

## CHAPTER II

### HISTORY

**M**ANDYA district does not form any distinct geographical unit, but is a part of the large plateau from Mysore to the edges of the Eastern Ghats. Therefore, there are not many legends describing the origin of the district as such, but there are quite a few legends describing the origin of certain places like Mandya, Maddur and Srirangapatna in the district. The legends or the *puranas* have made these places either holy or important.

#### Pre-History

The pre-history of Mandya is the same as that of Mysore State. Palaeolithic remains found in the State show that man was resident in the State in those very early times. He was apparently a rude person, who left behind him chipped stone implements. His descendants died out, it is inferred, while still in a low stage of culture. Long after him, came another race, whose remains are also to be found in the State. These are the people of what is called the Neolithic Age. They polished stone, made pottery and drilled stone and other hard materials. Their implements were still predominantly stone ones. The direct descendants probably of these people were the people of the Iron Age, whose remains are found widely scattered over the State. In this age, stone implements were almost entirely displaced by iron ones and the art of iron smelting was widely known and practised. Wheel-made pottery was also in general use and metals other than iron also began to be worked. The crafts generally made great progress during this period. From the people of this age are descended the present inhabitants of the State and generally of Southern India throughout which their remains have been discovered.

The Aryans had penetrated into South India at a fairly early age and had settled in several places. A few *rishis* or sages made their way to the South in search of suitable retreats in the depths of the forests. But here too, they did not find unpeopled solitudes. The attainments, however, of those sages enabled

them in various ways to win the goodwill of the local inhabitants with whom they came into contact.

One such *rishi*, according to a legend, lived in the forest hermitage in the place which later developed into the present town of Mandya. Another *rishi* lived on the bank of the river Shimsha. His name seems to have been *Kadamba*, for the Shimsha river is named *Kadamba* after him. Goutama, yet another *rishi*, is said to have worshipped God Ranganathaswami at Srirangapatna in the early ages; *Goutama Kshetra*, a small island to the west of Srirangapatna where the river divides itself, seems to have derived its name from this sage. Under two large boulders on the north side of it, is what is called the *rishi's* cave, now closed up. Still another *rishi*, Kanva, had his hermitage in Kanvapuri as mentioned in the *Sthalapurana*; this place was later called Kannambadi, till it was renamed as Krishnarajasagar a few years ago. Here, Kanva worshipped a *linga* since known as Kanveshwara after him. A mound is shown in the bed of the Cauvery as representing the site of Kanva's *ashrama* or hermitage.

Maddur, the fifth biggest town in this district, has also a legend of its own. In the *Sthalapurana* of Maddur, which professes to be an extract from the *Brahmanda Purana* and consists of 12 chapters, Maddur is called Arjunapuri and also Kadambakshetra. The image of God Narasimha here is stated to have been set up by *Brahma* and worshipped by the sage Kadamba. Arjuna, the Pandava prince, is said to have visited this place accompanied by Lord Krishna, worshipped the god and built the temple. That is why this place was called Arjunapuri, in commemoration of the event. Later, it was called Marudur, though why it was called so is not known. The name Marudur is found in the inscriptions. This name later came to be pronounced as Maddur.

Coming to historical times, the central and southern parts of **Gangas** the old Mysore State, including the Mandya district and parts of the Cauvery basin, were ruled by the Gangas, a line of kings who were in power from about the 2nd century A.D. to about the beginning of the 11th century A.D. Their grants, of which some fifty-two are on copper plates, have been found at many places in the State and the neighbouring areas. Maddur and the villages round about formed part of the province of Chikka Gangavadi. In Karbail village in Nagamangala taluk, there is a fine *viragal* (hero stone) of the time of the Ganga king, Nitimarga Permanadi.

The region ruled over by the Ganga kings was known as Gangavadi. At the time of the founding of the Ganga kingdom, its chief city was Kuvalala or the present Kolar, but the

capital was removed in the third century to Talkad on the banks of Cauvery, in the south-east of Mysore district. This remained their permanent capital, although the royal residence was fixed at Mankuda, west of Channapatna, in the seventh century and Manyapura, which is identified with Manne, north of Nela-mangala in the Bangalore district, in the eighth century.

The Gangas suffered a set-back for a time, for early in the ninth century, the Rashtrakutas, whose capital was Manyakheta (Malkhed in the Gulbarga district), seized and imprisoned the Ganga king, Sivamara-II, and appointed their own viceroy to administer the Ganga territories. Eventually, the Ganga king was restored to power and in the tenth century, there were matrimonial alliances and great intimacy between the Gangas and the Rashtrakutas. This was especially the case in the time of Butuga, who married the Rashtrakuta king's sister and whose son married the Rashtrakuta king's daughter. During this period the Cholas were at war with the Rashtrakutas and, led by their ruler Rajaditya, apparently entered the Mysore territory in order to attack them when Butuga killed the Chola prince at a place called Takkolam, near Arkonam and brought the war to an end. This was in 950 A. D.

The Ganga kings, who ruled over Gangavadi, numbered about thirty-three. Among these rulers, the inscriptions of Sripurusha, Kongani Maharaja, Permanadi, Sivamara, Ereyappa, Nitimarga-I, Satyavakya Rachamalla, Nitimarga-II, Marasimha, Satyavakya, etc., have been found. These inscriptions refer to either grants of land to some persons or to the construction of some temples. A few inscriptions are on *viragals* or stone slabs erected in memory of the warriors who gave up their lives in battles fought on behalf of the Gangas. These inscriptions have been found in some places of Mandya district and in Bangalore and Mysore districts.

#### Durvinita

In the course of their long rule, the Gangas suffered many attacks from the neighbouring rulers. The Ganga kings, Madhava-III, and his predecessor, Harivarma, were apparently feudatories of the Pallavas. Madhava's successors Avinita, Durvinita, Mushkara and Srivikrama seem to have ruled during the period from 500 A.D. to 608 A.D. Durvinita was one of the most interesting of the Ganga kings. He seems to have extended the Ganga dominion to the south and east, for he is said to have waged sanguinary wars for the possession of Andari, Alattur (in the present Coimbatore district), Purulare (in Chinglepet district), Pennagaram (in Dharmapuri district) and other places and is described as ruler of the whole of Pannad and Punnad. Inscriptions referring to Durvinita have been found in Doddaballapur, Tumkur, Chikmagalur and Uttanur. As all these places

are outside Mandya district in different directions, it can be concluded that this district was included in the dominions belonging to the Gangas, till they were over-powered by the Cholas.

Durvinita was succeeded by his son, Mushkara, of whom **Bhuvikrama** little is known. Mushkara's son was Srivikrama who had two sons who, in turn, succeeded him. Of them, the elder, Bhuvikrama, who came to the throne in about 608 A.D., was the son of a daughter of a Chola king. He was apparently a great warrior and he defeated the Pallava king, Narasimhapotavarma, in a great battle and is said to have captured the whole of the Pallava kingdom. On account of his success in war, he received the title Srivallabha, and in the inscription Srirangapatna-16 (Epigraphia Carnatica III), he is called Dugga. He is said to have made Mankuda, in the present Channapatna taluk, the royal residence; from the inscription Mandya-113, we obtain the date 670 A.D. for the end of his reign.

Bhuvikrama was followed by his younger brother, Shivamara- **Shivamara-I** I. His period may be taken to be between 679-726 A.D. Between Bhuvikrama's death and Shivamara's succession, there was an interregnum of nine years when there was great political confusion. He is mentioned as Shiva Kumara in his Kulagana copper plates, which might be assigned to about 725 A.D. He is described as *Shista-priya* and *Navakama* in the Keregode-Rangapura plates. The title *Shista-priya*, meaning learned man of good character, occurs in Mandya-113 (E.C. III) and is the one by which he describes and signs himself. According to this grant he had two Pallava princes in his charge, perhaps as hostages or as his wards, which goes to confirm, writes Mr. Rice, the account of his elder brother's conquests.

Shivamara's grandson, Sripurusha, is another great king of **Sripurusha** the Ganga dynasty. He inflicted a crushing defeat on the Pallavas. The Ganga kingdom came to be called "Siri Rajya" or the prosperous kingdom during his time because of the great prosperity it then attained. He ruled between 726 and 788 A.D.

Sripurusha was succeeded by Shivamara II about the year **Shivamara-II** 788 A.D. In Shivamara's reign, the prosperity of the Gangas declined and they became subject to calamities, which threatened the extinction of the Ganga power altogether. The Rashtrakuta king, Dhruva, seized and imprisoned the Ganga king. Dhruva's son, Kambharasa, is mentioned in the inscription-93 of Heggadevanakote as governing the ninety-six thousand (a common designation of the Ganga territory) under his father. After him, when his younger brother, Govinda Prabhutavarsha Rashtrakuta was on the throne, Ganga Mandala was under his occupation. However, Govinda, either as seems likely, on the death of his elder brother or moved by reasons of compassion or policy

released the Ganga king from his "long and painful confinement" but owing to his hostility had again to confine him. The Ganga king, during the period of his release, seems to have attacked the Vallabha or Rashtrakuta army encamped at Mudugandur in Mandya district. Though he was victorious for a time, he was again defeated and consigned to prison. Eventually, however, Govinda reinstated him in his kingdom. These vicissitudes seem to have led to a virtual partition of the Ganga kingdom between Marasimha, the son of Shivamara, and Vijayaditya, the brother of Shivamara.

**Rachamalla-I** Genealogists mention Rajamalla Satyavakya Permanadi, son of Vijayaditya, as Shivamara's successor in the main Ganga line. In 817 A.D., Rajamalla, mentioned in the inscriptions also as Rachamalla, came to the throne of the Ganga kingdom, which had considerably shrunk in size, owing to annexation of large portions of Gangavadi by the Rashtrakutas. He had to contend with the Rashtrakuta power as also his own feudatories for maintaining the integrity and stability of his kingdom. He was noted for his valour and liberal gifts.

**Nitimarga-I** Rachamalla was succeeded by his son named Nitimarga I, who was a contemporary of the great Rashtrakuta king, Amoghavarsha II. The Rashtrakutas still showed signs of disturbing the peace of his kingdom. Nitimarga seems to have gained a great victory in 868 A.D. over their army at Rajaramadu, which is to the north of the Kolar district. Besides this victory, Nitimarga is credited with the capture of Banavasa Maharajara nad (E.C.X, Mulbagal—228). Inscription No. 79 of Kolar district shows that, under Nitimarga, the Nolamba-Pallava king, Nolambadhiraja, was ruling the Ganga-6000. At the head of Doddabundi stone (E.C. III, T.Narasipur-91) is a rude but interesting bas-relief depicting Nitimarga's death, the date of which event is 869 A.D.

**Rachamalla-II** Nitimarga was succeeded by his elder son, Rachamalla Satyavakya II. According to inscriptions, he might be taken to have ascended the throne in 869-870 A.D. Under him, Nolambadhiraja ruled over the Ganga—6000 as a feudatory. This Nolambadhiraja is apparently the same person who ruled over the Ganga—6000. In Nitimarga's time (Mandya-13 dated in 895 A.D.) Rachamalla's younger brother, Butuga, was the Yuvaraja in 870 A.D. He was a great warrior but died before his elder brother. In the Srirangapatna inscription-147, Ereganga, the son of Butuga, is said to have become the Yuvaraja. Rachamalla-II associated Ereganga with himself in the Government of the country and crowned him under the name of Ereyappa. Ereyappa was known by the names of Nitimarga, Satyavakya and Mahendrantaka. At this time, Nolamba kings seem to have

been in possession of Mandya and the neighbouring places. Inscription No. 13 of 895 A.D. and another inscription of 903 A.D. of Mandya district make mention of the Nolamba king, Mahendra. Ereyappa defeated and killed Mahendra in battle and was, therefore, called Mahendrantaka.

Ereyappa, who was also known as Nitimarga II, ascended **Other Ganga Kings** the throne about 907 A.D. He had three sons. After Ereyappa's death, his eldest son, Narasimhadeva, ascended the throne. He seems to have died young without leaving any heir to succeed him; for after him his younger brother Rachamalla III came to the throne. Rachamalla III conquered and put to flight the Nolamba king, Anniga, in the famous Kottamangala battle. But Rachamalla also did not rule long. The Atukur inscription (E.C., Mandya-411, dated in Saka year, Saumya 872, corresponding to 950 A.D.) informs us that Butuga slew Rachamalla after a fight and took possession of Gangavadi-96,000. When this event actually occurred is not known. There was at this time a renewed friendship between the Gangas and the Rashtrakutas. A sort of offensive and defensive alliance seems to have been entered into between Butuga and Amoghavarsha II of the Rashtrakutas. Amoghavarsha's daughter was given in marriage to Butuga. Butuga defeated the Chola king, Rajaditya, in 949 A.D., and killed him in single combat at a place called Takkolam near Arkonam. Butuga was succeeded by his second son, Marasimha-III, who also was a great warrior. He defeated and put an end to the Nolamba dynasty and hence is known as Nalambantaka. Marasimha-III left three sons, of whom Rachamalla Satyavakya IV and Rakkasaganga ruled Gangavadi one after the other. Chaundaraya, the powerful minister and general of Rachamalla IV, waged several wars against hostile neighbours and put down refractory feudatories. He carried out administrative reforms and also built the colossal image of Gomateshwara at Sravanabelagola in 983 A.D.

In Rakkasaganga's time, the Cholas under the command of **Cholas** Rajendra Chola, son of the reigning king Rajaraja Chola, succeeded in capturing Talakad, the capital of the Gangas and overthrew them, who had ruled over the districts of Mysore, Mandya and parts of Bangalore, Kolar and Tumkur for nearly a thousand years. This event seems to have taken place in 1004 A.D. A lithic grant of Rakkasaganga's reign has been found at Hale-Budanur in Mandya taluk. He continued to rule as a feudatory of the Cholas upto 1024 A.D. The whole region, south of the river Cauvery from Coorg and east of a line from near Srirangapatna to Nandidurga, was overrun by the Cholas and annexed to their empire; the area was under their rule for about 100 years.

The Hoysalas, who had established their power in the western **Hoysalas** part of the old Mysore State, had their capital at Dwarasamudra

(Halebid in the Belur taluk of Hassan district). Vinayaditya, who came to the throne in 1047, was the first known king of this dynasty. He subdued the hill chieftains of the neighbouring areas. The Hoysalas gained a much greater power after 1111 A.D. under Bittideva (afterwards called Vishnuvardhana). He retook Talakad and drove the Cholas out of Mysore. The capture of Talakad was effected by his general Gangaraja, who was a descendant of the old Ganga kings. Vishnuvardhana recovered all the Ganga dominions and took the title of Vira Ganga. In 1117 A.D., he claims to be ruling over a territory extending from Nangali in Mulbagal taluk of Kolar district in the east to Barkur in South Kanara in the west and from Kongu (Salem, Dharmapuri and Coimbatore districts) in the south to Savimale in the north. Therefore, it is evident that Mandya district was included in the dominions of the Hoysalas.

In the beginning of the fourteenth century, the Muslims from the north attacked the Hoysalas and in 1326, the Hoysala capital Dwarasamudra was captured and destroyed and the Hoysalas were driven from their kingdom. The Hoysala ruler, Ballala III, retired at first to Tondanur or Tonnur in Srirangapatna taluk and then resided at other places maintaining an enfeebled power upto 1342. He was succeeded by his son Ballala IV who ruled till about 1346, when the Hoysala kingdom was annexed by the Vijayanagar rulers.

#### **Vijayanagar Empire**

After the decline of the Hoysalas, Vijayanagar sovereigns became paramount throughout the south. Under the Hoysalas and the Vijayanagar rulers, petty chieftains were ruling different parts of the present Mysore, Mandya, Bangalore, Tumkur, Kolar and other districts of old Mysore State. Narasa, the founder of the third dynasty in Vijayanagar, captured Srirangapatna in about 1495. A viceroy of the Vijayanagar rulers was stationed at Srirangapatna. He levied tribute on the neighbouring chiefs to the east of Srirangapatna. There were chiefs at Ummattur, Mugur and other places.

#### **Ummattur Chiefs**

In the beginning of the sixteenth century, Ganga Raja of Ummattur established a principality at Shivasamudram, the island at the falls of the Cauvery, not far from Talakad. He seems to have captured Srirangapatna from the viceroy and retained it under him for some years. Since he assumed independence and claimed Penukonda, Krishnadevaraya, the then ruler of Vijayanagar, led, in 1511 A.D., one of the earliest expeditions of his reign against him and captured his fort and took Srirangapatna (E.I. VIII, 18). Ganga Raja, after a prosperous reign, was succeeded by his son Nandi Raja, who, to atone for some ceremonial offence, leaped into the cataract at Gagana Chukki on horse-back with his wife.

His son, Ganga-Raja II, enlarged the city greatly and lived in splendour. His two daughters were married, one to the chief of Kilimale, near Satyagala, and other to the chief of Nagarakere, near Maddur in Mandya district. These marriages were very unhappy, for the pride of the ladies gave their husbands constant disgust and they were continually upbraided for not living in equal splendour with their father-in-law. They, therefore, united to attack Shivasamudram and humble Ganga-Raja. The siege is said to have lasted "twelve years without their having been able to penetrate into the island". Then they won over the minister of the Raja by bribing and promise of high office, and gained entrance to the fort within the island. The Raja found his position desperate. Having drawn his sword, he first killed all his women and children and then, rushing into the midst of his enemies, fought until he procured an honourable death. The sons-in-law, on seeing this, were struck with horror and immediately threw themselves into the cataract at Gagana Chukki and their example was followed by their wives, whose arrogance had been the cause of such disasters.

**Ganga Raja II**

Krishnadevaraya, the greatest of the rulers of Vijayanagar died in 1529 and was succeeded by his brother, Achyutha Raya. Achyutha Raya visited Srirangapatna in 1532 on his way back from Srirangam. Here he is said to have received his minister, Tirumaladeva, on his return from the Tiruvadi region in Tamilnad. He also received local governors, who gave him, it is said, large presents of money.

The Vijayanagar empire declined in extent and power after the battle of Rakkasa-thangadgi in 1565 A.D. After the defeat and death of Aliya Ramaraya at the hands of the Sultans of the Deccan, Tirumala Raya, the younger brother of Ramaraya, went to Penukonda with the nominal emperor, Sadashiva Raya, and began to rule from there in the name of Sadashiva Raya till 1570, after which date he made himself king.

**Decline of  
Vijayanagar  
and after**

Tirumala Raya seems to have continued the time-honoured custom of his predecessors of appointing princes of the royal house as viceroys of the provinces. According to inscriptions and literary works, Tirumala had four sons named Raghunatha, Sri Ranga, Rama and Venkata. Rama or Rama Raja became the viceroy of the Srirangapatna region. The *Vasucharitramu* mentions that his rule extended over the territory between the Cauvery and the Arabian sea with his capital at Srirangapatna. He appears to have governed Penukonda before he was transferred to Srirangapatna. Several records of his attest to his rule at Srirangapatna. One dated 1569 A.D. is the earliest of these. He is styled in it as *Mahamandaleshwara*. It records the gift of Kollegal to one, Rama Nayaka, a dependant of his in the Shivasamudra *sthala* in the Hadinadu *sime*. He was more or less



independent in his charge of the Srirangapatna province, for he is, in records, dated about his period (1576-8 A.D.), called also Maha-arasu. Almost the last grant of his in his province was the one made by him and his wife Vabajamma in favour of god Narayana at Melkote in 1581 A.D. (E.C. III, Srirangapatna-158).

#### **Tirumala II**

His elder son, Tirumala-II, appears to have succeeded him in Srirangapatna. The first record so far known of him is one dated in 1584 A.D., which records the grant of Timmasamudra village to a number of Brahmins by an agent of his in the Srirangapatna province (E.C. III, Srirangapatna-47). In a record dated in the succeeding year (1585), he is actually called *Mahamandaleshwara* and inasmuch as it records the grant by him for the merit of his father of four villages to Brahmins, it has to be inferred that his father might have died about that time (E.C., Srirangapatna 39-40). He continued as the viceroy at Srirangapatna even during the reign of Venkata-I at Penukonda, for we find grants of his in this area dated in 1589 and 1591 A.D. (E.C. III, Mandya-5 and 25). In the first of these records dated in 1589, he is termed Virapratapa, indicating his independent rule, while in the second dated in 1591 A.D., a grant is said to have been made by his minister for the merit of Rama Raja, father of Tirumala-II.

There were evidently a number of local chiefs scattered throughout the Mysore territory during this period. The Wodeyars of Mysore had first established their rule at Hadinadu and Karugahalli near Mysore. Bettada Chamaraja Wodeyar of this dynasty, who came to the throne in 1513, changed the capital to Mysore and began to extend his kingdom. The Vijayanagar emperors were powerful at this time and their empire had extended over the whole of peninsular India; the Wodeyars of Mysore, along with other chieftains, had to acknowledge the suzerainty of the Vijayanagar rulers and pay tribute to them. During the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the Vijayanagar rulers had bestowed on or confirmed to vassal chiefs, bearing various titles, sundry tracts in Mysore, on the condition of payment of tribute and rendering of military service. The southern chiefs from South Kanara to Bangalore were placed under the viceroy at Srirangapatna. Even after the decline of the Vijayanagar empire after 1565, the many vassal chiefs continued to pay allegiance to the rulers at Penukoda and to the viceroy stationed at Srirangapatna.

#### **Wodeyar dynasty**

The emergence of the Ruling House of Mysore in 1399 is an eventful one in the history of South India. This date bears its impress upon the tradition preserved in the annals of the Mysore Royal Family. There are many versions of how the Wodeyar

dynasty came into being, amidst the confusion and chaos prevailing at that time. Yadu Raya and Krishna, two brothers, who were princes of the lunar race and of Yadava descent, proceeded on a pilgrimage from Dwaraka to Melkote to worship Sri Narayana. After fulfilling this duty, they crossed the Cauvery river and worshipped Goddess Chamundeshwari. About this time, the chief of that place Chamaraja had died leaving behind him the dowager queen and a daughter. Maranayaka, the army chief of the late Chamaraja, had usurped all power and was harassing the queen and her daughter. Yadu Raya and Krishna, on hearing the treachery played by Maranayaka, entered the town and slew him. The queen heaved a sigh of relief and gave her daughter in marriage to Yadu Raya. Eventually, Yadu Raya assumed the principality of Mysore and became the progenitor of the Mysore Royal Family, the title Wodeyar being subsequently affixed to the name of each ruler.

Of the early rulers of the dynasty down to Hiriya Bettada **Early Rulers** Chamaraja Wodeyar III (1513-1553), very little is known from authentic sources. Yadu Raya, the progenitor of the dynasty, ruled the principality for a period of 24 years (1399-1423). Hiriya Bettada Chamaraja Wodeyar I, eldest son of Yadu Raya, is next assigned a period of thirty-six years' rule (1423-1459). This ruler is said to have married Gopajamma of Bettadakote and had by her a son named Timmaraja Wodeyar. Timmaraja Wodeyar I ruled for a period of nineteen years (1459-1478). His son, Hiriya Chamarajendra Wodeyar II, was on the throne for thirty-five years (1478-1513). He married Padmajamma of Bilikere and had a son named Hiriya Bettada Chamaraja Wodeyar III, who assumed ruling powers in 1513 and continued till 1553. This ruler was a contemporary of Krishnadevaraya, Achyuta Raya and Sadashiva Raya of Vijayanagar, of whom he appears to have been a loyal feudatory. His authority was confined to the territory comprising the town of Mysore and a few villages round about. Hiriya Bettada Chamaraja Wodeyar III was succeeded by his eldest son, Timmaraja Wodeyar II, who ruled from 1553 to 1572. He was distinguished for his dignity, depth of knowledge and bravery. Timmaraja Wodeyar was a loyal feudatory of Sadashiva and Tirumala I of Vijayanagar. As he had no issues, his younger brother, Bola Chamaraja Wodeyar ascended the throne and ruled from 1572 to 1576. Bola Chamaraja Wodeyar was succeeded by Bettada Devaraja Wodeyar, a nephew of his, and ruled Mysore from 1576 to 1578. As the affairs of the State were in a deplorable condition, Bettada Devaraja Wodeyar was deposed and Raja Wodeyar, the eldest son of Bola Chamaraja Wodeyar, came to the throne.

Raja Wodeyar was an able ruler. He came into conflict **Raja Wodeyar** with Tirumala-II, the viceroy at Srirangapatna and succeeded (1578-1617) in gaining possession of Srirangapatna about the year 1610.

Tirumala retired to Talakad where he shortly died. It is said (E.C. IV, Yedatore-17) that Raja Wodeyar "speedily subduing Tirumala Raja seated himself on the jewelled throne in Srirangapatna and gaining the empire received obeisance from all kings." Raja Wodeyar made Srirangapatna his capital and extended his possessions south of the present Mysore and Mandya districts and also captured several places towards the north from Jagadeva Raya of Channapatna. Thus, it is evident that Mandya district was included in the possessions of Raja Wodeyar. The Vijayanagar sovereign, Venkatapathi Raya of Penukonda, is said to have confirmed Raja Wodeyar in 1612 in the possession of Ummattur and Srirangapatna. A bas-relief of Raja Wodeyar is to be seen on a pillar in the Narayanaswami temple at Melkote.

**Kanthirava  
Narasa Raja  
Wodeyar**

After the death of Raja Wodeyar, all his sons being dead, Chamaraja Wodeyar II, a grand son, succeeded him and ruled from 1617-1637. By the capture of Channapatna in 1630, he absorbed the territories of Jagadeva Raya into the Mysore kingdom and completed the conquest of what remained in the South. Immadi Raja Wodeyar, who succeeded Chamaraja, was, shortly after his accession, poisoned by his Dalavayi or military officer. Immadi Raja Wodeyar was on the throne from 1637-1638. He was succeeded by Kanthirava Narasa Raja, who was an able ruler. Seeing that the great empire of Vijayanagar was nearing extinction, he assumed independence and issued coins in his own name. He ruled from 1638 to 1659.

In 1637, the Bijapur forces marched south under Ranadullah Khan as commander and Shahji, father of Shivaji, as second-in-command. These forces conquered the principalities of Bankapur, Harihar, Basavapatna and Tarikere. An attack was next made on Srirangapatna; Kanthirava Narasa Raja Wodeyar defended Srirangapatna and repulsed the enemy forces with great slaughter. The enemy was not only compelled to raise the siege, but was harassed in his retreat by successive attacks in which the Raja obtained considerable booty.

**Deva Raja  
Wodeyar  
(1659-1673)**

Kanthirava Narasa Raja died without issues and was succeeded by Deva Raja Wodeyar, a grandson of Bola Chamaraja, the seventh ruler of the Mysore dynasty. It was during Deva Raja Wodeyar's reign that Sri Ranga Raya III, the then ruler of Vijayanagar at Penukonda, fled for refuge to Bednur. Shivappa Nayaka of Bednur entered upon a considerable range of conquests southwards claiming that he was re-establishing the Vijayanagar royal line and appeared before Srirangapatna with a large force. He was, however, compelled to retreat and the Mysore army, before long, over-ran Sakrepatna, Hassan and other places with the Government of which Sri Ranga Raya had been invested by Shivappa Nayaka. The Nayaka of Madura now invaded Mysore, meditating the conquest of the country, but not only was he forced

to retire, but Erode and Dharapuram yielded to the Mysore army, which levied heavy contributions on Trichinopoly and other important places. The Mysore kingdom at this time extended from Sakrepatna in the west to Salem in the east and from Chikkanayakanahalli in the north to Dharapuram in the south.

Chikka Deva Raja Wodeyar succeeded Deva Raja Wodeyar. **Chikka Deva Raja Wodeyar (1673-1704)** He was one of the most distinguished of the Mysore Rajas. He ruled from 1673 to 1704. In his time, the Mysore kingdom was extended on all sides. Tumkur was taken in 1687. The same year, the Mysore army subdued a large part of Baramahal and Salem. Between 1690 and 1694, the territories were extended westwards and all the districts upto the Bababudan mountains including Hassan, Banavar, Chikmagalur and Vastara were taken from Bednur. In the treaty concluded in 1694 with the chief of Bednur, all these conquests except Aigur and Vastara were retained by Mysore.

Chikka Deva Raja next invaded the possession of the Nayaka of Madura and besieged the fortress of Trichinopoly. But while the large army of the Mysore Raja was engaged before the fortress of Trichinopoly, a Maratha force marching to the relief of Gingee where, Rama Raja, the second son of Shivaji, had been besieged by the Mughals under Zulfikar Khan, appeared suddenly before Srirangapatna attracted by the hope of plunder. A part of the Mysore forces camping at Trichinopoly was immediately sent for the protection of Srirangapatna. This force inflicted a total defeat upon the Marathas in which their commanders were slain and the whole of the ordnance, baggage and military stores of every description were captured.

Srirangapatna became a flourishing city during Chikka Deva Raja's time. There is a high-flown description of it in an inscription dated in 1685 A.D. (E.C. III, Malavalli-61) : "With plum, jack, coconut, plantain, lime, orange, fig and other fruit trees, with houses as high as hills was the city filled and with cows and Brahmins, with trees and plants, with temples, with fine elephants like *Airavata*, with horses neighing like the thunder of the clouds, with splendid chariots and foot soldiers; such was the beautiful city of Srirangapatna having splendid gate-ways, an ornament to the lady Earth, surrounded by the Cauvery, filled with priests, poets, wise men and ministers." Another town of some importance was Malavalli, which had a fort with a deep moat. It was, it is recorded, filled with men, learned in the Vedanta, Sruti and Dharma Sastras. Apparently, it was an intellectual centre, if not actually a great seat of learning. At this place, Chikka Deva Raja constructed in 1685 A.D., a magnificent pond for the use of the people. The political centre of gravity so far as Mysore was concerned had distinctly shifted from the west from Banavasi and Dwarasamudra to Srirangapatna, which

**Srirangapatna**  
—a flourish-  
ing city

during the next hundred years became the object of attraction to every aspiring power in India.

Chikka Deva Raja Wodeyar stands out in Mysore history by reason of his exceptional personal qualities, which made him an ideal ruler. Among the rulers of the new States, that had grown up out of the wreckage of the Vijayanagar empire, Chikka-Deva Raja Wodeyar was the foremost. He laid the foundations of an orderly State, wedded to human progress. During the thirty-two years of his reign, the Mysore kingdom, despite the wars he fought, enjoyed the blessings of a settled Government. The literary activities of the period are the best evidence of that golden era. He is undoubtedly entitled to rank as one of the makers of Mysore.

On the death of Chikka Deva Raja Wodeyar, Kanthirava Narasaraja Wodeyar II, his only son, succeeded to the kingdom. Kanthirava was born deaf and dumb. In his reign, he had the able support of Tirumala Iyengar, who steered the ship of State wisely. Kanthirava Narasaraja Wodeyar ruled from 1704 to 1714. He was succeeded by his son, Krishnaraja Wodeyar I in 1714. This ruler continued on the throne till 1732, when Chamaraja Wodeyar VII who was adopted by the dowager queen, came to power. Chamaraja Wodeyar's reign lasted only for two years (1732 to 1734), when a conspiracy ended his regime. This coup made Dalavayi Devaraja practically the master in Srirangapatna. In 1734, Krishnaraja Wodeyar II, adopted by the dowager queen Devajamma, was installed on the throne. This ruler was yet another notable monarch of the Wodeyar dynasty.

#### **Attempts on Srirangapatna**

In the time of Dodda Krishna Raja (Krishnaraja Wodeyar-I), the grandson of Chikka Deva Raja, the Nawabs of Sira, Arcot, Cuddapah, Kurnool and Savanur and the Maratha chief of Gooty formed a combination to seize Srirangapatna. The Mysore Raja was not strong enough to fight the enemy and therefore bought the enemy off. Sadatullah Khan, the Nawab of Arcot, and the leader of the confederacy, got a crore of rupees which he distributed among the confederates. Two years after, the Marathas appeared before Srirangapatna and levied a contribution. In order to replenish these drains upon the treasury, the Mysore Raja attacked Kempegowda of Magadi and, defeating him, plundered the accumulated treasure of two hundred years at Savandurga.

#### **Overthrow of Arcot troops**

In the time of Krishnaraja Wodeyar II (Chikka Krishnaraja Wodeyar), who ruled from 1734 to 1766, the Nawab of Arcot despatched a powerful army to exact from Srirangapatna the largest contribution that had ever been obtained from it. Deva Raja, the commander or Dalavayi of the Mysore forces, by a clever stratagem, cut off the retreat of the advance party of the Nawab's forces

and then attacked their camp with his whole army. The enemy forces were completely overthrown and fled in confusion below the ghats, while the victor returned in triumph to Srirangapatna. It may be stated here that, from the time of Kanthirava Narasa Raja Wodeyar, who became an independent ruler after the complete decline of the Vijayanagar empire and who struck coins in his own name, upto the fall of Tipu Sultan in 1799, Srirangapatna was the capital of the Mysore State. The dominions of the Mysore Wodeyars upto the rise of Haidar Ali extended from Palani and Annamalai in the south to Midagesi in Tumkur district in the north and from Karnatic *ghur* in the Baramahal in Tamilnad in the east to the borders of Coorg and Balam in the west. Haidar Ali and Tipu Sultan further extended their dominions by the conquests of the neighbouring principalities. Therefore, the history of the Wodeyars of Mysore and of Haidar Ali and Tipu Sultan is the history of their doings and conquests in the whole of old Mysore State, parts of Tamilnad and the districts of South Kanara, Dharwar, Malabar, etc. Hence, the districts of Mysore, Mandya, Bangalore and parts of Tumkur and Hassan do not have separate histories of their own in the times of the Hindu rulers of Mysore before the advent of Haidar Ali. The Muslim rulers of Mysore, as stated earlier, extended their dominions beyond the boundaries of the old Mysore State. Therefore, the history of Mandya forms part of the history of the dominions of the Mysore Wodeyars till 1761, the date of rise of Haidar Ali, and later, the history of the wars and conquests of Haidar Ali and Tipu Sultan.

Krishna Raja Wodeyar II proved himself a weak ruler. During his reign, the three chief offices in the State, those of *Dalavayi* or head of the army, *Sarvadhikari* or head of finance and revenue and *Pradhana* or privy councillor, were held by Deva Raja, who was *Dalavayi*, and Nanja Raja, his cousin, who combined in himself the other two offices. It was this Deva Raja, who repulsed the attacks of the Nawabs of Sira and Arcot at Kailancha, a few miles east of Channapatna, about the year 1740. In 1747, Nanja Raja, the *Sarvadhikari* and *Pradhana*, died, but even before his death, his cousin and Deva Raja's younger brother, Nanja Raja, surnamed Karachuri, had been appointed his successor in office.

In 1746, Karachuri Nanja Raja led an expedition into the Coimbatore territory against the Paleyagar of Dharapuram. During the absence of Nanja Raja with the army away from the capital, Nasir Jang, son of Nizam-ul-mulk, marched towards Srirangapatna by order of his father to levy a contribution. A deputation was sent forth to meet him, tendering allegiance. While the negotiations were going on, Nasir Jang encamped at Tonnur near Melkote and amused himself near the large tank named Tirumalasagar. Nasir Jang renamed this tank as Moti Talab or the lake of pearls, an appellation to which its clear and

**Nanja Raja's  
expedition**

good water perhaps entitles it. The tank was breached and the water drained off by Tipu Sultan in 1798, to prevent its being used by the enemy besieging Srirangapatna. Nasir Jang was sent back with a huge sum of money.

#### **Siege of Devanahalli**

Nanja Raja returned successful from the south. In 1749, he undertook the siege of Devanahalli which was under a Paleyagar. After a siege of nine months, the Paleyagar surrendered and was allowed to retire to Chikkaballapur, where his relations lived. During this siege, an unknown volunteer horseman attracted the notice of Nanja Raja by his courage and bravery. This was Haidar, who was destined before long to gain the supreme power of the State and to play a notable part in the history of the times. Nanja Raja gave Haidar the command of fifty horses and two hundred foot-soldiers with orders to recruit and augment his corps, and also appointed him to the charge of one of the gates of Devanahalli, then a frontier fortress of Mysore.

#### **Invasion of Srirangapatna island**

About the time of Clive's famous siege and subsequent defence of Arcot, a Mysore army consisting of 5,000 horses and 10,000 infantry marched from Srirangapatna under the command of Nanja Raja for the assistance of Muhammad Ali, who was the candidate for the Nawabship of the Carnatic, in opposition to Chanda Sahib, the French candidate for the same Nawabship. But before this army could take any part in the warfare, Chanda Sahib's people deserted him and he was killed. His head, however, was sent as a trophy to Srirangapatna and hung over the Mysore gate. Nanja Raja then claimed Trichinopoly from Muhammad Ali which the latter had promised to give to Nanja Raja if he helped him to defeat his enemy, Chanda Sahib. But Muhammad Ali did not cede him Trichinopoly but gave up to him the revenues of the island of Srirangam and the adjacent districts. Nanja Raja occupied the island of Srirangam and then tried to gain the fort of Trichinopoly. Meanwhile, news arrived of a serious danger threatening at Srirangapatna and Nanja Raja returned to Mysore in 1755 at the summons of his brother, having nearly exhausted the treasury by the expenses of this unprofitable war.

The danger which called for the return of the troops under Nanja Raja was the approach of Salabat Jang with a French force under M. Bussy to demand arrears of tribute. Deva Raja, the principal minister, had no money to meet this demand and the enemy, therefore, invaded Srirangapatna. Matters were brought to a crisis before Nanja Raja with forced marches could arrive. Deva Raja was driven to compromise of a payment of fifty-six lakhs of rupees. To raise this sum "the whole of the plate and jewels belonging to the Hindu temples in the town were put into requisition, together with the jewels and precious metals

constituting the immediate property or personal ornaments of the Raja and his family, but the total sum, which could thus be realised amounted to not more than one-third of what was stipulated to be paid". For the remainder, Deva Raja prevailed on the *sowcars* of the capital to give security and to deliver as hostages their principal *gumastas* or confidential agents. On hearing of this transaction, Nanja Raja halted and discharged one-third of his army, not without great difficulty in paying their arrears of pay.

Haidar Ali, who had continued to earn the favour of Nanja Raja during the operations against Trichinopoly, was now appointed Foujdar of Dindigal. He proceeded with a considerable force to the south to take charge of his district, while Khande Rao, another commander, was stationed at the capital.

**Haidar's  
mission in  
Dindigal**

Meanwhile, there was some difference of opinion between Deva Raja and his younger brother Nanja Raja and, therefore, Deva Raja retired from the capital and fixed his residence at Satyamangala in Coimbatore district. He then revoked the assignments made to Haidar Ali to meet his expenses. Learning of this, Khande Rao advised Haidar Ali to come to Srirangapatna at once.

But before Haidar Ali reached Srirangapatna, the Marathas under Balaji appeared, demanding a contribution from the Raja of Mysore. Nanja Raja represented in vain his absolute inability to pay the contribution demanded by the Marathas. Srirangapatna was besieged and the operations were being directed by the European officers; the place was soon reduced to extremity. As Nanja Raja could not collect enough money, a large part of the territory was surrendered in pledge, and the Marathas departed leaving agents for the collection of revenue and six thousand horses in the pledged districts. Nagamangala taluk of the Mandya district was also included in the pledged districts. When Haidar Ali arrived at Srirangapatna, he expressed his regret that his troops had not been ordered up from Dindigal and advised that the revenue should be withheld from the Marathas and their troops expelled at the beginning of the rains, which would prevent an invasion during that season. This was accordingly done.

But the Marathas arrived again early in the next year (1759) in great force under Gopal Hari and reoccupied all the pledged districts. Then they suddenly appeared before Bangalore, which they invaded, and at the same time sent a detachment, which surprised Channapatna. Haidar Ali was appointed to the chief command of the army to oppose this invasion. He stationed one detachment at Malavalli under his maternal uncle, Mir Ibrahim, and another at Maddur under Latif Ali Baig. Latif Ali Baig took Channapatna by a stratagem. Then, Haidar Ali concentrated

**Marathas in  
Bangalore**



his forces near Channapatna and Gopal Hari, raising the blockade of Bangalore, marched to meet him with a superior force. After three months of warfare, Gopal Hari found himself straitened by the vigorous activity of his opponent and so proposed a negotiation. In the negotiations that took place, it was agreed that the Marathas should relinquish all claims to the districts formerly pledged and that Mysore should pay thirty-two lakh pagodas in discharge of all demands, past and present.

#### **Raja confined**

The Marathas then withdrew to their own region and Haidar Ali returned in triumph to Srirangapatna. There he was received by the Raja in the most splendid durbar since the time of Chikka Deva Raja. He was saluted with the title of Fathe Haidar Bahadur and Nanja Raja rose up to receive him on his approach and embraced him. At this time, the Raja of Mysore, Krishna Raja Wodeyar II, had become impatient of the dictatorial power of the Dalavayi Nanja Raja and therefore sought the help of Haidar Ali, who had become the commander of the army. Haidar Ali induced Nanja Raja to retire and made himself the *de facto* ruler of Mysore. The royal party at Srirangapatna found that the exchange of Haidar Ali for Nanja Raja had left them in the same dependent position as before. Therefore, the Raja tried to put down Haidar's power, but his attempt proved unsuccessful. Haidar Ali took revenge on those who had supported the Raja to overthrow him, confined the Raja in his own palace and began to rule the dominions from 1761 though in the form of a pretended submission to the wishes of the Raja.

#### **Haidar Ali**

Haidar Ali now began to extend the kingdom by conquering the territories of the neighbouring chiefs. After placing Srirangapatna under the command of his brother-in-law, Makdum Ali, he proceeded with his army to Hoskote and captured it. Dodda-ballapur, Sira, Harapanahalli, Penukonda and Rayadurga were next taken. After these conquests, Haidar Ali marched upon Bednur in 1763 with the pretext of supporting a pretender to the throne of Bednur and conquered it. He was helped to enter the city by a private path by a minister of the previous Bednur Raja, who had been imprisoned at Kumsi by Rani Virammaji, who ruled the kingdom in the name of her adopted son, the nominal Raja. A large amount of treasure valued at twelve millions sterling was secured at Bednur. He then conquered all the territories of the extensive Bednur kingdom.

These conquests of Haidar Ali were the foundation of all his subsequent power. By the conquest of Mangalore, Hornavar and the surrounding places, he was in possession of the west coast. The Nawab of Savanur became a tributary. Dharwar also came into the possession of Haidar Ali about this time. Then he marched upon Kerala and gained possession of Palghat and Cochin. The Mysore army had been trained by French officers

and Haidar's generalship was able to achieve success with lightning rapidity.

During these operations, Krishna Raja Wodeyar II had died and Haidar had sent instructions to instal his eldest son, Nanja Raja, then 18 years of age, in his place. On arriving at the capital in 1767, he discovered that this youth was not likely to acquiesce in his subservient position. Haidar immediately resumed the three lakhs of pagodas allowed for the Raja, plundered the palace of every article of value except the ornaments the women actually had on their persons at the time and placed his own guards over the palace.

The rapid rise of Haidar Ali naturally excited the jealousy of the Marathas, the Nizam and the English. The Marathas invaded his territories in 1765 A.D. and compelled him to surrender Gutti and Savanur and to pay an indemnity of thirty-two lakhs of rupees. In November 1766, the East India Company Government at Madras agreed to assist the Nizam against Haidar Ali in return for his ceding the northern *circars*. In short, the Marathas, the Nizam and the English entered into a triple alliance against Haidar. But the Marathas who first attacked Mysore, were soon bought off by the Mysore chief. The Nizam, accompanied by a company of British troops under the command of General Joseph Smith, invaded Mysore in April 1767, but influenced by Mahfuz Khan, brother and rival of the pro-British Nawab Muhammad Ali of the Carnatic, he quickly deserted the English and allied himself with their enemy. But Smith was able to defeat the new allies at the pass of Changama and Trincomaly in September 1767. Haidar was soon abandoned by his fickle ally, the Nizam, with whom the Company Government at Madras tactlessly concluded an ill-advised treaty on the 23rd February 1768. By this, the Nizam confirmed his old treaty obligations in as irresponsible a manner as he had broken them, and declaring Haidar a "rebel and usurper" he agreed to assist the English and the Nawab of Carnatic in chastising him. This alliance with the vacillating Nizam was of no help to the English, but it needlessly provoked the hostility of Haidar Ali.

In spite of the Nizam's desertion, Haidar continued to fight with great vigour. He recovered Mangalore after defeating the Bombay troops, appeared within five miles of Madras in March 1769 and dictated a peace on the 11th April 1769, which provided for an exchange of prisoners and mutual restitution of conquests. It was also a defensive alliance as the English promised to help Haidar Ali in case he was attacked by any other power.

The terms of the treaty of 1769 were not fulfilled by the Company Government at Madras. When the Marathas again

**Rapid rise of  
Haidar**

**Mangalore  
recovered**

**Second Anglo-  
Mysore war**

invaded the Mysore territories in 1771, the English did not help him. This naturally offended Haidar Ali, who remained on the look-out for an opportunity to strike once again. In 1779, he joined in a grand confederacy against the English, which was organised by the discontented Nizam and to which the Marathas, already at war with the Company Government at Bombay were a party. The British capture of Mahe, a small French settlement within the jurisdiction of the Mysore territories, added to his resentment. He held that the neutrality of his dominion had thus been violated, and declared war.

#### **Seizure of Arcot**

In July 1780, Haidar with about 80,000 men and 100 guns, came down upon the plains of the Carnatic, like an avalanche "carrying destruction with him". He defeated an English detachment under Colonel Baillie and in October 1780 seized Arcot. The situation was indeed a critical one for the East India Company. But Warren Hastings, the Governor-General, soon sent to the south Sir Eyre Coote, the victor of Wandiwash and then commander-in-chief in India, to stand forth and vindicate in his own person the rights and honour of British Arms. He also detached the Raja of Berar, Mahadaji Scindhia, and the Nizam from alliance with Haidar. Undaunted by these desertions, Haidar continued the war with his usual firmness and vigour but Sir Eyre Coote defeated him severely at Porto Novo in 1781. The English captured Nagapattana in November, 1781. An English force under Colonel Braithwaite was, however, defeated by the Mysore troops. Early in 1782, a French squadron, under the command of Admiral Suffren, appeared in Indian waters and, in the month of February next, Du Chemin came with 2,000 men under his command. After some indecisive engagements of the English with the French and the Mysore troops, active hostilities ceased with the commencement of the rainy season. But Haidar was not destined to fight any longer. The fatal effects of cancer from which he was suffering resulted in his death at an advanced age on the 7th December 1782.

#### **Haidar's Attributes**

Haidar Ali was one of the most notable personalities in the history of India. He rose from obscurity to power during the distractions of the eighteenth century. A completely self-made man, he was endowed with strong determination, admirable courage, a keen intellect and a retentive memory, which more than counter-balanced his lack of ability to read and write. Cool, sagacious and intrepid in the field, he was remarkably tactful and vigorous in matters of administration and had all business of the State transacted before his eyes with regularity and quickness. Easily accessible to all, he had the wonderful capacity of giving attention to various subjects at the same time, without being distracted by any one of these. It would be unfair to describe him as an "absolutely unscrupulous man who had no religion, no morals and no compassion" as Dr. Smith has done.

Though he did not strictly follow the external observances of his religion, he had a sincere religious conscience, and Col. Wilks has described him as the "most tolerant" of all Muhammadan princes. Bowring gives his estimate of him in the following words :—

"He was a bold, an original, and an enterprising commander, skilful in tactics and fertile in resources, full of energy and never desponding in defeat. He was singularly faithful to his engagements and straightforward in his policy towards the British. Notwithstanding the severity of his internal rule, and the terror which he inspired, his name is always mentioned in Mysore with respect, if not with admiration. While the cruelties which he sometimes practised are forgotten, his prowess and success have an abiding place in the memory of the people".

Tipu Sultan succeeded his father in 1782. At the time of Haidar's death, Tipu had gone with an army to Paniani near Palghat to fight against the English. After the death of his father, he hastened to Srirangapatna, took charge of the treasury and the army and put down the attempt of his brother to seize power. Having made his position secure at the capital, he went to the west coast to continue the war with the English. He not only recovered the places captured by the British during his absence, but captured Mangalore also. The Company Government at Madras came to terms with him and peace was concluded at Mangalore on the basis of mutual restitution of conquests.

Meanwhile, the Nizam and the Marathas took advantage of the pre-occupation of Tipu and invaded the Mysore territories from the north. At home, Maharani Lakshammanni was making efforts to regain the power and prestige of the royal family. Under these circumstances, Tipu thought it advisable to come to terms with the Nizam and the Marathas; he gave up some places like Adoni, Kittur and Badami and paid forty-five lakhs of rupees as indemnity.

Haidar Ali had kept up a semblance of the royal authority of the Wodeyars, but Tipu dispensed with that fiction also and called himself Sultan, thus alienating the sympathy of many people in his State. He was in correspondence with France and Turkey for help against the British. Lord Cornwallis, who was at this time the Governor-General of the English dominions in India, believed that Anglo-French hostility in Europe was bound to have its repercussions in India and that Tipu Sultan, allying himself with the French, would surely strike once more against the English.

**Tipu Sultan  
(1782-1799)**

**Decline of the  
authority of  
Wodeyars**

**Lord  
Cornwallis'  
command**

As a matter of fact, the treaty of Mangalore was nothing but a "hollow truce". Tipu also knew that the renewal of hostilities with the English was inevitable, because both were aiming at political supremacy over the Deccan. Soon, a war, known in history as the third Anglo-Mysore War, broke out between Tipu Sultan and the English. In July 1789, Lord Cornwallis wrote a letter to the Nizam with a view to "laying the foundation of a permanent and powerful co-operation". He deliberately omitted Tipu's name from the letter, which was declared to be as binding "as a treaty in due form could be". This was indeed a sufficient provocation to Tipu. But the immediate cause of the war, which had been foreseen both by Tipu and Cornwallis, was the attack on Travancore by the former on the 29th December 1789. The Raja of Travancore was an old ally of the East India Company and asked for the help of the English in repelling the attack of the Sultan. The English declared war against Tipu Sultan in May 1790. An alliance was formed by the English with the Marathas and the Nizam and treaties were signed in July binding them to unite against Tipu on the basis of an equal division of conquests. Lord Cornwallis personally assumed command of the British troops in December 1790, when he also formed the project of deposing Tipu in favour of the heir of the old Hindu ruling dynasty of Mysore. He marched at the head of an army from Madras through Vellore and Ambur and captured Bangalore on the 21st March 1791.

**Assault fails**

On the 4th May 1791, Lord Cornwallis marched towards Srirangapatna; Tipu took up a position on the Channapatna road, supported by the hill forts of Ramagiri and Shivagiri with the object of opposing the British. But Lord Cornwallis unexpectedly took a southern route by way of Kankanhalli and arrived, without opposition, at Arakere, about nine miles from Srirangapatna on the northern bank of the Cauvery, on the 13th May, with the intention of crossing the river there. Crossing of the river at Arakere being impracticable, he resolved to move to Kannambadi, higher up, for the double purpose of fording the river there and forming a junction with General Abercromby, who was advancing from the west through the friendly principality of Coorg, and had taken Periyapatna. Tipu had always avoided a general action with the English, but being goaded on to risk a battle for the capital, he took up a strong position between Karighatta and the river to oppose the march of the English. Lord Cornwallis planned a night attack to turn Tipu's left flank and to cut off his retreat to Srirangapatna, but the bursting of a tremendous thunder-storm threw the English troops into confusion. These attempts to take Tipu by surprise did not succeed, but Lord Cornwallis resolved to bring Tipu to action if possible and continued his advance. Tipu Sultan changed his front to the left, his right being covered by a deep ravine and his left resting upon the lower

speers of the Karighatta hill. Lord Cornwallis, after crossing the ravine which took nearly two hours, drew up his army in battle array and a general engagement ensued the next day, the 15th May, in which the English were completely victorious, and Tipu's forces, driven from every point, were forced to take refuge on the island under the guns of Srirangapatna, where they could not be followed. Lord Cornwallis then moved to Kannambadi, but the incessant rain and exhausted supplies brought on so great a mortality of the cattle and sickness in camp as to put a stop to all operations. He resolved, therefore, to relinquish the attempt against Srirangapatna for the time and to return to Bangalore to rest there until the rains were over.

It was now arranged that the British should take possession of the hill forts and places in the east, in order to open free communication with Madras and that the Marathas and the Nizam, who had sent forces to assist the English against Tipu Sultan, should operate to the north-west and the north-east of the Mysore territories respectively. Between July and January, the English, having taken Hosur, Rayakota and all places to the east, succeeded in capturing the hill forts of Nandidurga, Savandurga, Hutridurga, Ramagiri, Shivagiri and Huliurdurga. **More Hill-Forts captured**

All the arrangements for the siege of Srirangapatna being now matured, communications free and supplies abundant, the English army under Lord Cornwallis marched from Huliurdurga on the 25th January 1792, accompanied by the Nizam's force under Sikandar Jah, a son of the Nizam, and an army of the Marathas under Hari Pant.

On the 5th of February, Lord Cornwallis encamped behind the French Rocks, now called Pandavapura, about six miles north of Srirangapatna, with the allies at some distance in the rear. The Sultan had made every effort to strengthen the defences during the preceding six months. He had persuaded himself that nothing decisive would be undertaken until the arrival of General Abercromby's army, then at Periyapatna. But Lord Cornwallis resolved to attack at once on the night of the 6th February. The English force was formed into three columns, the centre being commanded by the Governor-General in person. Under a brilliant moonlight, the three columns marched in dead silence at about 8 O' clock towards the Sultan's fortified encampment, which was established on the northern side of the Cauvery, immediately in front of the island on which the fort stands, and occupied an elevated piece of ground enclosed by a hedge of prickly-pear and other thorny plants. This space was about three miles in length and 3,000 yards in breadth at the western extremity, diminishing to about one mile in the centre and running nearly to a point at the eastern end, where it was flanked by the defences on the Karighatta hill. One large redoubt known **Encampment near French Rocks**

as the Idgah, stood at the north-western angle close to the hedge, two redoubts were in the centre, also near the hedge, with about 600 yards between them. A second line of redoubts, *viz.*, Lally's, Mahomed's and the Sultan's lay behind, nearly equi-distant from the bound and the river. All of these were armed with heavy cannon.

Tipu's infantry computed at 40,000 men, with 100 field pieces, was drawn up nearly mid-way between the line of redoubts, with about 5,000 cavalry in the rear.

The island, somewhat more than three miles long and about one mile and a half in breadth at the widest point, contained the fort, two palaces within walled gardens and a *pettah*, also surrounded by a good wall. The fort, about one mile long and 1,100 yards broad, occupied the western angle; next to it, at a distance of about 500 yards with one face resting on the northern branch of the river, was the Darya Daulat Bagh; then came the *pettah* (of Shahar Ganjam) at an interval of about 400 yards; the Lal Bagh protected by lines of entrenchment and batteries filled the eastern angle. The guns in the fort and other parts of the island were estimated at 800.

**Cauvery  
river crossed**

The attack was made in three divisions, *viz.*, the right under Major-General Meadows, the centre under Lord Cornwallis with Lieutenant Colonel Stuart as his second-in-command and the left under Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell. The right division carried the Idgah redoubt after a severe struggle, killing about 400 of the Sultan's forces, the loss on the British side being 11 officers and 80 men killed and wounded. The central division was ordered to cross the river near the north-eastern angle of the fort. It crossed the river and took position on the southern side of the island, after having dispersed several men of the Sultan.

Colonel Knox, with two companies of soldiers, crossed the river immediately afterwards, and marched to the *pettah*, the gate of which was found open. Halting there, he detached parties against the batteries, which lined the banks of the river at that point, and as they were all open to the rear, they were carried at once without loss.

Captain Hunter followed Colonel Knox and took possession of the Daulat Bagh, but as this position was untenable, he re-crossed the river.

**Progress of  
the assault**

In the meantime, Lord Cornwallis, with several companies of soldiers, halted behind the Sultan's redoubt. About two hours before day-light, Tipu's men advanced in great force against this party. At this moment, Captain Hunter returned from Daulat Bagh, with ten companies under his command and

joined Lord Cornwallis. A desperate contest ensued, the Sultan's forces not having been repulsed until after several attacks. After the repulse of the Sultan's forces, Lord Cornwallis drew off towards the Karighatta hill so that he might not be exposed to the fire of the fort at day-light.

The left division under Colonel Maxwell, after having carried the defences on the Karighatta hill, crossed the river Lokapavani and the bound hedge and met the party under Colonel Stuart, a few hundred yards further on. Colonel Stuart then assumed command and advanced to cross the Cauvery into the island, a hazardous undertaking as the river at that point was very deep and the passage was under the fire of the batteries on the bank near the *pettah*.

On the morning of the 7th February 1792, the Sultan's forces were still in possession of the redoubts at the western end of the camp, and in considerable force in other parts of the enclosure. They repeatedly attempted to retake the Sultan's redoubt captured by the English forces, but were repulsed each time. About 4 O' clock, they gave up the attempt and retreated into the island.

The reserve of the English forces, which had marched in the morning from the French Rocks, was joined by two battalions detached by Lord Cornwallis and encamped during the day behind the river Lokapavani, with the left on the Karighatta hill. Colonel Stuart, shortly after crossing into the island, took up a position in front of the Lal Bagh facing towards the *pettah*, and covered by the river on each flank. On the morning of the 8th February it was found that the Mysore forces had withdrawn entirely from the fortified camp, upon which picquets were sent into the redoubts, and the army, exclusive of the detachment posted in the island, encamped parallel to the bound hedge at such a distance in the rear as to be out of range of fire from the fort.

**Colonel  
Stuart's  
strategy**

The Sultan, at the commencement of the eventful night of the 6th February, had his evening meal in a redoubt to the right of the spot where the central columns had entered. On the first alarm, he mounted, but before he could get news of the nature of the attack, the crowds of fugitives announced that the enemy had penetrated into the camp. He rushed precipitately to the ford, and barely succeeded in passing over before the advanced column of the enemy. Taking up his position on an outwork of the fort, which commanded the scene, he remained there till morning, issuing orders and spending one of the most anxious nights in his life.

The whole of the next day, the most vigorous attempts were made to dislodge the English from the island. The Sultan's passionate appeal, "Have I no faithful servants to retrieve my

**Tipu's appeal**



honour?" was gallantly responded to by a body of 2,000 cavalry; but being foiled at every point, all the redoubts north of the river were evacuated the same night and promptly occupied by the English. General Abercromby crossed the river at Yedatore with the Bombay division and joined the main army on the 16th February and encamped to the north-west of the fort. On the 19th February he crossed the river and took up a position to the south-west of the fort. A redoubt immediately in front of this position was taken the same evening after a feeble resistance and occupied as an out-post. On the 22nd February, Tipu Sultan attempted to dislodge General Abercromby but gave up the attempt after a fruitless struggle. By this time, the dispositions for the siege were rapidly pushed on.

**New negotiations**

Various efforts at negotiation had been made by the Sultan since Lord Cornwallis took command of the army, but nothing had come out of those efforts till then. Now, negotiations were continued again and on the 22nd February the envoys of the Sultan brought him the ultimatum of the confederates requiring the cession to the allies, from the territories adjacent to theirs, of one half of the dominions, which he possessed before the war, the payment of three crores and thirty lakhs of rupees, one half immediately and remainder in three instalments, the unequivocal release of all prisoners of the allies from the time of Haidar Ali and the delivery of two of the Sultan's sons as hostages for a due performance of the treaty. On the mutual execution of these preliminary articles, hostilities were to cease and a definite treaty was to be entered into.

**Meeting at the mosque**

On the 23rd February, Tipu Sultan assembled all the principal officers in a mosque and sought their advice. "You have heard", said he, "the conditions of peace and you have now to hear and answer my question; shall it be peace or war"? They unanimously offered to lay down their lives in defence of the capital, but equally unanimously hinted with various shades of expression that the troops were disheartened and had become undeserving of confidence. After a great mental struggle, the Sultan signed the preliminary articles and returned them to Lord Cornwallis, the same day. These were ratified on the 19th March soon after which the army left the place accompanied by several thousands of Indians of the Carnatic, given up under the treaty, with their cattle and effects. The two young princes surrendered as hostages, one aged ten and the other eight, were received in the English camp with every consideration due to their rank.

The English obtained Malabar, Dindigal, Baramahal and other places, while the boundary of Marathas, one of their allies, was extended to the Tungabhadra, which was their frontier in 1779, and Nizam Ali, the other ally, recovered his possessions to

the north of that river and Cuddapah to the south, which he had lost about the same time. Thus ended the third Mysore War.

In 1796, Chamaraja Wodeyar, the nominal Raja of Mysore, died of small-pox. Tipu, who considered the appointment of a successor unnecessary, removed the royal family to a mean dwelling and plundered the palace of everything, including the personal ornaments of the inmates of the palace.

Tipu next strained every nerve to form a coalition for the expulsion of the English from India. Embassies were despatched at various times to the Ottoman court and to the court at Kabul; letters were exchanged with Arabia, Persia and Muscat and agents employed at Delhi, Oudh, Hyderabad and Poona, the object sought in the two last named courts being two-fold, namely an alliance with the sovereigns themselves and the seduction of their officers from them. Even the princes of Jodhpur, Jaipur and Kashmir were invited to join this mighty coalition. The French, in particular, were repeatedly approached to join the coalition.

**Tipu's  
renewed  
efforts**

Tipu enlisted himself as a member of the Jacobin Club and permitted nine Frenchmen in his service to elect 'citizen' Ribaud, a Lieutenant in the French navy, as their President to hoist the flag of the recently established French Republic and to plant a tree of liberty at Srirangapatna.

Lord Wellesley, the then Governor-General, was fully aware of these hostile preparations by Tipu Sultan and deemed it high time to put a check on the Sultan's plans. He wrote letters to the Sultan, first from Calcutta and later from Madras, where he had come early in 1798, exposing the Sultan's hostile preparations and asking him to enter into fresh treaties of alliance with the English immediately. But the Sultan gave an evasive reply to the Governor-General and was indifferent to receive the English envoy at his court.

**Lord  
Wellesley's  
determina-  
tion**

Lord Wellesley then determined to wage another war on the Sultan. He tried to revive the Triple Alliance of 1790. The Nizam at once concluded a subsidiary treaty with the English, but the Marathas under the Peshwa showed disinterestedness in the alliance. The Governor-General ordered the Company Government at Madras on 18th October 1798 to advance the army to some convenient place near the Mysore frontier. Instructions were sent to Bombay at the same time for the assembly of a body of troops in Malabar for the purpose of co-operating in the siege of Srirangapatna, should hostilities become inevitable.

**Revival of  
the Triple  
Alliance**

The Madras army, under the command of General Harris, the commander-in-chief, first assembled near Vellore and then marched for the Mysore frontier on the 14th February 1799.

**Retreat by  
Mysore forces**

The force from Bombay, assembled in Malabar under Lieutenant-General Stuart, had received instructions to ascend the ghats into the principality of Coorg, and to remain there until further orders. It marched from Cannanore on the 21st February 1799 and on the 2nd March, the right brigade under Lieutenant-Colonel Montresor encamped at Siddeshwar on the Coorg frontier, about seven miles from the town of Periyapatna on the high road to Srirangapatna, the main body remaining about eight miles in the rear. Tipu Sultan, having received intelligence of these movements, determined to attempt to cut off the column. On the morning of the 3rd March, he hastened from Maddur, where he left a detachment under Purnaiya and Sayyid Sahib to oppose the Madras army, and on the 6th March suddenly attacked Colonel Montresor with a select corps of about 11,800 men. The brigade, although completely surrounded, behaved with great resolution and maintained the position until about 3 O' clock in the afternoon. When General Stuart came up with the rest of the army, the Mysore force retreated in all directions with the loss of about 1,500 killed and wounded.

On the 9th of March, the English army encamped at Kelamangala and on the next day, Lieutenant-Colonel Read, who had joined General Harris shortly before, was detached in order to protect the frontier of the Baramahal, to collect provisions and ultimately to co-operate with a force under Colonel Brown, which had been assembled near Trichinopoly and was about to march for Srirangapatna by Karoor, Erode and Kaveripuram.

**General  
Harris's  
march**

General Harris marched from Kelamangala on the 10th March and arrived near Malavalli in Mandya district and camped there for some days. An action took place there on the 27th March between the Sultan's forces and the English Army. The English army, by a continued, close and well-directed fire, repulsed the Sultan's forces with considerable loss.

Immediately after the action at Malavalli, General Harris decided to cross the Cauvery. Tipu, however, anticipating that the British army would take the same route to the capital, which had been taken in 1792, had destroyed all the forage in that area. But General Harris defeated his project by crossing the Cauvery at Sosale on the 29th and 30th March and resumed his march on the 1st April. When intelligence of this skilful movement reached the ears of the Sultan, he was deeply dejected. Assembling a council of his principal officers at Bannur, "We have", he observed with great emotion, "now arrived at our last stage";

intimating that there was no hope, he asked: "What is your determination"? "To die with you" was the universal reply and the meeting broke up bathed in tears, as if convened for the last time. In accordance with the deliberation of this assembly, the Sultan hastened to the southern point of the island and took up his position at the village of Chandagal. General Harris again thwarted his plans and, making a circuit to the left, safely reached the ground towards the west and camped before the capital, about two miles from the south-west face of the fort on the 5th April 1799.

After his defeat in the third Mysore War in 1792, the Sultan had added to the fortifications of his capital and constructed a new line of entrenchments on the south-west face of the fort from the Daulat Bagh to the Periyapatna bridge within six or seven hundred yards from the fort. The Sultan's infantry was now encamped between these works and the river. Colonel Arthur Wellesley, who was in command of a regiment and two Bengal battalions, attacked a portion of the Sultan's infantry and repulsed them from their posts. Further, he established strong advanced posts within 1,800 yards of the fort, with their left on the river and their right at Sultanpet.

**New line of  
entrench-  
ments**

The attack on Sultanpet was renewed on the morning of the 6th April by the same troops, strengthened by the Scotch brigade and two Madras battalions under Lieutenant-Colonels Bowser and Haliburton, under the over-all command of Colonel Wellesley as before. Lt. Col. Shawe, at the same time, pushed forward to the water-course in his front with the 12th regiment, supported by the flank companies of the 74th regiment and four companies of sepoys under Lt. Col. Wallace, which moved from the left. These attacks were successful and placed the British in possession of a strong line of posts in their front along the water-course extending from the river Cauvery on the left, to the village of Sultanpet on the right, a distance of about two miles.

**Offensive by  
the British**

General Stuart, at the head of the Bombay army, effected his junction with the main army on the 14th April, notwithstanding the active and well-conducted exertions of the Mysore Cavalry under Kammar-ud-din Khan to check his progress. He took up his position on the north side of the fort. The regular siege may be said to date from the 17th April and he decided ultimately to storm at the western angle, across the river.

The Sultan, in order to open communications, had written to General Harris on the 9th April, affecting ignorance of the cause of hostilities, on which, he was referred to the Governor-General's letter. On the 20th April, he proposed a conference and was furnished in reply with the draft of a preliminary treaty, to be executed in 24 hours, the principal conditions of which were the

**Failure of  
negotiations**

cession of half of his remaining territories, the payment of two crores of rupees in two instalments and the delivery of four of his sons and four of his principal officers as hostages. But the time passed without his accepting it. A sortie, on a large scale, was repulsed by the besiegers, who pushed on their operations with vigour, till on the 27th April, the Sultan's forces were driven from their last exterior line of defence.

The Sultan again attempted negotiation and was informed that the terms previously offered would be held open till 3 O' clock of the next day but no longer. From this time, despair seemed to hover over the Sultan. But his officers were most alive to their duty at such a crisis.

#### **Final assault**

Before day-break on the fateful 4th of May, the assaulting party, consisting of 2,494 Europeans and 1,887 Indians under the command of General Baird, had taken its stand in the trenches, with scaling ladders and other implements ready. The Sultan had persuaded himself that the assault would never be made by day-light; however, 1 O' clock had been decided on as the hour for the assault by the English.

At that precise moment, General Baird, eager to avenge the hardships he had suffered within the walls of Srirangapatna and the secret massacre of his countrymen, stepped forward from the trenches in full view of both armies, and drawing his sword called on the soldiers in a tone, which reverberated along the trenches, to "follow him and prove worthy of the British name". His men rushed at once into the bed of the river. Though immediately assailed by musketry and rockets, nothing could withstand their ardour and in less than seven minutes, they reached the summit of the breach and there hoisted the British flag which proclaimed to the world that the fate of Tipu Sultan was sealed.

The right attack under Colonel Sherbrooke was accompanied by General Baird, and reached the eastern face of the fort in less than an hour, without having met with any serious opposition except near the Mysore gate, where many men were killed and wounded. The left attack met with more resistance, the traverses on the northern rampart having been resolutely held until the defenders became exposed to a flanking fire from a detachment of the 12th regiment, which had got on the inner rampart, and advanced parallel with the main body of the column. With this assistance, Captain Lambton, who had assumed command, forced the traverses one after another and drove the Mysore forces to the north-east angle of the fort, where having perceived the near approach of the right column, they fell into

confusion and a large number of them were killed. Immediately after this, Captain Lambton joined General Baird near the eastern gate.

For the preceding 14 days, the Sultan, who could not be convinced that the fall of his capital was so near at hand, had taken up his quarters in the inner partition of the Kalale Diddi, a water gate through the outer rampart on the north face of the fort. The troops on duty at the several works were regularly relieved, but the general charge of the angle attacked had been committed to Sayyid Sahib, his father-in-law, assisted by Sayyid Gaffur, formerly an officer in the British service, who was taken prisoner with Colonel Braithwaite and was now serving the Sultan. The large cavalier behind the angle bastion was committed to the charge of Monsieur Chapuis. The eldest of the princes, with Purnaiya, commanded a corps intended to disturb the northern attack and the second prince was in charge of the Mysore gate and the southern face of the fort. Sayyid Sahib had sent a message in the morning that the fatal hour of storming was drawing near, but the Sultan replied that it would not be by day-light. He had ordered his mid-day repast, but had scarcely finished it when the report came to him that the assault had begun. Hastily arming himself, he heard that Sayyid Gaffur had been killed. He then mounted the northern rampart with a few attendants and when within two hundred yards of the breach, fired several times with his own hands at the assailants under the cover of a traverse. But seeing that his men had either fled or lay dead and that the assailants were advancing in great numbers, he retired along the rampart, slightly wounded, and asking for one of his favourite horses, mounted him and proceeded eastward till he came to the gate-way leading into the inner fort, which he entered with a crowd of fugitives.

#### Tipu's death

A deadly volley was poured into this crowded passage by a portion of the storming party. Tipu Sultan received a second and a third wound and his horse was struck, while the faithful servant, Raza Khan, who still clung to his master's side was also hit. Raza Khan advised the Sultan to reveal his identity. "Are you mad? Be silent" was Tipu's prompt reply. Raza Khan then made an effort to disengage his master from the saddle, but both master and servant fell in the attempt on a heap of dead and dying. Tipu's other attendants obtained a palanquin and placed him in it, but he contrived to move out of it; while he lay with the lower part of his body buried underneath the slain, the gold buckle of his belt excited the cupidity of a soldier, who attempted to seize it. Tipu snatching up a sword made a cut at him, but the grenadier shot him through the temple and thus terminated his earthly career.

So long as the Sultan was present, some of his troops on the north side made some efforts at resistance and his French corps persevered for some time longer, but they were soon overpowered. Immediately after the assault, Colonel Allen and General Baird hastened to the palace in the hope of finding the Sultan. The inmates, including two princes, who were themselves ignorant of Tipu's fate, solemnly denied his presence, but the doubts of the Colonel and the General were not cleared. The princes were assured of protection and removed under military guard to the British camp and the palace was thoroughly searched with the exception of the *zenana*, but to no purpose. At last, the General's threats extorted from the unwilling killedar the disclosure of the secret that the Sultan lay wounded at the gate. Here, after a search in the ghastly heap of the slain, Tipu's dead body was discovered. It was removed to the palace in a palanquin and the next day consigned with all military honours to its last resting place at the Lal Bagh by the side of Haidar Ali's grave. Thus, one of the most dreadful storms that ever blew over this part of the country ended with this fateful day.

**Tipu's personality**

Tipu had ruled for 17 years. He was neither tall nor so robust as his father. His face was clean shaven, except for a thin line of hair on the upper lip. In dress he was simple. He was very garrulous and spoke in loud and sharp tones. He was a good horseman and active in the field. He was very industrious in writing. He could speak fluently Hindustani, Kannada and French. He had a craze for innovations. His bigotry sometimes blinded his perception. He gave power to unworthy hands and alienated the sympathies of most of his subjects. But his greatest attribute was his paranoid hatred of the British, whom he wanted to drive away from the Indian soil.

**Plunder of Srirangapatna**

During the night of the 4th May, almost every house in the town was plundered and it was not until the 6th May that Colonel Wellesley, who had been appointed to the command of the fort, reported that the plundering had been stopped, the fires extinguished and that the inhabitants were returning to their homes. Guards were placed over the houses of the respectable persons, several men indulging in plunder were executed and a number of others were flogged.

**Surrender of Tipu's sons**

A few days later, the eldest son of Tipu Sultan, Fatteh Haidar, Purnaiya, the Minister, Kamar-ud-din Khan and other officers of the Sultan, who had escaped from Srirangapatna, came to the island and surrendered to the British. Circular orders were issued by General Harris accompanied by communications from the Meer Sudur to the officers in charge of the different forts in the territories to deliver their charges to the British authorities and giving them general assurance of favour and protection. By

these means, the territories submitted and the raiyats returned to their peaceful occupations.

After the fall of Tipu Sultan, his sons were provided with liberal allowances and removed from the scene of their former glory, first to the fortress of Vellore and later to Calcutta. Many of the principal officers of the Sultan were pensioned off.

Immediately after the surrender of Tipu's sons, Purnaiya suggested to General Harris that Fattah Haidar, the eldest son of Tipu Sultan, should be placed at the head of the Government to be established in the country and that he should pay tribute to the English and that the English troops should garrison such forts as they might deem necessary for the security of the country. General Harris communicated Purnaiya's views to the Marquis of Wellesley and in the meantime, informed Purnaiya that Fattah Haidar should repair to Srirangapatna and that he should arrange, on certain conditions, to discharge the troops.

The Marquis of Wellesley, it is said, was, however, against the restoration of any member of a family, which had a hand in establishing an alliance with the French. He wanted the military power of Mysore to be absolutely identified with that of the East India Company. Srirangapatna must in effect be a British garrison. He had by this time resolved upon restoring a portion of the conquered territory to a descendant of the ancient royal house of Mysore and to divide the remainder between the Company, the Nizam and the Peshwa. Accordingly on the 8th June 1799, he wrote to the Commissioners, who had been appointed by him, to make a settlement of the conquered territories to proceed with the conclusion of both the Tripartite and the Subsidiary Treaties, the latter with the heir of the old Hindu dynasty of Mysore on the lines sketched out by him. He added: "I authorise you to place the Raja formally upon the *Musnad* and to appoint, in the Raja's name, Purnaiya to be the Dewan".

The Raja, Krishnaraja Wodeyar III, was at this time a five-year old boy, who was the adopted grandson of Maharani Lakshammanni. The Governor-General directed that they should fix up the "fortress of Mysore" as the most acceptable seat of the Raja's residence. On the 30th June 1799, His Highness Sri Krishnaraja Wodeyar III was placed on the throne of Mysore. From that time onwards Mysore became the capital of the rulers.

Srirangapatna became the property of the British East India Company and British troops were kept in the fort. Colonel Arthur Wellesley was in command of these troops till 1805. He resided in the Darya Daulat Bagh, the summer palace which was



Tipu Sultan's favourite retreat from business. The inner ramparts within the fort were demolished to provide greater space within the walls and the inner ditch was filled up in 1800. The course of this ditch may now be traced by the line of tamarind trees planted along it when it was closed up. Srirangapatna began rapidly to decline after the close of the war. The population of the island, estimated by Buchanan to have reached at least 1,50,000 during the reign of the Sultan, had sunk to 32,000, barely a year after Tipu's death. A kind of fever also gradually made its appearance and necessitated the removal of the troops to Bangalore in 1811. The British Government then leased the island to the Mysore ruler for a fixed sum of Rs. 50,000 a year.

**Second  
Strongest  
Fort**

The population of Srirangapatna continued to decline and was only 12,744 in 1852, falling still lower to 10,594 in 1871. But in 1891 it was again 12,551 and the advent of the railway with stations at the fort and at Paschimavahini, together with developmental measures introduced have, in recent years, improved its condition considerably. But still it is sad to think of a place on which the tide of history has wrought so great a change in so short a time as to have converted the proud capital of a great kingdom and the seat of a sumptuous court into a straggling ordinary town. This transformation is shown in bolder relief by the comparatively uninjured state of the fortifications themselves. On these, the results of the breaching batteries are far more apparent than the work of time and the fort is still so formidable that a competent military authority, who visited it about seventy years after the breaches were made in the fort walls, pronounced it as the second strongest in India. The spot, on which the breaching battery was erected, is marked by two cannons fixed perpendicularly on the ground opposite the western angle and close to the river's edge, and the breach itself is visible a short distance to the right of the road to Mysore.

Srirangapatna was both the administrative capital of the State and the headquarters of the subsidiary force between 1799-1804, governed by General Wellesley. The Lal Bagh was assigned as the residence of the Resident, while the principal Mint, the General Treasury and the Huzur Cutcherry were located close to it, partly for the convenience of communication with the Resident but chiefly because Mysore, the place of residence of His Highness was yet to be provided with buildings for these purposes. About the close of 1804, this deficiency at Mysore was remedied and these offices were subsequently transferred to that place. The Lal Bagh was about the same time pronounced to be uninhabitable on account of its unhealthiness and proposals for transfer of the Residency to Mysore were also taken up. The Resident was assisted by a secretary and a subordinate officer styled the Assistant Resident; there were, besides, a Head Assistant Resident and a Post Master.

Owing to the unsuitability of Srirangapatna for the European regiments, they were removed to Bangalore between 1809 and 1811. There was a mutiny of the European military officers in Srirangapatna in 1809, but it was easily suppressed. After 1811, only one regiment of Indian sepoy was kept at Srirangapatna as a local battalion. Some European regiments were stationed at Hirode or French Rocks, which place is now named Pandavapura. In 1830, Srirangapatna ceased to be a military station after the reduction of the local battalion, the gun carriage manufactory being removed in June of the same year to Fort St. George, Madras.

In 1831, the British took over the administration of the Mysore territory from Krishnaraja Wodeyar III for alleged mis-administration by British Commission

Government. Two officers styled Senior Commissioner and Junior Commissioner were appointed to govern the territory of the Raja. This arrangement continued from 1831 to 1834. In April 1834, the post of the Junior Commissioner was abolished and the Government of the Mysore territory was put in charge of only one Commissioner. In June 1834, Colonel (afterwards Sir) Mark Cubbon took up the administration. He continued in this office for 26 years.

The Commissioner's rule of Mysore State continued for fifty years from 1831 to 1881 in which year the Mysore territory was handed back to the Mysore Wodeyars. The Commissioners, who administered the State, were Colonel Briggs, Colonel W. Morrison, Mr. C. M. Lushington, Mr. C. D. Drury, Mr. J. M. McLeod, Sir Mark Cubbon, Mr. C. B. Saunders and Mr. L. M. Bowring. Krishnaraja Wodeyar III had died in 1868. His adopted son, Sri Chamarajendra Wodeyar, was recognised as his heir to the throne by the British Government and he succeeded to the *Musnad* of Mysore in 1881, when the State was handed back to him by the British Government in India, as a result of the persistent efforts of his predecessor and his people for restoration of the ruling powers to the Mysore royal family.

Maharaja Chamaraja Wodeyar ruled the State from 1881 to 1894. He was an enlightened ruler and during his regime, the resources of the State were greatly developed. He died of diphtheria at Calcutta in December 1894. At this time, Sri Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, the heir-apparent, was only 10 years old and as such Maharani Kempaananjammanni was appointed as the Regent. She held that position upto August 1902, when Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV was invested with full ruling powers. He ruled for 38 years and earned for himself the name of "Creator of Modern Mysore" by his benevolent and efficient administration. He strove hard to promote the moral and material welfare of the people and granted them a share in the

administration of the State. He died in August 1940 and was succeeded by Sri Jayachamaraja Wodeyar, who granted responsible Government to the people and became a constitutional ruler in October 1947, and later became its Rajpramukh and also the Governor, in keeping with the democratic structure of the country.

#### Administrative changes

After the fall of Tipu Sultan, Srirangapatna lost its importance and the present Mandya district, which was then a part of the Mysore district, was administered from Mysore. The Mysore district, including the then five taluks of the present Mandya district, formed at first part of the Patnada Rayada and afterwards of the Ashtagram Foudari. In 1862, the latter was merged in the Ashtagram Division, which included the districts of Mysore and Hassan. The Divisions had been abolished before the Rendition in 1881 and the island of Srirangapatna was then made over to Mysore. In 1882, Mysore district was extended by the addition of several taluks from the Hassan district, which was also abolished. There were thus fourteen taluks and three sub-taluks besides the Yelandur jagir included in the Mysore district, of which five taluks and one sub-taluk were formed into the French Rocks sub-division. In 1886, the Hassan district was restored, but the limits of the Mysore district continued to remain the same and included the French Rocks sub-division. The French Rocks sub-division was constituted as a separate district in 1939 and called the Mandya district with Mandya as its headquarters. The five taluks and one sub-taluk were reconstituted into seven taluks which continue to this day. The Mandya district is now one of the nineteen districts of the Mysore State.

#### Beginning of national movement

The inauguration of the Mysore Representative Assembly in 1881, four years earlier to the birth of the Indian National Congress, engendered in the minds of the Mysore people a vision of responsible Government in the State. This political objective envisaged closer association of the popular representatives with the administration. Though the Mysore Representative Assembly consisted of chosen representatives of the people, the institution had no powers to pass Acts or vote on demands. Due to persistent appeals by the members, the Legislative Council came into being in 1907, invested with some powers. But the aspirations of the people were not met by these reforms. Unmindful of the rigid attitude of the Government, the elected members strove hard, using the forums of both the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council to ventilate their demand for more responsibility in the administration. It was only after the Jallianwallahbagh tragedy in 1919, that the activities of the Congress in the State began. Sri S. S. Setlur, a Judge of the Mysore Chief Court, resigned his position to take up the leadership of the State Congress. In 1921, the State Congress became a part

of the Karnataka unit of the Congress. The constructive programme, as adumbrated in the Belgaum session of the Congress of 1924 got good encouragement in the State and several volunteers went about from place to place in the district, to popularise Khadi and Swadeshi goods.

In addition to the plea of the State Congress for the establishment of responsible Government, several other organisations in the State, *viz.*, Prajaramitra Mandali, Praja Paksha and Praja Samyuktha Paksha also put forward their demands for granting of responsible Government. On the 16th October 1937, Praja Samyuktha Paksha merged with the Congress in order to fight the issue in a unified manner. It was at Shivapura, a village near the Maddur railway station, that a clarion call was given for starting a peaceful agitation to attain the goal of responsible Government. On 10th, 11th and 12th April 1938, the State Congressmen met at a convention at Shivapura to chalk out a new programme. The Congress flag was about to be hoisted but Government prohibited the hoisting. Several leaders courted arrest.

Earlier to this political event, the raiyats of the Visvesvaraya Agrarian system. A big *jatha* of 3,000 to 4,000 men marched on foot to Bangalore to ventilate their grievances to the Dewan. Mandya, Indval and other places in the district were centres of this agrarian agitation, which gave an added incentive to further political struggles.

The Mysore Congress gained strength from day to day and during the 'Quit India' struggle of 1942, several Congress leaders in Mandya district were incarcerated. After their release in 1944-1945, they met at a special meeting of the All-Mysore Congress Committee at Kyatanahalli in Pandavapura taluk in November 1945, with Sri S. Nijalingappa in the chair, and decided to step up the fight for responsible Government. The working committee of the Mysore Congress met at Ummadahalli near Mandya town to devise ways and means to accelerate the agitation for responsible Government. All these events culminated in the 1947 struggle, which ushered in responsible Government in the State, and a popular ministry assumed power on the 24th October 1947. As the Constitution of India was in the offing, the Mysore Constituent Assembly, which had been set up under an agreement with the ruler, got itself converted into a Legislative body. With the promulgation of the Indian Constitution in 1950, Mysore became a part 'B' State with the Maharaja as the Rajpramukh.

In 1956, when the States were reorganised, the new Mysore State, which included most of the Kannada-speaking areas contiguous to the old Mysore State, came into existence with the Governor as the head of the State. (See Chapter XIX for architecture and sculpture in the district.)