



## Tipu Sultan the Tiger of Mysore

Ashok Saha

*M.A, NTA UGC NET, WBSET QUALIFIED*

**Abstract--** During the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War in 1799, which was a terrible time in subcontinental history, Tipu Sultan, the eldest son of Haider Ali, was slain by the British. The overthrow of the Sultan of Mysore marked the beginning of the expansion of British colonial rule in India. Tipu Sultan was also well-known outside of India due to his valor, daring, and military tactics. Tipu employed his numerous skills—administration, economical, military creativity, authoritarianism, etc.—against the East India Company, the foreign invaders. Because of his extraordinary traits, he was considered the first fighter for subcontinental independence. Up till the very end, Tipu Sultan fought an East India company that sought to take land from Kingdom Mysore. Because of his extraordinary military prowess and victories in numerous battles, he posed a threat to the British colony. The early life of Tipu Sultan was covered in this essay, along with how his innovation, bravery, fortitude, honesty, and freedom shaped him into a heroic Indian warrior. Unfortunately, Tipu Sultan was unable to overcome his flaws.

**Keywords--** Sarangpatam, Tiger, Napoleon, Devan Halli

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### *Early Life*

A healthy young boy was born on November 20, 1750, in Haider Ali's house in **Devan Halli**, a district city in Bangalore, inside the boundaries of Kingdom Mysore. Fateh Ali, popularly known as Tipu Sultan, Tiger of Mysore, and Sher-e-Mysore, successfully breached the bars of Seringapatam in 1760 when the Raja of Mysore declared his father to be a rebel. After being apprehended, Tipu Sultan and his brother were put in jail. At the time, Tipu Sultan was ten years old. Haider Ali, a brave, heroic, and admirable man, was the father of Tipu Sultan. Haider Ali changed his name from Fateh Ali to Tipu Sultan, or Tiger of Mysore, due to his extraordinary fighting skills and leadership qualities. Tipu Sultan was the oldest son of Haider Ali. Fakh-un-Nisa, the mother of Tipu Sultan, was the daughter of Mir Moenhuud-Din, the governor of Kadapa. At the age of eleven, Haider Ali, the father of Tipu Sultan, took the crown of Kingdom Mysore in 1761.

In order to prepare his son for the future, Haider Ali appointed numerous instructors for Tipu Sultan's early schooling in Persian, Urdu, Kannada, Quran, Arabic, ridding, shooting, and fencing.

He was given multiple military and diplomatic posts while he was just 17 years old. His father also appointed several French commanders to gain military expertise and tactics for the forthcoming operations. Tipu Sultan quickly adopted the teaching methods of a number of experienced men that his father, Haider Ali, had appointed. Because of this, 16-year-old Tipu Sultan was assigned leadership of the cavalry corps that attacked Caratic in 1767.

### II. BRITISH EXPEDITIONS

When his father, the last Muslim capable of launching 5,000 rockets, died of cancer in Chittur in 1782, Tipu Sultan, then 32 years old, took the throne. During this period, he led the development of a new land revenue system that greatly enhanced Mysore's economy through silk and other agricultural pursuits.

During the eighteenth century, which was seen to be the worst time on the subcontinent, the British East India Company made the decision to start a number of wars against the Kingdom Mysore in order to increase his power. The British Government could not govern India if it could not vanquish the Kingdom of Mysore. India's history was marred by the four wars of Mysore. Despite multiple encounters in India, the British were never able to vanquish the Mysore. In order to either gain total territorial dominance or the money the local lords produce for their military and financial support of their little claimed zone, the colonial powers figure out how to keep control of the local influence. The European armies were very different from those of the local kingdoms. Outsiders continue to have power and confidence over the subcontinent as a result. The British military will be regarded as the most well-equipped and well-organized due to its superior administration and training.

Therefore, the tiny number of European-trained forces may be able to overcome the vast Indian indigenous armies, which are primarily composed of disorganized infantry and cavalry. In Southern India, the East India Company gave birth to a famous hero. During this period, Warren Hastings, who was in charge of the East India Company, tried to use his contemporary power to subjugate Indian territory. Haider Ali chose to begin his career by enlisting in the Kingdom Mysore army despite having no academic education.



**International Journal of Recent Development in Engineering and Technology**  
**Website: www.ijrdet.com (ISSN 2347-6435(Online) Volume 15, Issue 03, March 2026)**

His ostentatious features won him popularity with the Mysore kingdom's prime minister. Haider's remarkable career started because of his fate, and he was soon promoted to more senior roles. He had a strong feeling of resolve and an unbreakable will. He combined intellect and diplomacy with bravery and strength. Ultimately, he took full advantage of the king's weakness to take control. In 1761, Mysore's commander Haider Ali took the throne. After seizing power in Mysore, he set out to rule the nation. For twenty-one years, Haider Ali governed Mysore, participating in many expeditions and battles.

When he initially came to power, he made the decision to increase his empire by seizing control of the Hyderabad Deccan. In order to expand his power and protect himself from the East India Company, he now used a variety of strategies to conquer adjacent areas. Anglo-Mysore War I (1766–1769) In the First Anglo-Mysore War (1766–1769), Haider Ali employed a number of strategies to fight the British and almost conquer most of Madras. The British convinced the Nizam of Hyderabad to fight Haider Ali, but he soon had second thoughts and sided with the King of Mysore. That was only temporary, though, since Nizam and the British government struck a new agreement in 1768.

Haider Ali did retaliate against the assaults of the Madras Army from the northeast and the British Army from the west. Despite this, the Madras government gave up and did not react to Haider's huge attack. Consequently, the Madras Army found a way to sign the Madras Treaty with Haider Ali. Second Anglo-Mysore This event led to the development of friendly relations between the French and the Mysore King Haider Ali in India. In order to extract revenge on Britain for the previous Maratha war, Haider Ali swore allegiance to France. On the other hand, in order to build their own dominion, the East India Company decides to drive the French out of India after seizing French outposts with French help.

It was not possible to defeat Haider Ali's Kingdom Mysore in this manner, though. In July of 1780, an 80,000-man troop caravan led by Haider Ali entered Carnatic. Haider Ali established camp at Acrot to prepare his army for Britain. In retaliation, Britain dispatched a military force led by Colonel Hector Munro, consisting of 5,000 soldiers from Madras who were well-trained and equipped with heavy cannons, to Guntur. To halt the Britain force, Haider Ali sent an army led by Tipu Sultan. Tipu Sultan ordered his men to open their mouths while Colonel William Baillie's squad was under intense fire. Of the 3820 troops in the British army, 336 perished.

This setback spurred the kingdom of Haider Ali and caused the East India Company to suffer a massive and disastrous loss in India. The British government took decisive action to replace the authorities after this setback, but these actions proved futile in subsequent fights. The sultans of Vellore, Negapatam, Annagudi in Tanjore, Malabar, and other locations, Haider Ali and his eldest son Tipu, ruled over India from 1781 to 1784, inspiring Indians to struggle for their independence. During this period, the East India Company launched multiple unsuccessful attacks against the Haider Ali.

Concerned by these toll losses, London officials sought a remedy. Britain had two options: either send out highly skilled officials with superior strategy and heavy weaponry, or negotiate with Haider Ali and celebrate their defeat. The British Parliament instructed Colonel Fullarton to halt all military operations and begin negotiations. The four-year conflict was ultimately won by Haider Ali and his son, who signed the Treaty of Mangalore on March 11, 1784.

### III. THIRD ANGLO-MYSORE WAR (1790-1792)

In 1784, the British and the King of Mysore signed the Treaty of Mangalore. However, Tipu Sultan, the King of Kingdom Mysore, voiced resentment and reaffirmed that he would come up with fresh strategies to rebel against Britain. If they hadn't joined forces with Tipu Sultan's neighbors, there would have been no other way to capture Mysore following the Third Anglo Mysore War defeat. He was replaced in India by Lord Earl Cornwallis, a new Governor General appointed by the British Government in 1786.

Cornwallis had a significant role in altering the regulations governing British control in India. He created new guidelines for the civil services, courts, and revenue collection, all of which are strikingly unchanged. The Third Anglo-Mysore War (1790–1792), led by Lord Cornwallis, started right away. In 1784, the British and the King of Mysore signed the Treaty of Mangalore. However, Tipu Sultan, the King of Kingdom Mysore, voiced resentment and reaffirmed that he would come up with fresh strategies to rebel against Britain. If they hadn't joined forces with Tipu Sultan's neighbors, there would have been no other way to capture Mysore following the Third Anglo Mysore War defeat.

In order to make it more difficult to challenge the Kingdom of Mysore, Lord Cornwallis promptly proclaimed that agreements with the Maratha Empire and the Nizam of Hyderabad would be destroyed and amended if they complied with the conditions of the 1784.



Fighting between the Tipu Sultan and the Nizam of Haiderabad, Kingdom Travancore, and the British escalated after the East India Company took control of the Circar of Guntur in 1788. Tipu Sultan made multiple failed attempts to create Kingdom Travancore in 1788. The president of Madras at the time, Archibald Campbell, had cautioned Tipu that attacking Travancore militarily would be considered a declaration of war. Tipu Sultan made multiple failed attempts to create Kingdom Travancore in 1788. The president of Madras at the time, Archibald Campbell, had cautioned Tipu that attacking Travancore militarily would be considered a declaration of war. The British government chose General Holland to succeed General William Medows in Madras in the early months of 1790. When Tipu Sultan marched with 14,000 army forces and started a new attack on the area, he was able to successfully cross the border of Nedumkotta, a portion of Travancore. The Tipu marched back to Seringapatam after learning that the British were invading Bangalore and **Sarangpatam**. Cornwallis' first objective was to take control of much of Bangalore, which would serve as a basis for subsequent assaults on Seringapatam. As a result, he expected the friend states to become more active. Given the likelihood that he would take part in conspiracies at the highest levels of Mysore, Tipu made considerable preparations for the aforementioned schemes. He also has a large herd of elephants to help move various weapons and supplies.

Cornwallis assumed command of the British main force at Vellore on January 29, 1791. A week later, he marches west in a procession, seemingly passing across the Eastern Ghats. Tipu made the decision to leave Pondicherry and go to Bangalore after learning that his serial was in danger. After a series of attacks, Cornwallis swiftly moved north and, on February 21, crossed Muglee Pass without encountering any opposition. Tipu undoubtedly stationed men in various locations for defense. After that, he continued to advance with very little opposition until, on March 5, he was near Bangalore's entrance.

The monarch of Mysore stayed with his army on British land, where Cornwallis started the siege, despite Tipu providing the armed forces and defending the city. After successfully avoiding the Tipu citadel for six weeks, the British launched enormous assaults and skirmishes in retaliation. In order to help the Nizam's army and secure supplies for his own, Cornwallis moved his men 80 kilometers north after conquering Bangalore. Upon his return to Bangalore, Cornwallis saw that Nizam's troops were powerless to assist. Before advancing to Seringapatam, the British administration launched many attacks to protect the adjacent areas of Bangalore.

Tipu Sultan proposed a fight in the village of Arakere while Lord Cornwallis was trying to cross the shallow part of the Cauvery River. Consequently, the Tipu was obliged to retreat towards the fortifications of Seringapatam after Lord Cornwallis himself shifted him to the side of his position. When Maratha soldiers entered, Tipu Sultan was able to cut off connection between Maratha and Lord Cornwallis; instead, they communicated through messengers. Cornwallis flees to Bangalore, protecting the Coimbatore district from Tipu's forces. Coimbatore was surrounded by two thousand armed men from Mysore.

On January 25, Abercrombie departed from the Malabar coast, and the Cornwallis moved from Savendroog to Seringapatam. The dismissal of Tipu's men did not impede its advance. To guarantee supply sources outside of Bangalore, Cornwallis established numerous outposts. As soon as the massive troops arrived in Seringapatam, Tipu launched powerful rocket strikes.

#### IV. FOURTH ANGLO-MYSORE WAR (1798-1799)

The Fourth Anglo Mysore War (1798–1799) was the last conflict between the Kingdom of Mysore and the bitter rival East India Company (George, 2006, pp. 322–323). The Princely State of Britain was established after the East India Company defeated the Tipu Sultan, King of Mysore. Unable to accept the defeat of the Third Mysore War, Tipu Sultan decided to pursue revenge on the East India Company in order to recapture the territory lost in the most recent fight and establish Kingdom Mysore. To make his army strong and fearsome, he searches for the allies' group to defeat the East India Company and escape India.

He requested help from Kabul, Arbaia, France, and Turkey. After **Napoleon** entered Egypt in 1798, France made it more difficult for the British to rule India. The success of the Napoleans and the powerful ally of Mysore inspired Tipu Sultan, as several French officers and commanders performed their duties in Tipu's army. In the end, the British decided that if they controlled India, they would remove Tipu's feet from Mysore. As a result, they have now started a number of schemes to harm the Tipu. Britain purchased the generals from the Tipu Army after learning about Tipu's vulnerability. Tipu's choice of inexperienced generals over more seasoned ones was a flaw.

Sultan Tipu's choice at the time infuriated Finance Minister Mir Sadiq. Members of Tipu's cabinet (Darbari) were solely responsible for his downfall. The East India Company could now shake hands with Tipu's cabinet members as they had lost the Tipu. At that time, Lord Cornwallis was named the East India Company's new Governor General.



He was rude and arrogant toward the Indians. Lord Cornwallis dispatched a number of spies to Kingdom Mysore to gather vital intelligence. Syed Imam was one of the governor general's main spies. But after this information was revealed, Syed Imam was taken into custody by the Tipu army. Tipu Sultan took a firm stand against the spies and executed them. Lord Cornwallis dispatches 21,000 soldiers from the Madras army to assault Seringapatam. In order to depose the Sultan of Kingdom Mysore, Lord Cornwallis then started collaborating with the Nizam of Haiderabad and Maratha.

**"It is better to live one day as a tiger, rather than a hundred years as a jackal,"** Tipu Sultan said in response to his military general's suggestion that he leave the area by secret way and fight another day. The Nizam of Haiderabad dispatched 16,000 people to enlist in the Madras Army in favor of the East India Company.

Tipu Sultan was informed that Ghaffar Shah, the chief of ammunition, had been slain by the enemies, leading many to think that his death was due to the betrayal of his faithful officer, Mir Sadiq. He rushed to his body, which was outside the fort. Tipu Sultan withdrew his feet with tremendous force as conspirators closed the fort's doors. However, Mir Sadiq announced that the soldiers would get paid at the height of the fighting. Since the busy force undermined this plot, he withdrew the men from the defenses where the British force pierced the wall and swiftly entered the heavily defended Seringapatam.

The general of the British Army issued the order to begin firing at the enemy on the front. Tipu's strength is unknown to them. One of the soldiers suggested that Tipu assert his power in front of the British, but Tipu turned him down. The famous quote "a loin's life of one day is better than the hundred years of jackel" was written by him in answer to the military. The troops were armed and well-prepared when he started fire on them.

The general of the British Army gave the order to begin firing against the enemy on the front. They are unaware of Tipu's strength. A soldier suggested that Tipu show off his strength to the British, but Tipu refused. The famous quote "a loin's life of one day is better than the hundred years of jackel" was written by him in reaction to the military. The troops were prepared and armed when he opened fire on them.

#### V. TIPU SULTAN A SYMBOL OF BRAVERY

Tipu Sultan was a legendary figure from the Subcontinent whose name was preserved in highly regarded literature and who was acknowledged as a global emblem of bravery. He was the hero of the Mysorean people and an authority on military tactics, strategy, and combat. His influence and efforts were limited to the South Indian government of the British Empire. Throughout his life, Tipu Sultan fought for the honor of his nation.

Tipu Sultan's men's total trust and self-control played a major role in his success on the battlefield. Tipu Sultan received a letter from Napoleon Bonaparte's administration thanking him for his efforts against Britain. He was unquestionably the son of earth and was recognized as one of the soldiers whose footsteps future generations will follow. He was the first Indian to use rocket artillery. With the exception of Shah Alam II, Tipu Sultan was unable to gain the confidence of the Mughal rulers, but the entire ordeal made him brave and resilient. Tipu Sultan shown his ability to create cutting-edge military tactics, which have been thoroughly studied and approved by his fronts (British). He consistently depicts the tiger as their strength against adversaries, which is why the locals dubbed him the **"Tiger of Mysore."** Unfortunately, myths have overshadowed history, so the correct way to memorialize this great ruler is to judge him by his accomplishments and deeds.

#### VI. CONCLUSION

Tipu Sultan bravely and resolutely battled the British Empire. According to Tipu Sultan, he dedicated his life to defending and sacrificing his nation. Unlike Muslims, the majority of Hindus at the time mistreated Tipu. Despite his 220-year death, Tipu remained a hero to both Muslims and non-Muslims throughout undivided India. He consistently made the decision to defend his nation and fight for rights, never compromising his morals for the British Empire. In reality, he carried on his father Haider Ali's lineage, dignity, and de facto kingdom. According to history, Tipu Sultan was a valiant and exceptional warrior who was killed by members of his own court. Despite this, he had to deal with a shortage of soldiers and inadequate supplies during the conflict, but he demonstrated extraordinary fortitude and tenacity.



**International Journal of Recent Development in Engineering and Technology**  
**Website: [www.ijrdet.com](http://www.ijrdet.com) (ISSN 2347-6435(Online) Volume 15, Issue 03, March 2026)**

He would be regarded as the nation's hero. While in charge of the Kingdom of Mysore, a small region of India, Tipu was regarded as a global leader. History has shown that at a time of continuous conflict, tipu was a symbol of respect, majesty, and dignity.

**REFERENCES**

- [1] Franklin, W. W., & Mary, W. W. (1980). Cornwallis: The Imperial Years, Chapel Hill United States America: University of North Carolina Press.
- [2] George, C. K. (2006). Dictionary of Wars, United States America: Checkmark books. Grant, D. (1878). History of the Mahrattas, London and Bombay: Times of India, vol.1. Ghulam, A. (1988). Muslim political thought through the ages: 1562–1947. Pennsylvania: State University: Royal Book Company.
- [3] Irfan, H. (2001). State and Diplomacy UnderTipu Sultan. Delhi: Tulika.
- [4] Jerry, D. (2001). The Common Law Abroad: Constitutional and Legal Legacy of the British Empire, Littleton Colo United States: Fred B. Rothaman Publications.