



Tipu Sultan

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Why in News

Recently, naming a garden on Tipu Sultan in Mumbai sparked a controversy.



Key Points

- **Brief Profile:**

- Born in **November 1750**, Tipu Sultan was **Haidar Ali's son** and a great warrior, also known as the **Tiger of Mysore**.
- He was a **well educated man** fluent in Arabic, Persian, Kanarese and Urdu.
- Mysore had grown in strength under the leadership of powerful rulers like **Haidar Ali (ruled from 1761 to 1782)** and his famous son **Tipu Sultan (ruled from 1782 to 1799)**.

Tipu introduced a number of **administrative innovations** during his rule, including his **coinage**, a new **Mauludi lunisolar calendar**, and a **new land revenue system** which initiated the **growth of Mysore silk industry**.

- Embracing **western military methods** like artillery and rockets **alongside traditional Indian weapons** including war elephants, he ensured his forces could **overwhelm his Indian rivals and match the British armies** sent against him.

- **Maintenance of Armed Forces:**

- He organised **his army on the European model** with Persian words of command.

Though he took the **help of the French officers to train his soldiers**, he never allowed them (French) to develop into a pressure group.

- He was well **aware of the importance of a naval force**.
 - In 1796, he set up a **Board of Admiralty and planned** for a fleet of 22 battleships and 20 large frigates.
 - He **established three dockyards** at Mangalore, Wajedabad and Molidabad. However, **his plans did not fructify**.

- **Fought Against Marathas:**

In **1767**, **Tipu commanded** a corps of cavalry **against the Marathas** in the Carnatic (Karnataka) region of western India, and **he fought against the Marathas** on several occasions **between 1775 and 1779**.

- **Role in Anglo-Mysore Wars:**

- **British saw Haidar and Tipu as ambitious, arrogant and dangerous** – rulers who had to be controlled and crushed.
- **Four wars were fought** with Mysore (**1767-69, 1780-84, 1790-92 and 1799**).
 - **1767-69:** Treaty of Madras.
 - **1780-84:** Treaty of Mangalore.
 - **1790-92:** Treaty of Seringapatam.
 - **1799:** Subsidiary Alliance.
- **Only in the last – the Battle of Seringapatam** – did the Company ultimately win a victory. **Tipu Sultan was killed** defending his capital Seringapatam.
- **Mysore was placed under the former ruling dynasty of the Wodeyars** and a **subsidiary alliance was imposed** on the state.

- **Other Related Points:**

- He was **also a patron of science and technology** and is credited as the **'pioneer of rocket technology'** in India.
He wrote a **military manual (Fathul Mujahidin)** explaining the operation of rockets.
- Tipu was a **great lover of democracy** and a **great diplomat** who gave his **support to the French soldiers** at Seringapatam in setting up a **Jacobin Club in 1797**.
 - Tipu himself became a **member of the Jacobin Club** and allowed himself to be called **Citizen Tipu**.
 - He **planted the Tree of Liberty** at Seringapatam.

Subsidiary Alliance

- In 1798, **it was introduced by Wellesley** in India, the ruler of the allying **Indian state was compelled to pay a subsidy** for the maintenance of British army in return for getting protection from the British against their enemies.
- Those native princes or rulers **who would enter into the Subsidiary Alliance were not free to declare war** against any other power or enter into negotiations **without the consent of the British**.
- The Subsidiary Alliance was a policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of the allied state, but this was a promise seldom kept by the British.
- The payment of the arbitrarily-fixed and artificially-bloated subsidy invariably disrupted the economy of the state and impoverished its people.
- On the other hand, the **British could now maintain a large army** at the cost of the Indian states.
They controlled the defence and foreign relations of the protected ally, and had a powerful force stationed at the very heart of his lands.
- Lord Wellesley **signed his first Subsidiary Treaty with the Nizam of Hyderabad** in 1798.
- The **Nawab of Avadh** was forced to sign a Subsidiary Treaty **in 1801**.
- **Peshwa Baji Rao II (Maratha)** signed the Subsidiary Treaty at Bassein **in 1802**.

Source: IE