CHAPTER II

POLITICAL RELATIONS OF THE EARLY WODEYARS
WITH TAMIL NADU UP TO 1673

In this Chapter Political relations of early Wodeyars of Mysore with Tamil Nadu from 1610 onwards and up to 1673 has been examined. The 17th century was a period of Political decline of Vijayanagara under Aravidu dynasty. In 1565, Vijayanagara was defeated by the coalition of Muslim rulers in the historic battle of Talikota. That war was mainly responsible for the political decline of the Empire. Vijayanagara was a South India power up to 1565. It consisted of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra and Kerala regions. It was a feudal and federal structure. It had a decentralized set up. Nayaks of different categories and classes existed in the Vijayanagara Empire from 1399 to 1565. The Wodeyars of Mysore were part of the Empire. Their territory was very small. It was located mainly in Mysore district. For example in 1560, it was recorded that the kingdoms of Wodeyars consisted of 33 villages and it had a group of 200 soldiers. Likewise Tamil Nadu had bigger Nayaks under the empire. Among them mention may be made of Nayaks of Madurai, Nayaks of Tanjore and Nayaks of Jinjee.

After the battle of Talikota, political relations between the Nayaks and Palegars on the one hand and Vijayanagara on the other hand was gradually weakened. The feudal, federal and decentralized set up collapsed and as a result it, there was political rivalry among the Nayaks. It was in those political circumstances the Wodeyars of Mysore made a serious attempt to expand their territories. For example in 1610 Raja Wodeyar I
captured Srirangapattana under the Aravidu ruler. Srirangapattana became
the Capital of the kingdom of Mysore. The rulers of Mysore claimed that
they were the inheritors of the Vijayanagara traditions for example the rulers
of Mysore continued the Dasara celebrations of Vijayanagara. Even the
Wodeyars assumed the titles of the Vijayanagara empire. Likewise, the
Wodeyars of Mysore between 1610 and 1673 tried to push towards
Tamil Nadu. Raja Wodeyar I Kantirava Narasaraja Wodeyar, Dodda
Devaraja Wodeyar were the prominent rulers of this period who made
attempts to expand towards Tamil Nadu. Madurai in Tamil Nadu became
the focal point in the relationship between Mysore and Tamil Nadu. Raja
Wodeyar I (1578-1617) had a bitter relationship with Tirumala and
Venkata I. He conquered Srirangapattana in 1610. He ruled according to
the ideal of Rajadharma. He organized the administrative measures and
implemented the appointment of the Dalavoy or the commander in chief. In
this way he laid foundation for the beginning of Mysore-Tamil Nadu relations
as described below.

Kantirava Narasaraja Wodeyar (1638-1659) was an outstanding ruler
of this period. He succeeded Immadi Raja Wodeyar. He fought against
Bijapur in the north of his Kingdom between 1639 and 1641. And laid a
siege of Maratahalli between 1641 and 1642 he acquired Samballi. And he
annexed Hampapura in 1664, and Periyapatna and other territories
between 1644 and 1646.
He acquired Basavapatna in 1647. His relationship with the Nayaks of Ikkeri in the north and west was not cordial. Madurai became the focal point in Mysore- Tamil Nadu relations between 1655-1659. Madurai was also an issue between Mysore and Bijapur during 1654. The relationship is described below. He continued the Dasara tradition of Vijayanagara. C. Hayavadana Rao considers him as the Maker of Mysore.

Devaraja Wodeyar (1659-1673) was another important ruler of this period. He succeeded Kantirava Narasaraja Wodeyar I to the throne of Mysore. He had unfriendly relation with Nayaks of Ikkeri and the Aravidu dynasty of Vijayanagara. He made many conquests in Mandya, Mysore and Chamarajanagara districts. It was during his reign Erode and other places in Tamil Nadu were acquired for the kingdom of Mysore between 1667 and 1668. In the following pages facts related to Mysore - Tamil Nadu relations are described.

In 1614, the chiefs of Satyagala and Madura under the leadership of Nanjaraja Wodeyar of Hadinadu fought against Raja Wodeyar of Mysore. Early in 1614 Raja Wodeyar apparently found in Nanjaraja Wodeyar of Hadinad twenty thousand country a serious competitor for the sovereignty of the Srirangapattana province. At the head of the large army levied from the Chiefs of Alambadi, Kollegala, Yelandur, Satyagala and Madura (Tange Madure Yavariud Kappada Panadol Kattida Kaalalgal). Nanjaraja¹ began the offensive against Raja Wodeyar by walking away with the latter's horse (named Meghapushpa) stationed in Yelandur a frontier fort of Mysore.
(Edadoreyemba gadi-goonte). Raja Wodeyar decided upon hostilities and laid siege on Tayur. Nanjaraja proceeded by way of Ammachavadi. Raja Wodeyar surprised him in the neighborhood of the hill overlooking Vatahalu and Ganganur and began to obstruct his passage. A fierce fight ensued in which Nanjaraja was with considerable loss, slain and camp plundered. In February 1614 Terakanambi and Ummattur with their dependencies which had belonged to Nanjaraja were annexed to Mysore. The Hadinadsime was however left in charge of Chandrasekara Wodeyar's younger brother of Nanjaraja. Raja Wodeyar's Kingdom had extended up to the border of the territory of the Nayaks of Madura in Tamil Nadu.

The expansionist policy of Mysore was a source of great worry to the Nayaks of Madura and the other local Chiefs in the South of Mysore. The Nayak was afraid that the Mysore would eventually cast its eyes on Madura. So the Chief was taking all possible steps to destabilize Mysore. He instigated the chiefs of Heggadadevana Kote Kattemalavadi, Danayakana Kote and so on in the Southern border of Mysore and set them against Mysore. We may notice one important factor in these activities of the feudal Chiefs. That was the principle of expansion. Expansionism was the most important concept that governed the political events of the period. Military activities covered a major part of the history of the reign. Ambition to acquire more territory, rivalry, jealousy, force and internal warfare were the features that characterised the political events. The local Palegaras in the South and West of Mysore were alarmed by the expansionist policy of the Raja of Mysore. They naturally sought the intervention of the neighboring powers in
order to save their liberty. The policy of expansion followed by Mysore and
the anxiety of the other chiefs to neutralize its power resulted in the
formation of hostile camps against Mysore. As usual the Nayak of Madura
separated the Palegars. In the South of Mysore while the chief of Ikkeri
came to the assistance of Periyapattana in the West. Jagadevaraya sent his
army under his general Gopalraijaiya of Kattemalalavadi. A big union of
different chiefs was formed. The Mysore army soon marched to the South
and completely put down the rebel chiefs in the battle at Satyagala and
Hura and annexed the principalities of Heggadadevana Kote and
Kattemalalavadi to Mysore. Next Chamaraja moved to Periyapatna
defeating on the way the army of Jagadevaraya led by Gopalarajaiya and
invaded the fort of Periyapatna. The Mysore army captured alive
Singalaraya the commander of the Keladi army who had come to the
assistance of Periyapatna and cut his nose, when further resistance was
impossible. Nanjunda Arasu of Periyapatna capitulated agreeing to pay an
annual tribute of 3000 Varahas to Mysore.⁶

The effect of this campaign was that it put down to a great extent the
recalcitrant activities of the Nayak of Madura and the Palegar of Ikkeri in
Mysore territory. Secondly, the territory that Chamaraja in the campaign in
the South and West of Mysore was a land of elephants. Many of the Chiefs
that were defeated by Mysore in those battles between 1625 and 1627
agreed to supply war elephants required for the Mysore army. With these
war elephants Chamaraja reorganized his army and made it stronger.
Thirdly, the tribute paid by these chiefs enriched the exchequer of Mysore.
Finally these victories established peace in the South and West of Mysore was able to concentrate his attention on reduction of Channapatna.

The reduction of Channapatna was an important achievement of Chamaraja Wodeyar. For Channapatna was originally not a part of the Karnataka viceroyalty of Srirangapattana. Its acquisition now partially completed the conquest of Srirangapattana by Mysore. Secondly the viceroyalty of Channapatna had large extent. The acquisition of such an important province considerably extended the territorial limits of Mysore. Fourthly, the conquest brought much wealth to Mysore and increased its economic resources. Fourthly, the conquest of Channapatna by Mysore opened the way to advance towards Ikkeri in the northwest and Madura in the west through the Baramahals. It is possible to check the expansionist activities of Mysore that Sriranga of Vijayanagara had created the province of Channapatna and stationed his own representative there. With the fall of Viceroyalty, Mysore became free to launch its attacks in other directions. On the whole, by these conquests Mysore gradually started rising as a single independent Kingdom in Karnataka.

Basavalinganna the commander of Chamaraja Wodeyar V put down the rebellion of Ghatta-Mudaliar in 1627. Basavalinganna proceeded against Ghatta- Mudaliar (Ghatta-Madanari) a recalcitrant Chieftain in the South-East of Mysore below the ghats. Ghatta-Mudaliar was forced to submit and sue for peace with the Dalavoy tendering 3000 varahas with an elephant (named Chengodeya) and an Ivory Palakeen. Following closely on
Basavalinganna’s return, Ghatta Mudaliar, it is said⁸ again proved troublesome to Mysore. About the end of 1627, Basavalinganna was sent against him a second time Ghatta-Mudaliar was thoroughly humbled and an annual tribute of 3000 varahas settled on him.

The inscriptions, we learn that Kantirava was ruling Mysore seated on the Jewelled throne in Srirangapattana.⁹ In the actual works of government he had the active assistance of the Dalavoy and the officers. While the administration was conducted in the traditional manner the institutions of Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar were continued with regularity and vigor. Among the officers of Kantirava Chaluvaiya of the Kalale family was the superintendent of the Mysore-Nagarada-Hobli vicchara-sime Haridasaiya was a Chavadi- Manager and Channakrishna-pandit was the Chief ministerial officer (samastadhikara chamatkarnia) in charge of the Salem country.¹⁰

Kantirava Narasaraja Wodeyar I was a contemporary of Tirumala Nayak of Madura (1623-1659) and Sriranga of Vijayanagara. In 1642 Venkata II died and Sriranga VI succeeded to the throne of Penukonda and he was Kantirava’s loyal feudatory. The earliest record pointing to Kantirava’s loyalty to Sriranga is a historic one dated in March 1643 in which he acknowledges the latter’s suzerainty.¹¹ This document is of particular importance from the point of view of Kantirava’s own political position in relation to the Vijayanagara Empire. For, in it he refers to himself as taddakshanda -bhujadanda-nanda¹² which literally means that he was the
proper supporter of Sri Ranga in the South and conveyed that he was the
right-hand man of Sri-Ranga. These expressions were not however mere
literally flourishes. With reference to Kantirava's achievements they must be
termed significant. During 1639-1642, Kantirava as a loyal feudatory of the
empire had as we had seen actually saved the South of Vijayanagara by
successfully stemming the tide of Muhammedan advance in that direction
and stood as an effective barrier to the aggressions of Madras and other
powers in the South. By 1643, Kantirava had not only succeeded in
maintaining the integrity of Mysore as a kingdom but also in a wider sense
rendered a signal service to the cause of the Vijayanagara Empire. Indeed
he had enjoyed the implicit confidence of the Emperor and reciprocated
wholeheartedly the trust laid in him.\textsuperscript{13}

Yet the general political position in the country particularly in the
North and the North-west of Mysore during 1642-1644 was insecure in May
1642, shortly after his return from the Southern campaign.

By September 1647, Kantirava Narasaraja Wodeyar was at the
height of his power securely established on the throne of Mysore.\textsuperscript{14}

It was during the Mahanavami celebrations of that year that Shivappa
Nayaka of Ikkeri seeking probably a friendly alliance with Mysore sent an
embassy to the court of Kantirava with presents of robes and cash.
Kantirava in view of the accession by treachery of Shivappa Nayaka, it is
said that he rejected the offer sending back the envoy.\textsuperscript{15}
During the reign of Kantirava Narasaraja Wodeyar I the politics in Tamil Nadu showed signs of opposition to Vijayanagara ruler Sriranga VI at Penugonda. In south in Tamil Nadu, Tirumala Nayaka of Madurai had been asserting his independence showing signs of disaffection towards Vijayanagara of Sriranga VI, the Nayaks of Gingee and Tanjore were likewise displaying the same tendency.

In the South, in Tamil Nadu in 1659, the territory of Kantirava Narasaraja Wodeyar up to Danayakana Kote and Satyamangalam and with the Karnataka-Bijapur-Payanghat in the East. It practically covered the whole of the territory of Jayadevaraya. While in the West, it had been extended up to Coorg absorbing a major portion of the kingdom of the Changalvas (including Nanjarayapatna). The tendency on the part of Mysore to advance further in the North and the North-west while maintaining her integrity in the South and the South-east as against Madurai and other powers in Tamil Nadu had already begun to manifest itself towards the close of the reign. During 1647-1650, Tanjore, Madura and Gingee in Tamil Nadu were represented by respective ministers in the court of Kantirava Narasaraja Wodeyar. In Kantirava Narasaraja Wodeyar's stables at Srirangapattana were captured in war with the Nayaka of Madura. The king's chiefs of Tamil Nadu also sent horses and elephants as a tribute to him.16

Kantirava Narasaraja Wodeyar's political activities in Tamil Nadu from 1641-1642 were practically the acquisition for the kingdom of Mysore.
of Samballi, Dantahalli, Singanallur, Kaveripuram, Toley, Changappadi and Maratahalli in the South and the South-east between March 1641 and July 1642. And there were already indications of Mysore having an eye on Tirichinapally as the farthest limit of any projected scheme of her expansion southwards.

Though the political development of Mysore had been rendered possible by the aggressions of Bijapur in the North and Madura in the South, Kantirava Narasaraja Wodeyar remained loyal to the Vijayanagara Empire under Venkata II. In the Gajjiganahalli copper-plate grant made in April 1639, he acknowledges the sovereignty of Venkata seated on the throne of Ghanasaila (Penukonda). Further it is interesting to note that he called himself in that record a Mahamandalesvara (viceroy) in keeping with the old position of Tirumala II and made the grant having informed the Lord Venkata of the same. In a historic record dated in December 1640, he styles himself as "the great ruler of Mysore" (Sriman-maha-maisura-adhipa) indicating his prominent position in Mysore and refers to Terakanambi as a grant made to him in perpetuity by Venkata II (namma doretanakke rayarinda namage palisida Terakanambi). Overlordship was clearly acknowledged. And in another record Lithic dated March 1642, Kantirava Narasaraja Wodeyar.

At the approach of autumn Kantirava in consultation with astrologers fixed up the programme of Mahanavami. Kantirava got addressed palm-leaf letters to the ruling chiefs and feudatories inviting them to the festival. The
chiefs of Narasimhapura (Hole-Narasipur) Belur, Kunigal, Magadi, Nanjarayapatna the Beda chief and the Kodagu, Maleyala, Konkana and Tuluva chiefs went over to Srirangapattana with presents (kanike) while the local feudatories of Kantirava proceeded with tribute and large supplies in addition (balu alpa kanike kappa sahita) Ikkeri, Tanjore (Tanjavuru), Madura (Madhure) and Gingee (Tenje, Tenji, Chenje) were among the powers represented.

When Kantirava was engaged in his wars with Ranadullah Khan, Tirumala Nayaka of Madura would often create disturbances in the South with the help of the Local Palegaras who were hostile to Mysore. The Nayak of Madura wanted to create conditions of insecurity in the region in order to divert Kantirava's attention. Kantirava had thus to face two problems simultaneously namely the invasion of Mysore by Bijapur in the North and the insurrections instigated by the Nayak of Madura in the South. Early in 1641, Pattadaiya the eldest son of Ghatta Mudaliyar of Samballi rebelled against Kantirava and attacked Danayakanakote with the support of Tirumala Nayak of Madura. But the Mysore army soon marched forth and defeated Ghatta Muduliyar first at Marathalli in 1641 and again at Samballi in August 1642. Marching through Tolya, the Mysore army captured several places dependent on Ghatta Mudaliar. Like Nallur, Changapadi, Tiruchengod and Tirichinapally and then returned to Srirangapattana with much booty. The rebellion in the south was quelled and Kantirava was free to meet the threats from Bijapur in the Northern part of his Kingdom.
During these systematic conquests of Bijapur and Golkonda, Sriranga had joined his Southern feudatories with the intention of driving away the foreign invaders. But his action was wholly unequal to his ambitions. Proenza writes that Narasinga (Sriranga) spent more than a year with the three Nayaks in the midst of festivities, feasts and pleasures during which the Muhammadans quietly achieved the conquest of his dominions. Joys gave place to jealousies and divisions. In order to promote their own interests, the three Nayaks again deserted Sriranga. Rejected again by the Nayaks Narasinga (Sriranga) established his court in the forest thieves (kallans) lying to the North of Tanjore where he spent four months a prey to all discomforts and his courtiers soon abandoned him the grand monarch, who was the richest in India was forced to beg for help from the king of Mysore, the vassal of his crown. He received from Kantirava of Mysore an invitation to chose for his stay a province more agreeable to him and assurance of a brilliant treatment worthy of his rank and he eagerly accepted the offer so obliging and found a hospitality which even surpassed the promise made to his ambassadors. The statement of Proenza that Sriranga was given asylum by Kantirava Narasaraja of Mysore was corroborated by the Kannada source Mysuru Rajacharitere. According to the Srirangapattanada kaifiyat, Sriranga retired to the Ummattur country from where he must have recovered many of his possessions. It is obviously a reference to Kantirava’s conquest in the Baramahal in 1650-57.

Why did Kantirava interfere in the politics in Tamil Nadu? It is hard to admit Hayavadana Rao’s view that Kantirava took up the cause of Sriranga
in the Baramahals as a loyal feudatory of the empire.\textsuperscript{26} By that time Vijayanagara was no longer a vital force. It was merely a name after 1565, just as the Mughal empire after 1757. In fact Sriranga was forced to go out his capital Vellore and was wandering without a home at that time. After his defeat at Vellore in 1647, Sriranga became a "King without a Kingdom and a helpless fugitive at the court of one of his subordinates".\textsuperscript{27} It was too late to think of "imperial restoration" at that time, if as Hayavadana Rao assumes, Kantirava took up the "imperial cause". In Carnatic he could have done that still earlier, at least before Sriranga's defeat at Vellore in 1647. When Mysore was actually free from all troubles, he enjoyed peace at home. The fact that Kantirava Narasaraja remained neutral in Sriranga's wars between 1647-1649 showed that he was not interested in the cause of Sriranga at all. Kantirava's main object in entering Carnatic in 1650 was his self-interest. He was interested in the reduction of the Kingdom of Madura, the traditional enemy of the Golkonda army and Sriranga were by his side, Kantirava felt it would be easier and safer for him to attack Madura through the territory of Jagadevaraya in the east. He could mobilize greater resources with the help of Mirjumla and Sriranga to fight Adilsha who was their common enemy and then to attack Madura. S.K. Aiyanaganar also holds the view that Kantirava was not interested in the cause of Sriranga in Carnatic.\textsuperscript{28} A critical examination of the different sources reveals that it was his desire to conquer Maduara that compelled Kantirava to interfere in the politics of Carnatic and to start the wars of expansion in the region during 1650-1652.
In 1650-1651, he sent his army under his Dalavoy Hamparajaiya who conquered from Adilshah, Sulekere Durga, Nayakavadi, Yalahanka and Channagiri and Basavapatna. He further acquired from the Changalva ruler, Tunga and its dependent villages Ganni, Madapura and Kattarighatta.

Having thus strengthened his position locally, Kantirava entered into an alliance with Siddi Rahim the Nawab of Sira. A union of three powers namely Sriranga, Kantirava and Siddi Rahim of Sira came about. According to Zahur, "The Raja of Mysore came out of his territory at the instigation of Siddi Rahim and wrested all the forts in the Jagadeva country, which Mustafa Khan had taken with so much effort." Between November 1652 and January 1653, Kantirava ran over Carnatic and acquired in quick succession several important forts in the territory of Jagadevaraya in the Baramahal like Ratnagiri, Virabhadradurga, Kengere Kote, Kanakagiri, Rayadurga, Melagiri, Kaveripattana, Arjun Kote, Pennagara, Denkanikote, Dharmapuri and other places from one Yatibal Rao called Balaji Hayabat Rao a representative of Adilshah in that region.

Kantirava marched into the Baramahal and the combination of different rulers of the South caused a great concern to Tirumala Nayak of Madura. Tirumala Nayaka was worried that Kantirava's next step would be towards the Kingdom of Madura. The only way now left to him was to turn towards Bijapur. He appealed to Adilshah for help. Opened to his army again the passage through the ghats, and urged him to declare war against the King of Mysore. Proenza writes, "Tirumala Nayak, instead of cooperating in the establishment of the affairs of Narasinga, recommended
negotiations with Muhammadans and urged them to declare war against the king of Mysore.

As soon as Adilshah got Tirumala's request, he sent his army for the relief of Madura. The Bijapur army soon reduced Mir Jumla to submission in 1652 and wrested the prestigious fort of Penukonda from Sriranga after inflicting on him a humiliating defeat. Mir Jumla created a panic among the confederates.

Encouraged by these successes, the Bijapur army led by Khan Muhammad Khan-I-Khanam) successor to Mustafa Khan entered the territory of Jayadevaraya and laid siege to Krishnagiri the strongest bastion of Kantirava in that region. A terrific battle was fought in which Kantirava was routed and was forced to flee for life. The Bijapur army followed the victory and captured four other important forts which Kantirava had occupied in the region. Sriranga's position again became very critical. He sent Mir Jumla to the Mughal court seeking, the aid of Shah-Jahan against Adilshah. Meanwhile Kantirava sent a numberless force to the frontier fort of Kaveripattanam under his Dalavoy Dasarajaiya in order to retreat his defeat at Krishnagiri. Khan Muhammad dispatched a detachment under Siddi Masaud against Dasarajaiya and himself marched on Vellore. The Bijapur army under Siddi Masaud met the army of Kantirava at Kaveripattanam in October 1653. A battle took place in which Dasarajaiaya and the Dalavoy of Mysore was slain. Siddi Masaud soon recaptured all the Adilsahi forts taken by Kantirava in Jagadevaraya's territory and drove Kantirava out of
his Region. Having sent Siddi Masaund against Kantirava, Khan Muhammad besieged the fort of Vellore. Sriranga was completely defeated in April 1654. He was at last forced to conclude a treaty with Khan Muhammad according to which Vellore was taken by Adilshah and Sriranga was given Chandragiri along with its dependencies. Sriranga completely lost his power in Baramahals. It was indeed an irrecoverable loss to him. Adilshah's desire to raze out completely the very name of Vijayanagara and to hoist the banner of Bijapur. Thus the year 1654 might be said to mark the nadir.

During 1653-1654 Kantirava suffered heavy losses in Carnatic. He was finally obliged to sue for peace by paying a heavy war indemnity and annual tribute to the sultan of Bijapur. It was the highest watermark of the expansionist activities of Bijapur in the Carnatic. A policy of systematic converts in the South the Sultans of Bijapur and Golkanda completed the acquisition of what remained of Vijayanagara. And the treaty concluded the future war between the two powers.

In 1656, Bijapur got for its share, the whole of Baramahal and part of Mysore while Galkonda was given to the East of the Baramahal including Chittur, Chandragiri, Gooty, Gurramkonda, Kanjivaram and so on. The Bijapur possessions to the North of Mysore comprising of Bangalore, Kolar, Doddaballapur and Sira came to be called Karnataka Bijapur, Balaghat and the territory below the Ghats corresponding to the Jayadevaraya's territory
countermined with the South- eastern boundary of Mysore, came to be called Karnataka
Hyderabad Balaghat.\textsuperscript{41}

Doddadevaraj Wodeyar is an important personality in the Wodeyar dynasty of Mysore. His reign witnessed the beginning of the rise of Mysore as an independent Kingdom in the South. During the period, the Sultans of Bijapur and Golkanda were engaged in their struggle with Aurangazeb. The Shahi Sultans were therefore not in a position to think of any conquests in Karnataka as they had to defend their own territories from the Mughal attacks. Being freed from the hostilities of the Deccan Sultans, the Palegaras in the South tried to throw off the foreign yoke and assert their independence. In Karnataka, apart from Mysore, Ikkeri was trying to project itself under Shivappa Nayak I (1645-1660). Shivappa took full advantage of the absence of the Bijapur forces in his province and occupied Vassudhare (Vastare), Sakkarepatna and Hassan in order to strengthen his defences in the South of his Kingdom.\textsuperscript{42} Shivappa gave asylum to Sriranga and started extending his Kingdom in the name of fugitive King. Already by 1656 Shivappa reconquered from the Sultan of Bijapur, Ikkeri, Soraba, Udagiri, Mahadevapura. Ambalegolla and other forts and drove him to Bijapur from his province.\textsuperscript{43} Madura was ever hostile to Mysore, and Chokkanatha Nayaka its new ruler (1659-1682) followed the aggressive attitude of his predecessor Tirumala Nayaka. A few of the local Palegaras in Mysore like Narasimha Nayaka of Hole Narasipur always used to side either Ikkeri or Bijapur in order to destabilize Mysore.\textsuperscript{44} Those were the general conditions in Karnataka when Devaraja ascended the throne in 1659.
The entire reign of Devaraja Wodeyar was mostly spent in wars. Tirumalrva seemed to make three distinct stresses in these campaigns. The first ended with the defeat of the Palegar of Ikkeri and the acquisition of Hassan and Sakkarepattana and by Mysore, the second with the split of the confederacy formed by Chokkalinga Nayaka and the fall of Erode and Dharapuram and the third with the attack upon Mumadi Kempe Gowda and the termination of the latter’s authority over Kunigal and Huliyurudurga in 1667.

When all his hopes of imperial restoration were shattered, Sriranga seemed to have finally left Belur in 1663 and sought shelter in the court of Chokkanatha Nayaka of Madura. We have a few inscriptions of Chokkanatha ranging from 1665 to 1667 which point to the presence of Sriranga in the court at Madura. The absence of Sriranga in Karnataka was a signal for the king of Mysore to profess his independence. After Doddadevaraja Wodeyar gave up the usual courtesy of mentioning the king of Vijayanagara (his nominal overlord) in all his inscriptions. As a mere maha-mamadaleswara (provincial governor) under the king of Vijayanagara. After the flight of Sriranga from Hassan in 1663, Devaraj adopted some high royal title like Rajadhiraja, Paramesvara. Sri Virapratapa, Birudantembara Ganda, Dharnivarha, Nanamakuta Mandalikara Ganda, Muru Manneya Ganda (Champion over three chiefs) Pararaya Bhayankara (Terror of the hostile kings) Hindu Raya Suratrana (Sultan of Hindu Kings) and so forth which were formerly the distinctive epithets of the sovereigns of Vijayanagara. It seemed apparent that by
1663, Devaraja Wodeyar of Mysore rose to the position of a ruler of an independent kingdom.

Another important event of the reign of Devaraya was the defect of Chokkanatha and his allies in 1667 and the annexation of Erode and Dharapuram to the Kingdom of Mysore. The real cause of the conflict between Mysore and Madura in 1667 was the projected expression of Mysore in the South. On the fall of Hassan and Sakkarepatna in 1663, Sriranga left Belur and went to Madura. He seemed to have sought the assistance of Chokkanatha Nayaka, the chief of Madura and made another effort to regain his authority and to neutralize the power of Mysore. Chokkanatha also could not tolerate the expansionist activities of Mysore in the principality of Madura during Kantirava Narasaraja's rule. Chokkanatha wanted to make the best use of the fugitive Sriranga III in his court. The presence of Sriranga in his court gave to Chokkanatha much moral and material support to oppose Doddadevaraja Wodeyar. He joined Sriranga with whose help he mediated the conquest of entire Mysore. In the scheme of conquest, Chokkanatha enlisted the support of the Maratha chiefs in the Carnatic namely Vedoji and Anantoji, the best representatives at Jengi and Tanjore respectively, a union of chiefs hostile to Mysore was brought about when Damaria Aiyappa Nayaka a local Jagirdar also joined this confederacy. The confederate forces took up the cause of Sriranga, to restore him back to his power. The main obstacle in Sriranga's attempt to recover his power was Mysore. The fall of Vijayanagara was a gain to Mysore. Mysore started became stronger and stronger correspondingly as
the kingdom of Sriranga declined and the rising power of Mysore was an eye sore to Sriranga. The kingdom was crumbling before his own eyes and he wanted somehow to regain lost power and restore the former glory of the empire of Vijayanagara.

The confederate powers championed the cause. The confederate army consisting of one lakh of infantry, one hundred elephants and many horses marched forth and laid siege at the fort to Erode in the south east of Mysore.

The allied army was led by Tupakada Linganna Nayaka the commander of the army of Chokkanatha, on hearing about the formation of the confederacy and the march of the confederate army towards Erode. Doddadevaraja sent his army under the command of his nephew Chikkadevaraja.

The march of the Mysore army created a sense of panic in the mind of Chokkanatha. For there was no unity among the members of confederacy though the members of the confederacy exposed the cause of Sriranga, they joined the confederacy only to check the power of Devaraja Wodeyar and to wreak vengeance against him. Most of those members were really interested in the cause of Sriranga. Secondly, the Maratha Sardars at Tanjore and Jingi joined Chokkanatha purely on their own accord and there action did not have the approval of the policy makers at Poona. It was their will against the Raja of Mysore that dictated them to respond favourably to Chokkanatha when the latter appealed to them to join the
confederacy. And therefore the confederacy was a loosely-knit organization. It had no well-defined programmes and policies. Beside the confederate army was only large in number. It was not a well-disciplined army but consisted of mere rabbles, these factors convinced Chokkanatha that the confederate forces could not face the Mysore army which had the distinction of having won several battles during the reign of Kantirava Narasaraja Wodeyar and also during the reign of Devaraja Wodeyar.

Chokkanatha was unnerved. He became apprehensive of the impending danger and secretly retired to Tirichinapally leaving his allies to their fate. Sriranga also followed him soon. The flight of Chokkanatha and Sriranga created much confusion among the confederate powers. The confederacy was thus hopelessly divided. Meanwhile, the Mysore army arrived for the relief of Erode. In a sanguinary fight, Aiyapa Nayaka was slain and Anantoji was put to flight. The confederate army was completely defeated. The Mysore army made the permanent conquest of Erode, Dharapuram, and Vamalur and marched as far as Tirichinapally where it compelled Chokkanatha to submit to Mysore.

The defeat of the confederate forces at Erode was a great accomplishment of Doddadevaraja Wodeyar because the war completely foiled the attempts of Sriranga to reduce the importance of Mysore. This was the last trial of strength between Doddadevaraja Wodeyar and Sriranga. Sriranga lost the ground and the defeat of the allied forces at
Madura proved the strength of Mysore which emerged as a strong power in Karnataka.

During the reign of Devaraja Wodeyar Chokkanatha Nayaka (1659-1682) grandson of Tirumala Nayaka succeeded to the kingdom of Madura. Troubles were still brewing in Tamil Nadu, frontier conquest. The war between Mysore and Madura during the last years of the reigns of Kantirava Narasaraja Wodeyar and Tirumala Nayaka. Dalavoy Hamparajaiya who lost it, had to take part in that disastrous enterprise, and he continued to hold office earlier in the reign of Devaraja, when he was called upon to face a new situation.

By 1673, the last year of Devaraja Wodeyar's reign in the kingdom of Mysore, powerful and practically independent had been extended as far as Hassan and Sakkarepatna in the West Salem in the East Chiknayakanahalli, in the North and Erode and Dharapuram in the South. The victory of Mysore over the Southern confederacy at Erode (headed by Chokkanatha Nayaka of Madura) in June 1667 was the rapid dissolution of the empire itself. It contributed a little to enhance the reputation and prestige of Devaraja Wodeyar as a ruler of Mysore. He was assisted by the able Dalavoys like Nanjanathaiya and Kumaraiya of Kalale in the work of political expansion and he was on the whole able to extend and maintain the independence and integrity of the kingdom of Mysore in the West North and the South, with a tendency to advance further
southwards in the direction of Tirichinapally and Madura and leave a rich legacy to his nephew and successor Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar.

From the above study, we may draw a few general conclusions. First in the history of political relations between Mysore and Tamil Nadu, the period from 1610 to 1673 was a landmark. During this period Raja Wodeyar I, the Kantirava Narasaraja Wodeyar I, and Devaraja Wodeyar figured prominently in the political relationship. The decline of Vijayanagara after 1565 provided an opportunity for the rulers to expand the kingdom of Mysore towards Tamil Nadu. The Southern expansion was natural because in the North and West, Mysore had to face formidable enemies. Bijapur and the Aravidu dynasty of Vijayanagara in the North and Nayaks of Keladi in the West prevented the expansion in that direction.

Secondly Madura was the focal point of relationship between Mysore and Tamil Nadu during 1619-1673. The Nayaka's of Madura like Muttuverappa Nayaka I, Tirumala Nayaka and Chokkanatha Nayak played a very important role. Muttuverappa Nayaka I had relations with Mysore under Chamaraja VI in 1619. Tirumala Nayaka of Madura (1623-1659) was a contemporary of Kantirava Narasaraja Wodeyar I. He incited and supported the chiefs of Samballli against Mysore between 1641-1642. He proved disloyal to Sriranga VI the Aravidu ruler of Vijayanagara kingdom. Tirumala Nayaka followed the anti-imperial policy with special reference to Mysore. Chokkanatha Nayaka of Madura (1659-1682) was a contemporary of Devaraja Wodeyar of Mysore. He followed the hostile relations with
Mysore up to 1667. Chokkantha Nayaka took a leading part in the siege of Erode in 1667. In 1668 Chokkanatha Nayaka submitted to Mysore.

Thirdly, Erode was another focal point in the political relationship between Mysore and Tamil Nadu. During that period in June 1667, Dalavoy Kumaraiya took possession of Erode. Erode became the base of operations for further penetration of Mysore into Tamil Nadu. For example, in November 1667 Dharapuram was taken by Dalavoy Kumaraiya. Likewise, he took in February 1668, Vamulur, Kamalur, and Samballipura from Ghatta-Mudaliar. It was a very important development in the history of political relations between Mysore and Tamil Nadu.

Fourthly, one of the important developments in the history of political relationship between Mysore and Tamil Nadu is the march of Mysore army up to Tirichinapally under Dalavoy Kumaraiya. Chokkanatha Nayaka of Madura was forced to submit to Mysore army. Dalavoy Kumaraiya of Kalale collected horses, cash and costly Jewels from Chokkanatha. Inscriptions found in Salem and Coimbatore districts recorded those political achievements at Mysore. Dalavoy Kumaraiya of Kalale in a way laid the foundation for Kalale Nanjarajaiah's policy towards Trichinapally in the 18th century. Lastly, the period form 1610 to 1673 was a formative period in the political relationship between Mysore and Tamil Nadu. The period laid the foundation for further expansionist programme of Mysore. Madura, Erode, Dharapuram, Vamalur were the focal points. We may now turn our attention to the study of political relationship between Mysore and Tamil Nadu under Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar in the next chapter.
Notes and References


2. Extant villages in the T.Narasipur and Yelandur taluks (see list of villages 90 for vatalu).


4. Tayur, Tagadur, Hedatale, Hemmaragala, Nilusoge etc. (sec. C. VI. II p. 29).


11. Ibid., IV(2) Y.D. 5,1.5.

12. Ibid., 1.6 here read dakshina for dakshana.


14. See K.N.V., XX, XXV: See also under social life Mahanavami festival in ch IX.

15. C.Vam., p.190.
16. K.N.V. (1648) VI, 3-74, 91, 93, 198; VII, 1-9 compare the general
topography of Vijayanagara as given by Domingo Paes (1520), Sewel.,
A forgotten empire, pp. 284-289.
in f. n 60 supra of Wilks list of conquests (I 64-67) based on the Mys.
19. Ibid., II 85-87 Sriman -maha-mandalesa narasakshiti-chandraman
Vijnapya suamine vira venkata shmahhoje tatah.
20. Ibid., IV (2) Gu 10 11. 2-5, 8.
25. Nilkantha Sastri K.A., Further Sources of Vijayanagara History, Vol. II,
p. 243.
p. 362.
28. The foundation of the Mahratta power in the South and Shahji's
contribution to the establishment of Maratha Empire. Baroda. 1942.
31. Ibid.

33. Proenza La Mission Du Mudure in the Hist. of the Nayaks of Madura, p. 267.

34. Ibid., H.N.M., pp. 47-48.

35. Ibid., p. 267.


37. Ibid., Muddachari, op cit.


40. H. V. Rao, Hist., pp.149-150.

41. Orme, Historical Fragments, p. 62.


43. Ibid., VII p. 110.

44. Annals I., p. 98.


49. E.C., VI, Sr. 23 : V. Tn 218 and so on.


52. C. VI., VP 107, V. 35.

53. Ibid., V pp. 113. 114 Vs 81-82.


56. See. E.C., iii (1) Sr 14 (1686) II 40-43 which enables us to determine the precise limits of the Kingdom of Mysore in 1673.