CHAPTER III

POLITICAL RELATIONS OF CHIKKADEVARAJA WODEYAR WITH TAMIL NADU (1673-1704)

In the last Chapter, we examined the political relationship of Mysore with Tamil Nadu up to 1673. During the reign of Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar broadly the trends of the previous period continued. A few political changes outside Mysore emerged during that period. The Mughals, the Marathas, the Nayaks of Keladi and the local rulers of Tamil Nadu confronted Mysore under Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar. Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar was the greatest ruler of the Wodeyar dynasty. It was he who established a systematic administrative structure in Mysore. He also introduced some social reforms and patronised Tamil Srivaishnavism.

From the point of view of war, peace and diplomacy, the period from 1673-1704 was highly significant. It was not easy for Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar to preserve political peace and stability in Mysore. Mysore had to face constant danger from the Marathas in the North the Nayaks of Keladi in the West, the Nayaks of Madura and other Tamil chiefs in the South and the East of Mysore. Even then the political expansion of Mysore was remarkable. Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar followed pro-Mughal, anti-Marathas and anti-Keladi policy. Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar exploited the political rivalry and conflict between the Mughals and the Marathas. He was friendly to Aurangzeb, the greatest Mughal ruler of India. Aurangzeb also reciprocated his friendship. At the same time, Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar
expanded his political power towards Tamil Nadu in the South and East of Mysore. His relationship with Tamil Nadu might be described briefly.

Born on September 22, 1645, Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar was brought up in Mysore by his father Doddadevaraja Wodeyar, till the latter's renunciation and departure for the banks of the Kaundini (by 1659). Chikkadevaraja, has had been depicted by his friend and co-student Tirumalarya, displayed traces of a promising person, being educated and trained on sound lines and acquiring proficiency in the principles of drama, rhetoric, poetry and linguistics, in dialectics, puranas, dharmasastras and politics, in music (including the flute) gymnastics, archery and swordsmanship, and in horse - riding and elephant riding and various other manly exercises, as indicated in the preceding chapter, Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar, during the reign of his uncle Devaraja Wodeyar, stayed, in the capital city of Sringapatanm as crown-prince (yuvaraja) till 1667. In February 1662, he was married to Devajamma, daughter of Lingarajaiya of Yelandur, and Devamma, Daughter of (Dalavoys) Kumaraiya of Kalale. As crown-prince he exhibited rare courage and military spirit, during the deliberations at Sringapatnam and on the occasion of the siege of Erode (1667). And he adorned, also, the court of Devaraja, taking an active interest in the study and appreciation of various subjects, sacred and secular, from about 1667 onwards, however, Chikkadevaraja, as a young man of twenty-two, appears to have shown a tendency towards independence in administration. The coronation took place on February 28, 1673.
The accession of Chikkadevaraja to the throne marks a turning-point in the history of South India, the Empire of Vijayanagara, which had continued to hold its own against adverse forces for well high a century after the battle of Raksa-Tangadi (1565), was rapidly losing its hold on the country under the nominal, but attenuated, sway of Sriranaga VI during the latter part of his life. The Shahi kingdoms of Bijapur and Golkonda were drawn into a struggle with Aurangzeb in the Deccan, while the power of Bijapur in the Karnataka-Balaghat had been definitely on the wane since the death of Shahji in 1664. Shahji had been succeeded in the Karnataka possessions of Bijapur by his son Ekoji (Venkoji), and the latter was staying in Banagalore, the seat of his father's Jahgir, exercising the powers of a Bijapur general. The Maratha power in the Deccan under Shivaji was steadily asserting itself against the Mughals on the one hand and the Shahi Kingdoms on the other. In Ikkeri, in the North-west (of Mysore), Hiriya-Somasekara Nayaka having died a victim to court intrigue, had been succeeded by his queen-dowager, Channammaji, in February 1672; and the latter was governing the kingdom with the assistance of Bassappa Nayaka afterwards Hiriya-Bassappa Nayaka I adopted, and appointed heir-designate, by herein-July 1672. Madura, in the far South, under Chokkanatha-Nayaka (1659-1682), was on the point of drifting into war with Tanjore on the one side and Mysore on the other, as feudal powers an off shoots of Vijayanagara, both Ikkeri and Madura were practically independent. Indeed, to them Mysore, which had likewise emerged under similar circumstances but was a powerful and claimed imperial status as the
political heir of Vijayanagara in the Karnataka, had become a source of alarm, already towards the close of Devaraja's reign, the result was that, when Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar. The situation assumed a serious aspect when, about the time of Chikkadevaraja's accession, Chokkanatha Nayaka (Chokkalinga) of Madura evinced an attitude of hostility towards Mysore (durhrda-bhavambettiral) on March 5, 1673, i.e., on the fifth day after his installation (patava-daidaneya-dinadoi), Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar proceeded on an expedition towards the East, taking in rapid succession the fort of Dhuligote, malai, muttanjatti, Paramatti and Salem (Salya). Marching further, Chikkadevaraja encountered Chokkanatha himself at the head of his forces (consisting, we are told, of eight thousand horse, a lakh of foot and a hundred elephants) commanded by his Dalavoys Venkatakrisna Nayaka and lying in wait at Madhuvana on the borders of the forest region of Sadamangalam. In the action that took place, Chokkanatha was repulsed and hotly pursued; his forces were severely crushed. And several elephants, horses and valuables in his camp plundered and captured by the Mysore army. It was followed by Chikkadevaraja's expedition to Sadamangalam whose chief, Ramachandra Nayaka, readily submitted to him and was promised protection; the fort of Anantagiri was next taken, and the hostile chiefs of Ariyalur, Toreyur and Dharapuram. And Kongu Nadu was successively reduced and forced to pay tribute. After having securely established himself in the East in the places commanding the South, Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar returned to the capital about the close of 1673.
To Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar, Maratha affairs in Southern India, since Shivaji's departure in November 1677, had become a source of great concern. Especially, as regards the territorial integrity of the frontiers of Mysore in the South-east and the North and his own advance in those directions. Already there were signs of the beginnings of a contest for the mastery of the South between Mysore and the Marathas, Madura was a contributory factor in the situation. In January 1678, Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar, probably taking advantage of the state of affairs in Madura proceeded to the East and laid siege to and took possession (From Ghatta-Mudaliar) of the forts of Andur and Kuntur, situated on the frontiers guarding the dominions of Madura. Then he marched on to Erode, pursuing and capturing its chief Akka Reddi, but subsequently, pardoning him and accepting his submission. Referring, perhaps, to this movement of Chikkadevaraja, the Jesuit letter of 1678 speaks of him as having entered the dominions of the Nayak of Madura "Without striking a blow" and taken "possession of the only two fortresses which Madura had preserved till then in the North", again, in a letter to fort St. George. Chokkanatha himself states that "his brother not understanding how to govern the kingdom, did act in such a manner that the naive of misure (Mysore) took Madura, etc., places from us and gave Vallam castle to Ekoji."

In June 1688, Chikkaya, agent (Gurikar) of Chikkadevaraja at Sankhagiri, took possession of Avanipur, Arasaravani and Hoskote. This was followed by Chikkadevaraja's acquisition of Manugonde-Durga, Mannargudi and Vamalur in November, and of Dharmapuri in January 1689.
In May, Paramatti was retaken after a bombardment; in July, Gurikar Lingarajaiya, another agent of Chikkadevaraja of Coimbatore, took Kaveripattanam; in September, Kuntur-Durga (Kunnattur) was re-acquired and, finally, in January 1690, Anantagiri under an agreement (Kaulu) concluded by Haraji. Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar completed the chain of his conquests in the Eastern part of Mysore by the reacquisitions of Salem, Sadamanagalam, Paramatti, Namakaland Tammaimbatti.17

Owing to the presence of Mughal arms in the Karnataka during the period (1691-1698), he had wisely refrained from continuing to push the direction of Madura and Tirichinapally, although he never seemed to have ceased actively reiterating his claim to sovereignty over it (Tenkanaraya).18 Within the limits of the Karnataka country, however, he had become well-established, and he was, we learn,19 looked upon with awe by the contemporary powers of Tanjore, Madura, Ginjee and Sira. He seemed to have succeeded also in enforcing his claim to supremacy as the sovereign of the Karnataka (karnataka-bhumandolodhisa).20 Indeed contemporary texts, testify to his right to enjoy the undivided sovereignty of the empire (akhanda-dharani-mandaladipati) as an unparalleled monarch.21

In fine, at a time when Aurangazeb in the North was being continually harassed in his struggle with the Maratha's, Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar, alone among the South Indian powers, was at the zenith of his power in Mysore - apparently a factor of considerable alarm to the Mughal.
The years 1700-1704 were, on the whole, years of peaceful and settled government in Mysore under Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar in 1704, the last year of his reign, the political position of the kingdom of Mysore. With reference to Tamil Nadu, in the East and the South, up to and inclusive of part of Salem-Baramahal and Coimbatore districts, with a distinct tendency to advance further in the direction of Tirichinapally in the far south, entered the Coleroon sooner, had not the king of maissoor (Mysore) stopped their course by a prodigious mole he raised and which extended the whole breadth of the canal. The design was to turn off the waters by the bank in order that those following into the canals dug by him might refresh his dominions, but while he thus resolved to make his own lands fruitful and thereby increase his revenues, he was going to ruin the two neighboring kingdoms, those of Madura and Tanjoor (Tanjore). The water would not have risen before the end of July, and the canal would have been dry by the middle of September. The two princes, zealous for the welfare of their respective kingdoms, were exasperated at this attempt; upon which they united against the common enemy in order to oblige him, by force of arms, to destroy a mole which did them such vast prejudice. They were making great preparations for that purpose when the river Coleroon revenged (as was the phrase here) at front which had been put upon its waters, by capturing them in the manner the prince in question had done during the time the rains descended but moderately on the mountains, the mole stood and the waters flowed gently into the canals dug for that purpose; but the instant they fell abundantly, the river swelled to such a degree that it broke
the mole and dragged it along. In this manner, the prince of maissor (Mysore), after putting himself to a great expense, was frustrated, in an instant, of the immense riches which he had hoped to gain”. Although the scheme of an embankment on the Cauvery, thus originated by Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar in the very beginning of the eighteenth century, proved to be a failure owing to freaks of nature, the document we have quoted from amply testify to the brilliancy of his constructive effort in a department - of public works. The defeat of the confederate force at Erode by Devaraja Wodeyar in 1667 had dealt a strong blow to Vijayanagara and removed Sriranga from the South Indian Political scene. The Nayak rule had come to a close at Tanjore where Ekoji held established his own rule. Madura was too weak to maintain itself and was struggling to preserve its integrity against the odds of the time.

Early in his reign, Chikkadevaraj was engaged in a bloody encounter with the Nayak of Madura and the Palegar of Ikkeri. During the whole of his reign, there was a great contest for supremacy over Karanataka between Madura and Mysore and Mysore and Ikkeri. Mallikarjuna, the court poet of Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar, tells us that Chokkanatha developed an attitude of hostility towards Mysore and made preparations for war. Madura and Ikkeri were very anxious to maintain the balance of power in Karantaka and they never liked Mysore becoming more powerful. Chokkanatha, the ruler of Madura, had not forgotten the humiliation suffered by him in the battlefield at Erode in 1667 during the reign of Doddadevaraja Wodeyar. Since then he was waiting for on opportunity to avenge the injury. Taking advantage of the
death of Dodda Devaraja Wodeyar. Chokkanatha reorganized his army and planned an invasion of Mysore. According to Tirumalarya Madura and Ikkeri together made an attempt to pull down Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar of Mysore. While Madura raised a rebellion in the South, Ikkeri invaded Mysore from the North-Chokkanatha sent his army under his commander Venkata Krishana Nayaka who bore the title Sangora Kirita (Crown of battle). As crown prince, Chikkadevaraja had already broken the mighty confederacy formed by Chokkanatha and Sriranga III of Vijayanagara and had humbled them at Erode in 1667. Again, he had to face the Madura army early in his reign. The Mysoreans fell on the Madura army at Maduvana and subjected the Nayak to greater humiliation, in a fierce battle that was fought at the place Chikkadeva routed the Madura army and put the Nayak to heavy losses - both men and ammunitions the Mysoreans captured on the battlefield and all belongings of the Madura army including their war horses and elephants and wrested from Chokkanatha several important forts in Madura like Paramatripura, Malai, Muttanjatti, Shalya (Salem), Sadamangalam, Anantagiri, Torenad, Ariyalur, Dharapuram and soon and returned to Mysore with much booty.

Mysore-Madura Relations

Ever since Ekoji Shifted his capital to Tanjore, he had initiated a policy of expansion in the South. He had concentrated his attention on Madura. His object was to secure some military bases in the Madura region in order to check the advance of Mysore in that direction. Early in his reign, Chikkadevaraja had defeated Chokkanatha and had acquired much territory
in the Southern passes heading to Madura from Mysore. Chikkadevaraja's success in Madura kingdom in 1673 was a source of great anxiety to Ekoji. Ekoji never wanted Mysore to have territorial acquisitions in Madura and wanted to expel Mysore from all its possessions in the region. Ekoji wanted to keep Mysore as far as possible away from the Maratha zone of influence in the South. Andre Freiere writes "Mysore cannot see without uneasiness a bold set of people establishing themselves on her own frontiers, fortifies the citadels taken from the Northern provinces of Madura, gathers fresh troops and makes grand preparation for war". \(^{24}\) Shortly after Shivaji withdrew his steps from Karnataka, Chikkadevaraja sent his army to the kingdom of Madura. In January 1678 the Mysore army defeated Ghatta Mudaliyar, a feudatory of Chokkantha of Madura and wrested from him the few important forts of Andur and Kuntur situated on the northern border of Madura. \(^{25}\) Then he turned towards the east and occupied Erode putting to flight its chief Akka Reddi. The reduction of those forts dealt a great\(^ {26}\) blow to the power of Chokkantha in his own kingdom. According to Andre Freiere "The king of Mysore entered them without striking a blow and took possession of the only two fortresses which Madura had preserved till then in the North". \(^ {27}\)

**Mysore-Maratha Relations**

**(a) Maratha Debacle at Mandya**: In the Meanwhile, in Maharastra Shivaji died in 1680 and was succeeded by his son Sambhaji to the Maratha throne and to the Maratha Possessions in Karnataka. Sambhaji was the born enemy of Mysore. And in pursuit of this traditional hostility, he appointed a general like Jaitaji, Nimbaji and soon to deal with Chikkadevaraja and rose
in revolt in the Northwestern part of Mysore and occupied Kadur, Banavara, Hassan and Belur, while Ikkeri was threatening Mysore from the Northwest.

The army of the Marathas led by Haraji, Dadaji and Jaitaji started attacking Chikkadevaraja’s possessions in the South of Mysore and invaded the fort of Dharmapuri which belonged to Mysore. The Mysore army repulsed the Marathas after a long fight which lasted for eight months in December 1681 and chased them unto Samyaminipattanam in South Dharmapuri.

Another factor that contributed for the disturbances in Karnataka during the period and embittered the Mysore - Maratha relations was the Tirichinapally question. In order to check the Maratha expansion in the Carnatic after Ekoji established his capital at Tanjore, Mysore wanted to set up a military base at Tirichinapally. Both Haraji the Chief of Jinji and Sambhaji realized the danger of the designs of Mysore and made great efforts to check its activities in the South. Tirichinapally belonged to Madura and Mysore wanted to acquire the same in order to check the Maratha explosion in the South, but the Marathas wanted to repulse Mysore “Whose Proximity they feared”. The incompetent rule of Chokkanatha Nayaka of Madura offered an alluring temptation of Mysore at the beginning. Since 1678, the power of Chokkanatha was declining at Madura. The commander Rustum Khan had usurped all the authorities of the Nayaka and had started ruling like an independent Prince. He kept the ruling family in complete
surveillance. Chokkanatha became very unhappy at this awkward situation. He appealed to Mysore and the Marathas for help. This request offered a good chance to Mysore to push its conquests further into the Madura region. Chikkadevaraja readily conceded to the request and sent his army under his Dalavoys Kumaraiya ostensible for the relief of Chokkanatha but readily to reduce Tirichinaplally.\(^{32}\) The Mysore Palace records state that Chikkadevaraja sent his army to Madura territory for the collection of the tribute which was in arrears since 1667.\(^{33}\) It might be partly correct. After his defeat by Doddadevaraja at Erode in 1667, Chokkanatha Nayaka of Madura had terminated the hostilities by agreeing to pay annul tribute to Mysore.\(^{34}\) Chokkanatha never complied with the terms of this treaty. But the real intention of Mysore, according to the company records, was to try for the reduction of Tirichinapally.\(^{35}\) Kumaraiya quickly marched to Madura. He defeated Rustum Khan in a battle and freed Chokkanatha from the clutches of the latter,\(^{36}\) Chokkanatha was very happy at Kumaraiya’s timely help. He wrote to the Governor of Madras. \textit{"We and the Naigue of Misure are now good friends".}\(^{37}\) But Chokkanatha was unable to understand the real intention of the Raja of Mysore. It is out of his self-interest Chikkadevaraja had sent assistance to Chokkanatha not ready to save him from the tyranny of Rustum Khan. Kumaraiya greatly embarrassed Chokkanatha by demanding Tirichinapally as a price for his help. Wilks, quoting a family manuscript, tells as that Kumariya "made a vow not to appear before his Raja until he had taken Tirichinapally.\(^{38}\)
The demand of Kumaraiya very much irritated Chokkanatha. He ultimately turned to the Marathas for help to save himself from that predicament. The Marathas readily joined Chokkanatha on the pretext of helping him against the demand of Kumaraiya, but in reality to obviate Chikkadevaraja's Designs on Tirichinapally and the cessation of Tirichinapally to Mysore would lead to constant friction between Mysore and the Marathas. For Tirichinapally was close to Maratha settlements of Jinji of Tanjore. The Marathas were therefore bent upon expelling Mysore from the Madura region somehow or other. And so, Tirichinapally became a bone of contention between Mysore and the Marathas.

Kumaraiya was unable to face this big combination of powers like the Marathas, Chokkanatha and the Maravas. He made some sly efforts individually with some of the allies in order to break the confederacy. He first tried with Chokkanatha offering him peace "promising to preserve the kingdom for him and re-establishing the successors of the ancient Nayaks of Tanjore and Jinji." But Chokkanatha did not yield. Having failed to entice Chokkanatha, Kumarajiya turned to Haraji and tried to "corrupt his fidelity" by offering him large sums of money. By this Kumaraiya only wanted to gain time to get additional help from Mysore which he had applied for. But his letters "fell into the hands of his rivals who kept away those dispatches to ruin the general." The Marathas now came to know the intentions of Kumaraiya. Haraji therefore decided to take suitable steps to deal with the general. He took advantage of the absence of the major part of the Mysore army from Srirangapattana and of the serious predicament of Kumaraiya at
Tirichinapally. He sent a strong Maratha force under his generals Dadaji Kakade, Jaitaji and Nimbaji against Mysore with instructions to attack Srirangapattana. The Maratha army soon entered the interior of Mysore and encamped near the village Kottatti and Honnalagere near Mandya and thus threatened the security of Srirangapattana, Chikkadevaraja's capital.

Chikkadevaraja's position now became critical because the major portion of his army was at Tirichinapally. He soon sent a word to Dalavoys Kumaraiya asking him to send the major part of the army for the protection of the capital. Accordingly, Kumaraiya sent a strong force under his nephew general Doddaiya. The Mysore army rapidly marched through the Kaveripuram passes and arrived near the place where the Marathas had encamped. The Palace records give us a graphic account of the battle that ensued and the stratagem played by the Mysore army on the occasion. Doddaiya made a surprise night attack on the Marathas. The Mysore general carefully fastened lighted torches to the horns of three under transport oxen under him and drove the animals from different directions on the Maratha camp. The Marathas were taken by surprise and were very much confused by the sudden rush of the army. The Mysore army followed the oxen and fell on the Maratha camp. There ensued one of the most sanguinary battles in which the Maratha army was simply butchered and plundered. Dadaji, Jaitaji and Nimbaji were captured alive and slain on the battlefield. Their heads were cut off and hung on one of the gateways of Srirangapattana.
The victory of Chikkadevaraja foiled the Maratha design on Srirangapattana and left a profound impression on his contemporaries also. In particular, the defeat on these generals was said to have very much delighted Aurangazeb who praised Chikkadevaraja for his heroic achievement. Dalavoys Virarajiaya writes that the victory made Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar the undisputed master of Karnataka. Kashipati Pandita, an eighteenth century commentator writes that by this victory over the Marathas Chikkadevaraja fully asserted his right for supremacy over Karnataka.

(b) Kumaraiya's rout at Tirichinapally: The Defeat of the Maratha army at Mandya had great repercussion on Kumaraiya at Tirichinapally. The death of Dadaji and others left a deep sense of humiliation on Haraj, and Haraj decided to retaliate. Kumaraiya's position at Tirichinapally was very precarious, "Receiving neither reinforcements nor reply to his letters, Kumaraiya was obliged to seek safety in an honourable retreat. He was therefore waiting for a chance to flee towards Mysore with all his men unnoticed by the enemy but, the Marathas would not allow themselves to be put on the wrong scent: for a long time past their self-conceit and audacity had been increasing by the inaction of Kumaraiya which revealed to them his weakness and their strength; they kept close to his army and none of his actions could escape them. Taking advantage of Kumaraiya's weakness without adequate soldiers under him, the Marathas suddenly fell on the Mysore army at Tirichinapally and inflicted a severe loss. A large number of military officers on Mysore side were captured including Kumaraiya himself.
The defeat and capture of this general till then invincible completed the joy and pride of Arasumalai (Haraji),” he followed this glorious victory” and started driving away the Mysoreans from all their citadels which they had taken from the Nayaka of Madura.47

(C) Sambhaji's Defeat of Banavara: The Marathas, however, were not satisfied with their victory at Tirichinapally. The merciless slaughter of Dadaji and Nimbaji at Mandya did not quench Sambhaji's thirst for revenge. He wanted to take more retaliatory steps to retrieve the Maratha loss. Besides, though Haraji had expelled the Mysoreans from all their possessions in Madura, the Mysoreans retained most of their acquisitions in the region with the help of the Maravas. "The latter (Mysoreans) still possessed some fortresses, among others that of Madura with the help of the Maravas."48

Sambhaji was built upon reducing Mysore and bringing the whole of South under his control.49 The conditions compelled Sambhaji to send another expedition to Mysore in 1682. "Among the many campaigns in the stormy reigns of Sambhaji, his campaign against Mysore might be assigned the pride of place".50 The Maratha’s defeat near Mandya must have convinced Sambhaji of the futility of attacking Mysore single-handed. Therefore Sambhaji entered into an alliance with Bassappanayaka of Ikkeri and Qutb Shah of Golkanda.51 "He (Sambhaji) was helped by the king of Canara and by the king of Golkanda against the king of Mysore who was regarded as the common enemy."52
Decline of Maratha Power in the Carnatic: (Tamil Nadu)

With the passing away of Bangalore, the Marathas lost much of their power in Karnataka. In addition to this, there were certain other factors which hastened the decline of the Maratha's power in Karnataka and paved the way to the rise of Mysore. On the subjugation of Golkanda in 1687, Aurangzeb turned to crush the Marathas in the South. He first wanted to attack Sambhaji in his capital. In Karnataka Bijapur Balaghat, he wrested Sira from the Marathas and appointed Khasim khan as the Faujdar of that place. Aurangzeb's main object in occupying Sira was possibly to isolate the Maratha Leaders in the Carnatic; Sira acted as a gateway between Maharashtra and many other places in the Carnatic where the Maratha influence predominated. With the occupation of that place by Khasim Khan, the high way was closed to the Marathas. Haraji at Jinji and Ekoji at Tanjore were separated from Maharashtra. They could now expect no help from Maharashtra. Having separated the Maratha leaders in the Carnatic from their mainland, Aurangzeb directed his operation in Maharashtra. The activities of Aurangzeb gave Chikkadevaraja an opportunity to deal with Haraji and others in the Carnatic, because, Sambhaji was too busy in defending his kingdom against the Mughals. He was not in a position to send any help to Haraji at Jinji, Besides, Khasimkhan's presence at Sira prevented Sambhaji from sending any assistance to Haraji even if he desired to do so. Chikkadevaraja got a good opportunity to attack the Marathas in the Carnatic. Aurangzeb had taken an oath not to return to Delhi until Sambhaji was eliminated.
While Aurangazeb attacked Sambhaji in the North, Khasim Khan simultaneously took offensive in the Carnatic. He marched with his army and laid siege to Jinji. Haraji was busy in defending Jinji. Chikkadevaraja grasped the situation and entered the Carnatic. It was a good opportunity to shake the Maratha power in the Carnatic and also to drive them from all their possessions in Mysore. Accordingly, Chikkadevaraja sent his army under his agent (Gurikara) Chikkaiya of Shankagir who, in June 1688 annexed Hosakote (Bangalore district) and its dependencies Avanipur and Arashravani. Again in the month of November of the same year, he occupied Maugonde Durga, Mannargudi, Vamalur and in January 1689 he wrested the power of the Marathas in the Carnatic.

It was exactly at that time, Aurangazeb captured Sambhaji who was executed in March 1689. The incident had great ulterior reprehensions on Maratha fortunes in the Carnatic, for in his death, Chikkadevaraja's greatest adversary in Karnataka was removed. Chikkadevaraja continued his aggressions in the Carnatic with greater vigour. The Mysore army besieged Paramatti. The fort was taken in May 1689. Between July and September 1689 Lingarajaiya, another agent of Chikkadevaraja at Coimbatore, occupied Kaveripattanam and Kunatur. Marching further, Chikkadevaraja annexed Kengeri, Bevuhalli and Bairanetta from the Marathas.

By 1690 Chikkadevaraja could improve greatly his position in the Carnatic. Haraji was unable to face the aggressions. He had neither men nor resources to face the situation. He therefore concluded peace with
Chikkadevaraja in January 1690. He ceded Anantagiri to Mysore and terminated the hostilities. Haraji did not survive long after the disaster. He died shortly after the war. In his death Mysore lost another of its rival. With those reverses in the Carnatic and the death of Haraji, the power of the Marathas began to grow weaker and weaker in the Carnatic. On the other hand, these factors made, Mysore more and more powerful. In 1691 Khasim Khan occupied Doddaballapur and drove the Marathas out of the important settlement. Doddaballapur was one of the remaining bastions of the Marathas in Mysore region. The loss of the fort meant another blow to the already dwindling Maratha power in Mysore.

From the above study of Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar’s political relations with Tamil Nadu, we may draw a few general conclusions.

First, it is significant to note that the reign of Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar witnessed a bitter contest for overlordship in Tamil Nadu between Mysore and Marathas. The contest had some serious implications on Mysore. Mysore claimed the tradition of Vijayanagara rulers. But the rise of the Marathas in the Deccan during the period was a challenge to the Mysore’s expansion towards Tamil Nadu. Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar had to face opposition from three main Maratha leaders namely Ekoji, the son of Shahji, Shivaji also son of Shaji and Sambhaji son of Shivaji.

Secondly Madura, Tanjore and Tiruchanappalli emerged as the flash points in Tamil Nadu, where Mysore and Marathas contested for supremacy. Madura was still under the Nayaks, but their power had
declined to the lowest level. Tanjore had been the headquarters of the Maratha power under Ekoji and his successors. Tirichinapally was a strategic place. Mysore kept an eye on Tirichinapally in order to establish control over Tamil Nadu. Ekoji had established himself at Tanjore. Mysore and Maratha contest was not only inevitable but also bitter. Erode was the base of the Wodeyars of Mysore in Tamil Nadu.

Thirdly, in the pursuit of his political ambition Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar came into conflict with Madura. Chokkanatha Nayaka was the ruler of Madura and it is interesting to note that on the 5th day after his installation on the throne Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar marched against Madura and captured the forts in Tamil Nadu namely Dulikoti, Malali, Muttangatti, Paramatti and Salem. They fought a war at Maduvana on the borders of the forest region of Sadamangalam. Chikkadevaraja's victory was highly significant. He took other forts near Sadamangalam namely Anathagiri, Araiylur, Toreyur and Dharapuram in the Kongu Nadu. The chiefs of these places were forced to pay tribute. He returned to Srirangapattana at the end of 1673. This march on Madura and other places in Tamil Nadu was such a significant event in Mysore-Tamil Nadu relations that Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar issued the new type of coins commemorating this event.

Fourthly, between 1676-1686, Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar had to face a bitter contest with the Marathas in Tamil Nadu. Bangalore was their base until it was purchased by Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar. Bangalore was the Jahagir of Shahji 1676. Ekoji was established at Tanjore. He was trying to
capture Tirichinapally the power of the Nayaka of Madura namely Chokkanatha was declining. Bijapur Sultan did not like the Marathas to establish their power in Tamil Nadu particularly at Tanjore. Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar found himself insecure at the border of his kingdom. The Marathas emergence in Tamil Nadu was a source of unhappiness for Mysore in pursuing its political ambitions.

Fifthly, the power struggle between Ekogi and Santaji in Tamil Nadu led to Shivaji's expedition in 1677. Shivaji occupied Madras, Jinji, Tanjore and Vellore. He settled the problem between the Santaji and Ekoji. While he was returning from Tamil Nadu he had a conflict with Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar near Srirangapattana. It is said that he defeated Shivaji and assumed the title. Aprthtmavira. It shows how the Maratha's intervention in Tamil Nadu during this period created problems for Mysore.

Sixthly, Chokkanatha of Madura made an attempt to secure Tanjore by utilizing the political rivalry between the Maratha brothers namely Ekoji and Shantaji but the attempt of Chokkanatha was a failure because the Maratha brothers united against him. In order to help Chokkanatha, Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar sent Dalavoy Kumaraliya to Tamil Nadu. Sambiji was the ruler at that time. The aim of Mysore was to establish supremacy in Tamil Nadu and the Tirichinapally was the key to the Southern advance of Mysore. Dalavoys Kumariya's occupation of Tirichinapally was the height of this policy but the Marathas were alarmed by the ambitions of the Mysoreans in Tamil Nadu. They attacked Srirangapattana in 1682 and
Kumaraiya had to rush to Srirangapattana to help Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar to fight the Marathas. But on the way Kumaraiya was defeated by the Marathas. He was captured and later on released and returned to Srirangapattana. He retired from the office of Dalavoys. Thus Mysore lost all the bases in Tamil Nadu for the time being. The Mysore policy of Madura was not successful.

Lastly, Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar's policy towards Tamil Nadu was a continuation of the policy followed by the early Wodeyars up to 1673. In short Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar followed anti-Marathas, Pro-Moghul, after 1686 and anti-Keladi policies. Till 1686 Adil Shahi's of Bijapur were rivals of Mysore in the politics of Tamil Nadu. One important point to be remembered is that Tirichinapally had always remained important for the diplomatic relations of Mysore in Tamil Nadu politics. Madura and Tirichinapally continued to be targets of the political ambition of Mysore. The 18th century and its aspects may be examined in the next chapter.

Notes and References
1. *Mys. Dho, Pur.*, II, 55; Parthiva, Asvija Su, 12, Monday; see also Annals, I, 104: C, Vam., 166; C,VI., IV, 51, and *Raj, Kath.*, XII, 473-474 (following the C.Vam.).
2. *C. Vam.*, 166-188; C, VI., IV, pp. 51-180.
4. *Ante*, Ch, X.
6. See *Sri Mahat*, (of Malikarjuna), II, 36, See Ch, XIV.


8. Sri, Mahat., I, C.; also Kamand, Ni., I, 81-86; Kamlai Mahat, I, 123-126.
   Hasti, Maht., I, 74; Bhag. Gi Ti., I, 53; Yad Mahat., II 77, 28;
   Chikkadevendra-Vam., P, 27; Sachchu, Nir., I, 51-52; C.bi., P, 58: G-g.,
   pp, 38, 69, see also E,C.IV (2) Ch, 92 (1675), II, 25-26, and III (i) Sr.
   151 (1679), p, 119 (Text).


10. Sachchu, Nir., I, 52 and ff. 121; A.V.C., III, 58, 63 and 79; C, bi and
    Gi. Go., C.C.

11. *Kamal Mahat.*, I, 127-129; *Hasti. Mahat*, I, 75; *Yad Mahat*, II. ff. 28-29;
    *Chikkadevendra -Vam.*, I.e., Sachchu, Nir., I, 53: C, bi 13; and Gi, Go.,
    L.c.; see also E.C., IV (2) Ch. 92 and III (1) Sr, 151, C.C.

12. *Mys, Dho, Pur.*, 11, 33; Annals, I, 106-See also Kamala Mahat., I, 130-
    131; Hasti Mahat, I 77; Venkata, Mahat, I, 48-49; Sachchu, Nir., I 53
    A.V.C., III, S, sce ch, XIV, etc., referring to these acquisitions cf. wilks,
    I, 225.


14. *Nayaks of Madura*, p, 284; Andre Freire to Paul oliva.

15. Letters to fort St, George (1682), P, 23; Letter dated March 8, 1682-
    Chokkanatha Nayaka to William Gyfford (Governor of Fort, st, George).

16. *Mys, Dho, Pur.*, II, 48; Annals I, 109, see also and compare Capt, Read
    in Baramahal Records (1792), I, 139. Wilk's list (I, 225-228) is
conspicuous by the absence of any reference to the reacquisitions in 1697.

17. *Mys, Raj, Cha.*, 29, there is no evidence in support of Wilk's dating to the siege of Tirichinapally by Mysore (under Chikkadevaraja), and the Maharatta attack on Seringapatam, in 1696 (I, 112-117). These events, has been shown above, book place in 1682, see also appendix VI-(i), for a detailed examination of Wilk's position, etc.

18. See *A.V.G.*, III, 69, also IV, 18.


20. See *A.V.C.*, 111, 112, also, p. 2 (Prose Passage), III, 151 (atp, 103), 184, IV, 17, 23 (with gloss), etc., and C bi, 131., P, 3.


25. *History of the Nayaks of Madura*, p. 294; letters to Fort St, George 1682, p, 23.


30. Nayaks of Madura, p. 287.

31. Annals, 1, p. 113.

32. Ibid., p.113

33. C.Vl., pp. 113, 114, : Vs. 81,82,89, p. 115; V, 91, p. 116, VS, 95, 96, Supra pp. 73-75.


35. Ibid., 1682, p. 23, Letter of 8 March, 1682.

36. Ibid.


39. Nayaks of Madura, p. 287.


41. Mys. Raj. Cha., p. 29, C, bi., Intra. P. 17 & 19. A.V.C, I 22,23, II 19-20; III 59, 86 133; IV. 8 with Gloss. II ; Gi, Go, p, 56. these explosits of Chikkadevaraja are also found mentioned in several inscriptions of the period. Some of these epigrphs are E.V. VI., Sr, 24; ii, 11. 65-67; 69-70, Ibid., pp. 99; 11, 75-76; Ibid., V. Mys. 99, XL. 436-438 and so on.

42. Ibid., P, 115.


44. Sangita Gangadhrar, pp. 9-10
45. La mission Du Madura, *op. cit.*, iii, pp. 304-305

46. *Nayaks of Madura*, p. 288; Jedhe Sakavali in Shivaji Souvenir, P,27


55. *CBI.*, p. 78, Gi Go *op. cit.*
