni. When Chamaraja IX died in 1796 Tipu did not care to have even a puppet king, and he himself ran the administration and assumed the title Sultan.

While deciding about the future of Tipu's territory, the British considered many options. An equal division was likely to invoke the jealousy of the Marathas and also increase the power of the Nizam, thus creating a perennial source of trouble. The Marathas had not played any major role in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War, so allowing an equal share to them was felt unjust. Hence they were given some territory in the north. Arthur Wellesley decided to retain Mysore as a separate State and crown the Hindu prince as its successor, as per the secret agreement that the British had with the widow of Krishnaraja Wodeyar II (1734-66 A.D.), Maharani Lakshmi Ammanni. Besides, he also sought the advice of Purnaiah on whom he depended in order to decide the future of the conquered Mysore territory.

Purnaiah's Advice

Purnaiah advised that Tipu's son Fateh Hyder be crowned, as he felt that there was a majority of Muslims in the Mysore army. Secondly, it had become a practice in the south to have Muslim rulers. Thirdly, Fateh Hyder was very close to him and had been present at Karighatta during the last days of the war when they had surrendered to the British together. According to Gen. Harris, Purnaiah even rejected the suggestion to crown a prince of the Wodeyar family. However, Arthur Wellesley rejected Purnaiah's proposal to crown Fateh Hyder. He felt that any successor of Tipu would interact with the French and create problems. Tipu had sought the help of the French, not only against the British but also against the Nizam and the Marathas. Further, there had been an understanding between the Maharani Lakshmi Ammanni and the Company to hand over the Mysore territory to the Mysore royal family. Tirumala Rao, agent of the Queen staying at Tanjavor, negotiated with the Company and had financed the Company too.



Fateh Hyder

Final Decision

"After a mature deliberation of the various interests involved, the restoration of the descendant of the Maharaja of Mysore to the sovereignty under British protection of a part of the dominions and the division of remainder between the allies, were the measures resolved upon," says Rice ¹. This decision was ratified by the Commission appointed by the Governor General. All territories located below the Ghats (both on the East and the West Coast) and all posts and

1. Rice, L., Mysore Gazetteer I, p.417.

forts that commanded the passes on both the Ghats were to be administered by the British. Thus the Canara Coast, Malabar, Coimbatore and Dharmapuri districts were under the British. They also took the island of Srirangapatna to canton their troops. The Nizam secured Gutti and Gurramakonda districts together with Chitradurga and Sira.

The Marathas (Peshwa) were assigned Harapanahalli, Sonda, Anegondi, parts of Chitradurga, and Bednore above the Ghats, but the Peshwa had to accept a Subsidiary Force stationed at Pune and also the arbitration of the Governor General in any disputes between him and the Nizam. He was also asked to dismiss all the French employees under him and not to appoint any European without the prior permission of the Governor General. As the Peshwa Baji Rao II did not accept these conditions, the territories offered to him were shared by the Nizam and the Company. Later, the Bangalore Cantonment where the British had cantoned their troops, was handed over to the British and Srirangapatna was returned to the Maharaja. Tipu's sons and his family were treated with regard and compassion. Arthur Wellesley shifted them to Vellore fort. His first four sons were sent initially and the rest were shifted gradually. A sum of 2,40,000 Kanthirayi pagodas per year was sanctioned for the maintenance of the family.

Installation of the Maharaja

“To instal the Raja at Seringapatam was considered not expedient because it could only be done in the Mohammadan Palace, where there were still a number of ladies belonging Tipu's *zenana* and his remaining children and a function of this kind in their vicinity was considered cruel and improper,” says Shama Rao².



Lakshmi Ramana Temple



Boy Krishnaraja Wodeyar III

Bangalore was turned down as it was in the corner of the state. As Mysore was the only place where the installation ceremony could conveniently take place so it was chosen as the New Capital.

Three-year old Krishnaraja Wodeyar III, who was the son of Chamaraja IX (1770-96 A.D.) and the adopted son of Maharani Lakshmi Ammanni was crowned. The investiture was held in a specially raised pandal in the Lakshmiramana Swamy Temple in the Mysore palace premises.

“The Brahmins, having fixed upon 30 June as the most auspicious day for keeping Krishnaraja Wodeyar on the *masnad*, the ceremony was performed in Mysore, at noon on that day by Commissioners, headed by Gen. Harris, and accompanied by Mir Alam, (the representative of the Nizam) under three

2. Shama Rao, M., Modern Mysore, I, p.417.

volleys from the troops on the spot and a royal salute from guns of Seringapatam. The deportment of the young prince, as the despatch on the subject says, 'was remarkably decorous'. Some high Musalman officers were also present. The inauguration having taken place under an open pandal, the spectators were very numerous and it would be difficult to describe the joy which was visible in the countenance of all the Hindus present," describes Rice³.



Fourth Anglo-Mysore War

Purnaiah and the Treaty

Purnaiah was appointed Dewan and Regent. However, Tirumala Rao from Tanjavoor reached Srirangapatna two days after this appointment and put forth his case for Dewanship. But it was too late. The British officers were not in his favour as he belonged to the cadre of dubashis (interpreters) for whom the British did not have much respect.



Storming of Srirangapattana

"Purnaiah's thorough knowledge of the resources of the country enable to add materially to the revenue, which was further swelled by the sale of large stores of sandalwood which had accumulated for several years owing to Tipu's prohibition of its export from its dominion," says Rice⁴.

On 8 July 1801, the **Treaty of Srirangapatna**, known as Subsidiary Treaty, between the Company and the Maharaja was signed. Maharani Lakshmi Ammanni and Dewan Purnaiah signed the Treaty on behalf of the Maharaja. The Treaty had 16 Articles, of which

- Article One stated that any friends or enemies of any of the two parties had to be treated as friends and enemies of both the parties.
- Article Two provided for an annual subsidy of 7 lakh star pagodas to be paid by the Mysore durbar to the Company (about Rs. 20.50 lakhs). This was for the maintenance of the Company's troops in Mysore state for the defence and security of the State.
- Article Three stated that whenever hostilities arose against any one of the two parties or preparations were made for such eventualities by either of the parties for the defence of their territories, the expenses had to be borne by Mysore as per the decision of the Governor General.
- According to Article Four, if the instalment of the normal subsidy was not paid or the extraordinary expenses were not borne by Mysore, the Governor General could take steps to raise the dues by the issue of

3. Rice, Op.cit., pp:418-19.

4. Ibid.

regulation or ordinance, or by taking over the management of any territory or any department of the State.

- Article Five made it obligatory on the part of the Maharaja to issue orders to implement the decision of the Governor General under Article Four.
- Article Six expected the Maharaja to maintain peace and amity with the Company and not to enter into an alliance with other States without the permission of the Company.
- Article Seven obliged the Maharaja not to entertain any foreigners in any capacity without a passport of the Company for such persons.
- Article Eight authorised the Governor General to maintain the Company's troops in any of the forts in the State in times of war or peace.
- Article Nine authorised the Company to repair, strengthen, dismantle or destroy any fort in the State.
- Article Ten permitted the Maharaja to request and secure the services of the Company's troops to maintain and enforce his authority.
- Article Fourteen contained a broad injunction which the Company found necessary to offer the Maharaja with a view to controlling finances, better collection of revenue, administration of justice, the extension of commerce, the encouragement of trade, agriculture and industry etc.
- Provision for exchange of frontiers whenever found necessary was provided for in Article Fifteen.
- Article Sixteen contained the names of signatories, the members of the Mysore Commission, the Maharani and Purnaiah.



Tipu's Death, Fourth Anglo-Mysore War

The territory yielding a revenue upwards of 25,000 star pagodas was assigned to the Maharaja. In 1801, Mayakonda, Harihar and Holakere were transferred to Mysore and in 1803, Budikote and some villages were transferred to the Company as per Article Fifteen of the Treaty. The Company had obtained Wynad in 1801.

Lord Wellesley's Guidance

On the appointment of Purnaiah as Dewan and Regent and Barry Close as Resident at the Maharaja's Court after the signing of the Subsidiary Treaty, the Mysore Commission dissolved itself on 3 July 1799. Arthur Wellesley commanded the Company's division with its headquarters at Srirangapatna.

In a dispatch dated 3 August 1799, Governor General Lord Wellesley reiterated the ideas that guided him for the settlement. "I entertain a confident expectation, that the recent settlement of the dominion of Tippoo Sultan will prove not less durable than I trust, will be found, equitable in its fundamental

principles, beneficial in its general operation, and comfortable, in every point of view, to the liberal character of the English East India Company, and the just and moderate policy prescribed by the Parliament, for the Government of British Empire in the East.” The Company’s revenue had increased by 459,056 pound sterling per year because of the new arrangement. Hayavadana Rao describes the settlement by the Governor- General as indicative of “far-seeing statesmanship and a deep sense of justice that actuated his policy”⁵⁶.

Lord Wellesley time and again wrote to Resident Barry Close to make the new administrative set up more effective. He stated that the first object of his duty was the effectual protection of the Mysore territory. The subsidiary force and the Mysore army should be considered as a common force. This combined force should be sent to Carnatic (Tamil Nadu) to assist the Company’s force at Chennai (Fort St. George) and vice versa. Though Mysore was under the supervisory jurisdiction of the Governor of Chennai, the Governor General reserved the right to send direct instructions to Resident Close with copies of the orders sent to Chennai.

To maintain peace and tranquillity in Mysore State, the Company’s forces were stationed not only at Srirangapatna and Chitradurga but also at Bidanur, Sira and Nagar. Barry Close was also asked to supervise the Dewan’s administration with utmost diligence and vigilance. Revenue and commerce were strictly supervised and so was the administration of justice. He was also instructed to restrain officers of the government from abuse of authority and to correct any erroneous or corrupt practices endangering the resources of the country and happiness of the people. The demand of the Palegars for their previous territories was not to be entertained but they had to be mobilised by pensions and other such means. Instructions were also given to increase import and export and the need to abolish rahdari duties. Judicial administration, police force, prevention of alienation of lands for religious purposes, protection of Muhammadan religious endowments, maintaining economy in administration, maintenance of good relations with the Kodagu (Coorg) Raja and undertaking revenue survey of the State were other important matters which had to be carefully monitored. Hayavadana Rao has summarised the instructions over all these issues⁶.

Dewan Purnaiah was guided by the Resident and both were very close. “The settlement of Mysore was distinguished from all preceding measures of British policy, was quoted with applause in the remotest parts of India, and was acknowledged with unlimited gratitude by the people to be governed by leaving every office, civil and military to be filled by natives themselves,” says Major Wilks. Lord Wellesley must have felt the need to enforce the British Colonial policies into the minds of senior officers like Close because he was new to the administration and needed to establish guidelines to administer a newly conquered state.



5. C.H., p.2715.

6. Ibid, pp:2718-19.