CHAPTER – II

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Mandya district does not form any distinct geographical unit, but is a part of the large plateau from Mysore, to the edges of the Eastern Ghats. Therefore, there are not many legends describing the origin of the district as such but there are quite a few legends describing the origin of certain places like Mandy, Maddur and Srirangapatna in the district. The legends or the puranas have made these places either holy or important. Most of the area of Mandya district is made up of plain lands the waters of the rivers that flow in it enrich the district. Mandya the district centre is also known as the land of five rivers due to the presence of the river Cauvery, the Hemavathi, the Shimsha, the Veeravaishnavi and the Lokapavani and is considered from ancient times, as suitable for the evolution of human civilization. Endowed by nature with fertile valleys, hilly areas, plain lands, thick forests, rivers, islands, rich fauna, natural caves fit for habitation, several kinds of stones essential for the manufacture of stone implements have considerably influenced the area in contribution to the human evolutionary process\(^1\) although pre historic settlements found in the district are very few, the new stone age settlements that have come to light in Pandavapura taluk noteworthy. Proto history sites like Kuntibetta

\(^1\) Karnataka State Gazetteer, Mandya District,2003, p-37
and Srirangapattana, Belakavadi, Muthatti etc, have been discovered in Pandavapura taluk. Excavations carried out at Kuntibetta have brought out remnants belonging to Old Stone Age. New Stone Age, Iron age are early historic period cultures. Polished stone implements belonging to Neolithic age are reported from Srirangapattana. It becomes clear from these findings that Mandya district had been the home for human habitation for several hundreds of years. Large number of renowned centers of puranic times is also found in Mandya district.²

**2:1 ORIGIN OF THE NAME:**

According to Mythological accounts of Mandya, the place before it was called Mandya seems to have been known as Vedaranya and later, as Vishnupura. In the Krita Yuga, it is said, this part of the country was covered with thick Jungles and a rishi was doing tapas (Penance) here. He installed an image of the God Janardana or Varadarajaswami and was said to be teaching the wild beasts to pronounce the sacred word, veda on this account, the place came to be known a Vedaranya, several years later, but in the same Yuga another rishi who was residing here setup an image of the God Sakaleshwara Swami, and Lord Vishnu, it is said, appeared to him the place was thereafter renamed as Vishnupura. Yet another account says that in the age of Dwapara Yuga, a king by name

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² Mysore State Gazetteer, Mandya District, 1967, p-29
Indravarma, who had no issues, came to this place in the hope of getting a son. His prayer were answered and his son, Somavarma, built a fort and an agrahara at this place and gave it the name Mandevemulu, which is believed, has been corrupted into Mandya.\textsuperscript{3} Another legend says that in the ancient days, a great and popular sage called Mandavya, lived and did tapas and the place later came to known as Mandya after his name and many agree to this point.\textsuperscript{4} Another historical accounts says that this village to as granted by Krishnadevaraya of Vijayanagar in 1516 to Govinda Raja, a disciple of the religious reformer, Ramanujacharya. The first Brahmin families, which settled down here, named the place Mandya after their native place near Tirupati.\textsuperscript{5}

No extraordinary historical events have occurred in this place but for the fact that some parts of the district ruled by the Gangas, Cholas, Hoysala, Vijayanagar Kings, by Wodeyar dynasty of Mysore and then by Haider Ali and Tippu Sultan and in a later stage it was under the control of East India Company of the Britishers.

From about the 2\textsuperscript{nd} century A.D. to about the beginning of 11\textsuperscript{th} century A.D. the central and the southern part of the old Mysore state, including Mandya district and parts of the Cauvery basin were ruled by the Gangas. Their grants, of which some fifty- two are on copper plates,

\textsuperscript{3} Ibid .pp-1,2  
\textsuperscript{4} Karnataka Rajaya Gazetteer Samputa,3, 1986  
\textsuperscript{5} Mandya Jilleya Ithiasa mattu Puratatva, ed, by Dr R. Gopal, 2003,p- 167
have been found at many places in the state and the neighbouring areas. Maddur and the villages around about formed part of the province of Chikka Gangavadi. The Ganga Kings, who ruled over Gangavadi, number about thirty-three. Among these rulers, the inscription of Sripursha, Kongani Maharaja, Permanadi, Sivamara, Ereyappa, Nitimarga I, Satyavakya Rachamalla, Nitimarga II, Marasimha, Satyavakya etc. have been found. These inscriptions refer to either grants of land to some persons or to the construction of some temples. A few inscriptions are on Viragals or stone slabs erected in memory of the warriors who gave up their lives in battle fought on behalf of the Gangas. These inscriptions have been found in some places of Mandya districts and in Bangalore and Mysore districts.

Durvinita was one of the most interesting of the Ganga Kings, he seems to have extended the Ganga dominion to the south and east, for he is said to have wage wars for the possession of Andari, Alattur (in the present Coimbatore district), Purulare (in Chinglepet), Pennagaram (in Dharmapuri district) and other places and in described as ruler of the whole of Pannad and Punnad. Inscription referring to Durvinita have found in Dodda-Ballapur, Tumkur, Chikamagalur and Uttanur. As all these place are outside Mandya district in different directions, it can be concluded that this district was included in the dominions belonging to

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6 Rashtrakuta relations with the Gangas of Talakad, Dr Shivanna, 1997, p -3
the Gangas, till they were overpowered by the Cholas. Durvinita was succeeded by his son Mushkara, of whom little known. Mushkara’s son was Srivikrama who two sons who in turn, succeeded him of them the elder, Bhuvikrama, who came to the throne in about 608 A.D. was the son of a daughter of a Chola King. He was apparently a great warrior and defeated the Pallava King, Narasimhapotravarma, in a great battle and said to have captured the whole of the Pallava kingdom. On account of his success in war, he received the title Srivallabha, and in the inscriptions Srirangapatna-16, he is called Dugga. He is said to have made Mankuda, in the present Channapatna taluk, the royal residence, from the inscription Mandya-113 we obtain the date 670 A.D. for the end of his reign.

The next ruler who came was Bhuvikrama, followed by his younger brother; Shivamara I. He is described as ‘Shista-Priya’ means learned man of good character occurs in Mandya-113. His period may be taken to be between 679-729 A.D.

Shivamara’s grandson, Sripurusha, is another great king of the Ganga dynasty. He inflicted a crushing defeat on the Pallavas. His rule brought prosperity to the kingdom and was called “Siri Rajya” or prosperous kingdom. He ruled between 726 and 788 A.D. Shivamara’s

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7 Epigraphia Carnatica III
8 History of the Western Gangas, B.Sheik Ali, 1976, p-385
9 E. C. III, Mandya, No 113, p 50
reign, did not bring prosperity to the Gangas. The kingdom became subjected to calamities, which threatened the extinction of the Gangas. Dhruva, the Rashtrakuta king seized and imprisoned the Ganda king. As mentioned in the inscription – 93 of Heggadadevana kote, Kambharasa, the son of Dhruva governed the ninety six thousand, a common designation of the Ganga territory under his father. After him, when his younger brother, Govinda was on the throne, Ganga mandala was under his occupation. But the Govinda, either as seems likely, on the death of his elder brother or moved by reasons of compassion or policy released the Ganga king from his “Long and painful confinement” but owing to his hostility had again to confine him. The Ganga king, during the period of his release, seems to have attacked the Vallabha or Rashtrakuta. But as ill- luck would have it, he was not successful in his efforts. Govinda had received the help of the Chalukya haihaya, besides many cheiftans. In the decisive battle of Mudugundur in Mandya district, the allies were defeated Sivamara II was once again captured and put into prison. Eventually however, Govinda reinstated him in his kingdom. These Vicissitudes seems to have led to a virtual partition of the Ganga kingdom between Marasimha, the son of Shivamara, and Vijayaditya, the brother of Shivamara. In 817 A.D., Rajamalla I mentioned in the inscription also

10 M.A.R, 1920, para, 54, p-63
11 History of the Western Gangas , B.Sheik Ali,1976, p- 92
as Rachamalla, came to the throne of the Ganga kingdom, which had considerably shrunk in size, owing to annexation of large portions of Gangavadi by the Rashtrakutas. He had to contend with the Rashtrakuta power as also his own feudatories for maintaining the integrity and stability of his kingdom. He was noted for his valour and liberal gifts.

Rachamalla I was succeeded by his son named Nitimarga I. who was a contemporary of the great Rashtrakuta king Amoghavarsha II. The Rashtrakutas still showed signs of disturbing the peace of his kingdom. Nitimarga seem to have gained a great victory in 868 A.D. over their army at Rajanamadu, which is to the North of Kolar district.

Besides this victory, Nitimarga is credited with the captured of Banavasa Maharajara Nad.\footnote{E.C. X Mulbagal-228,p-25} Inscription No 79 of Kolar district shows that, under Nitimarga, the Nolamba- Pallava king, Nolambadhiraja, was ruling the Ganga 6000. At the head of Doddabundi stone\footnote{E.C.III T.Narasipura-91,p-70} is a reede but interesting bas – relief depicting Nitimarga’s death, the date of which event in 869 A.D. Nitimarga was succeeded by his elder son, Rachamalla II. According to inscription, he might be taken to have ascended the throne in 869-870 A.D. under him, Nolambadhiraja ruled over Ganga 6000 as a feudatory. This Nolambadhiraja is apparently the same person who ruled Ganga-6000. Rachamalla’s younger brother, Butuga was the Yuvaraja in 870 A.D. He was a great warrior but died before his elder
brother. In the srirangapatna inscription- 147, Ereganga, the son of Butuga, is said to have become the Yuvaraja. Rachamalla II associated Ereganga with himself in the government of the country and crowned him under the name of Ereyappa. Ereyappa was known by the names of Nitimarga, Satyavakya and Mahendrantaka. At this time, Nolomba kings seem to have been in possession of Mandya and the neighbouring places.

Inscription No 13 of 895 A.D. and another inscription of 903 A.D. of Mandya district makes mention of the Nolamba king, Mahendra. Ereyappa defeated and killed Mahendra in battle and was, therefore, called Mahendrantaka.

Ereyappa, who was also known as Nitimarga II ascended the throne about 907 A.D He had three sons. After Ereyappa’s death, his eldest son, Narasimhadeva, ascended the throne. He seems to have died young without leaving any heir to succeed him; for after him his younger brother Rachamalla III came to the throne.

Rachamalla III conquered and put to fight the Nolamba king. The Kadlur plate gives us some details about the war between the Ganga ruler Rajamalla and Nolamba chief Anniga who fought at Kottamangala. In this battle Rajamalla inflicted a blow on Anniga.\textsuperscript{14} But Rachamalla also did not rule long. The Atukur inscription (Ec; Mandya- 411, dated in saka year, saumya 872, corresponding to 950 A.D.) informs us that Butuga

\textsuperscript{14} Kadalur Plates, M.A.R., 1921, para 41 to 59
slew Rachamalla after a fight and took possession of Gangavadi 96000, when this event actually occurred is not known. There was at this time a renewed friendship between the Ganga’s and the Rashtrakutas. A sort of offensive and defensive alliance seems to have been entered into between Butuga and Amoghavarsha II of the Rashtrakutas. Amoghavarsha’s daughter was given in marriage to Butuga. Butuga defeated Chola king Rajaditya, in 949 A.D. and killed in single combat at a place called Takkalam near Arkonam. Butuga was succeeded by his second son, Marasimha III who also was a great warrior. He defeated and put an end to the Nolamba dynasty and hence is known as Nolambataka. Marasimha III left three sons, of whom Rachamalla Satyavakya IV and Rakkasaganga ruled Gangavadi one after the other. Chaundaraya, the powerful minister and general of Rachamlla IV, waged several wars against hostile neighbors and put down refractory feudatories. He carried out administrative reforms and also built the colossal image of Gomateshwara at Sravanabelagola in 983 A.D.

There are inscriptional references in Mandya district for the construction of a large number of tanks- bunds and numerous temples during the period of the Ganga dynasty. Scholars, on the basis of an inscription in Shikaripur taluk, think that a Ganga official named Tirumalayya built the Sriranganatha temple at Srirangapattana in 894 A.D.
Due to the non-availability of inscriptions evidence to support the said claim, it has not been possible to finally accept it. The Trikutta Basadi complex at Kambadahalli in Nagamangala taluk. An official chagi, as desired by the Ganga king Satyavakya Permanadi and Yereyapparassam, according to an inscription found there built the Kallu Basadi at Kyatahanahalli in Pandavapura taluk. Devarahalli copper plates of A.D. 776-77 refer to a Basadi built at that time.

2:2 CHOLAS:

In Rakkasaganga’s time the Cholas under the command of Rajendra Chola son of the reigning king Rajaraja Chola, succeeded in capturing Talakad, the capital of the Gangas and over threw them, who had ruled over the district of Mysore, Mandya and parts of Bangalore, Kolar and Tumkur for nearly a thousand years. This event seems to have taken place in 1004 A.D. A lithic grant Rakkasaganga’s reign has been found at Hale Budanur in Mandya taluk. He continued to rule as a feudatory of the Cholas upto 1024 A.D. The whole region, south of the river Cauvery from Coorg and east of a line from near Srirangapatna to Nandidurga, was overrun by the Cholas and annexed to their empire; the area was under their rule for about 100 years.
2:3 HOYSALAS:

The Hoysalas, who had established their power in the western part of the Old Mysore state, had their capital at Dwarasamudra. About the place name Dwarasamudra there are many opinions. According to the traditional opinion the word Dora or Dwara is said to be synonymous with the Sanskrit word Dwara. Another opinion is that Dora is another name of Rashtrakuta Dhruva. In the Neragal inscription of Hanagal taluk\textsuperscript{15} it appears that Dhruva was also called Rashtrakuta Dora. An official named Dora got a tank built that appears like a sea (samudra);\textsuperscript{16} therefore the name Dwarasamudra is generally believed to have come into usage. The lion’s share of the Hoysala inscriptions from the Mandya district. About 246 inscriptions of this dynasty have been so far reported and hence this district is identified as the heart-land of the Hoysala.

Vinayaditya, who came to the throne in 1047, was the first known of this dynasty. He succeeded the hill chieftains of the neighbouring areas. The Hoysalas gained a much greater power after 1111 A.D. under Bittideva (after words called Vishnuvardhana). He retook Talakad and drove the Cholas out of Mysore. The capture of Talakad was affected by his general Gangaraja, who was a descendant of old Ganga kings. Vishnuvardhana recovered all the Ganga dominions and took the title of Vira Ganga. In 1117 A.D., he claims to be resting over a territory extending from

\textsuperscript{15} E.I.-VI.163
\textsuperscript{16} M.A.R.,1924.p-80
Nangali in Mulbagal taluk of Kolar district in the east of Barkur in south Kanara in the west and from Kongu (Salem, Dharmapuri and Coimbatore districts) in the south of savimale in the north. Therefore, it is evident that Mandya district was included in the dominions of the Hoysalas.

In the beginning of the fourteenth century, the Muslims from north attacked the Hoysalas and in 1326, capital Dwarasamudra was captured by Malik Kafur. The Hoysala ruler, Ballala III, retired at first to Tondanur or Tonnur in Srirangapatna taluk and then resided at other places maintaining and enfeebled power upto 1342. He was succeeded by his son Ballala IV who ruled till about 1346, when the Hoysala kingdom was annexed by the Vijayanagar rulers.

**2:4 VIJAYANAGARA EMPIRE:**

The political vaccum that followed the decline of Hoysala Empire came to an end with the establishment of the Vijayanagar Empire in 1336 A.D. and gave fillip to the ensuing political security. In Mandya district there are more than 100 inscriptions of the Vijayanagara times. Inscriptions belonging to the period of Harihara I is found in Mandya district. It is possible therefore, that this is a definite evidence for the ancient relations of Vijayanagar Empire with this district. Narasa, the

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17 The Crescent in India, S R.Sharma. 1954,p-87
18 Karnataka State Gazetteer, Mandya District Gazetteer,2003 p-74
19 Ibid ,p-75
founder of the third dynasty in Vijayanagar, captured Srirangapatna in about 1495. A Viceroy of the Vijayanagar rulers was stationed at Srirangapatna he levied tribute on the neighbouring chiefs to the east of Srirangapatna. There were chiefs at Ummattur, Mugur and other places.

2:5 UMMATTUR CHIEF:

Ganga Raja of Ummattur established a principality at Shivasamudra in the belonging of the Sixteenth century, the island at the falls of the Cauvery. He seems to have captured Srirangapatna from the Viceroy and retained it under him for some years. Since he assumed independence and claimed Penukonda, Krishnadevaraya, the then ruler of Vijayanagar, led, in 1511 A.D; one of the earliest expectations of his reign against him and capture his fort and took Srirangapatna. After a prosperous rule, Ganga Raja was succeeded by his son Nandi Raja, who, to at one for some ceremonial offence, leaped into the cataract at Ganga Chukki on horse-back with his wife. His son Ganga Raja II enlarged the city greatly and lived splendour. His two daughters were married, one to chief of Kilmale, near Satyagalla, and other to the chief of Nagarakere, near Maddur in Mandya district. Krishnadevaraya the greatest of the rulers of Vijayanagar died in 1529 and succeeded by his brother, Achutharaya. Achutharaya visited Srirangapatna in 1532 on his way back

\[20\] E.I.,VIII,18
from Srirangam. In Mandya district 13 inscriptions belonging to the period of Achutharaya have been found. The Vijayanagar Empire declined in extent and power after the battle of Rakasa-Tangadi 1565 A.D. After the defeat and death of Aliya Ramaraya at the hands of the Deccan, TirumalaRaya, the younger brother of Ramaraya went to Penukonda with the nominal emperor, Sadashiva Raya, and began to rule from there in the name of Sadashiva till 1570, after which date he made himself king. According to inscriptions and library works, Thirumala had four son named Raghunatha, Sriranga, Rama and Venkata Rama or Rama Raja became the Viceroy of the Srirangapatna region. The Vasucharitramu mentions that his rule extended over the territory between the Cauvery and the Arabian Sea with his capital at Srirangapatna. Several records of his attest to his rule at srirangapatna. His elder son, Tirumala II, appears to have succeeded him in Srirangapatna. The first record so far known of him is one dated in 1584 A.D., which records the grant of Timmasamudra village to a number of Brahmins by an agent of his in the Srirangapatna province. He continued as the Viceroy at Srirangapatna even during the reign of Venkata I at Penukonda, for we find grants of his in this area dated in 1589, and 1591 A.D. In the first of these research dated in 1589, he is termed Virapratapa, indicating his independent rule, while in the second

21 E.C.III.Srirangapatna-47
22 E.C.III, Mandya -5 and 25
dated in 1591 A.D. a grant is said to have been made by his minister for the merit of Rama Raja father of Tirumala II. There were evidently a number of local chiefs scattered throughout the Mysore territory during this period. The Wodeyars of Mysore had first established their rule at Hadinadu and Karvgahalli near Mysore. Bettada Chamaraja Wodeyar of this dynasty, who came to the throne in 1513, changed the capital to mysore and began to extend his kingdom.

The Vijayanagar Emperors were powerful at this time and their Empire had extended over the whole of peninsular India; the Wodeyars of Mysore, along with other chieftains, had to acknowledge the suzerainty of the Vijayanagar rulers and pay tribute to them. During the fifteenth and sixteenth century the Vijayanagar rulers had bestowed on or confirmed to vassal chiefs, bearing various tittles, sundary tracks in Mysore, on the condition of payment of tribute and rendering of military service. The southern chiefs from south Kanara to Bangalore were placed under the Viceroy of Srirangapatna. Even after the decline of the Vijayanagar Empire after 1565, the many vassal chiefs continued to pay allegiance to the rulers at Penukonda and the Viceroy stationed at Srirangapatna.

2:6 WODEYAR DYNASTY:

The emergency of the Ruling House of Mysore in 1399 is an eventful one in the history of south India. This date bears its impress upon
the tradition preserved in the annals of the Mysore Royal Family. There are many versions of how the Wodeyar dynasty came into being amidst the confusion and chaos prevailing at that time. Yadu Raya and Krishna, two brothers, who were princes of the lunar race and of Yadava descent, proceeded on a pilgrimage from Dwaraka to Melkote to worship Sri Narayana. After fulfilling this duty, they crossed the Cauvery River and worshipped Goddess Chamundeshwari. About this time, the chief of that place Chamaraja had died leaving behind him the do wager queen and a daughter. Maranayaka, the army chief of the late Chamaraja had usurped all power and was harassing the queen and her daughter. Yadu Raya and Krishna, on hearing the treachery played by Maranayaka entered the town and slew him. The queen heaved a sign of relief and gave her daughter in marriage to Yadu Raya. Eventually, Yadu Raya assumed the principality of Mysore and became the progenitor of the Mysore Royal Family, the title Wodeyar being subsequently affixed to the name of each ruler. Of the early ruler of the dynasty Raja Wodeyar was an able ruler. Raja Wodeyar came into conflict with Tirumala II, the Viceroy at Srirangapatna and succeeded in gaining possession of srirangapatna about the year 1610.

23 Splendors of Royal Mysore. The untold Story of the Wodyers, Vikram Sampth , 2009,pp,10,11,12
Tirumala retired to Talakad when he shortly died. It is said Raja Wodeyar speedily subduing Tirumala Raja seated himself on the jeweled throne in Srirangapatna and gaining the Empire received obeisance from all kings. Raja Wodeyar made Srirangapatna his capital and extended his possessions south of the present Mysore and Mandya district. Thus, it is evident that Mandya district was included in the possessions of Raja Wodeyar. The Vijayanagar sovereign, Venkatapathi Raya of Penukonda, is said to have confirmed Raja Wodeyar in 1612 in the possession of Ummattur and Srirangapatna. A bas-relief of Raja Wodeyar is to be seen on a pillar in the Narayanaswami temple at Melkote. After the death of Raja Wodeyar the next important Wodeyar apart from the Wodeyar who succeeded Raja Wodeyar was Chikka Deva Raja Wodeyar (1679-1704).

In his time, the Mysore kingdom was extended on cell side. Srirangapatna became a flourishing city during Chikka Deva Raja’s time, “with plum, Jack, Coconut, Plantain, Lime, Orange, Fig and other fruit trees, with houses as high as hills was the city plants, with temples, with fine elephants like Airavatha, with horses neighing like the thunder of the clouds, with splendid chariots and foot soldiers; such was the beautiful city of Srirangapatna having splendid gate-ways, and ornament to the lady earth, surrounded by the Cauvery, filled with priests poets, wise men

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24 E.C.VI, Yedatore-17
and ministers”\(^{25}\). Another town of some importance was Malvalli\(^{26}\), which had a fort with a deep moat. It was, it is recorded, filled with men, learned in the Vedanta, sruti and Dharma Sastras. Apparently it was an intellectual centre if not actually a great seat of learning. At this place Chikka Deva Raja constructed in 1685 A.D. a magnificent pond for the use of the people. The political centre of gravity so far as Mysore was concerned had distinctly shifted from the west from Banavasi and Dwarasamudra to Srirangapatna which became the object of attraction to every aspiring power in India. The prestige of Mysore was enhanced and was considered as a power of reckon with.

His domestic policy also was spectacular. He had a council of ministers which was a powerful advisory body. He devoted considerable attention to the mint and treasury. By careful husbandry of resources, he had accumulated nine crore pagodas in his treasury and was called Navakotinarayana. In addition to the introduction of post and police service, taxes were codified and many fiscal reforms were introduced weights and measures were standardized, currency and coinage reorganized and trade and commerce regulated. His reign also witnessed unrivalled literary activity. Chikkadevaraja was a born ruler, a great administrator and a through politician.

\(^{25}\) E.C.III, Malavali-61
\(^{26}\) Mysore State Gazetteer, Mandya District, 1967, p-39
The successors of Chikkadevaraja were weak and incapable, and this paved the way first for the Dalvoy brothers and then for Hyder and his even more ambitious son Tipu.

2:7 HYDER ALI 1761-1782

It was by 1761 A.D. Hyder Ali assumed complete power though completely uneducated he was a military genius. He came to power in a kingdom threatened by lawless and recurrent invasions. During the period of Hyder Ali he established a mint and struck coins known as Hyder and Bahaduri Pagoda in his own name. A dockyard and a naval arsenal were further formed on the western coast for the construction of ships of war. Mahe was the port through which Hyder Ali received military supplies from the Mauritius. He had therefore declared it to be under his protection, as being situated in his territory and had threatened to lay waste the province of Arcot if it were attached by the English. Hyder had become a terror to all his neighbours for having united talents of profound politician to those of an able warrior; he showed uncommon abilities in forming the Judicious establishment, both civil and military to his dominions as in course of time rendered him the most formidable and potent prince in the Hindustan.27

Kirmanis characterization of Hyder Ali is furnished below. “In all the cities and towns of his territory besides new writers, he appointed

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27 A Concise History of Karnataka, Dr Suryanata U.Kamath 2007, p-250
separately secret written and spies to patrol the streets at night and from them received his intelligence. He was a slave to the regulation of his working establishments. All the operation or measures superintended by himself in prison; in so much that even leather, the lining of bullock bags, tent walls and strands of rope, all passed his inspection and were then deposited in his stores”.

Hyder Ali after placing Srirangapatna under the command of his brother-in-law, Makdum Ali, he produced with his army to Hoskote and captured it. Doddaballapur, Sira, Harapanahalli Penukonda and Rayadurga were next taken. After these conquests, Hyder Ali marched upon Bedanur in 1763 with the pretext of supporting a pretender to the throne of Bedanur and conquered it. There conquests of Hyder Ali were the foundation of all his subsequent power. He proceeded against Gutti near Anantpur, humiliated its Maratha chief Ghorpade, defeated the savanur Nawab and extended his boundaries beyond the Tungabhadra to Dharwad. But the Marathas defeated him in 1765 and again in 1766.

Gutti was returned to Ghorpade Hyder agreed to pay tribute to the Marathas. Soon Hyder came into conflict with the British due to his expansionist activities in Tamilnadu. “It would be a mistake to think that Hyder was anti British from the beginning”, say N.K. Sinha. Infact, he points out that Hyder had even offered to the British a defensive alliance against the Marathas and Nizam. But the Marathas, the Nizam and the
English had already aligned themselves against him. The First Anglo Mysore War that broke out in 1767 resulted in the rout of the British upto the gates of Madras in 1769. A treaty was concluded but, later when the Marathas invaded Mysore, and defeated Hyder in 1771, the British did not come to his help as agree upon in 1769. In the mean while Hyder had subdued Kodagu (Coorg) in 1772 and captured Chitradurga another rich principality in 1779. Major parts of Karnataka upto Dharward and Bellary, parts of Tamilnadu Kerala came under his control. He befriended the French. When Krishanrarja Odeyer II died in 1766 and his son Nanjaraja Odeya became his successor Hyder confiscated the royal jahgir given for the Raja’s maintenance and all the cash and valuables in the palace. The princes became virtual prisoners till his death in 1770. He was followed by Chamaraja VIII (1770-76) his elder brother.

In 1780 Hyder joined the confederacy formed against the English. The confederacy consisted of Mysore, the Marathas and Nizams. Hyder dashed into TamilNadu like an “impetuous torrent” and had a upper hand in the war. Hyder died in December 1782, when this second Anglo-Mysore war was going on. His son Tipu continued the war

2:8 TIPU SULTAN (1782-1799)

Tipu had led armies and had won many victories for his father during the Second Anglo Mysore war and even earlier. He continued the

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28 Ibid ,p- 25
war with the British after his father’s death. He defeated the British at Wandiwash in 1783. But in the west he lost Bidanur and Manglore. He concluded a treaty with the British. The French, with whom he was allied, deserted him after the signing of the Versailles Treaty in 1783, ending the American war of Independence. Tipu signed the Mangalore Treaty (1784).

Meanwhile, the Nizams and the Marthas took advantage of the preoccupation of Tipu and invaded the Mysore territory from the north. By the peace treaty of 1787, Kittur, Nargund and Badami were returned to the Marathas. Two years later Tipu attacked Travancore, a British ally and this caused the Third Anglo Mysore War (1790-92). After some initial success, Tipu had to face only reverses, and he came to be besieged in Srirangapattna in March 1792. His territory was reduced to half and he was forced to pay an indemnity. Two of his sons were surrendered as hostage to the British. Tipu felt hurt and humiliated. But the sultan was indomitable. He would have no rest till these aliens were ousted from the country. He negotiated with the French, The Amir of Afganistans and the sultan of Turkey. He refused to join the Subsidiary Alliance mooted by Lord Wellesley.

This caused the fourth Anglo Mysore war. The British were joined by the Marathas and the Nizams. Srirangapattna was besieged. Tipu fought heroically and fell (1799). Mysore was reduced to British subjection. Tipu’s belongings beyond the western and the Eastern Ghts
were taken away from Mysore. The rest of territory was returned to the successor of the Hindu Royal family, Krishnaraja Odeya III. When Chamaraja VIII, son of Krishnaraja II died in 1776, he was followed by Chamaraja IX whom Hyder had crowned in that year. When this prince died in 1769, Tipu did not appoint a successor and kept the throne vacant. It was the child of this deceased prince, Krishnaraja III, whom the British recognized as the king in 1799.

Tipu was well read, and had a good understanding of the world affairs. He was well informed about developments in science. He toiled hard for the prosperity of the state. He was a great innovator and tried to introduce new techniques in craft and agriculture.

2:9 KRISHNARAJA WODEYAR III (1811-1831)

The Raja, Krishnaraja Wodeyar III was at time a five year old boy. Who was the adopted grandson of Maharani Lakshammanni. The Governor – General directed that they should fix up the “Fortress of Mysore” as the most acceptable seat of the Raja’s residence. On the 30th June 1799, His Highness Sri Krishnaraja Wodeyar III was placed on the throne of Mysore. From that time onwards Mysore became the capital of the rulers. Srirangapatna became the property of the British East India Company and British troops were kept in the fort. Colonel Arthur Wellesley was in command of these troops till 1805. He was resided in
Darya Daulat Bagha, the summer palace which was Tipu Sultan’s favorite retreat from business. The inner ramparts within the fort were demolished to provide great space within the walls and the inner ditch was filled up in 1800. The course of this ditch may now be traced by the lines of tamarind trees planted along it when it was closed up. Srirangapatna began to decline after the close of the war. The population of the island, estimated by Buchanan to have reached at least 1,50,000 during the reign of the sultan, had sunk to 32,000, barely a year after Tipu’s death. A kind of fever also gradually made its appearance and necessitated the removal of the troops to Bangalore in 1811. The British government then leased the island to the Mysore ruler for a fixed sum of Rs 50,000 a year.

Srirangapatna was both the administrative capital of the state and the headquarters of the subsidiary force in 1799-1804, governed by General Wellesley. The Lal Bagh was assigned as the resident, while the principal mint, the General Treasury and The Huzur Cutcherry were located close to it, partly for the convenience of communication with the Resident but chiefly because Mysore, the place of residence of his was yet to be provided with buildings for these purpose. About the close of 1804, this deficiency at Mysore was remedied and offices were subsequently transferred to that place. The Lal Bagh was about the same

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29 Mysore State Gazetteer, Mandya District, 1967, p-60
time pronounced to be uninhabitable on account of its unhealthiness and proposals for transfer of the residency to Mysore were also taken up. The Resident was assisted by a secretary and a subordinate officer styled the Assistant Resident; there were besides, a Head Assistant Resident and a post master.\(^{30}\) Owing to the unsuitability of Srirangapatna for the European regiments, they were removed to Bangalore between 1809-1811. There was a mutiny of the European military officers in Srirangapatna in 1809, but it was easily suppressed. After 1811, only one regiment of Indian sepoys was kept at Srirangapatna as a local battalion. Some European regiments were stationed at Hirode or French Rocks, which place is now named Pandavapura. In 1830, Srirangapatna ceased to be a military station after the reduction of local battalion, the gun carriage manufactory being removed in June of the same year to fort St George Madras.

Mysore kingdom came to be annexed by the company in 1831, accusing the Maharaja of “maladministration and misgovernment”\(^{31}\). Two officers’ styled senior commissioner and junior commissioner were appointed to govern the territory of the Raja. This arrangement continued from 1831 to 1834. In April 1834, the post of junior commissioner was abolished and the government of the Mysore territory was put in charge of only one commissioner. In June 1843, colonel (afterwards Sir) Mark

\(^{30}\) A Concise History of Karnataka, Dr Suryanata U.Kamath 2007, p-250
\(^{31}\) Economic Development ok Karnataka, K.Puttaswamaiha, 1980 p-79
Cubbon took up the administration. He continued in the office for twenty six years.

The commissioner’s rule of Mysore State continued for fifty years from 1831 to 1881 in which year the Mysore territory was handed back to the Mysore Wodeyars. The commissioners, who administered the state, were Colonel Briggs, colonel W.Morreson, Mr Lushington, Mr. C.D.Drury, Mr., Mr. J.M. Mcleod, Sir Mark Cubbon, Mr. C.B. Saunders and Mr. L.M. Bowring. Krishna Raja Wodeyar III had died in 1868, his adopted son, Sri Chamarajendra Wodeyar, was recognized as his heir to the throne by the British government in India, as a result of the persistent effort of his predecessor and his people to Mysore royal family.

As stated earlier, Krishnaraja Wodeyar III adopted Chamaraja Wodeyar X in 1867. In 1881 Chamaraja X attained the age of eighteen, and was crowned as King with great pomp and splendor. In the same year, the British handed over the state to Chamaraja X. This act of giving the state back to its former ruler is known as Rendition.

The British also abolished the post of the commissioner and in its place appointed as Indian officer known as the Dewan to run the administration. The Dewan had two advisers to help him. The post of the British Resident was continued, but re-designed as representative of the Governor-General and chief commissioner of Croog. With these changes, a new chapter in the history of modern Mysore commenced from 1881. In
1894, Chamaraja X died at the age of 32. At that time, prince Krishnaraja was only ten years old. Hence, his mother acted as his guardian-regent. In 1902 Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV attained the age of 18 and assumed power. He ruled for 38 years and earned for himself the name of “creator of modern Mysore” by his benevolent and efficient administration. He strove hard to promote the moral and material welfare of the people and granted them a share in the administration of the state.

2:10 ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEWANS

As stated earlier, the post of the commissioner was abolished and a British Resident was appointed at the Mysore court. The post of Dewan was created and he was to be the head of the administrative machinery under the new set-up. Their administration continued till 1947 when India became Independent. There were in all thirteen Dewans. Among them, the most prominent were Sir M. Visveshwaraya and Sir Mirza Ismail. This chapter deals with the progress made by the state under them.

C. Rangacharlu 1881-1883- was the first Dewan. He established the Representative Assembly composing of 144 members who were leading merchants, planters and agriculturists. It was the first representative body of its kind in British.

Seshadri Iyer 1883-1901: Rangacharlu was succeeded by Sir K. Seshadri Iyer, a wise and talented administrator. He was responsible for
implementing many schemes aimed at the economic progress of the state. Railways and irrigation works were recognized as the most potent agents to this end. Railway construction was therefore pushed on and by 1884; 140 miles of state railway had been completed. This was further extended during 1893. The tracts that suffered most from famine were thus effectively provided for. The Mysore Railway was linked up with those of Bombay and Madras. Short railway line from Mysore to Nanjangud and another for the gold field in 1891 and 1893 respectively were completed. Thus, the 58 miles of railways at the time of rendition increased to 315 miles by 1895.

Irrigation works had all along been receiving particular attention and all available funds were devoted to the carrying out of large projects in tracts where they were most required. Till 1895, the expenditure under this head amounted to Rs 100 lakhs making an addition of 326 sq miles to the area under wet cultivation. Another very important measure was the granting of loans for digging irrigation wells of which 1,078 had been completed benefiting 7,000 acres. The Mysore Civil Service examination was started in 1891 to attract young brilliant men for Mysore Civil Service. Shivasamudra hydro-electric project implemented by him in 1899-1900 was pioneering scheme.

32 A Concise History of Karnataka, Dr Suryanata U.Kamath 2007, p-254
33 Economic Development ok Karnataka, K.Puttaswamaiha, 1980 p-80
In 1889, liberal concession were granted with the view of promising the establishment of iron works on a large scale in Malavalli. The development of agriculture and statistics was formed in 1886 and an agriculture exhibition was held in 1888. Agriculture banks were stared in 1894. The importance of promising industrial enterprise to a country so largely dependent on agriculture was clearly seen.

**Sir M. Visveshwaraya:** The name of Sir M. Visveshwarya has the pride of place in the history of Modern Mysore. He joined Mysore service in 1909 as chief engineer. He was a sort of visionary and fore sighted economist. In 1902 he had published a book, “A Vision of Prosperous Mysore” in which he had stressed the need for spread of education, spread of technical knowledge and proposed for irrigation, industrialization and commercial progress. Another most important work undertaken during 1911-1912 was the construction of a dam across Cauvery at Kannambaddi during 1913 among other measure worthy of note intended to ameliorate the conditions in rural areas. One of these was the formulation of the scheme for the formation of village improvement committees. Between 1912-1918 i.e. during Sir M Visvesvaraya’s dewanship. Mysore witnessed a period of all round development. This was a period of great industrial development. From 1916 it was decided

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34 Ibid p-80
to hold district and talk level conference to stimulate public interest in the economic development encourage industries and commerce.

The industries started during the period were (1) sandal oil factory, Mysore;
(2) Soap factory; (3) metal factory; (4) the chrome tanning factory; (5) the central industrial work shop at Bangalore; (6) Iron and wood distillation works at Badravathi. To voice the grievance of the industrialist, to study commercial question and to focus and consolidate commercial opinion on current topics the Mysore Chamber of Commerce came into being in the year 1916 35 Agricultural Schools was established. Industrial and technical schools were established at district headquarters. The Mysore University was founded in 1916

Sir Mirza .M. Ismail: Mirza Ismail became the Dewan in May, 1926 (1926-1941). His dewanship witnessed industrial development in Mysore. British looked the state from its development and remarked; “Mysore, ruled by Maharaja of infinite charm and saintliness of life, helped by a dewan, Sir Mirza Ismail, whose wisdom, moderation and sobriety have won universal applause in India as well as England. A number of industries were started. They are the steel plant, paper mills, the cement factory all at Bhadravathi, porcelain factory, glass factory,

35 The Political Economy of Indirect Rule, Mysore 1881-1947, Bjorn Hettne, 1978.p-262
Hindustan Air Craft at Bangalore, sugar factory at Mandya\textsuperscript{36} etc. A number of new railways were constructed. The extension of irrigation received vigorous attention in the period. The Irwin Canal was excavated and it brought nearly 1, 24,000 acres under the plough in the taluks of Mandya, Malavalli and T.Narasipura\textsuperscript{37}. Mirza had done a great deal to make Mysore a garden city during his period as secretary to the Maharaja. As dewan, he made Bangalore the city of parks, promenades and well-lit squares. He was also responsible for laying illuminated Brindavan garden of Mysore.

It was indicated that; “there can be no separate Karnataka province without Mysore participating in it and the only way in which Mysore can participate in it lies in bringing British Karnataka under Mysore”. Prof Harlow remarked that, “I had during my stay in Mysore an opportunity of visiting Kannambadi Dam and the gorgeous “Brindavan Garden” which nature and man had conspired to give to the world a gorgeous colourful spectacle, which has combined within its beauty of the environment and the skill of the Mysore engineer to the greatest advantage. The result is Mysore has given to the world, a spectacle the like of which I have not come across in any other part of the world. The dam itself is a remarkable piece of work\textsuperscript{38}”.

\textsuperscript{36} Ibid, p-290
\textsuperscript{37} Ibid, p-271
\textsuperscript{38} Economic Development ok Karnataka, K.Puttaswamaiha 1980,P.
The great maharaja who supported the dewans in all the development work died in August 1940 and was succeeded by Sri Jayachmaraja Wodeyar, who granted responsible government to the people and became a constitutional ruler in October 1947, and later became Rajapramukh and also the Governor, in keeping with the democratic structure of the country.

2:11 ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY OF MANDYA

Mandya as a district came into being only in 1939, and before that, it was a part of Mysore district. But Srirangapatna, which is now only the headquarters of a taluk, was once the headquarters of a vijayangar viceroy. About 1610 A.D. Raja Wodeyar of Mysore gained possession of Srirangapatna and made it his capital. After the fall of Tippu, the capital was shifted from Srirangapatna to Mysore in 1799. During the reign of His Highness the Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar III from 1811 to 1831, the entire kingdom was divided into six foujdars and the present Mandya district formed part of the ashtagrama foujdari. When the British commission was formed in 1834, these six foujdaries were reconstituted into four divisions, namely, Bangalore, Nagara, Chitradurga and Ashtagrama, each under a European superintendent with revenue and judicial powers. The Superintendents of divisions had been allowed to exercise great authority and had rarely been interfered with in district
administrative arrangements and consequently there was no uniformity of practice in the different division, which was so large that the superintendents could not do their work efficiently\(^\text{39}\).

In order to remedy this defect, Mr. Bowring, who was the commissioner, introduced in 1862-63, a general scheme of reorganization and divided the state into three division, each under a superintended and these again into eight districts, each under a deputy superintendent. In 1869, when the office of the chief commissioner of Mysore was created, the superintendents of division came to be styled as commissioner and deputy superintendents in charge of district were called deputy commissioners. In 1879, when the commission was once reorganized, the posts of commissioners of division were abolished with the result that under the chief commissioner, there was only the deputy commissioners of the district, under them were assistance commissioners, and under them, the ameldars. As said earlier, the area now comprising the present Mandya district first formed part of astagrama foujadari, later it formed a part of ashtagrama division and when the state was divided into eight district, it was included in Mysore district. In order to understand the administrative history of the district, it is necessary to study the administrative changes that took place from time to time in Mysore district.

\(^{39}\)Mysore State Gazetteer, Mandya District, 1967 p-3
In 1869, the Mysore district was divided, for purpose of administration, into 14 taluks or amildaris, the name and extent of which are given below.

Table 2:1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taluks</th>
<th>Area in sq miles</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Mysore</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>99,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Chamarajanagare</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>76,622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Patana Ashtagrama including the island of Srirangapatna</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>67,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Periyapatna</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>87,587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Yedatore</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>39,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) Heggadadevanakote</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>40,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7) Gundlupet</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>46,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8) Nanjangud</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>42,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9) Mysore Ashtagrama</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>34,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10) Talakad</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>58,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11) Mandya</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>45,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12) Maddur</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>32,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13) Malavali</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>52,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14) Yelandur (Jagir)</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>23,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,495</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,46,568</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Mandya district Gazetteer\(^{40}\)

Out of the fourteen taluks that was formed the Mysore district, only the four taluks of Patna Ashtagram, Mandya, Maddrur and Mallavalli form part of the present Mandya district. Maddur taluk was formed into a sub-talu in 1875 and later, in 1886, it was absorbed in Mandya taluk. Several administrative changes took place in the year 1882 and the two district of

\(^{40}\) Ibid, p-3
Chitradurga and Hassan were abolished. The four taluks of the southern half of Hassan district, viz; Arkalgud, Channarayapatna, Nagamangala and Attikuppa(present Krishnarajpet) were added on to Mysore district in that year. Simultaneously with this change, Arkalgud taluk, which contained ten hoblies, was abolished in 1882 and the hoblies were distributed among the adjoining taluks. The name of Patna Ashtagrama taluk was changed to Seringapatam taluk in the same year. A number of village from Channarayapatna and Holenarasipur taliuks were added to Kikkeri hobli in 1882, while the Melkote hobli was transferred to Seringapatam taluk and some villages of Santhbachahalli to Nagamangala taluk.

When allocations of members to the Mysore Representative Assembly were made in 1889 the taluks in Mysore district were (1) Mysore, (2) Yedatore(Krishnarajanagar),(3)Hunsur,(4)Heggadadevanakote,(5)Gundlupet, (6)Chamarajanagar, (7) Nanjangud, (8) T. Narasipur, (9) Seringapatam,(10) Attikuppa,(11) Nagamangala,(12) Mandya and (13) Malavalli.

Though French Rock was a sub-division, yet there was either a sub- taluk or taluk of that name and it was only a hobli. However, a sub-taluk known as French Rock was formed later. But it was abolished in 1923 and three hoblies
of Kyathanahalli, Pandavapura Kasaba and Melkote constituting the sub-taluk were included in Seringapatam taluk. The name of Attikupa was changed in 1891 to Krishnarajapet. Mysore district was composed of thirteen taluk and one Jagir in 1930. There were three sub-divisions: Nanjangud, Chamarajanagara, Gundelpet and T. Narasipura taluks formed Nanjangud sub-division, and Mysore, Hunsur, Heggadadevana Kote and Yadatore taluks formed the Mysore sub-division, the remaining five taluks, viz Seringapatam, Mandya Malavalli, Nagamangala and Krishnarajapet formed the French Rock subdivision.

After the construction of the Krishnarajasagar dam, the importance of the area now comprising the Mandya district grew and in order to facilitate the acquisition of lands in connection with Irwin (now Visvisvaraya) canal, the resettlement of the raiyats and the disposal of questions connected with the cultivation of the newly irrigated tracts, a revenue subdivision was constituted in 1928 with Mandya as its headquarters. The Maddur taluk, which had been merged with Mandya taluk, was revived and once again it was made into a separate taluk with effect from 1st May 1931. The Hirode, Melkote and Chinkurli hoblies, which were included in Seringapatam taluk, were separated and
constituted into a separate taluk called French Rock (Pandavapura) taluk with effect from 1st July 1937\textsuperscript{41}

After these changes, the Mysore district became an exceptionally heavy charge comprising 15 taluks and sub- taluks besides the jagir taluk of Yelandur and the normal work in the district office was nearly twice as much as that in some of the other districts. With the development of irrigation under the Irwin (Visvesvaraya) canal there was a great increase in the volume of work in all departments and the special and intricate problems connected with irrigation in the canal area occupied a good deal of the deputy commissioner’s time and attention. The question of bifurcating the district which had become very large was under the consideration of government for some time. A proposal to this effect was placed before the budget session of the Mysore Representative Assembly in 1937, but there was not much support from the members for this proposal. The then dewan, referring to this in his speech to the Mysore Representative Assembly on 20th June 1937, said:

\textit{“The question of the bifurcation of the Mysore district, I regret to note, has not met with support of many of the members of this house. The opposition is due, I am afraid, to an incorrect and imperfect appreciation of the real position. As you know, the district is by far the biggest in the state, in area, population and in revenue. It presents

\textsuperscript{41} Ibid, p-5}
special irrigational and other problems requiring close and continuous attention. Experience has shown that it is essential, in public interests that the district should be split up into two, if its problems are to receive sufficient attention. It is not merely the development of irrigation under the Irwin Canal that has suggested and necessitated this course. The Malnad taluks of Heggadadevankote and Periyapatna require a more concentrated effort that it has been possible for the administration to bestow upon them. Government are convinced that time will wholly justify their decision. They are confident that the results will be more than repay the recurring expenditure involved. It is only a matter of Rs 35,000 and that the people of, what at present are, an unwieldy district will derive considerably benefit from its bifurcation”\(^{42}\)

The district of Mysore, at the beginning of the year 1939, consisted of the following four sub-divisions, 15 taluks and one sub–taluk besides the jagir taluk of Yelandur, which was under the management of the government for the previous eight years:

\(^{42}\) Ibid .p- 6
Table: 2:2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Division</th>
<th>Taluks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Mysore</td>
<td>1) Mysore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2) Hunsur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3) Heggadadevanakote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4) Krishnarajanagar (Yedatore) and Periyapatna Sub-Taluk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Nanjangud</td>
<td>5) Nanjangud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6) Gundlupet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7) Chamarajanagar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8) T-Narsipura (previously known as Talkad Taluk) and Yelandur Jagir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) French Rocks</td>
<td>9) Seringapatam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Presently Pandavapura)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10) French Rock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11) Nagamangala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12) Krishnarajpet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Mandya</td>
<td>13) Mandya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14) Malavalli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15) Maddur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Mandya district Gazetteer\textsuperscript{43}

\textbf{2:12 FORMATION OF MANDYA DISTRICT: 1939 1\textsuperscript{ST} JULY}

The government finally decided in 1939 to bifurcate the Mysore district and to constitute, with effect from 1\textsuperscript{st} July 1939, a new district to be known as Mandya district with its headquarters at Mandya. The two revenue sub-division of French Rock and Mandya comprising the seven taluks of Seringapatam, French Rock, Nagamangala, Krishnarajpet, Maddur, Malavalli and Mandya district, while the Mysore district was left

\textsuperscript{43} Ibid, p-6
with remaining eight taluks, one sub- taluks and one jagrir taluk. Thus, the present Mandya district came into being as a separate administrative district with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 1939 and the ninth district in the old Mysore State.

No change of considerable important has taken place since the formation of the district except some transfers of villages from one taluk to another purely on account of administrative convenience and the anglicized form of Seringapatam to Srirangapatna<sup>44</sup>.

After the reorganization of the state and the formation of the new Mysore state in 1956, the government considered it necessary to divide the state for administrative purposes into four divisions viz, Bangalore, Mysore, Belgum and Gulbarge division. Mandya, along with the districts of Shimoga, South Kanara, chikamanglore, Hassan, coorg and Mysore formed Mysore division. Later on, the Shimoga district was transferred to Bangalore division with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> February 1966.

The district has been divided into two revenue sub- division called Pandavapura and Mandya sub-division, the former consisting of four and the latter three taluks. There are ten towns administered by municipal council and 1,333 inhabited village in the district. The present administrative division of the district and the number of hoblies and villages in them are given below

<sup>44</sup> Ibid, p-7
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Division and Taluks</th>
<th>No. Of Hoblies</th>
<th>No. of Villages</th>
<th>No. of Towns</th>
<th>Square Miles</th>
<th>Square kilometers</th>
<th>Population (1961)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pandavapura Sub Division</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>207.3</td>
<td>536.9</td>
<td>87,609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pandavapura</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>350.1</td>
<td>906.7</td>
<td>1,29,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krishnarajpet</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>401.1</td>
<td>1,038.9</td>
<td>1,11,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nagamangala</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>138.5</td>
<td>358.7</td>
<td>79,894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Srirangapatna</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>272.6</td>
<td>706.1</td>
<td>1,83,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandya Sub Division</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>236.3</td>
<td>612.0</td>
<td>1,51,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maddur</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>267.0</td>
<td>691.5</td>
<td>1,56,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malavalli</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>267.0</td>
<td>691.5</td>
<td>1,56,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1,333</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1,872.9</td>
<td>4,850.8</td>
<td>899,210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Mandya district Gazetteer\(^{45}\)

2:13 IRWIN CANAL MOVEMENT

The Irwin canal movement (1931-1932), was the first show off of the organized efforts of the ryots that took place in Mandya district prior to the freedom struggle: Irwin Canal (presently Visveswaraya canal) is a branch of river Cauvery and river Shimsa that flow from the Krishnarajasagar (Kannambadi). Consequently upon the development of irrigation facilities in that area, the government had notified its orders pertaining to the irrigation system that had to be followed by the ryots, the revenue they had to pay on the lands irrigated by the canal water, and the rate of interest payable on the belated payment of the contribution etc.

\(^{45}\) Ibid, p-7
Such a publication had naturally created a sense of strong disaffection among the ryots. In such a situation, H. Honnaiah of Mandya, K. Puttanna of Honaganahalli and H.K. Veeranna Gowda of Maddur, by way of organization the ryots, had taken a lead in the Irwin Canal Movement. H.K. Veeranna Gowda, who belonged to the Mandya district, having found that none of the taluks in the Mandya district had a representation in the Mysore Representative Assembly, and expressing his disapproval on the stand taken by the government on the disturbances that had taken place in Bangalore Sultanpate Ganapathi celebration, gave expression to his protest in his paper the ‘Chitragupta’. As a result of that he came to be looked upon with suspicion, by the government. Puttanna who knew all these, using his influence brought pressure on H.K. Veeranna Gowda and convinced him to take up the leadership of the struggle. He visited every village, of the taluks that had come under this irrigation system of the Irwin Canal impressed upon them about hardship and losses caused by the government according to the notification already issued. They were highly successful in creating the necessary awareness in the minds of the ryots, going by walk to every village. H.K. Veeranna Gowda began his first publicity campaign by organizing the ryots at a grove in Muthithaleswara in Malavalli taluk. Thereafter, the members undertook to walk by foot and organized publicity campaigns at Chikka, Arasinakere, Gejjalagere, Gowdgere and Hosaholalu villages, Mandya,
Maddur, Malavalli, Srirangapattana, French Rocks (Pandavapura), taluks and many other bigger villages. In addition to that three days of campaigning at a Jatha in Mudukuthore, where the ryots had assembled in a large numbers and at Chunchanakatte Jatha publicity campaigns had been undertaken. Like that the publicity campaign went on fourteen months, hundreds of assemblies were organized and strong awareness among the ryots had been created.

In the cultivable area under Irwin Canal water supply the ‘Block System of crop cultivation’ was introduced. It meant that a specified area of cultivation the canal or its subsidiaries should follow the rotation system in the cultivation of crops, like cultivating sugar cane in one year, followed by paddy cultivation during the next and cultivation of dry crops during the third year, thus forming a block period of three years. This was the rough enunciation that was made by Sir Mirza Ismail. The government had directed Heads of all the departments concerned to prepare the details required for the implementation of the suggestions made by the dewan. The then Director of Agriculture, Dr Leslie Colemn, justified the suggestion of the dewan as the situation demanded. Accordingly, after the completion of the survey of the lands under the canal by officials, Dr .B.Narasimha Iyengar, an expert in the Department of Agriculture submitted a lengthy report recommending the introduction of nine point system. According to that it was indicated that the interest
on agricultural loans should be waived. But, the government had taken a different stand. Therefore, the Narasimha Iyengar report was kept confidential as decided by Dr Coleman. However, H.K. Veeranna Gowda managed to get a copy of the report through an official called M.L. Linganna, working for the Government in the office of the Executive Engineer. Among the important demands of the ryots, the office of the demand for the implementation of the Narasimha Iyengar report became popular. The leaders of the ryots movement insisted on presentation of the details of that report in the Legislative Assembly by D.S. Mallappa, its member. When he began to deal with the report, the government brushed aside his question stating that there was no such report at all. Therefore, it became inevitable to strengthen the movement against the government. The persons like H.K. Veeranna Gowda, H. Honnaiah, and Honaganahalli, K. Puttanna, who had taken up the leadership of that movement against the government, had decided after understanding all possible pros and cons of the government order on the ryots, to gather some 10,000 ryots from the public meeting that was being held at Gejjalagere, organized them to go in a Jatha by walking to Bangalore and present their demands to the dewan. Yielding to the demands of the leaders, the dewan accepted to meet the ryots at Attarakatchery in Bagalore on January 4th 1932, at two o clock in the afternoon. To make
that jatha a success necessary programmes had been drawn up. The procedure and the discipline to be followed by the ryots while on their walk had been fixed. On the early morning of the first January 1932, when the Jatha of the ryots began in the Gandu grove, near Kodihalli, at Maddur, a gathering of 10,000 ryots had taken part. After a consecutive journey of three days the Jatha had arrived at Attarakatcheri in Bangalore on 4.1.1932, at about 12 noon. The participation of disciplined ryots in large numbers in the jatha, the first time in the history of Mysore, and the then Dewan Sir Mirza Ismail also highly impressed. The Dewan had called H.K.Veeranna Gowda the leader of the jatha, and informed him to come for a discussion with eight to ten persons. But he did not agree to that. Rather he insisted on the Dewan to meet all the ryots who had come walking all the way undergoing all tribulation. Sir Mirza Ismail happily agreed, and some time afterwards addressed the ryots and assured that no interest would be levied on the economic assistance extended in the form of loans. The ryots were also informed about the suspension of the government order. In response to that there was a strong clapping of hands the sound of which appeared to be reaching the clouds. The jatha and the protest by the ryots who had come from Maddur was the first struggle of the ryots in the history of Karnataka. H.K. Veeranna Gowda’s book ‘The difficulties of the Irwin Canal ryots’ written during the period of that protest was published from the Rytha Sangha, and the government
was hastening to seize that. But Veeranna Gowda had taken all precaution
to make that impossible.

After having given the assurance at the ryots assembly, the dewan
had assured the ryots that he would personally visit Mandya to examine
the prevailing conditions on the spot yet, that did not materialize due to
various hindrances. There is an opinion that the dewan had compromised
on the directions and pressures from the higher ups and wrote a
confidential letter to the district officers to keep his visit to Mandya
confidential and bring about 50-100 persons only who were more inclined
to be considerate and remain obliged to the government to the travelers
bungalow. Somehow, that information also came to the knowledge of
Veeranna Gowada, resulting in his sending information over night to
ryots and organizing a gathering of 10,000 persons on the third day by
about ten 0’ clock. Dewan though expected to meet them at about 11 0’
clock, he came late and was surprised to see an assemblage of such a
large number of ryots and after his stay for a while had returned to
Mysore; with a view to create awareness among the people, the Persian
inscription of Tipu on the main entrance (available today) to
Krishnarajasagar Mahamantapa was translated in to Kannada, printed
10,000 copies and distributed among those who had gathered. That
inscription records that the actual cultivators could pay 12 anna as out of
a Rupee of revenue that was being paid by the ryots of other irrigated
lands elsewhere while the remaining four annas is left out as gratis in the name of God. After the departure of the dewan to Mysore, the government officials who had remained there expressed their frankness to give effect to the government order and that reached the leaders in no time. That resulted in the violation of the prohibitory orders then in force and on that allegation arrest and imprisonment of H.K Veeranna Gowda and fifteen other leaders. Thus the government followed the same policy applied to Sultanpet and Ganapathi disturbance at Mandya also, according to H.K Veeranna Gowda. It was in the provinces that were directly under the British rule, the movement like Dandi March or Salt Satyagraha and Civil disobedience movement stared by Gandhiji began briskly but, none of these ever began in the subordinate princely provinces. Before 1937 – 38 no movements directly connected with the freedom struggle were noticed in the Mandya district. The Shivapura Satyagraha that took place near Maddur in 1938 was the only prominent and the first popular movement.46

2:14 NATIONAL MOVEMENT

The inauguration of the Mysore Representative Assembly in 1881, four year earlier to the birth of the Indian National Congress, engendered in the minds of the Mysore People a vision of responsible government in

46 Karnataka State Gazetteer Department, Mandya District, 2003, pp- 137-141
the state. This political objective envisaged closer association of the popular representative with the administration. Though the Mysore Representative Assembly consisted of chosen representative of people, the institution had no powers to pass acts or vote on demands. Due to persistent appeal by the members, the legislative council came into begin in 1907\textsuperscript{47}, invested with some powers. But the aspirations of the people were not met by these reforms. Unmindful of the rigid attitude of the government, the elected members strove hard, using the forums of both the representative assembly and the legislative council to ventilate their demand for more responsibility in the administration. It was only after the Jallianwallahbagh tragedy in 1919 that the activities of the congress in the state began. Sri S.S. Setlur, a judge of the Mysore chief court, resigned his position to take up the leadership of the state congress. In 1921, the state congress became a part of the Karnataka unit of congress. The constructive programme, as adumbrated in the Belgaum session of the congress of 1924 got good encouragement in the state and several volunteers went about from place to place in the district, to popularize khadi and swadeshi goods.

In addition to the plea of the state congress for the establishment of responsible government, several other organizations in the state, viz Prajamitra Mandali, Praja paksha and Praja Samyuktha Paksha also put

\textsuperscript{47} Mysore State Gazetteer, Mandya District, 1967 p. 63
forward their demands for granting of responsible government. On the 16th October 1937, Praja Samyuktha Paksha merged with the congress in order to fight the issue in a unified manner. It was a Shivapura, a village near Maddur railway station, that a clarion call was given for starting a peaceful agitation to attain the goal of responsible government on 10th, 11th and 12th April 1938, the state congressmen met at a convention at Shivapura to chalk out a new programme.

Sahukar Chennaiah, a senior social worker, was elected as the president of the reception committee, for that session. Keeping in mind the anti-British movement that was likely to materialize at the session, the government had published prohibitory orders against the flag hoisting at Shivapura. Palanahalli Ramaiah, a senior Kannada journalist, through his ‘Thainadu’ paper at Bangalore, had supported that movement. The Shivapura session was named as ‘Rashtrakuta’. Shivapura is located on the bank of river Shimsha, near Maddur on Mysore- Bangalore highway.

In the selection of that place for holding the session and in the preparations of all kinds, H.K. Veranna Gowda, the then political leader from Mandya taluk, had played a vital role. At meeting of the district representative, held on the first floor of the residential building that belonged to certain Gopala Setty, at Mandya, on March 11, 1938, the entire responsibility for making all preparation for the session at Shivapura Rashtrakuta was entrusted to H.K. Veeranna Gowda. M.G.
Bandi Gowda was appointed to assist him in the organization of the session. Both of them were appointed as secretaries. H. C. Dasappa, Tirumal Gowda of Shivapura and S. Rangaiah, as vice-president, Jogi Gowda of Koppa as treasurer, M.N.Jois as the general officer commanding or Dalapathi were also appointed. The Reception Committee decided to hold the Rashtrakuta session for a period three days, on 9\textsuperscript{th}, 10\textsuperscript{th} and 11\textsuperscript{th} of April 1938. The conference in April 1938 was the first session conducted by the Mysore Congress. The prohibitory order of the British government against the hoisting the flag was still in force. On April 8\textsuperscript{th} 1938, T.Siddalingaiah, who had been elected as the president of the Rashtrakuta, was taken out in procession with pomp and pageantry. That procession started from the Maddur Traveler’s Bungalow with an estimated number of 10,000 participants passing through the Maddur town and the main streets of Shivapura reached the travelers bungalow of Shivapura. “Yene Barali Voggattirali” meaning come what may let there be unity. They claimed that flag hoisting was their right. They opposed the government order had scuttled their rights and shouted it down. They went ahead with the Satyagraha, hoisted the flag, and did not stop their programme. Several leaders courted arrest. In the history of Karnataka, and especially in the history of freedom struggle in the Princely State of Mysore, April 11\textsuperscript{th} 1938 is a memorable day\textsuperscript{48}.

\textsuperscript{48} Karnataka State Gazetteer Department, Mandya District Gazetteer, 2003 pp-141, 142
The Mysore congress gained strength from day to day and during the ‘Quit India’ struggle of 1942, several congress leaders in Mandya district were incarcerated. After their release in 1944-1945, they met at a special meeting of the All- Mysore Congress Committee at Kyatanahalli in Pandavapura taluk in November 1945, with Sri. S. Nijalingappa in the chair, and decided to set up the fight for responsible government. The working committee of Mysore Congress met at Ummadahalli near Mandya town to devise way and means to accelerate the agitation for responsible government. All these events culminated in 1947 struggle, which ushered in responsible government in the state, and popular ministry assumed power on the 24th October 1947. As the Constitution of India was in the offing, the Mysore Constituent Assembly, which had been set up under an agreement with the ruler, got itself converted into a Legislative body. With the promulgation of the Indian Constitution in 1950, Mysore became a part ‘B’ state with Maharaja as the Rajamukh. In 1956, when the states were reorganized, the new Mysore State, which included most of the Kannada speaking areas contiguous to old Mysore State, came into existence with the Governor as the head of the State\textsuperscript{49}. Therefore, the history of Mandya forms part of history of old Mysore.

\textsuperscript{49} Mysore State Gazetteer, Mandya District, 1967 p- 63