

## KANNADA – SPEAKING AREAS DURING THE COLONIAL RULE

***We learn about the following in this chapter:***

- *Division of Kannada-speaking areas during colonial rule*
- *Revolt of Mysore province against colonial rule*
- *Revolt of Hyderabad-Karnataka region against colonial rule*
- *Revolt of Madras – Karnataka region*
- *Revolt of Mumbai-Karnataka region*
- *The revolt of Coorg region*

After the decline of Moghul Empire, the important petty regional powers of the south that emerged in the 18th century were Mysore, the Marathas, the Nizams of Hyderabad and the Nawabs of Carnatic. At the same time, the European colonial forces who entered India had to struggle for supremacy against these native powers. It was also a time when the native powers struggle for supremacy among themselves. At such a time, Kannada-speaking areas came under the control of various regional powers. While some areas came under the control of the Marathas, others came under the control of the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Nawab of Carnatic. Gradually, the English established their control over these native states. While some areas came under the Bombay presidency, others came under Madras province and the Nizam of Hyderabad. The independent native state of Coorg was under the control of Haleri rulers. In this manner, many of the Kannada speaking regions slipped over from the grounds of the native rulers and came to be ruled by the British.

### **Mysore**

The emergence of Hyder Ali as the commander of the Mysore army in the latterhalf of the 18th century posed a threat to the Marathas, the Nawab of Carnatic and the Nizam of Hyderabad. The

Marathas and the Nizams allied with the British and fought against Mysore. Subsequently, the Nizam joined hands with the English and fought against the Marathas. In this manner, the English having made use of the rivalry existed between the local rulers gradually became victorious against them.

In the year 1767, the British having allied with the Marathas and the Nizam of Hyderabad attacked Hyder Ali of Mysore. But Hyder Ali became successful in wooing the support of the Marathas and the Nizam of Hyderabad. Later, Hyder Ali having confronted the British went as far as Madras. By this, the English were forced to sign 'The Madras Peace treaty'. With this treaty, the first Anglo-Mysore war came to an end. As per the terms of the treaty, the signatories to the treaty, had to mutually help each other in the

### **Do you know this?**

#### **Hyder Ali:**

*Even after the decline of the Vijayanagar Empire, Mysore province had managed to protect its freedom. It was under the control of the Moghul Empire only in name. Two ministers named Nanjaraja (the dictator) and Devaraja (the commander of the army), had seized power and reduced Chikkakrishnaraja to a puppet. Under such circumstances, Hyderali began his career as an ordinary official in the Mysore army. When Mysore was engaged in wars for more than twelve years, Hyderali got an excellent opportunity to become powerful. He made good use of the opportunity to gradually rise among the ranks. He dethroned Nanjaraja in 1761 and established his control on Mysore. He suppressed the revolting chieftains and captured the areas of Bidanur, Sunda, Sera, Canara and Malabar. Though he was illiterate, he was a good administrator. He implemented the Moghul system of taxation and administration in Mysore. Credit goes to him for making the Mysore province a powerful one in the whole of India. He practiced religious tolerance. It is noteworthy that the first Diwan of Mysore, Poornaiah and other officials were Hindus.*

*Hyderali who established himself in Mysore, was engaged in continual conflict with the Marathas, the Nizams and the British right from the beginning of his rule. He subdued the British and reached even Madras in 1769. He died in the second Anglo-Mysore war. After him, his son Tippu became the Sultan of Mysore. He fought with the British and died in the year 1799.*

event of an attack by a third party. However, when the Marathas attacked Mysore, the English as per the terms of the treaty made earlier did not come to the rescue of Hyder Ali. By this, Hyder Ali came to the conclusion that the British were not trustworthy.

Mahe was a colony of the French and was under the control of Hyder Ali. The British capture of Mahe, led to the Second Anglo Mysore War. This time, the Marathas and the Nizam allied with the British. In 1781, the English army under Eyre Coote, defeated Hyder Ali in the battle. After the death of Hyder Ali, his son Tippu Sultan continued the war. This war ended with the 'Mangalore Peace treaty in 1784'.

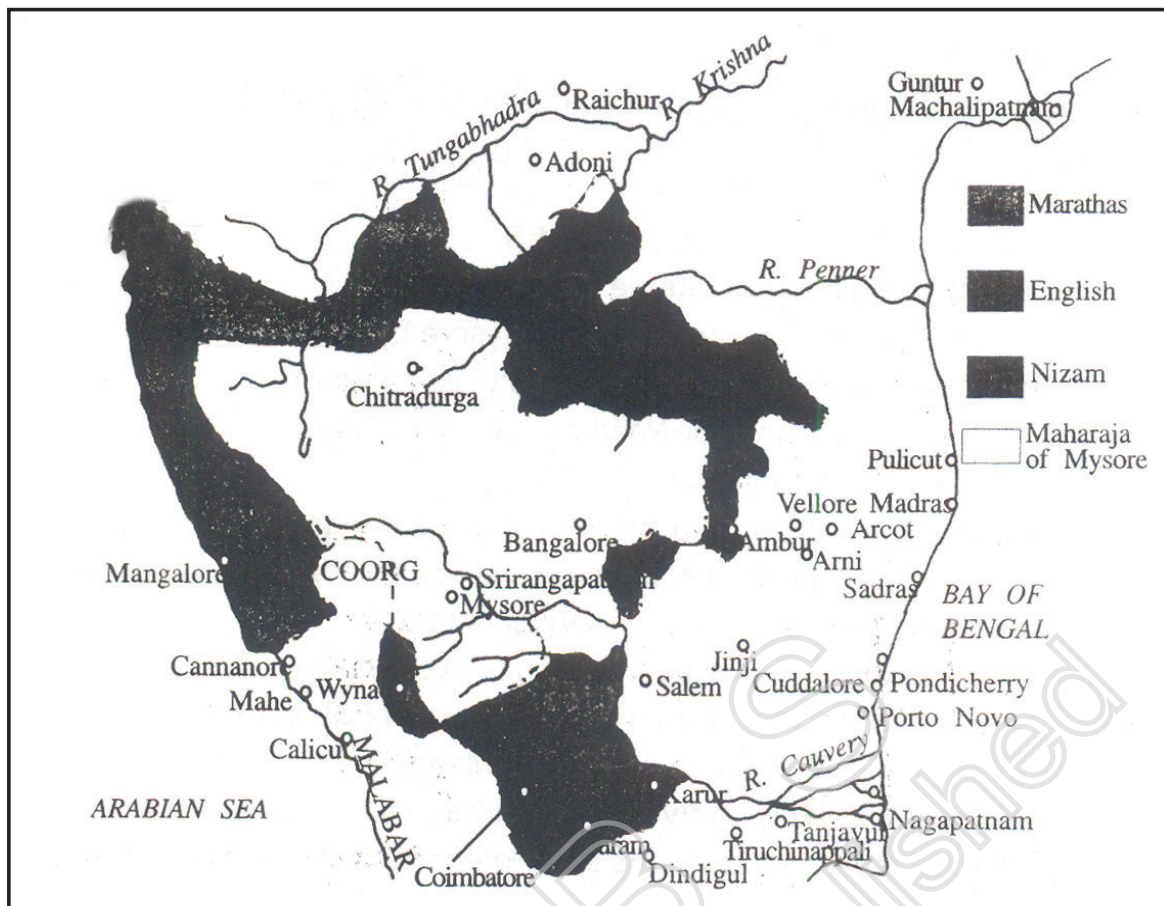
The English considered Tippu their strongest enemy in the South. Conflict with the English resumed after Tippu attacked Travancore ally of the English. This led to the Third Anglo Mysore War. The war which started in 1790 ended two years later in 1792 with the 'treaty of Srirangapatna'. In this war, Tippu lost heavily. As a result, he not only had to forfeit half his kingdom to the British but had to pay 330 lakh rupees as compensation for the losses incurred. Till such time it was agreed that two of his sons were taken hostage by the English. Some regions in Tamil Nadu and Malabar which were under Mysore were taken over by the British. The Marathas got the region upto the Tungabhadra. Ballary, Cuddapha and Doab region of Tungabhadra were given to the Nizam.

The British Governor General, Lord Wellesley who came to India in 1798, tried to impose the doctrine of subsidiary alliance on Mysore. Tippu Being a decisive enemy of the British, refused subsidiary alliance and made preparations for war. He took measures to face the British and to protect his capital. He engaged the French to train his army. He tried to establish communication with France, Turkey and other countries and sought their help. At



**Tippusulthan**

## Mysore after Tippu



this time, the British Governor General, Lord Wellesley declared war on Tippu. Tippu decided to fight the British all alone. In 1799, Tippu's capital, Srirangapatna, was surrounded on all the four sides by the British army. Tippu fought bravely, but died on the battle field. This has been called the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War. As a result the state of Mysore was shared by the British and the Nizam, while the region of old Mysore was handed over to Krishnaraja Wodiyar III. Many of the territories of Coorg which were under Tippu were handed over to the kings of Coorg.

The region of Wodiyars in Mysore is a significant chapter in the history of Karnataka. The rule that began with Yaduraya and Krishnaraya continued till 1947. Raja Wodiyar who ruled in the early part of the 17th Century, defeated Shrirangaraya, representative of the Vijayanagar, captured Srirangapatna and began ruling over it having made it their capital. Later, the Wodiyars became powerful rulers in region. Kanteerava Narasaraja and Chikkadevaraja were important kings among the early Wodiyars.

During their region the state expanded and saw an overall development. Later Krishnaraja Wodeyar III ruled for some years. Among the later Wodeyars, the Mysore state under Krishnaraja Wodeyar became reknown as 'Ramarajya'. Mysore state came to be known as the most progressive among the native Indian states during this region. Jayachamaraja Wodeyar was the last king of this state.

**Activity :**

*Prepare a report of the Historical monument seen in Mysore when on a tour.*

**Hyderabad Karnataka:**

Today's Bidar, Gulbarga, Yadgir and Raichur which were under the direct rule of the Nizam have been identified as the regions of Hyderabad-Karnataka.

Erstwhile Bidar formed a part of the Deccan province under Emperor Aurangzeb. After the death of Aurangzeb, the entire Deccan province came under the rule of the Nizam. Earlier, the Nizam of Hyderabad was a provincial officer of the Moghul emperor. When Moghul emperor after Aurangzeb became weak, the Nizam of Hyderabad asserted his independent. It is there, that the Deccan province came under his control. As a result, Kannada-speaking regions like Bidar, Gulbarga and Raichur came under the rule of the Nizam.

**Do you know this?**

**Special status for Hyderabad Karnataka:**

*Under Section 371 J of the Constitution, special status has been given to the Hyderabad-Karnataka region. Accordingly, the Karnataka government has constituted a special Hyderabad-Karnataka Development Authority. Under this, the government is to provide special facilities to the regions. Students belonging to this region are given reservation in all colleges of the state. Even in government employment, reservation is provided for the people of this area. Priority is being given to the all-round development of this area.*

The Policy of Doctrine of Lapse introduced by the British met a stiff opposition from the native states. Kittur Rani Channamma,

Sangolli Rayanna and others were the leaders of this protest. In addition to this protest against the British took place in Supa, Surapur, Nargund and Dandeli. The leaders of this Protest were Mundargi Bhimrao, Bhaskar Rao Bhave, the Halgali Bedas, Raja Venkatappa Nayaka and others.

**Activity :**

*Collect the information from the newspapers about special provisions for Hyderabad Karantaka.*

**Do you know this?**

**The Halagali Bedas:**

*There is a small village called Halagali in Mudhol taluk of Bagalkot district. Earlier, it was under the rule of Mudhol dynasty. During the First War of Independence in 1857, the British promulgated a law banning use of arms in the areas under their control. This rule was extended to Halagali too. Halgali Bedas who had been using rifles for hunting since many generations, were not ready to hand over these arms. To protect their hereditary rights, the Bedas revolted against the British. In this battle, the neighbouring areas of Halagali like Muntur, Bodani and the Hunters of Alagundi joined hands with the Halagali Bedas. The British army reached Halagali to crush this revolt. The British mercilessly and violently punished the revolters and crushed the rebellion by hanging them. Thus ended the Hunter revolt.*

**Madras Karnataka:**

In the 19th Century, the Kannada-speaking regions of Bellary and South Canara came under the rule of Madras provincy.

Venkatappanayaka of Ikkeri occupied the region of South Canara in the early part of the 17th century. Later, he shifted his capital to Bidanur. The Keladi rulers under Venkatappanayaka continued to rule over this region till the middle of the 18th century. The English relations with South Canara started in 1737. In addition to obtaining permission to trade from Bidanur rulers, in certain places they even gained monopoly to trade in pepper and cardamom.

Hyder Ali after his conquest of Bidanur in 1763, later even acquired Mangalore. He even converted this region into a Naval harbour. In 1780, when the British engaged in a battle with Hyder, the Commander of Bombay captured Kundapur. As Bidanur fell into the hands of the British, Tippu's army entered the scene. As a result, the British had to retreat. During this period, many areas in South Canara were reeling under the impact of the Coorg rebellion. On Account of the Partition Treaty that took place in the same year, Mangalore came under British rule. In the year 1862, all the regions north of Kundapur were transferred to Bombay Presidency and the remaining regions of Bellary and South Canara came under the rule of Madras Presidency.

### **Mumbai Karnataka:**

Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwad and some regions of North Canara were under the rule of Bombay Presidency.

After the decline of the state of Vijayanagar the local rulers of Canara became independent. Subsequently, the Sultans of Bijapur naturally stakes over this region. After the fall of Bijapur in 1686, the region of Canara came under the rule of the Moghuls. Later, it was acquired by the Marathas. As a result of this, the Palegars of Sonda and Bidanur came under the rule of Moghuls and offered tributes. Some time, after 1700, the Marathas occupied the region of Canara. When Hyder Ali occupied Bidanur in 1763 and acquired enormous wealth, he also brought Sonda and the coastal areas under him. Due of this, he developed enmity with the Marathas. Tippu during his war with the English, lost Honnavar. After the death of Tippu, the British took possession of Sonda. However, due to its proximity with the regions of Bombay, the north Canara including sonda was in 1861, transferred to Bombay presidency . It is because of the region of Canara got divided into North Canara and South Canara.

Even before the battle of Talikote, regions of Dharwad were occupied by the Bijapur sultans. Once upon a time Dharwad was

also under the Moghuls. Later, both Hubli and Dharwad came under the attack of the Marathas. In the subsequent developments, Hubli and Dharwad came under the occupation of Hyder Ali and Tippu. But later the Marathas occupied this region and retained it till 1817. With fall of the Marathas in the same year, these regions came under the English. In 1836 Belgaum was separated from Dharwad. A remarkable event after this, was the protest of Naragunda Nayakas against the English in 1857-58. This has been called the revolt of Nargund. After the revolt, the English also took possession of Nargunda.

### **Coorg**

Coorg ruled by the Chengalvas for about eight centuries, lost their power by the 17th century. Later it was the Haleri Arasas who came into dominance. They defeated many Nayakas and Palyagars and came to power by about the 18th century. By the end of 18th century coorg came under the rule of Hyder and Tippu. The Haleri Arasas having lost their territory became dependent on the British. After the death of Tippu. Haleri chief Viraraja became the ruler of Coorg. After his death his queen began to rule as regent. Later, the state was ruled by Lingaraja. After Lingaraja, power was received by Chikkaviraraja. In the beginning, he took the assistance of the British. As he was cruel and a tyrant the British desposed and had him exiled. Later while he had travelled to England in is tyrant attempt to get back the money deposited by his family, but he died. It is significant to note that he was the first native ruler who had get his foot out of India.

Without any bloodshed Coorg went to the British. Coorg was divided and the region of lower Coorg was attached to Madras presidency. Due to this, the peasant in this part got entangled into enhanced revenue exploitation. They arrived at a condition where they borrowed loans from the middlemen to pay revenue. If they were unable to pay the revenue them, they had to undergo the suit filed by the government in the courts and the exploitation



of the lawyers. At this point of time a well wisher of Haleri rulers, Sanyasi by name Swamy Aparampara was arrested as he tried to organise the peasant against the British. His follower Kalyana Swami continued the effort of organising the peasants, was arrested and hang. This was not made a news. Then the movement was kept alive by projecting PuttaBasappa as Kalyana Swami. An influential peasant leader, Kedambadi Ramagowda of Amarasulya, a partner of Kalyana Swami organised struggled aganist the British. The peasant army in 1837 from Sulya entered Managalore and hoisted the flag of victory. With in the region of Kasargod to Mulki and from Sulya to Mangalore for 13 days the peasant activists ruled through their own government.

Inside Coorg also there ensued struggle under the leadership of Guddemane Appayya Gowda. This struggle was suppressed by the British through the Diwans of Coorg. The army came from Madras abated the struggle from Mangalore. The British projected this as a revolt. some of the important activists of the struggle were hanged to death; while a few were arrested and exiled. This struggle of lower Coorg and Coastal regions is significant as it occurred well before the 1857 struggle. The British ruled over Coorg with much more predominance till independent.

In the freedom struggle, pandyanda Belliyappa, chippudira, poonacha and others being influenced by Indian National Congress and Mahathma Gandhi, organised Satyagraha against the British. They were not detered even where they were imprisoned by the British. The Satyagraha struggle which took place by witting the peasants and the masses in the freedom struggle has been truely memorable.

## EXERCISES

### I Fill in the blanks with suitable words:

1. The first Anglo Mysore war was ended with the treaty of \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The colony of French was \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The son of Hyder Ali was \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Kodagu was ruled eight centuries by \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. In the beginning of 17th century the south canara conquered by \_\_\_\_\_ .

**II Discuss the following in groups and answer the questions:**

1. How did Hyder Ali fight the British?
2. What was the cause for the Second Mysore War?
3. The 'Srirangapatna Treaty' was inevitable for Tippu. Explain.
4. Which are the areas of 'Hyderabad Karnataka'?
5. Explain the friendship between the British and Venkatappa Nayaka of Ikkeri.
6. Describe the role of Guddemane Appayyagowda in the Coorg mutiny.
7. Explain how Mumbai-Karnataka area became part of British territory.

**III Activities:**

1. Collect pictures of the temples constructed by Tippu Sultan in Mysore province and prepare an album.

**IV Project:**

1. Collect information about the special status given to Hyderabad-Karnataka area and prepare a report.

