



Tipu Sultan

For Prelims: History of India and Indian National Movement, Tipu Sultan and Anglo-Mysore Wars.

For Mains: Modern Indian History, The Freedom Struggle, Tipu Sultan and his contribution to freedom struggle.

Why in News

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

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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:**
 - The 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:** 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 the 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](#)

