Introduction
The dying embers of the 18th century in India witnessed the fall of great Kingdoms and principalities, strife and civil war, blood and thunder. Out of the horrors of war and reckless carnage, which disfigure the history of south India in the 18th century, emerges the vision of Tipu Sultan as a fearless warrior, an indefatigable worker and a man of cultured tastes. He possessed in an eminent degree the qualities that go to make an able ruler and a distinguished administrator. He was essentially a man of the sword. He leaves no shadow of doubt about his objectives, his ideas, his plans and his activities for action. He was barely 32 years old when ascended to the throne of Mysore state. It is this youth and vitality, this dynamism and purposeful vision which activated and coloured his actions throughout his life.

Tipu Sultan (1782-1799) the worthy son of his worthy father, inherited a fairly efficient system of government from Haider Ali, but owing to his zeal for innovation and improvement, he introduced considerable changes into his administration. The period in which he had taken command of Mysore state was a period of transformation from medieval military crafts to modern warfare. He organised his military system on a line distinctly different from those
of the other Indian states. He made technological changes in the method of warfare, introduced western standards of discipline, deployment of fire-arms, modern tactics and all the improved skill of musketry and artillery into Mysorean army.

British through trade, diplomacy, duplicity, subversion, coercion and war had extended their influence to the large parts of India. In order to face the formidable British challenge, he devised several strategies to seek foreign military assistance and recognition. His energy and activity were astonishing. He had an open and inquisitive mind and according to the late Prof. H.H. Dodwell, "He was the first Indian ruler to apply western methods to his administration." He engaged European technicians and ammunition experts to train and tutor his troops and war technology, to organise his arsenals and introduce Europeans arts and crafts and mode of production in his kingdom.

Quite a few studies have appeared on the life of Tipu Sultan which have tried to belie many of the canards propagated about him.

Military technology and modernisation trends under Tipu Sultan in the 18th century Mysore, have
hardly been studied. Further a comprehensive study of this subject could go a long way in improving our understanding of the developments in technology in the 18th century India. The proposed research work seeks to investigate the changes, improvements, manufacturing of industrial material and weapons of war, their composition and method of warfare.

The study will then be able to provide answers to questions of the linkages between polity and technology the state adopted within the context of early colonialism. It is hoped that this study will enable the reader to appraise the attitude to modernisation and progress in the field of military technology of this extraordinary personality of the 18th century.

The proposed thesis is thus divided into eight chapters. First chapter deals with the early 18th century situation in India and the emergence of new trends on political scene. Second and third chapter discuss in great length the status and standard of military know-how from the time of Haider Ali to the time of Tipu Sultan. It also contains information about military technology, its production, income, expenditure and mechanism. Fourth chapter deals with strategies and tactics of war in the battlefield applied successfully.
by Haider and Tipu against their rivals and their defence techniques. **Fifth chapter** contains an exhaustive information about modernisation trends in military technology. This sheds light on the changes, improvements and innovations. **Sixth chapter** discusses Tipu's relationship with European officers, experts and engineers and their role in training and tutoring Mysorean technology and army. **Seventh chapter** gives a resume of the history of Mysore and its effects. It shows how Mysore became a leading military power in the 18th century India and understood the concept of colonialism, and adopted western sciences and thoughts in polity. **Last chapter** is the conclusive part of the whole research work, really, an interesting and impressive one.

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