Chapter-2.

Introducing Tipu Sultan Palace in terms of time and Space condition, combination and variety of its architecture and paintings
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Srirangapattana History

Srirangapattana is famous for its political activity. It is also famous for its Fort, Monuments and Bird Sanctuary. Srirangapattana situated a mere 15 kms from Mysore city, and lies in the neighboring district of Mandya. The entire town is surrounded by the river Kaveri to form an island.

Srirangapattana was a flourishing place during Chikkadevara Wodeyar’s period. An inscription dated 1685 A.D. contains a description of the place. The town, temples, mosque and other historical monuments are surrounded by a strong stone fort, known to have been renovated during the period of Hyder and Tipu. The fort has four gates today; there are just the remains of Tipu’s palace known as Lal Mahal, a Water Gate, two Dungeons, one at the north-east corner of the fort, another to the east of Delhi gate. It is said that Tipu Sultan had kept Dhondji Wagh, a Maratha warrior in the former and some British Prisoners in the latter.

The town takes its name from the celebrated Ranganathaswamy temple which dominates the town, making Srirangapattana one of the most important Vaishnavite centers of pilgrimage in South India. The temple was built by the Ganga dynasty rulers of the area in the 9th century; the structure was strengthened and improved upon architecturally some three centuries later. Thus, the temple is a medley of the Hoysala and Vijayanagar styles of temple architecture. Tradition holds that all the islands formed in the Kaveri River are consecrated to Sri Ranganathaswamy, and large temples have been built in very ancient times dedicated to that deity on the three largest islands. These three towns, which constitute the main pilgrimage centers dedicated to lord Ranganathaswamy, are:

* AdiRanga - at Srirangapattana
* Madhya Ranga - at Shivanasamudra
* AntyaRanga - at Srirangam

The history of Srirangapattana is as old as the epic legends. It is believed that lord Rama, passed through Srirangapattana. The Puranas say that, sage Gouthama...
meditated at this sacred place and hence came to be known as Gautama Kshetra. Early in the Christian era, the Satavahana\textsuperscript{8} dynasty and later the Pallavas\textsuperscript{9}, Kadambas and Gangas\textsuperscript{10} held sway over the place.

“Srirangapattana renewed the impregnable fort on the oval shaped island formed by the two branches of the river Cauvery. It is an oval island formed owing to the branching of the east flowing river Kaveri over a distance of 9 km. and about a km. wide at the maximum. Its strategic position attracted many local rulers from time to time who made the place the center of their political and cultural activities since medieval times. As a matter of fact, with the abundance of water supply, green forest and fertile lands the region was enticing even in the remote past for peoples of the prehistoric and proto historic cultural stages. In the recent years very tiny stone tools described as microliths about seven thousand years old, belonging to the Mesolithic cultural stage in the island area and nearby the Neolithic-Iron Age Megalithic-Early historical habitation sites of about four thousand year old, traced. Even the migratory birds from far-off places, found this place a safe and comfortable abode for their sojourn. The nearby Ranganatittu is indeed a bird sanctuary.\textsuperscript{11}

Later on, Hoysala king Vishnu Vardhan (1108-1152) conferred on Ramanuja\textsuperscript{12} and his disciples. Eight villages and land on either side of the River Cauvery at Srirangapattana. Timmanna. One of the descendants or Hebbars built a fort at Srirangapattana. He got permission from the vijayanagar emperor Devaraya II does build a mud fort here in 1454 A.D.\textsuperscript{13}

Srirangapattana has seen the influence of the Vijayanagar Empire which built temples and other monuments here. It was later taken over by Karnataka's famous Mogul rulers Hyder Ali and the legendary Tipu Sultan. With the downfall of Vijayanagara in 1565 A. D. the powers of the Viceroys dwindled and the Wodeyars of Mysore, though acknowledging the nominal suzerainty of Vijayanagar, obtained possession of Srirangapattana in 1610 A. D.

The history of Srirangapattana as that of South India revolves around Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan, who revived Srirangapattana from the doldrums to a powerful unified state, bounded by the river Krishna in the North, Travancore in the south, the Eastern Ghats and the Arabian sea in the east and west respectively.
Hyder Ali, along with his son Tipu fought four wars against the English, known as the Mysore wars. The first two battles were won by Hyder and Tipu with the help of the French. Hyder died at Narasingarayananapet near Chittoor and was buried in an impressive mausoleum on the outskirts of Srirangapattana.

After the death of Hyder, Tipu (1750-1799) was enthroned as the ruler in 1783. Tipu was a man of sound moral character, was active and patriotic. Tipu Sultan, the eldest son of Hyder Ali, was born on December 10, 1750 at Devanhalli. Well educated, able to speak Arabic, Kannada, Persian and Urdu, a valiant soldier and a tactful general, he continued fighting the British and defeated them in 1783. Tipu Sultan was a far-sighted person who could foresee East India Company's design to get entrenched in India. He negotiated with the French for help and also sought assistance from the Amir of Afghanistan and the Sultan of Turkey. However, in the Third Anglo-Mysore war, he was defeated in his capital, Srirangapattana, and was forced to sign a humiliating treaty on March 22, 1792 as per which he had to concede half of his kingdom and pay an indemnity of 33 million rupees to the British. He died fighting during the storming of Srirangapattana on 4th May 1799 in the fourth Anglo-Mysore war.

“Following Tipu's fall, a part of the kingdom of Mysore was annexed and divided between the Madras Presidency and the Nizam. The remaining territory was transformed into a Princely State; the five-year-old scion of the Wodeyar family, Krishnaraja III, was installed on the throne by Chief Minister (Diwan) Purnaiah, who had earlier served under Tipu, handling the reins as Regent and Lt. Col. Barry Close taking charge as the British Resident. The British now took control of Mysore's foreign policy and also exacted an annual tribute and a subsidy for maintaining a standing British army at Mysore. “14 As Diwan, Purnaiah15 distinguished himself with his progressive and innovative administration until he retired from service in 1811 (and died shortly thereafter) following the 16th birthday of the boy king16.

“Srirangapattana has since time immemorial been an urban center and place of pilgrimage. During the Vijayanagara Empire, it became the seat of a major viceroyalty, from where several nearby vassal states of the empire, such as Mysore and Talakkad17, were overseen. When, perceiving the decline of the Vijayanagara Empire, the rulers of Mysore ventured to assert independence, Srirangapattana was their first target. Raja Wodeyar vanquished Rangaraya, the then viceroy of Srirangapattana, in 1610 and
celebrated the Navaratri festival in the town that year. It came to be accepted in time that two things demonstrated control and signified sovereignty over the Kingdom of Mysore by any claimant to the throne:

1. Successful holding of the 10-day-long Navaratri festival, dedicated to Chamundeshwari, patron goddess of Mysore;

2. Control of the fort of Srirangapattana, the fortification nearest to the capital city of Mysore.

Srirangapattana remained part of the Kingdom of Mysore from 1610 to after India's independence in 1947; as the fortress closest to the capital city of Mysore, it was the last bastion and defenses of the kingdom in case of invasion.

The town is famous for a very ancient temple dedicated to Sri Ranganathaswamy, a form of Lord Vishnu. Other attractions include the Jumma Masjid (a Mosque), (PL67, PL67A) the magnificent Daria Daulat palace (PL68) and the Gumbaz (PL69).

**Architectural works of Srirangapattana**

“The architectural style of courtly and royal structures in the kingdom underwent profound changes during the British rule – a mingling of European traditions with native elements. The Hindu temples in the kingdom were built in typical South Indian Dravidian style – a modest version of the Vijayanagara building idiom. When in power, Tipu Sultan constructed a palace and a mosque in Srirangapattana, his capital.”

The original complex was destroyed by fire and a new palace was commissioned by the Queen-Regent and designed by the English architect Henry Irwin in 1897. The overall design is a combination of Hindu, Indo – Islamic (Saracenic) and Moorish styles, which for the first time in India, used cast iron columns and roof frames. The striking feature of the exterior is the granite columns that support cusped arches on the portico, a tall tower whose finial is a gilded dome with an umbrella (chattri) on it, and groups of other domes around it. The interior is richly decorated with marbled walls and a teakwood ceiling on which are sculptures of Hindu deities(PL70). The Durbar hall leads to an inner private hall through silver doors. This opulent room has floor plane’s that are inlaid with semi-precious stones and a stained glass roof supported
centrally by columns and arches. The marriage hall (Kalyanamantapa) in the palace complex is noted for its stained glass octagonal dome with peacock motifs.22

“Tipu Sultan built a wooden colonnaded palace called the Dariya Daulat Palace (lit, "garden of the wealth of the sea") in Srirangapatana in 1784.(PL71) Built in the Indo-Saracenic23 style, the palace is known for its intricate woodwork consisting of ornamental arches, striped columns and floral designs, and paintings. (PL72) (PL73). Also in Srirangapattana is the Gumbaz mausoleum, built by Tipu Sultan in 1784. It houses the graves of Tipu and Hyder Ali. The granite base is capped with a dome built of brick and pilaster.” 24 (fig.10)

Fort

To the extreme west of the island is the fort, originally built by Thimmanna Hebbar, chieftain of Nagamangala25, who got permission from the Vijayanagara Emperor Devaraya II to build a mud fort here in 1454 A. D. In 1654 AD Kantirava Narasi Maharajah Wodyar and later the Wodyar rulers strengthened the fort. The fort was reconstructed largely. The French Engineers were engaged for rebuilding of the fort. It is interspersed with many gates such as Water gate near the Gangadhareshvara temple within, Jibi or Krishna gate near the Krishna temple within, three Bangalore gates in the eastern wall, Delhi gates in the western wall, etc. It was one of the most formidable fort in India. The archaeological survey of India.

Only ruins of the fort-walls remain to date. Vehicles are allowed inside, where there’s a mini township. The fort has 7 must-see places as pointed in the adjoining picture – mosque, temple, dungeon, water gate among others26. (PL74)

Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam

The temple of Srirangam is situated at an Island formed by two arms of the River Cauvery. The temple covers a vast area of about 6,31,000 Sqm. (156 Acres). The temple consists of seven concentric rectangular enclosures around the sanctum sanctorum. The temple of Srirangam is the only one in India with seven enclosures, a sacred symbolic number, which, for the present day Vaishnava believers represents either the seven centers of Yoga, or a reference to the seven elements making up the human body, in the center of which dwells the soul.
Sri Ranganathaswamy temple at Srirangapattana is considered to be one of the most important Vaishnavite shrines in South India. Built by the Gangas in the 9th century, this temple is noted for beautiful carvings and architecture of Hoysala and Vijayanagar style. (PL75, PL75A) The temple is a tribute to Lord Ranganatha (Vishnu) and the idol of Lord Ranganatha is seen in a supine posture on Kalinga – the seven-headed serpent. Srirangapattana or Srirangapattanam, a city situated on the banks of River Kaveri is in Mysore in Karnataka, India.

The temple is the abode of Lord Vishnu as Sri Ranganathaswamy. The Lord is resting on Adhisesha, the seven headed serpent here and the temple is on the bank of the river Kaveri. The temple has a big gopuram and huge walls surrounding it depicting ancient architecture. Srirangapattana is among the Pancharanga Kshetram along the River Kaveri, others being Srirangam, Tiruvindalur, Kumbakonam and Koyiladi.27

Jumma Masjid:

The first and nearest place to cover is the mosque situated near the Bangalore Gate of the fort built by Tipu Sultan. It is said that he performed the first imamate himself, Standing on a high basement with an open court in the front and a covered verandah with a spacious prayer hall with the “Mihrab” on the west. There is an inscription mentioning the ninety-nine names of Allah (God) and another records the date of its construction by Tipu in 1787 A.D (PL76, PL76A)

Colonel Bailey’s Dungeon:

The Dungeon located to the north of the Ranganathaswamy temple is popularly known as Colonel Bailey's Dungeon and appears to have been used by Tipu Sultan to confine prisoners of war. This place, named after Colonel Bailey who died here in 1780 A.D., was used to imprison British prisoners like Captain Baird, Colonel Brithwite, Captain Rulay, Frazer, Samson and Lindsay by Tipu Sultan. The dungeon measures only 30.5 metres in width 12.2 meters in height and is built of brick and mortar, so called Malabar hut dungeon. (PL77, PL77A)

The Obelisk:

220 yards away from the dungeon lay a monument. The monument is known as The Obelisk. The Obelisk marks the place where Tipu Sultan breathed his last when he
was trying to stop a British soldier from pulling his legendary sword from its sheath. He was killed in this encounter due to the betrayal of his own men. (PL78)

**Place of Tipu’s Death**

On 4th May 1799, the storming British troops attacked Tipu near the Water gate. Tipu, moving along the second wall and descending from near the Water gate tried to enter the town through the second gate. He found that the gate was closed. Meanwhile the British had crossed into the town. Tipu was caught in the gateway between the two advancing sections of the enemy and fell down wounded. It was late in the evening that British officers found the body of Tipu here under a heap of the bodies of soldiers. Here is now erected a simple memorial. (PL79, PL79A)

**Gumbaz:**

At the eastern end of the island is the Mausoleum or Gumbaz of Tipu Sultan, and his father Hyder Ali and mother Fathima Begam. This was built by Tipu Sultan between 1782-84, the Gumbaz, an imposing structure in the midst of the Lalbagh garden, stands on a high and wide platform with an open verandah of polished pillars all round. There is also a mosque in the complex built in the mogul style. (PL80, PL80A), (PL81)

**Sangam:**

Sangam is a spot 3 kms away from Srirangapattana where the other branch of the River Cauvery – Loakpavani is reunited in jubilant enthusiasm. The Sangam is otherwise known as the confluence of rivers. It is located near a temple.²⁹ (PL82)

**The Tipu Sultan palace**

At a distance of about 150 meters from Sri Ranganatha Swamy temple in the north-east direction and to the west of Sri Gangadharaswamy temple, there is a ruined structure identified as Tipu's Palace. It was called Lal Mahal. The palace had a principal entrance, in the west and a courtyard, like Tipus Palace at Bangalore. It was a very beautiful palace with decorative ponds, groves and evergreen trees. The beauty and splendor of the place has been praised by many English historians, who visited it. They have stated that even the magnificent palace of the Vijayanagara viceroy at Srirangapattana was no match for it. (PL83, PL 83A)
In its heyday the palace must have been quite magnificent. Francis Buchanan who visited Srirangapattana in 1800 AD has left a glowing account of the remains of the Palace; the structure contains huge halls including the apartments of the 'Zenana'. He describes I saw the walls were painted with the Tiger Strips design much favored by Tipu Sultan and bands of verses from holy Koran painted in gold.

At present the excavation at the Place site has revealed a huge audience hall measuring 40x 20 mts, which at one time was open to the sky, flanked on all the sides by upper floors. The remnants of war weapons like cannon balls, musket balls of iron and stone were also found during excavations. Archaeological survey of India.

**Daria Daulat Bagh**

“Daria Daulat Bagh is the summer palace of Tipu Sultan, situated in Srirangapattana. The Indo-Islamic style palace was built by Tipu Sultan in 1784. The monument was built for two reasons. One was to commemorate the victory of his father, Hyder Ali who previously had used the place as a camp. It is believed that Hyder Ali had a combat with Khande Rao who tried to oust him out of power and fame and as a result Hyder fled in a basket boat to the north bank of the river, leaving behind his family and stores of treasures. It is not clear whether Tipu aged about nine escaped with his father or remained with the rest of the family, but this grand palace of the Daria Daulat was built in remembrance of his and his father's escape. The second reason was to celebrate Tipu's growing power in establishing trade contracts that had extended to the seas due to his possession of coastal territories”.

The two storied palace is built using teak wood. The palace is rectangular and built on, stands raised platform of 1.50m. High. Narrow stairways lead to an upper floor of small rooms and a hall with projecting trellis, work balconies resting on carved consoles. It was probably in this hall that Tipu received ambassadors and important callers.

Wooden pillars support the open corridors. The walls, pillars, canopies and arches are beautifully decorated with frescoes. The staircases are intricately carved.

The Daria aulatBagh, meaning 'the wealth of the sea' was the summer residence of Tipu Sultan where he is supposed to have conducted most of his business
transactions. It is architecturally of the Indo-Islamic style. The interesting feature of the Daria Daulat Bagh palace is that its walls, pillars and even arches are profusely painted with variegated colours. The east and the west walls contain figural temperas which are highly impressive in character and quaint to a degree.\textsuperscript{35}

**The wall paintings of Daria Daulat Bagh**

The paintings are represented in three different schemes delineated on the eastern and the western walls of the palace. On the western wall is the picture of a battle scene and its proceedings depicted in four frames, narrating the battle of Polillur\textsuperscript{36} in action. (PL89), (PL90)

Hyder Ali and his son Tipu fought four wars against the English, known as Anglo-Mysore wars. Hyder and Tipu won the first two battles with the help of the French. The battle of Polillur is a part of the war which culminated in the defeat of the English and seize of Arcot by Hyder. In the Polillur scene, the English army under the command of Colonel Baillie was completely routed out and a number of English soldiers including Colonel Baillie himself were taken prisoners. The paintings of the Daria Daulat Bagh are apparently the earliest visual record of this battle scene. (PL91)

“The paintings of Srirangapattana began to undergo many changes following the rule of Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan. The outer walls of the fort of Srirangapattana, it is believed, contained demoralizing pictures of the British which were painted on the order of Tipu Sultan. During the last siege of Srirangapattana, a lot of these paintings were obliterated. And before that in 1792 on the approach of Lord Cornwallis’s army, a positive command to whitewash all the walls was given by Tipu himself. An order for the defacement of the Daria Daulat Bagh paintings was also issued at the same time. This was only partially done; happily enough remained for the restoration, which Colonel Wellesley promptly prescribed when he was in command of the fort and in residence at the palace.” \textsuperscript{37} (PL92), (PL93)

“On the eastern wall there are two huge frames depicting small portraits and the third category is the abundant floral designs embellishing the rest of the walls of the palace. The paintings frequently faded and were repeatedly repainted, and at each repainting some details were omitted or altered. The eastern wall, where there are two huge panels containing portraits, distinctly show signs of modifications.”\textsuperscript{38} (PL94, PL94A)
REFERENCES AND NOTES:

CHAPTER 2.


2- Ibid

3- Chikka Devaraja (also Chikkadevaraja) was the wodeyar ruler of Mysore (then a principality or petty kingdom in southern India) from 1673 to 1704. During this time, Mysore saw significant expansion and also recognition by the Mughal Empire as a tributary state. During his rule centralized military power increased to an unprecedented degree for the region.

4- http://www.kamat.com/kalranga/myspaint/intro.htm


6- The Puranas are a genre of important Hindu, Jain and Buddhist religious texts, notably consisting of narratives of the history of the universe from creation to destruction, genealogies of kings, heroes, sages, and demigods, and descriptions of Hindu cosmology, philosophy, and geography.

7- Siddhārtha Gautama was a spiritual teacher from the Indian subcontinent, on whose teachings Buddhism was founded.

8- The Sātavāhana Empire or Andhra Empire, was a royal Indian dynasty based from Dharanikota and Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh as well as Junnar (Pune) and Prathisthan (Paithan) in Maharashtra. The territory of the empire covered much of India from 230 BCE onward.

9- The Pallava dynasty was a dynasty of South India which ruled the northern Tamil Nadu region and the southern Andhra Pradesh region with their capital at Kanchipuram. They had established themselves as a notable rising power in the region (275–550 A.D.)

10- The Kadambaa or Kadamba dynasty and Gangaa or Ganga dynasty were the rulers in certain parts of Karnataka. Of them the Kadmabaas were in power from 345 A.D. to 525 A.D., in the North Karnataka, and Banavasi was their capital and power center. Later on they became the vassals of the Raashtrakutas and the Chaalukyas. The Gangaas, also known as West Ganga dynasty, came up after the fall of the Shata Vahanas and from 350 to 550 A.D they were in power and their reign is seen to have continued till the 10th century, though not very strong during the last phase.

11- Archaological survey of India. Bangalore circle

12- Ramanuja traditionally 1017–1137, was a theologian, philosopher, and scriptural exegete.

13- Kamath (2001), A concise history of Karnataka: from pre-historic times to the present, pp. 234, 249

14- Kamath (2001), A concise history of Karnataka: from pre-historic times to the present, pp. 234, 249 & Venkata Ramanappa, M. N, Outlines of South Indian history with special reference to Karnataka (1975), p. 225

15- Purnaiah (1746–1812) was the Dewan of Mysore. He served under Hyder Ali, Tipu Sultan, the British and Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar. He was well known for his skill with accounts, prodigious memory, proficiency in several languages and sheer hard work.

16- Venkata, Ramanappa, M. N. 1975, Outlines of South Indian history with special reference to Karnataka pp. 226-229
17. Talakad is a desert-like town on the left bank of the Kaveri River at a spot where the river makes a sharp bend. It is 45 km from Mysore and 133 km from Bangalore in Karnataka, India.

18. Navratri, Navaratri, or Navarathri is a Hindu festival of worship of Shakti and dance & festivities. The word Navaratri literally means nine nights in Sanskrit, nava meaning nine and ratri meaning nights. During these nine nights and ten days, nine forms of Shakti/Devi are worshiped. The 10th day is commonly referred to as Vijayadashami or Dussehra.

19. The Chamundeshwari Temple is located on the top of Chamundi Hills about 13 km from the palace city of Mysore in the state of Karnataka in India.

20. Exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York


23. Indo-saracenic architecture represents a synthesis of Muslim designs and Indian materials developed by British architects in India during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The hybrid combined diverse architectural elements of Hindu and Mughal with Gothic cusped arches, domes, spires, tracery, minarets and stained glass, in a wonderful, almost playful manner.


25. Nagamangala is a panchayat town in Mandya district in the Indian state of Karnataka.


28. A mihrab is semicircular niche in the wall of a mosque that indicates the qibla; that is, the direction of the Kaaba in Mecca and hence the direction that Muslims should face when praying. The wall in which a mihrab appears is thus the "qibla wall.


30. Zenana, refers to the part of a house belonging to a Muslim family in the Middle East and South Asia reserved for the women of the household. The Zenana are the inner apartments of a house in which the women of the family live. The outer apartment for guests and men is called the Mardana.

31. Shekar, Veena. 2010, Historical paintings of Srirangapattna, p.37


33. The royal city, http://www.royalcityrecord.com

34. http://www.itslife.in/2010/09/daria-daulat-bagh#ixzz15ezy6t6A


36. The Battle of Pollilur, also known as the Battle of Polilore or Battle of Perambakam, took place on 10 September 1780 at Pollilur near the city of Kanchipuram in present-day Tamil Nadu state, India as part of the Second Anglo-Mysore War.

37. Veena, shekar (2010), Historical paintings of Srirangapattna, p xxiv

38. Ibid, p. xxv