

HAIDER AND TIPPU IN TULUNADU

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The history of Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan formulates a fascinating aspect of the colonial establishment of the British in India. Haider Ali and Tippu Sultan were very distinguished rulers of Southern India. For the expansion, consolidation and development of the Kingdom of Mysore they created a niche for themselves. Haider Ali played a pivotal role in the expansion of the Mysore while Tippu Sultan modernized the Kingdom. Haider Ali was a great warrior, while Tippu Sultan was a great visionary. They vehemently fought against British colonialism and upheld the sovereignty of their Kingdom. Haider Ali and Tippu Sultan remain in the history of India the towering personalities who cherished the ideals of independence, self-respect, Self-rule, progress and development of the kingdom.

HAIDER ALI

With the advent of Haider Ali Tuluva lost its individuality. After the capture of Bednur, Haider turned his attention towards Tuluva. Haider regarded Mangaluru as of great importance as a naval station and established a dockyard and an arsenal there. He converted Mangalore city into a harbor and a strong central port capable of handling all complicated business transactions.

Haider Ali a marched his cavalry into Kanara in 1763 in connection with a quarrel between the Queen of Bidnore named Virammaji and her son. The Sultan was promised the port of Mangalore by the Prince Chennabasavayya, as a reward for his efforts to restore the latter to the throne of Bidnore. When the local affairs drifted from bad to worse in 1763, Haider Ali captured Bidnore, immediately after, Haider turned his attention to other regions, particularly, Mangalore. Haider regarded Mangalore important as a naval station, where he established a dockyard and an arsenal, and placed it under the command of one Latif Ali Baig. Haider changed the name of Mangalore into Corial and the Bundar as Port Royal. For Haider Mangalore was the nearest port to his capital and as such, it received utmost attention.

He renamed Mangalore as *Kodiyala* and kept Mangaluru now "courial or Port Royal, under the command of one Latif Ali Baig. Haider is said to have made a grant to a temple in Tuluva in 1765. As a result of the comprehensive activities undertaken by Haider Ali in Tulunadu, several minor mandalikas of the area remained thoroughly shaken, His political advance was quick and devastating to the cause of the chiefs of Tuluva. Haider made treaties with Choutas, Bangas, Ajilas, Savanthas, King of Vitla and the king of Kumble and forced them to pay fixed annual tribute. Damaji Pant of Bednur continued as the officer in Mangalore. Haider hanged the Banga king Kamapparasa Banga IV in the Jamalabad port of Belthangady. The Achyutha Heggade of Vitla supported the British in the First Anglo Mysore war. As a result, Haider dethroned him in 1765.

Haider made the trading communities like Konkans, Mapillas, Arabs, and Gujarati's of Tulunadu independent traders and gave them special privileges. Portuguese traders also got permission to trade in Mangalore. Haider also made special

arrangements to the people of all religions to run their commercial activities. This policy of Haider was called liberal trade policy of free trade policy. Haider Ali coaxed merchants from great distances and induced them to settle in Mangalore by allowing them a lakh of rupees in advance. This had the desired effect and many people from distant places came and settled down in Mangalore.

Mangalore was the second capital to Haider. He wanted to build a dockyard in Mangalore. So it was constructed in 1763 A.D. in order to face powerful British power. But British Officer Sir Edward Hughes destroyed it in 1768. English watching Haider and his desire to fortify Mangalore. In 1768 an expedition was sent by British under Admiral Watson, defeated Latif Ali Baig and captured Mangalore. The capture of Mangalore was a great celebration to British. But it became a temporary victory. Tippu made a lightning attack on the port and drove the English away from Mangalore, it was followed arrival of Haider Ali in person. It was a shocking defeat to the British as result English left the fort. Mangalore was retaken by Haider within a week of its loss. In this encounter Portuguese had supported the British. The success at Mangalore gave Haider stores, guns, money, and to his people boldness. He also got a fine train of field artillery. Immediately after this victory Haider Ali signed a treaty of perpetual peace and friendship with the British in 1770. One of the articles of this treaty provided for a supply of rice for Bombay from Mangalore and other. The Haider punished Portuguese for their support to the British and confiscated their properties which resulted in treaty of friendship with British and Portuguese. But in 1776 he expelled Portuguese from their factories of Mangalore, he moved above the Ghats by Subrahmanya pass.

Before Haider's conquest of Mangalore, Portuguese had a factory in its port, which was fortified with artillery and a military garrison. The Portuguese merchants traded freely in Mangalore and other ports in Kanara. To maintain friendly relations with the Portuguese Haider restored to them their factory and trade privileges in Mangalore. But in 1768, when the British attacked Mangalore the Portuguese faced severe problems. The new conquerors would not allow them to enjoy such concessions and accordingly they acquainted the Portuguese resident that they could not permit his exercising any authority in that place. Nevertheless, they offered them to stay there under the protection of the British flag. This the resident refused and embarked for Goa.

Haider used Mangalore as a base to drive out the British and dreamt of having a navy of his own at Mangalore.⁷² He made his first attempt to build a navy in 1763. In 1778 he again built a large fleet. In 1780 Sir Edward Hughes entered Mangalore harbours and destroyed two ships, a large galleon and many small vessels at anchor. Thus Haider's second attempt to build a navy at Mangalore failed. His own ignorance of navigation placed him at a great disadvantage. His technical advisers were European adventurers, who could not be expected to have the necessary zeal in his cause.

Haider gave Panja and Bellare maganes in Puttur Taluk to the raja of Coorg. In 1775 he resumed them together with Amara and Sullya maganes which had been given to Coorg by Somashekhara Nayaka II about 50 years ago. Thus by the end of the I Mysore war Haider became the complete master of Tulunadu.

TIPPU SULTAN

The Second Mysore war was started in 1781 and Haider died in the war camp in Dec 2, 1782. At this juncture General Mathews with a fierce came from Bombay and captured the fort of Hosangadi. Col. Macleod attacked Haiderghad and advanced towards Bednar. But Tippu arrived with a large army in March, 1783, and Tippu sent an army to Mangaluru.

Battle started between Col. Campbell and Tippu at Madanakapu, Arkula, Adyar and Kannur etc. Finally, Campbell surrendered to Tippu and signed a treaty with him in January 29th 1784. Accordingly, the Mangalore port came under Tippu's control. Meanwhile, British tried their level maximum to recapture Mangalore but failed. So they signed the treaty of Mangalore with Tippu in March 11th 1784. This treaty ended the enmity between Tippu and the British for the time being. Both British and Tippu agreed to the mutual exchange of prisoners and conquered areas. But this treaty was a great humiliation to the British. So they began to design plans for the elimination of Tippu.

Then Tippu began to take retaliation against the local rulers who supported the British. He amalgamated the territories of Chauta king, Ajila of Venur, savanthas of Mulky, Bhairarasu of Karkala and Banga of Bangadi with Mysore. Tippu caught the Achyutha Heggade of Vitla and put him to death.

Though Tippu failed in the III Mysore war, he completely suppressed all old local chiefs and dispossessed them in all but their private lands. Among these chiefs were those of Kumbale, Vittala and Nileshwara. Tippu's capture of the King of Kumbale became responsible for the fall of the empire, for it is clear that he had taken the Kumbale chief as a prisoner and had killed him. Younger brother of the chief of Kumbale openly supported the British, as result of that he was killed in 1794A.D. In the IV Mysore war Tippu having suffered a defeat and killed in the battle field.

Inspite of his continuous warfare Tippu tried to establish foreign contact through the port of Mangalore. He had political and trade contacts with France, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and gulf countries. He had established trading connections with Pegu, Muscat, China, Armenia through this port.

He had introduced a new commercial policy in Mangalore to activate a brisk trade. All foreign merchants could trade freely and they were granted several trading facilities in Mangalore. Tippu had the intention of breaking the trading monopoly of the British in this region. The principal articles of export from Mangalore consisted of sandalwood, black pepper, cardamom, betelnut, arecanut, ivory, cotton thread, painted cloths, raw cotton, timber, etc. The articles of imports were silk of different sorts, velvets, copper, lead, flat diamonds, pearls, broad cloths, dried fruits, coral, raw silk, spices, drugs, tobacco, saffron seeds, silk worms, horses etc.

Tippu offered concessions to the foreign traders, like remission of the whole or part of the duty to be paid at the port, supply of sites for the merchants to erect trading centres, providing loans for the merchants and the exemption from taxation of the profits for a limited period. For improving foreign and internal trade, Tipu established a commercial department called 'Malikut Tujar', a board of trade consisting of nine officers. The objective of the board was to attract foreign merchants by extending concessions and encouragement and controlling the supply of foreign imports and exports. Tipu encouraged building a ship-yard for improving trade and commerce. Tipu promised every aid to foreign and internal merchants. Tipu gave them armed protection against British merchants. He was a confirmed enemy of British who intended to destroy his power and capture Mangalore. Tipu tried to curb the trading monopoly of the British and followed restrictive trade measures. For this reason, British trade at Mangalore suffered a setback. Tipu built a watch-tower, known as Sultan's Battery, to help prevent the entrance of warships into the Gurpur river. It has a complex construction and though it was meant to be a simple watchtower, it gives the impression to the onlookers of a miniature fortress with its many apertures for mounting canons all round.

The Christian merchants seemed to suffer at Mangalore due to the restrictive trade measures of the Tipu. He also introduced Persian as the official language, which had adverse effect on the local and British merchants. Several imperialist writers considered the reign of Tipu Sultan as the dark period for Christian communities. They projected it as religious conflict between Christianity and Islam.

Both Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan suspected that the Christian merchants were helping the British and the local merchants except Muslims were helping the local rulers. This resulted in the creation of misunderstandings and trading conflicts between various trading communities. But Tipu gave every facility to the Syrian Christians and Armenian Christian merchants.⁸⁵ Local Roman Catholics also derived benefits during Tipu's rule. Tipu punished several Canara Christians not for the reason that they were Christians but for their support to the British at the time of his conquest of Mangalore. There is an allegation of prosecution of Konkans (Gowda Saraswaths) in the region by Tipu. Konkans were the trading community and they must have had grievances against Tipu's state monopoly policy on articles like pepper, sandalwood etc. Tipu's steps in checking or removing the non-Muslim merchants for internal security reasons. He had to ensure that he did not have to depend on those whose loyalty to him was suspect.

