Chapter-I

INTRODUCTION

Historical Background

During the course of the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799), the British army attacked and defeated Tipu Sultan in the brief but decisive encounter, before French aid could reach him. On 4 May 1799 Tipu Sultan was killed in the storming of the fort of Srirangapattana by the combined forces of the British and the Nizam of Hyderabad.

The settlement of Mysore deserves attention in that it was typical of one important aspect of British dealings with native states. A British Commissioner, consisting of General Harris, Colonel Arthur Wellesley (the future Duke of Wellington); Colonel Kirkpatrick and Lient, Colonel Close with Captain John Malcolm and Thomas Munro as Joint Secretaries assembled at Srirangapattana for the first time on June 1799. Their first task was to make suitable provision for the Chiefs of Tipu’s army and the numerous progeny of Tipu Sultan. This was accomplished with firmness tempered with talk and sympathy.

Lord Mornington, the Governor-General, rightly felt that an equal division of territory between the British and the Nizam would afford strong grounds of jealousy to the Marathas and would increase the Nizam’s power beyond all grounds of discretion. He therefore thought it prudent to enlist the good will of the Marathas who had remained allied with the British during the conflict but had not taken any part in the war, by offering them such portions of the conquered territory as might give them an interest in the new settlement of Mysore. It was also felt desirable not to aggrandize either the Nizam or the British except to the extent of their respective expenses in the war and safety of their respective dominions. With a view to reconcile the interest of all the parties and secure to the Company a less troublesome, and more
efficient share of revenues, resources, Commercial and Military advantage, it was decided to carve out a compact territory in the centre and to set up a separate Government in Mysore under the protection of the English Company.

The Governor-General Marquis Wellesley thus explained his exact motives in these connections;

“To have divided the whole territory equally between the Company and the Nizam, while it would have afforded strong grounds for jealousy to the Marathas, would have aggrandized the Nizam’s power beyond the bounds of discretion and would have left in our hands a territory so extensive, as it might have been difficult to manage, especially in the present state of the Company’s service at the presidency. To have divided the territory into three equal portions allowing the Marathas who had taken no part in the expense or hazard of the war, an equal share in the advantage of the peace, would neither have been just towards the Nizam, politic in the way of example to our other allies, nor prudent in respect of aggrandizement of the Maratha empire. To have given the Marathas no larger a territory than is now proposed, while the Company and the Nizam divided the whole of the remainder to the exclusion of any central power would have been liable nearly to the same objection as that stated against a total exclusion of the Marathas from all participation. The establishment, therefore, of a central and separate power in the ancient territories of Mysore appear to be the best expedient for reconciling the interest of all parties”.

Regarding the restoration of the ancient Wodeyar family to the government of Mysore, Marquis Wellesley wrote as follows;

“In the exercise of this right (of Conquest), If I were to look to moral considerations alone, I should certainly on every principle of justice and humanity, as well as attention to the welfare of the people have been led to restore the heir of the ancient Rajah of Mysore to that
rank and dignity which were wrested from his ancestors by the usurpation of Hyder Ali.

The long and cruel imprisonment which several branches of his family have suffered, the persecution and murder of many of their adherents, both by Hyder and Tippoo, and the state of degradation and misery in which it has been the policy of both these usurpers to retain the surviving descendants of their lawful sovereign would have entitled the representative of the ancient family of Mysore to every degree of practicable consideration; but it is also evident that every motive must concur to attach the heir of the Mysore family, if placed on the throne, to our interest, through which alone he can hope to maintain himself against the family of Tippoo.³

Accordingly on 8 June 1799, Wellesley wrote to the Commissioners to proceed with the conclusion of both the Tripartite and the Subsidiary Treaties and added;

I authorise you place the Rajah formally upon the Musnud, and to appoint, in the Rajah’s name, Purnaiah to be his Dewan.⁴ He also ordered ⁵ that they should fix up the fortress of Mysore as the most acceptable seat of the Rajah’s residence.

Restoration:

The partition Treaty of Mysore (22 June 1799) gave to the English Canara, Wynad, Coimbatore and Dharmapuram, a few slice of territory on the east of the Mysore kingdom, and Srirangamattana. The Nizam secured the region around Gooty (Anantapur district), Gurramkonda (Chittur district), and a part of the Chitradurga district. The Marathas were allotted the northern territories of Sonda, Harpanahalli and Anegondi on condition that they should conclude a subsidiary treaty with the British and cut off all connection with the French. The Marathas refused to accept these conditions. Therefore, the British and the Nizam divided the Maratha’s share between themselves. The rest of the conquered territory was reconstituted into the state of Mysore and
restored to the Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar III by the Subsidiary Treaty of Srirangapattana (June 1799)

Krishnaraja Wodeyar III was only about five years old when the British installed him on the Mysore throne. As the Maharaja was still a minor, Purnaiah, the most experienced and trusted officer of the Mysore Government was appointed as Dewan and his instrument of instructions impressed on him that he should loyally advance the interests of his master and of the country till the Maharaja came of age when he should abide by the pleasure of the Maharaja.

Krishnaraja Wodeyar III was not a party to the partition Treaty of Mysore. To give effect to its objective of restoring the kingdom of Mysore to the ancient royal dynasty of the Wodeyars, the Subsidiary Treaty of Srirangapattana was signed on 8 July 1799. This treaty consisted in all of sixteen articles and regulated the relationship between the British and the Mysore Government. It provided for the stationing of a British subsidiary force in the Mysore State for which the Maharaja was required to pay 7 lakhs of Pagodas per annum; reserved to the British Government the right to assume the whole or part of the Mysore territory, if there should be cause to fear failure in the payment of the subsidy; required the Maharaja to contribute a reasonable amount to any extraordinary expenses of war; and bound him to good government. In short, the Treaty gave the Governor-General the right to depose the Maharaja and to take over under his direct control the administration of the country, if circumstances so warranted.

The revenue of the territory granted to the Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar III were estimated at 13,74,076 Pagodas per annum. The Mysore territory, after the boundaries were fixed in 1799 and by the rectification of the frontiers later consisted of three divisions-Patna, Astagram, Chitradurga and Bidanur or Nagar. These divisions were all under the Dewan with three officers known as Subadars for purposes of general superintendence stationed at Bangalore, Chitradurga and Nagar
respectively. There were in all these three divisions from 115 to 120 taluks or sub-divisions taking the changes made from time to time into account, each sub-division being in charge of an officer called Amil or Amildar. The total area according to the revenue survey concluded in the year 1899 was little over 29,000 square miles and the population was estimated at a little less than 22 lakhs.

Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar thus commenced his reign under the most inspiring auspices with Purnaiah as Dewan (1799-1811) and Col. Barry Close as Resident at his court. His actual reign extended up to 19 October 1831 though he lived up to 27 June 1868. During the first period of twelve years Purnaiah was both Regent and Dewan. From 1811 to 1831, the Maharaja ruled with the aid of a succession of Dewans.

The capital was removed from Srirangapattana to Mysore where a new Palace was built by Purnaiah for the residence of the royal family. K. Jairaj observes, As Dewan of Mysore, for over a decade between 1799 to 1811, Purnaiah provided a special and distinct imprimatur to the state administration. His first task was to restore orders following the disastrous wars with the British and their allies, which had ravaged the state. This included restitution of respect for civil authority, which was attempted by reorganising the revenue administration. Purnaiah’s regime was noted for three developments; (1) He extended irrigation projects to assist cultivation; (2) he increased means of Communication and transportation and (3) skilful taxation and budgetary methods increased the revenue of the state.

**Reign of Krishnaraja Wodeyar-III**

When in 1811, the Maharaja came of age, he expressed his wish to assume the direct administration of the state and Purnaiah retired from the office of the Dewan and expired a year later. Krishnaraja Wodeyar assumed the power of administration in 1811 as if succeeding to a private patrimony and no precautions were taken to keep near his
person men of proved integrity and ability. None of the high officers near him possessed that moral courage to tender freely and fearlessly correct advice as Purnaiah used to do. As rightly observed by Shashidharamurthy⁹- Lack of proper education, coupled with poor knowledge of the world around him, proved to be his undoing; inefficient or corrupt officers and artful favourites who surrounded the youthful Maharaja made matters worse. The drought of 1816-17, followed by the famine of 1823-24, brought misery on the population; the Sharat or contract system of raising revenue completed the picture. An insurrection broke out in the Nagar division followed by a number of riots in several parts of the State”.

The troops of the Maharaja were unequal to the task of suppressing the insurrection that broke out in 1831. The British troops were called out. The insurgents were suppressed and peace and order restored. The Governor-General Lord William Bentinck deemed it necessary to resume the administration of Mysore from the Maharaja. Accordingly in October 1831 a British Commissioner took over the administration of the State. Subsequently, a single Commissioner was appointed to carry on the administration. Mark Cubbon became the sole Commissioner (1834) and continued till March 1861 without any break.

**Commissioners Rule:**

For the next fifty years (1831-1881), the British Commissioners administered the Mysore State. They introduced many administrative reforms which have stood the test of times. A Committee appointed to enquire into the causes of the Nagar disturbances absolved the Maharaja of all charges of incompetency, maladministration and misgovernment, and attributed the insurrection to several other factors. Lord William Bentinck felt doubts as to the legality and correctness of depriving the Maharaja of the administration of the country.

At the same time the British Commission was established, there were six administrative divisions or Fouzdaris, namely, Mysore,
Astagram, Bangalore, Chitradurga, Nagar, Madhugiri and Manjarabad, the two last having been formed by Krishnaraja Wodeyar III. The number of taluks was 120, each taluk consisted of ten to twelve hoblies, each in charge of a Shekdar or Hoblidar.

Col. Mark Cubbon suppressed the disturbances raised by some of the Palegars like Surjappa Naik of Tarikere. He, however, followed a liberal policy towards these Palegars in contrast to that adopted by Lt. Col. Briggs. Cubbon while allowing these Palegars moderate stipends for their maintenance encouraged them also to take to profitable occupation in life. A leading member of each Palegar family was required to reside at Bangalore under light surveillance. Cubbon introduced many administrative and beneficial reforms in the State, extended and improved roads, built bridges, improved tax administration by doing away with several vexation imports. In short, his regime was remarkable for the great improvement he introduced in the administration, for the continued prosperity of the country and for the happiness of the people.

Cubbon resigned in 1861 owing to serious ill-health and died at Suez in April 1861 on the way to England.

Cubbon’s successor as the Chief Commissioner, L.B. Bowring (1862-1870) joined his new post in April 1862. He set about reorganising the administration and the departmental reforms introduced by him gave the Government its modern character. At the time of Bowring’s assumption of office, Mysore was a Non-Regulation province to which the regulations and acts in force in other British ruled areas had not been extended. He was responsible for organising the Revenue Survey and Settlement, Inam Settlement, Creation of new departments and many beneficial reforms in administration. It was under Bowring that education, medical and sanitary facilities came to be expanded. As noted by M. Shama Rao, Bowring’s administration in
Mysore was chiefly noted for the large number of departmental reforms introduced by him which gave the government its modern colour.

Bowring redistributed Mysore into three divisions in place of four, and these three were sub-divided into eight districts. The Public Works Department was enlarged and a separate department set up for forest conservancy. A new police system was inaugurated and military forces reorganised; the medical establishment was strengthened and municipalities established for larger towns. The Education agency was expanded to improve the spread of knowledge. In 1869, the Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents of divisions and districts were re-designated as Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners respectively.

Apart from these, three important developments of much historical significance occurred during the period of Bowring’s administration:

1). The adoption of Chamaraja Wodeyar by the Maharaja in 1865; 2). The recognition by the British Government in April 1867 of Chamaraja Wodeyar as the legal heir and successor to the throne of Mysore; and 3). The death of Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar in March 1868. After the death of Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar and till Chamaraja Wodeyar came of age and was invested with ruling powers Bowring, Colonel Richard Meade, C.B. Saunders and Sir James Gordon were the Commissioners. In fact, they were really the trustees for the administration on behalf of the Maharaja Chamaraja Wodeyar, who was then a minor. Maharaja Chamaraja Wodeyar X (1868-1894) was installed on the throne on 22 September 1868 by Bowring.

Rendition:

With their despatch dated 3 March 1880 to the Secretary of State the Government of India submitted for approval draft of a written Instrument* embodying the conditions under which the Maharaja was to assume possession of his State.13 As regards the internal administration

---

*This sentence is missing from the provided text. It is likely that there was a page break or other interruption in the text, but without further context, it is not possible to accurately complete the sentence.
of the State, the Instrument advisedly avoided entering upon details but reserved to the Governor General in Council discretionary power of interposition when he felt necessary. At the outset the Government of India only said that there was no necessity to examine in detail the terms of the previous treaties except so far it was necessary to reconcile the maintenance of an Indian dynasty on the throne of Mysore with the good government of the country and the security of British interests. The Government of India also declared that the new settlement was to supersede all previous engagements and was to constitute a new departure in the relations between the British Government and the Maharaja’s family.

The first question related to the succession to the throne of Mysore;\(^{14}\) The Government of India now deals with succession in the ruling families of native states throughout India not formulated in writing are universally recognised in practice-----.

It appears to us, never the less, expedient in the particular case of Mysore that the main conditions under which the throne will become hereditary in the Maharaja’s family should be distinctly entered upon record. We think this advisable----- because since this Instrument will be in some sense the title-deed of the family, these may be a tendency to regard it as exclusively representing the whole body of rights and liabilities existing between the State and the Supreme Government. The 3rd clause of the Instrument has therefore been so framed as to forestall all controversy regarding the right of the British Government to pass over an heir on the ground of obvious incapacity, or to decide among claimants to the succession, or generally to select a successor among collaterals where no clear pretensions to succeed by inheritance can be established-----, It will be noticed that no succession will be valid until it shall have been recognised by the Governor-General in Council and that by the last clause of the Instrument the decision of the Governor General in Council upon any question regarding the succession is final.
All preliminary arrangements for transferring the State to the Maharaja’s hands having been completed, a Durbar for formally affecting this transfer was held in the palace at Mysore on the morning of 25 March 1881. The Governor General of Madras W.P. Adams attended the investiture ceremony on behalf of the Governor General Lord Ripon. After the reading of a Proclamation by the Chief Secretary to Government of Madras declaring that the administration of the Mysore State by the British Government was on that day ceased and determined, the Maharaja Chamarajendra Wodeyar X was formally installed. The Governor W.P. Adams delivered the Instrument of Transfer to the Maharaja and said; Maharaja Chamarajendra Wodeyar Bahadur, Maharaja of Mysore as the Representative of the Viceroy and Governor-General of India and in obedience to the proclamation which has just been read, I now invest you with the administration of the State of Mysore-----I wish you success and prosperity and that you may long continue to rule over a peaceful, happy and contented people.

In reply the Maharaja said; "-----In now installing me as ruler of the territory of my ancestors Her Majesty has given a further proof of the Justice and Generosity which the Mysore House has ever experienced at the hands of the British Government------ It shall be my earnest endeavour by promoting the welfare of the people to prove myself worthy of the confidence reposed in me".

On the evening of the same day a second Durbar was held at which the following Proclamation was read and was also published in all parts of the State; "-----We do hereby notify and declare that we have this day assumed charge of the said Government and we call upon all our subjects within the said territories to be faithful and bear true allegiance to us, our heirs and successors.

"We do hereby further declare that all laws and rules having the force of law now in force in the said territories shall continue to be in force within the said territories."
"We do hereby accept as binding upon us all grants and settlements here to fore made by the British Government within the said territories in accordance with the respective terms thereof, except in so far as they may be rescinded or modified either by a competent court of law or with the consent of the Governor-General in Council. We hereby confirm all existing courts of judicature within the said territories in the respective appointments the judges and all other officers, civil and military, now holding office within the said territories”.

According to Instrument of Transfer; 18

1. All laws and administrative arrangements in force were to be continued without any change.

2. Any change in the administrative system must obtain prior consent and approval of the British Government.

3. The Maharaja should administer the country with the assistance of a Council of Ministers consisting of the Dewan as ex-officio President and two or more members.

4. All expenditure of public revenue must be subjected to competent audit.

5. The Maharaja Privy purse must be fixed but it would be subjected to revision from time to time

6. A Chief Court with a plurality of Judges and with a European chief for some years to come must be established with immediate effect.

7. Mysore should pay to the British Government a subsidy of Rs. 35 lakhs per annum.

8. The employment of European in the Mysore service was to be subject to the approval of the British Government and Jurisdiction over European British subjects could only be exercised by the British Government.
As Bangalore was continued as a British cantonment, lands needed for that and any other purpose (such as the railway, telegraph etc.,) connected with British interests in Mysore were required to be permanently assigned to the British Government, while the Maharaja retained full sovereignty over the tract. Dr. R. Ramakrishnan remarks as follows:  

Although eighty one -years separated the Subsidiary Treaty and the Instrument of Transfer they were basically similar. According to both these engagements, the Paramount power had the right to either intervene in the administration of the State to realize any dues of subsidy or assume the administration of the State in case of breach of conditions.

According to C. Hayavadana Rao, “The Practical result of the Rendition was that Mysore returned after half a century of British rule, to Hindu rule, its position as an Indian state being assured with a good administration ready-made. These were, however, Conditions included in the Instrument of Transfer which later proved too heavy for a progressive state and were modified in the light of the knowledge gained by its actual working”.

C. Rangacharlu

On the evening of the 25th March 1881 the newly installed Maharaja Chamarajendra Wodeyar X issued, among others, the following Proclamation:

"For the conduct of the executive administration of the said territories (Mysore State) under our command and control we have resolved to appoint a Dewan. And we placing trust and confidence in the Loyalty, ability and Judgement of Chettipaniam Veerevalli Rangacharlu, C.I.E., do hereby appoint the said Chettipaniam Veervalli Rangacharlu, C.I.E., to be our Dewan for the conduct of the executive administration of the said territories".
At the same time the formation of a Council with the Dewan as President and two of the most experienced retired officers of the State as members was also announced.

C. Rangacharlu became the Dewan of the State at a time of great economic distress and financial difficulties. The province of Mysore had a population of 50,55,412 at the Census of 1871. According to the Census of 1881, the population was only 41,86,188. In the administration Report for the year 1880-81, James Gordon admitted\(^{22}\) that the figured table of the 1881 Census of Mysore indicate “a loss of 8,69,224 on the population of 1871, and if it may be assumed that the population had increased by 6 percent up to the beginning of the famine, it represents a loss of 11,72,548 souls, without making any allowance for partial recovery in the last two years”.

According to K. Sheshadri Iyer,\(^{23}\) successor of C. Rangacharlu in the office of Dewan of the Mysore State, Mysore lost a fifth of its population during the late famine. The loss in property is estimated at 10 Millions Sterling, an amount equivalent to 10 years gross revenue. Expenditure on famine relief amounted to 143 lakhs, not taking into account the Mansion House Fund. The country may require half a century to recover from the effects of the famine.

As Shashidharamurthy aptly remarks,\(^{24}\) If the interest of 5 percent on the Famine Loan of Rs. 80 lakhs is also considered the loss caused by the famine appears much greater. Every development of the Government and every family and every individual in the province had been adversely affected.

Encouraged by the Resident Gordon, the Maharaja established a representative assembly, the first of its kind in India, in August 1881. The Railway from Bangalore to Mysore was opened for thorough traffic in February 1882. In the same year, Rangacharlu, desirous of extending the railway line from Bangalore to Tiptur, floated a loan of Rs. 20 lakhs at 5% per annum. According to N.S.\(^{13}\)
Chandrasekhara,25 “Rangacharlu held the office of Dewan for less than two years. He became Dewan when the state was in the midst of unparalleled difficulties. A great famine had swept away nearly a million of the population. Agriculture crippled. The state was passing through great financial difficulties as result of the famine. He was a man of iron will and of unshakable determination. In his short tenure, he restored the financial stability of the state and laid the foundation of an enlightened and progressive administration, “Before he could prove his undoubtedly eminent worth, Rangacharlu was taken ill and died in Madras (Chennai) on 20 January 1883.

K. Sheshadri Iyer

Dewan Rangacharlu was succeeded by K Sheshadri Iyer in 1883. The success of the administration of Maharaja Chamaraja Wodeyar X (1881-1894) and of the Regency of the Dewager Maharani Kempananjammanni Vani Vilas (1894-1902) was largely due to the wise counsel, statesmanlike views, broadmindedness and tolerance for which K. Sheshadri Iyer was well known. In a letter26 addressed to J.B. Lyall, Resident in Mysore, Dewan K. Sheshadri Iyer explained the order against which he had to contend; Cultivation in Mysore depends upon a rainfall which is most uncertain. The land assessment is as high as the cultivation can bear. The Revenue Survey and Settlement is not expected to produce any large increase of income. The incidence of taxation is already so high as 2-4-0 per head; and increase of revenue by additional taxation is therefore out of the question.

There is no wonder, therefore, that the record of the first four years of Chamaraja Wodeyar X was out of a severe and sustained struggle, crippled resources on the one hand and increasing railway expenditure on the other, imposing upon the new administration, as the first condition of its success, the most vigilant financial management--27

At the Rendition of the state owed the British Government a sum of Rs. 80 lakhs and had a net liability of Rs. 30¾ lakhs. By the end of
1894, Sir Sheshadri Iyer had converted this liability into net assets amounting to Rs. 276 ½ lakhs. The revenue of Mysore increased from Rs. 100 lakhs to Rs. 180 lakhs. Most officers came to be filled by natives and the costly European agency was greatly curtailed. As the finances improved and as department after department was put in to good working order and showed signs of expansion, separate heads of departments were appointed for Forest and Police in 1885, for Excise in 1889, for Muzrai in 1891, and for Mining in 1894. The important industry of Gold Mining took firm root in the state during this period. For the first time, in 1886-87, Royalty on gold formed as item of State Revenue, and it reached the substantial figure of Rs.7,33,000 in 1893-94. On a production of Gold valued at £ 84,40,00. By 1899-1900 the Royalty on Gold had reached Rs. 11,90,834. The Revenue Survey and Settlement was introduced in all the talks of the state by the end of the year 1899. The revenue laws were codified; vexations restrictions on the enjoyment and transfer of land were swept away. The problem of agricultural indebtedness was sought to be tackled by a scheme of Agricultural Banks on strictly Co-operative principles. The area of reserved forests was increased from 643 to 2044 square miles and nearly 57 square miles of new plantations were formed.

In respect of education, the number of Government and Aided schools rose from 866 to 2187 in 1899-1900, and the expenditure there on from Rs. 8,20,810 to Rs. 10, 42,082. The Maharani’s Girls School at Mysore was raised to the status of a college in 1897. The number of Municipalities rose to 121 by 1900, the annual municipal receipts stood at Rs. 7,14,000. Easily workable rules of sanitation were framed and made applicable to all minor municipalities and the larger villages. An impetus was also given to the progress of sanitation in connection with measures for the prevention and suppression of plague, several drainage and water supply schemes were implemented of which mention may be made of the water supply and partial drainage of Mysore; the scheme of water supply to the Bangalore city; water supply, drainage and extension schemes for the mofussil towns, besides numerous
drinking water well throughout the state, and the formation of new extensions in Bangalore and Mysore. The number of hospitals and dispensaries increased from 19 to 135, and the number of patients treated from 1,307,23 to 8,91,508.

In addition to the expenditure from Local Fund, nearly a crore of rupees were spent on new roads and improvement of old roads from the State Revenue. The mileages of roads increased from 3930 to 5279 in 1899-1900. At the Rendition the length of the state Railway open to traffic was 58 miles. The addition made up to 1894-95 was 315 miles; and the addition made to the length of the State Railways during the Regency was 37.97 miles (on account of the Birur-Shimoga Railway). The total length of railways in 1900 was 411 miles, constructed at an aggregate outlay of 224 lakhs of rupees.

Rupees one crore were expended on original irrigation works during the reign of Chamarajendra Wodeyar, making an addition of 355 square miles to the area under wet crops and bringing an additional revenue of Rs. 8¼ lakhs. Special encouragement was given to the construction of a large number of new irrigation wells, individually small but collectively great. During the Regency of the Dowager Maharaja about 48¾ lakhs were expended on original irrigation works.

Among other achievements of Sir K. Sheshadri Iyer’s administration must be mentioned the establishment of the Archaeology Department (1886), the founding of the Oriental Institute 1891, starting of the Mysore Government Insurance Department (1891), and the introduction of the Mysore Civil Service Examination (1892). The Cauvery Power Works for generating electricity was also initiated during this period.

An account of failing health, Sir K. Sheshadri Iyer tendered his resignation to the office of the Dewan and President of the Mysore State Council on 18 March 1901. He passed away on 13 September 1901.

Lord Curzon, the Viceroy wrote: \(^{28}\) “There can be no question that the
Maharani, the Maharaja and the Mysore State owe a debt of lasting gratitude to Sir K. Sheshadri Iyer, to whose abilities and labour are largely due to the flourishing condition in which the young chief takes over the administration”. He continued that Sheshadri Iyer belonged to “that class of great native statesman sometimes bring to the front and who, in circumstances such as those that prevailed during the time in Mysore, find the occasion for conferring enduring benefits upon the states they serve.”

**Scope and Importance**

History, as we all know, records realities, actual events or accomplished facts. Though history deals with what is thought as the dead part, it is not without its lessons or value for the present day problems or the prospects of the future. It supplies the data upon which social sciences like economics or Politics are based. All change, whether social, economic or political, must not be by a violent or entire break with the past, but should proceed along the lines of least resistance in consonance with national traditions and aptitudes of the people concerned, as reflected in their history, if such change is to take root and not to be merely flourished in the air.

The period studied by me here, covering the Dewanship of Sir P.N. Krishnamurthi: (1901-1906) and Sir V.P. Madhava Rao: (1906-1909) is not devoid of interest. It was in several ways a turning point in the history of Modern Mysore. The retirement (March 1901) and death of Dewan Sir. K. Sheshadri Iyer, who was able to demonstrate to the world that there was abundance of statesmanship and ability in the Indian character, in a way marked the end of the old regime. The termination of the Regency (1895-1902) of the Dowager Maharani Kempananjammanni Vanivilas, which happened at the same time, also signified the end of the old order† The investiture ceremony of the young prince Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, son of Chamarajendra Wodeyar X, took place with Great Pomp on 8th August 1902 at Mysore.
Dewan P.N. Krishnamurthi, who was appointed Dewan in 1901 introduced modern methods of administration, particularly with regard to Secretariat of the government of Mysore. The founding of the Department of Co-operation, extension of Local self Government and the expansion of the Agricultural Department were some of his achievements.

His successor as Dewan, V.P. Madhava Rao (1906) established the Veterinary Department, and the Central Co-operative Bank at Bangalore. The establishment of the Mysore Legislative Council in 1907 and the passing of the controversial Mysore News papers Regulation in 1908 were very unpopular measures of his tenure. The Mysorean-Madrasi controversy, which predates the Rendition (1881) grew much more vehement during this period, but ultimately changed itself in to the Brahmin-non Brahmin movement under the later Dewans. In a way this period (1901-1909) was a period of transition to the more modern, enlightened and development oriented administration of Dewans like Sir M. Visveswaraya and Sir Mirza M. Ismail.

**Methodology**

By historical method is meant the ways in which historical problems may be approached, and the various techniques, such as evaluation of evidences, examination of sources for bias, or any other multitude of necessary tasks outlined in the research manual that endeavour to meet the needs of the student engaged in historical research. However, it is not the purpose to denigrate traditional approaches-list basic references; discuss, notes taking, footnote form, and grammar; and introduce the student to problems of the objectivity and meaning of Primary sources, which are very important questions indeed. As observed by Richard E. Beringer,\(^{31}\) “Obviously history students must be able to assess evidence, use bibliographical aids, write well, and footnote properly”. Further, “There are many acceptable means by which the historical investigation and analysis may be carried...
out. The major feature is a sampling of a wide range of historical techniques, including those employing literary criticism, psychology, sociology and statistics”.

Previous to 1950, historians tended to take historical figures, their letters and speeches at face value. Now, however, insight from psychology, social psychology, and sociology show that the credulous premise of straight forward rationality is often quite erroneous; It is now generally conceded that, historical events do not have simple and single causes. Earlier many historians held the simplistic view that they should look only at real causes, and real causes were almost invariably discovered to be Economic.

An over reliance on Economic factor is no longer the fashion; Economic history itself is undergoing transformation these days. Psychological interpretations, new in themselves, too have not escaped modification while concerned with historical issues. Thus monolithic notions of cause and effect have tended to dissolve rapidly under the overwhelming influence of quantitative methods. There are thus so many ways to write history. Surely, it is impossible to illustrate all possible historical methods. As contended by Rosalie L. Colie, the muse of history, has many personalities, instructs in many different disciplines; and uses many methods of instructions. She is, in short, pluralistic.

Sometimes it is not easy to get at the accurate facts of the past from the varying accounts available of them in the sources or records from which they are secured. In such cases, the historian will require the objective spirit of a scientist in the treatment of his source material or the discrimination and impartiality of a judge in tracing the truth through a maze of conflicting and contradictory accounts and evidence. His views and conclusions of the past must not be influenced by any subjective bias or pre-conceived notions. Without hesitation and in an objective spirit he must accept as inevitable and proper the conclusions
to which the evidence takes him and accept the picture of the past which his facts show up whether he likes it or not. Further, the historian should not interpret the past in terms of the present, or read in to old texts modern theories.

Benedetto Croce has summed up the requirements of a historian in his own inimitable style. According to him, the historian must have a point of view, an intimate personal conviction regarding the conception of the facts which he has undertaken to relate. The historical work of art cannot be achieved among the confused and discordant mass of this point of view, which makes it possible to carve a definite figure from that rough and incoherent mass------. It suffices to read any book of history to discover at once the point of view of the author, if he be a historian worthy of the name and know his own businesses--- Historian, who profess to wish to interrogate the past, without adding anything of their own to them, are not to be believed. This, at the most, is the result of in generousness and illusion on their part; they will always add what they have personal if they be truly historians, though it be without it or they will believe that they have escaped doing so, only because they have referred to it by innuendo, which is the most insinuating and penetrative of methods. And yet this subjective element or factor, which is necessary and inevitable, in every narrative of human affairs, is compatible with the utmost objectivity, impartiality, and scrupulosity in dealing with historical data and materials.

Sources Analysis

The character of history as a subject of study determines the method proper for its study. As it records and recollects the past, it must do so faithfully like a mirror or a photograph. According to R.K. Mukherji in dealing with the events or facts of the past, it must first ascertain them correctly and let them speak for themselves. This means that history is entirely bound by its materials. It cannot modify or improve upon it. A chemist can get the material he needs by means of
artificial manipulations and experiments with which he proceeds to find positive or objective proofs of the hypothesis or theory suggested by his scientific and constructive imagination. But a historian must not manipulate his material. He must take the facts as he finds them. He cannot create them. The facts are external to him and are beyond and independent of him. He must be always true to his facts with all their imperfections in point of precision or definiteness, quality, reaction, effects, or consequences. History cannot be made to order. Its materials are beyond control. They are fixed with a dead certainty. When these are found the historian must take a detached view of them”.

Modern historical writing is almost wholly based on archival sources. These were not dreamt up in the interest or for the information of posterity. The archives of a particular agency were drawn up to reflect the policies, functions, organisations and transactions of that agency alone and nothing else. But they can be useful to students for the information they contain on a range of subjects totally different but equally wide. If the student understands their administrative significance, archives cannot tell him anything but the truth. Further, archives, by their origin as well as by their official and responsible custody are free from suspicion of prejudice in regard to the interest in which we use them or of having been tampered with in those interests. Each piece of written document in a file is the consequence of some proceeding piece or pieces. They reflect accurately what has gone before and how.

Since historians are interested in writing a book which could be accepted by society at large, he depends largely on accepted facts. As the historian moves from the known to the unknown he also moves with the facts of elementary order which give him the meaning of what happens at a later date. As Renier points out,36

"There is no past that is available for distillation, for capture, for manipulation or for observation or for prescription. There have been events in complexion innumerable combination and no magic formula will give us

Introduction
mastery over that. What the historian calls his data is determined by its intuitive perception—

Research means diligent and scholarly investigation in all the available primary and secondary sources, conducted with the aim of extending human knowledge in a given area. A Primary source is a source which came into existence during the actual period of the past which the historian is studying; it is the absolute raw material out of which history is written. A secondary source is the interpretation itself written by the historians looking back upon a period in the past. Strictly speaking, the historian’s duty is to convert the primary source into the secondary source or the finished product. This later becomes the secondary source and used by other researchers, students, and the general public.

As mentioned above research involves investigation in all the available primary and secondary sources. The point involved in the second part of this statement is that the researcher, before beginning his investigation into the primary sources concerned with his subject, must read what earlier research scholars or historians have already written. These provide him several valuable leads, pieces of useful information and help identify many sources of concrete information. People regard a work as scholarly in proportion as it draws from the primary source. Since my aim as that of other historians, is to increase the sum of human knowledge, has been to explore and exploit the Primary Source in the task of constructing my story. That is why I have largely relied on the archival sources in my "research" work.

For consulting the secondary sources, I have repeatedly visited the library of the Mythic Society, Bangalore; the State Central Library at Cubbon Park, Bangalore; the Mysore University Library, Manasagangothri, Mysore. Books in my personal collection and those with my friends too have been consulted. These are all listed under Sources of study at the end of this thesis.

Introduction
For consulting the Primary Sources, which consists of files of many Secretariat departments, a large number of printed compilations such as Blue Books, Monthly Proceedings volumes of the Mysore Government, Administration Reports, Proceedings of the Mysore Representative Assembly and Legislative Council, Census Reports and a host of printed and published books of several departments etc., I have made numerous visits to the Karnataka State Archives, Bangalore. Since Mysore State was a feudatory of the British Indian Empire, the records preserved in the National Archives of India, New Delhi considering mainly of the Foreign and Political Department and the Mysore Residency have been consulted by me. The valuable collection of paper clippings preserved in the Divisional Archives, Mysore, too have been consulted by me with profit. These have all been listed under Sources of study at the end of this thesis and under References and Notes at the end of each chapter. Hence particular mention of these sources of my information is considered unnecessary here.

**Limitations**

History is limited by, and to the facts that are found where there are no records kept of the facts and events of the past, there can be no history. Besides the limitation of ascertained facts, history has the further limitation imposed upon its scope by the sources dealing with such facts. The exploitation of all the relevant and available sources is really the first task of the historian. His second task is the extraction of information from the sources.

Since no one can write a perfect book, with a clear and inclusive view of all potential casual relationships, he must accept that there are facets of the subject not covered by him that may be exploited by other researchers. In view of this limitation many historians actually mention what they had to ignore and give some suggestions for future research. Just as most researchers do, I have made use of traditional approaches more often than the more novel and specialised methods.
Moving on to the more specific limitations of this study it may be noted that both P.N. Krishnamurthi and V.P. Madhava Rao in the capacity of the Dewans, were concerned with the entire administration of the Mysore State. Therefore, every aspect of the state’s administration can be regarded as the legitimate subject of study selection and exclusion, however, come in to the picture on account of time and length constraints. Many subjects/topics have to be naturally left out of this study. For the first time in a study on Mysore Dewans a detailed account of the constitution of Government and of the Maharaja’s Council is given. After the unavoidable Introduction, an account of the events of Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV is given at some length beginning with his investiture ceremony in the august presence of Viceroy Lord Curzon himself. Other topics covered in detail consist of administrative organisation and reforms of the Secretariat; Civil Services Examination; Representative Assembly and Legislative Council; the Mysore News papers Regulation; economic development touching such aspects as revenue and Finance’ Agriculture; Industry and Mining; Trade and Commerce; Railways and Road; Education and Healthcare.

Notes and References

1. Despatches of Duke of Wellington, 1800
2. Letter to Right Hon’ble Henry Dundas, dated 7 June, 1799
3. Ibid
4. Letter to the Commissioners dated 8 June 1799
5. Ibid
6. C.V. Aichison; Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads - Relating to India and the neighbouring Countries, Vol-IX, Govt. of India Central Publication Branch; Calcutta, 1929 P.206.


12. C.V. Aichison; *Op. Cit.*, P.54

13. *Ibid* P.54

14. *Ibid*


17. *Ibid* p. 63


23. Letter to J. B. Lyall, Resident in Mysore, dated Bangalore, 6 February 1884 (*A Memorandum on the Finances of Mysore*)


26. Letter dated Bangalore, 6 February 1884.

27. A Brief Retrospect of Reign of His Highness the late Maharaja Sri Chamaraajendra Wodeyar Bahadur 1881-82 To 1894-95, Part-I, K. Sheshadri Iyer, Dewan of Mysore, dated 1 October 1895, p.1.


29. *Ibid*

31. Ibid, pp 2995-2996

+ An influential section, supported by some of the leading papers in Madras, strongly advocated the appointment of K. Sheshadri Iyer as the Regent. However, public opinion in Mysore was in favour of the Maharani being appointed the Regent. The standing Committee of the Representative Assembly, led by M. Venkatakrishnaiah, unanimously demanded that the Maharani should be appointed the regent.

32. Ibid, p.3011

33. No. 26 C Proceedings No. 216

34. Ibid, Para 6

35. Ibid

36. Ibid

37. Ibid, para 7