

# LARGER THAN LIFE

A CELEBRATION OF GREATNESS

سکندر و ہون پرتی  
شاہ فرخندہ نامی

## Tipu Sultan

1750 - 1799

*"Let me tell you the secret that has led me to my goal. My strength lies solely in my tenacity."*

# Típu Sultan

## 1750 - 1799

### INTRODUCTION

Sultan **Fateh Ali Típu**, also known as the **Tiger of Mysore** was the **ruler of the Kingdom of Mysore** after the death of his father Haider Ali in 1782. He fought in his father's campaigns against the British and after Haider's death in 1782 continued his war to a successful conclusion. Típu Sultan was a learned man and an able soldier. He was a reputed poet.

### BIRTH AND EARLY YEARS

Típu Sultan was **born in Devanahalli in 1750**. He was the son of Haider Ali and Fakhr-un-Nissa. Though Haider Ali was illiterate, he gave good education to his son Típu Sultan. He was **well versed in Kannada, Urdu, Persian, and Arabic languages**. Apart from the formal education, he **got military education** by participating in the wars that were fought by his father. At the age of 15, he accompanied his father Haider Ali against the British in the First Mysore War in 1766.

### TÍPU SULTAN AS A RULER

He was an enlightened ruler **who treated his non-Muslim subjects generously**. He built a chain of excellent roads and constructed tanks and dams to promote agriculture. He introduced new industries, promoted trade and commerce on a large scale. He **prohibited the production and distribution of liquor and other intoxicants in Mysore**. He also built and fortified numerous forts and many palaces, which were demolished by the British after his death. '**Bangalore Summer Palace**' still survives and is a remnant of his grand rule.

### THE SECOND AND THIRD MYSORE WAR

Típu Sultan led a large body of troops in the Second Mysore War, in February 1782, and defeated Braithwaite on the banks of the Kollidam. After the death of Haider Ali, **Típu Sultan was enthroned as the ruler of Mysore on 4th May 1783 A.D.**

He continued the Second Mysore War against the English. He defeated many English generals like Brithwhite & Col. Bailey. Tipu Sultan signed the treaty at Mangalore on 11th March 1784 A.D., which was known as the 'Mangalore treaty'.

The British were scared of Tipu's growing strength and after their defeat in 1783 they formed an alliance with the Nizam of Hyderabad and Marathas. The French, however, deserted Tipu after the signing of the 'Treaty of Versailles'. The British availed the chance with the help of the Nizam and the Marathas, and started the third Anglo-Mysore war in 1790.

#### **FOURTH MYSORE WAR AND DEATH**

**As long as the British fought alone, Tipu always defeated them.** But he could not come over their diplomacy, conspiracy and intrigue. Thus he **was defeated in his capital, Seringapatam, and was forced to sign a treaty on March 22, 1792.** As a result he had to concede half of his kingdom and pay an indemnity of 33 million rupees to the British and their allies. The alliance between the adversaries was soon broken and in 1795 the British, after defeating the Nizam, once again turned their attention towards Mysore.

After the treaty at Seringapatam, Tipu Sultan did not waste his time and made extensive preparations against the British. **He had rebuilt his war machine in the shortest possible time with the help of the French. The British regarded it as a violation of the treaty.** This led to the start of the **fourth Anglo-Mysore war in 1798** with the help of the Nizam. The French were unable to provide the needed support to Tipu Sultan.

Tipu Sultan retreated to his capital and **continued fighting till he breathed his last in May 1799.** Tipu Sultan is buried at a mausoleum that he himself had built, along with his father Haider Ali and his mother Fatima Begum.