

MATRIX

October 2018

A PUBLICATION OF THE SANMAR GROUP





The Sanmar Group

9, Cathedral Road, Chennai 600 086.

Tel.: + 91 44 2812 8500

Fax.: + 91 44 2811 1902

Sanmar Holdings Ltd

Chemplast Sanmar Ltd

TCI Sanmar Chemicals S.A.E.

Sanmar Speciality Chemicals Ltd

Sanmar Consolidations Ltd

Sanmar Shipping Ltd

Cabot Sanmar Ltd

Sanmar Engineering Technologies Ltd

- *Products Divn.*

Flowserve Sanmar Ltd

BS&B Safety Systems (India) Ltd

Xomox Sanmar Ltd

Xomox Valves Divn.

Pacific Valves Divn.

Anderson Greenwood Crosby Sanmar Ltd

- *Steel Castings Divn.*

Sanmar Matrix Metals Ltd

Matrix Metals LLC

In this issue...



4 Four Decades of Ties with Denmark... and Counting
Vijay Sankar Becomes Third Generation Consul General in Chennai

18 Lt Governor Kiran Bedi Visits Chemplast Karaikal



8 Cabot Sanmar Turns 20

19 International Coastal Clean-up at Karaikal
Chemplast Sanmar Actively Participates



10 CII Core Group CEOs in Singapore

Desilting of Aranthamangalam Lake Near Cuddalore
Chemplast Pitches In



11 N Kumar Leads Business Delegation to Japan

20 Government Recognition for Chemplast Cuddalore's CSR Initiatives

12 Sanmar Bags Six National Safety Council Awards

21 Sri Sankara Schools – All-round Excellence

14 Emergence of Women in Sports in India

22 Legends from the South
Tipu Sultan

Matrix can be viewed at www.sanmargroup.com

Designed and edited by Kalamkriya, 9, Cathedral Road, Chennai 600 086. Ph: + 91 44 2812 8051/ 52

For Private Circulation Only.

Four Decades of Ties with Denmark... and Counting

Vijay Sankar Becomes Third Generation Consul General in Chennai

The strong ties between Sanmar and Denmark owe their origins to the visit in 1947 by founder-Chairman KS Narayanan, who visited the cement major FLSmith & Co., in that country in his capacity then as a Director of India Cements Ltd.

After playing a keen role in strengthening the Indo-Danish relationship, KS Narayanan assumed charge as Honorary Consul for the Royal Danish Consulate in Chennai in 1975. The mantle was

passed on to N Sankar in 1989 when he became the Honorary Consul General.

Apart from the trade links, the Danish International Development Assistance agency, DANIDA, supported by the Danish Government, has implemented programmes relating to health, water supply, drainage, agriculture, training centres in environment and management in Tamil Nadu and also in other parts of India. KS Narayanan and N Sankar,



were decorated with the nation's Knighthood and again, N Sankar was decorated with Knighthood First Class by the Queen of Denmark in December 2005 for his services to the Royal Danish Government. SB Prabhakar Rao was also honoured in recognition of his distinguished services as Vice Consul.

Vijay Sankar succeeds N Sankar as the Honorary Consul General of Denmark for South India, continuing the tradition.

The Ambassador of Denmark in India, Peter Taksøe-Jensen, visited Chennai on 4 July 2018 to formally announce Vijay Sankar as the new Honorary Consul General of Denmark in Chennai for South India. The Ambassador presented a citation to Vijay Sankar from the Queen of Denmark.



Vijay Sankar receiving the citation from Peter Taksøe-Jensen, the Ambassador of Denmark in India.





(L to R): Vijay Sankar, N Sankar, Peter Taksøe-Jensen, Eva Szeftel and SB Prabhakar Rao, at the Sanmar headquarters.

Speaking at a reception well attended by diplomats, industrialists, members of trade councils, representatives of governmental and quasi-governmental bodies and media, Peter Taksøe-Jensen said, “It is time to reshape the role of the Honorary consulates of Denmark in India and to build the business-to-business relationship between the two countries.”

The Danish Ambassador said with the relationship between India and Denmark

improving now after nearly seven years, it was time to “board the train” to the market of 1.3 billion people.

“Archives which can fill up to 70 metres of space are here in Tamil Nadu. But they are in very poor condition. To preserve such documents rich in national heritage we are looking for private enterprises which will fund this restoration project,” said Taksøe-Jensen.

K Pandiarajan, Minister for Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture,



(L to R): N Sankar, Sukanya Sankar, Vijay Sankar, Ambassador of Denmark in India Peter Taksøe-Jensen, Consul and Head of Chancellery, Royal Danish Embassy in Delhi, Eva Szeftel and Vice Consul, Royal Danish Consulate in Chennai, SB Prabhakar Rao.

who was present at the event said, “The Tamil Nadu government spent close to Rs 4.5 crore last year to renovate the museum in Tranquebar. Now the tourist footfall at the museum has increased threefold. Next we plan to add lighting and sound effects to display the artefacts in a better fashion. The next main focus is to develop the coastal town of Tranquebar or Tarangambadi in Nagapattinam district with the support of the state government.”

As Consul General of Denmark for South India, Vijay Sankar will be looking after the consular activities across Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka and Puducherry.

Raising a toast to the Danish Ambassador and the Queen of Denmark, Vijay Sankar said in his acceptance speech, “I am very grateful to the Danish Government and His Excellency for appointing me as their Honorary Consul General for the South.”

Mr Taksøe Jensen’s arrival in India in 2015 has seen a large upturn in the bi-lateral relations between India and Denmark, both at the political and economic levels. He has also worked hard to develop the new Danish Embassy building and Cultural Centre in Delhi.

“We would like to specially thank my father Mr Sankar for his contribution as the Honorary Consul General. Our state Tamil Nadu has a lot to thank him for - he has been constantly pushing the agenda with many Danish companies to expand their scope of operations in Chennai which has now turned out to be the preferred destination for most



K Pandiarajan, Minister for Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture in conversation with the Ambassador.

of the Danish companies in India. We all know Danfoss, Grundfos, Vestas, Maersk, FLSmidth, Novo Nordisk, and Ramboll all of whom have made mainly Tamil Nadu and also other states in South India a very large set of Danish investments in India.”

He thanked the Vice Consul SB Prabhakar Rao for putting in yeomen efforts to improve the Tranquebar connection.

He also said that there were many ongoing government projects in Tamil Nadu, including the development of Tranquebar as a tourist destination and digitisation of archives.

The Ambassador visited the Sanmar Headquarters in Chennai on the forenoon of 4 July 2018. He was accompanied by Eva Szeftel, Head of Chancellery, Royal Danish Embassy in Delhi. They met N Sankar, Chairman of The Sanmar Group and the Honorary Consul General of Denmark in Chennai till recently. Vijay Sankar and SB Prabhakar Rao were also present.

Cabot Sanmar Turns 20

Sanmar's joint venture with Cabot to manufacture and sell fumed silica in the Indian market, completed 20 years of operations in April 2018. The foundation stone for the plant located at Mettur was laid on 28 March 1996 by Kennett F Burnes, then President and CEO of Cabot Corporation, USA. Manufacturing began on 27 April 1998.

The JV's products (untreated and treated fumed silica) finds use in a wide range of markets and applications – Pharmaceuticals, Automotive, Construction, Cosmetics, and Food among others.

Over the two decades of operations, the JV has grown leaps and bounds

and is the market leader in all segments that it participates in. To keep up with the growing demands of the Indian market, the JV continues to invest in new capacity to cater to the needs of the Indian market.

In May 2017, a significant expansion project was completed. On that occasion, Sean Keohane the current CEO of Cabot said, "The decision to partner with Sanmar was a very easy one because we share so much in common. Our vision and the values of the company are rooted in the family heritage. The Sanmar Group shares a similar tradition. While we both run our companies to the best practices of modern management and corporate

Kennett F Burnes, President and Chief Operating Officer, Cabot Corporation, USA, announcing the Joint Venture with Sanmar for the manufacture of Fumed Silica at a press conference (1996).



governance, the family tradition serves as our foundation. Our Joint Venture partnership was founded on a common set of corporate values. Cabot's values of integrity, respect, excellence and responsibility align perfectly with Sanmar's values, vision and culture. Themes like integrity, excellence, performance and sustainability are central to the Sanmar ethos."

According to Dr Krishna Kumar Rangachari, Executive Director, Cabot Sanmar, "Our Chairman N Sankar, has always believed that local manufacturing in India spurs local market growth. The JV is an excellent example of this. Ever since the establishment of the JV, demand for Fumed silica market in India has been experiencing double digit growth primarily due to the significant value addition provided by local manufacturing. Manufacturing to global



Helmut Lorat, Director Global Engineering and Kennett F Burnes, President and Chief Operating Officer, Cabot Corporation, USA, at the inauguration of Cabot Fumed Silica plant at Mettur (1998).

safety and quality standards, combined with reliable and timely supplies to meet local customer needs, has resulted in the JV maintaining a leadership position in the Indian market".



Sean Keohane dedicating the new expanded fumed silica facility at Cabot Sanmar, Mettur. Vijay Sankar, Krishna Kumar Rangachari and S Venkatesan are also present (May 2017).

CII Core Group CEOs in Singapore

The CII Core Group made their annual visit to Singapore during the last week of August 2018.

During the visit, the Core Group took time to meet with Emeritus Singapore Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lawrence Wong, Minister for National Development, S Iswaran, Minister for Communication and Information, and Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Trade & Industry, Republic of Singapore. This year, the CII Annual lecture was delivered by Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Finance, Republic of Singapore.

A dinner was hosted by Jawed Ashraf, High Commissioner of India to Singapore, for the visiting CII delegation.

The Core Group also met with Chairman, members of the Board of Directors of the Singapore Business Federation (SBF), Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI), and CEOs of Singaporean companies invited by Enterprise Singapore.

N Kumar, former President, CII and member of the Core Group was part of the CII delegation that visited Singapore.



Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Singapore with the members of CII Core Group on 21 August, 2018 in Singapore. N Kumar is seen third from left.

Mr Goh Chok Tong, Emeritus Senior Minister, Republic of Singapore with the members of CII Core Group on 20 August, 2018 in Singapore. N Kumar is seen second from right.



N Kumar Leads Business Delegation to Japan

The Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IJCCI) went on a business delegation to Japan in the first week of September 2018. The Delegation led by N Kumar, President, IJCCI, visited Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka, Kobe and Nagoya and had business seminars and business networking programmes. The delegation also called on important Japanese and Indian dignitaries in Japan.



Indian Consul-General for Osaka-Kobe, B Shyam, Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry International Business Committee Chairman, Minoru Tomita with N Kumar.

At the Kobe Chamber of Commerce and Industry. N Kumar with Ms Kimiko Itoh, Vice Chairperson, Kobe CCI.

Sanmar Bags Six National

The National Safety Council was set up by the Ministry of Labour, Government of India to generate, develop and sustain a voluntary movement on Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) at the national level. NSC has many state level branches in which the Tamil Nadu Chapter plays a vital role.

The Sanmar Group won six National Awards for safety from the National Safety Council, Tamil Nadu Chapter.

Chemplast Sanmar Mettur's Plant II and Plant III, Chemplast Cuddalore and Karaikal Plants won a Star Award each. Flowserve Sanmar won an appreciation award and Sanmar Speciality Chemicals, Berigai, was awarded a commendation certificate.

In all 77 industries participated in the competition.

The awards were given away at a function held in Chennai on 27 August 2018. K Kaliannan, Director of Industrial Safety and Health, Government of Tamil Nadu, gave away the awards in the presence of office bearers from National Safety Council and chief guest G Aravindan, Director (Operations), Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited.



Safety Council Awards



N Devendiran, Sanmar Safety division, receiving the National Award for safety on behalf of Chemplast Sanmar from K Kaliannan, Director of Industrial Safety and Health, Government of Tamil Nadu.



Emergence of Women in

1986: PT Usha wins five medals at the Asian Games in Seoul, four of them gold, to make up somewhat for missing a bronze medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

2000: The first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal, Karnam Malleswari gets a bronze in the 69 kg category of weightlifting in Sydney.

2005: Sania Mirza becomes the first Indian woman to win a WTA singles title by winning AP Tourism Hyderabad Open; overall, she goes on to win three doubles and three mixed doubles Grand Slam titles.

2012: Mary Kom wins a bronze medal in women's boxing—introduced for the first time—at the London Olympics. She has five world titles.

2013: Deepika Kumari wins her first World Cup individual recurve (archery) gold medal at Antalya, Turkey. The same year, she becomes world No. 1.

2015: Saina Nehwal becomes the first Indian woman world No. 1 in badminton after winning the India Open BWF Super Series. She had won a bronze medal in the 2012 London Olympics.

2016: PV Sindhu wins a silver medal in badminton at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

2016: Sakshi Malik becomes the first Indian female wrestler to win an Olympic medal with a bronze in the 58 kg wrestling at Rio.

2016: Dipa Karmakar, India's first female gymnast at the Olympics, finishes fourth in the vault at Rio but captures a nation's imagination.

2017: India reach the ICC Women's World Cup final, lose to England.

*Mithali Raj with the Indian squad.
ODI cricket series against Australia.*



As can be seen from the above records, recent developments, since the turn of the decade, point to a growing assertiveness of Indian women in sports.

Amidst elite male sportsmen, the nation's top women have been blazing the trail, in field and all other sports for some time now.

Increasingly better viewership, participation, rewards and recognition for performance of women are signals to a sea change in the game.

It all began with Karnam Malleswari's bronze in **Weightlifting** at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, the first ever medal won by an Indian woman, that set the ball rolling. In the last two Olympics 4 out of 8 medals won by India came from women. Sakshi Malik and PV Sindhu won medals for India at Rio in 2016.

In the 2017 ICC Women's **Cricket** World Cup, India's women in Blue

Sports in India

came close to winning their first ever World Cup. Though they finished as runners-up, they exceeded the expectations by defeating tournament favourites, Australia, in the semi-finals, and earned a spot in the knock-out stage.

The recent success stories of extraordinary Indian women athletes at the Asiad will inspire generations to come.

A peek at some of the illustrious daughters of this country whose indomitable spirit have truly transformed India into a strong female sporting nation.

Rahi Sarnobat and Manu Bhaker are **Indian shooters**, with Rahi being the first Indian women to win a Gold at the Asian Games. With a middle distance runner start slow and finish strong style, Rahi went on to claim India's second gold medal at the recently concluded Asian Games.

Youngest Indian to win a gold medal at the ISSF World Cup, Manu won two golds in 2018.

Recipient of the Arjuna Award in 2014, Heena Sidhu is the first Indian **pistol shooter** to reach number one in world rankings by the International Shooting Sport Federation.



Team India - silver medal in Women's Team event Hockey, in Asian Games 2018. The Indians had qualified for the final of the Asian Games after a gap of 20 years, having beaten China in the semi-finals.

Ankita Raina, with seven singles and thirteen doubles titles on the ITF tour in her career, entered the top 200 single ranking of world becoming only the third Indian to achieve this feat.

The Phogat sisters are six - Geeta, Babita, Priyanka, Ritu, Vinesh and Sangita, and all are **wrestlers** from Haryana, hailing from the village of Balali in Bhiwani district. All of them have won medals at National and International championships. The Bollywood film Dangal released in India in 2016 is based on the lives of Phogat sisters with their father Mahavir. Recently, Vinesh Phogat created history on the second day of 2018 Asian Games to become the first Indian female wrestler to win gold at the continental event.

Sakshi Malik, an **Indian freestyle wrestler**, at the 2016 Summer Olympics, won the bronze medal

in the 58 kg category, becoming the first Indian female wrestler to win a medal at the Olympics and the fourth female Olympic medalist from the country. She was conferred Padma Shri in 2017 and the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna in 2016.

Chungneijang Mary Kom Hmangte, better known as Mary Kom, and nicknamed Magnificent Mary, is an Indian Olympic **boxer** hailing from Manipur and a five-time World Amateur Boxing champion, and the only woman boxer to have won a medal in each one of the six world championships. She has also been ranked as No. 4 AIBA World Women's Ranking Flyweight category. She became the first Indian woman boxer to get a Gold Medal in the Asian Games in 2014, and is the first Indian Woman Boxer to win Gold at the 2018. Mary has an unending list of awards and honours in her kitty.



Tanvi Khanna, Dipika Pallikal Karthik, Sunayna Kuruvilla and Joshna Chinappa - silver medal in Women's Team event, Squash, Asian Games 2018.

Deepika Kumari is ranked World No.5 in **archery**. She was conferred the Arjuna Award in 2012 and the Padma Shri in 2016.

Professional **squash** player Joshna Chinappa was the first Indian to win the British Squash Championship title in 2003 in the under 19 category. At the 2014 Commonwealth Games Chinappa along with Dipika Pallikal Karthik won the squash women's doubles gold medal, making it India's first

ever Commonwealth Games medal in the sport.

Joshna's contemporary, Dipika Pallikal, is the first Indian to break into the top 10 in the PSA Women's rankings in squash. Dipika came to prominence in 2011 when she won three WISPA tour titles to attain a career-best ranking of 13th. She has been conferred the Arjuna Award in 2012 and the Padma Shri in 2014.

Cricketer Mithali Dorai Raj is the captain of the Indian women's

Muskan Kirar, Madhumita Kumari and Jyothi Surekha Vennam - silver medal in Compound Women's Team, Archery at the Asian Games 2018.



cricket team in Tests and ODI. Regarded as one of the greatest batswomen to have ever played the game, she is the highest run-scorer in women's international cricket and the only female cricketer to surpass the 6,000 run mark in WODIs. An Arjuna Awardee in 2003, she was conferred the Padma Shri in 2015.

Dipa Karmakar is an Indian **artistic gymnast** and first gained attention when she won a bronze medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow becoming the first Indian female gymnast to do so in the history of the Games. In 2018, Karmakar became the first Indian gymnast to win a gold medal at a global event, when she finished first in the vault event of the FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup at Mersin, Turkey. She is also a recipient of Khel Ratna in 2016 and Padma Shri in 2017.

Badminton player PV Sindhu became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic silver medal, and one of the two Indian badminton players to ever win an Olympic medal – other being Saina Nehwal. Sindhu became the only player in the world after Lee Chong Wei to win three consecutive Silvers in three major tournaments after winning her second Silver at the World Championship in 2018.

Badminton singles player Saina Nehwal won gold at 2018 Commonwealth Games in women's singles after defeating PV Sindhu after which she became the first Indian to win two singles gold medals in Commonwealth Games.

Nehwal, the former world No. 1, has won over 23 International titles, which include ten Super series titles. Considered one of the most successful Indian sportspersons, she is credited for increasing the popularity of badminton in India. In 2016, the Government of India conferred the Padma Bhushan. Nehwal is a philanthropist and was ranked 18th on the list of most charitable athletes.

A former world No.1 in the doubles discipline, **tennis** player Sania Mirza has won six Grand Slam titles in her career. From 2003 until her retirement from singles in 2013 she was ranked by the WTA as India's No. 1 player in both the categories. Sania established herself as not only the most successful woman Indian tennis player but was also one of the highest-paid high-profile athletes in the country. In July 2016, Mirza published an autobiography titled "Ace Against Odds" chronicling her journey to the top.

Swapna Barman, India's first gold medalist in heptathlon at the Asian

Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu.



India's women's 4 x 400 m relay team celebrates after winning their customary gold medal at the Asian Games 2018. The Indian women's quartet of Hima Das, MR Poovamma, Saritaben Gayakwad and Vismaya Velluva Koroth ran 3 minute and 28.72 seconds to claim the gold.

Games 2018, Naorem Roshibini Devi, who won bronze in women's Sanda 60kg event 2018 Asian Games, Divya Kakran, bronze medal winner in 68 kg category of women's freestyle wrestling 2018 Asian Games, top-ranked female table tennis player in India and ranked 58th in the world, Manika Batra, sprinter Hima Das, the first Indian to win a gold medal in a track event at the World Junior Athletics

Championships in 2018, Navjeet Dhillon, Indian track and field athlete who competes as a discus thrower, and won a bronze at the 2018 Commonwealth Games and Rani Rampal, Indian field hockey player, at the age

of 15, the youngest in the national team which participated in the 2010 World Cup – these extraordinary Indian female athletes have not just managed but have been able to nourish and let those dreams sprout up high.

Lack of sports facilities and equipment, societal misconceptions of girls participating in sports that still thrive in rural India, often dissuade women from playing sport, even if they have the talent and the aspiration. However, the support from government and corporates has enabled these athletes to make it big in competitive sports against the best talents in the world.

In a country where women in sports have not been given much recognition, the tide seem to be turning. Kudos to India's resilient sportswomen defying the challenges, proving that they can achieve great success on and off the field.

Lt Governor Kiran Bedi Visits Chemplast Karaikal



Chemplast Sanmar's N Palaniswamy, N Krishnamoorthy and R Karthik accompanying Kiran Bedi at Chemplast Karaikal plant.

Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi, who has been acquiring first hand knowledge of the industrial scenario of the region, paid a visit to Chemplast Sanmar's Karaikal plant on 9 September 2018.

She congratulated Chemplast on its water management and desalination facility and wanted to make it a model for other industries in the region to emulate. She was overall impressed with Chemplast's corporate social responsibility initiatives.

She also urged corporates to assist in furthering the welfare of the people of Puducherry through greater CSR spending.



Lt Governor Kiran Bedi holding discussions with officials of Chemplast Karaikal, in the presence of R Kesavan, District Collector, Karaikal, and Rabool Alwal, Senior Superintendent of Police, Karaikal.

International Coastal Clean-up at Karaikal

Chemplast Sanmar Actively Participates

Chemplast Sanmar Karaikal co-sponsored and actively participated in the coastal clean-up at Karaikal beach front to mark the International Coastal Clean-up Day on 15 September 2018.

Vikranth Raja, Sub-Collector of Karaikal inaugurated the clean-up in the presence of R Kamalakannan, Minister of Agriculture, Government of Puducherry. Heads of Government Departments, NCC Cadets, students from several schools and colleges and members of media participated.



Desilting of Aranthamangalam Lake Near Cuddalore

Chemplast Pitches In

Chemplast Sanmar contributed a sum of Rs 10 lakh towards the desilting of a lake at Aranthamangalam near Kurungipadi village of Cuddalore. The cheque was handed over by R Karthik to Collector of Cuddalore district VP Thandapani at the Collectorate on 15 August 2018.

(L to R): J Sridhar, R Karthik, SG Santha Kumar and S Annadurai of Chemplast Sanmar seen with the Collector, Cuddalore district, VP Thandapani.



Government Recognition for Chemplast Cuddalore's CSR Initiatives



Chemplast Sanmar Cuddalore was recognised for its various contributions towards Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). On Independence Day this year, the District Collector of Cuddalore, V Anbuselvan, IAS, presented the award to J Sridhar, Plant Head, Chemplast Cuddalore.



Sri Sankara Schools – All-round Excellence

Sri Sankara Vidyashramam Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Tiruvanmiyur

A Proud Moment

In recognition of the several blood donation camps organised in 2018 by the Interact Club of Sri Sankara Vidyashramam Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Tiruvanmiyur, the Madras Voluntary Blood Bureau and the Association of Voluntary Blood Donors (Tamil Nadu) awarded the Bank of Baroda Rolling Shield to the school for mobilising the highest number of donors among schools at a function on 3 August 2018.



Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Adyar

Excellence Art Award

Nikita S of class X won a prize in the special category at the K-Art Middle and High School Student Art Competition conducted by Inko, the Indo-Korean Cultural and Information Centre, in association with Dakshinachitra. She was selected and deputed on a student exchange programme to Busan, South Korea, and won the Excellence Award at the 2018 International Teenage Design and Art Awards conducted by K-Art International Exchange Association.



Merit in Sports

Abinandh PB of class VI won the third place in the National Table Tennis Tournament conducted at Vijayawada in September 2018.

Legends from the South

Tipu Sultan

The Tiger of Mysore, Tipu Sultan will be remembered as one of the powerful rulers India ever had. His valiant efforts against the British oppression in southern India resulted in his name being etched in the annals of Indian history.

Born to Hyder Ali and Fatima Fakhr Un Nisa on 20 November 1750, Tipu was called after the local saint Tipu Mastan Aulia, although Tipu's full name was Sultan Fateh Ali Khan Shahab.

Tipu was instructed in military tactics by French officers in the employ of his father, Hyder Ali, the Muslim ruler of Mysore. His mother Fatima Fhokr-Un Nisa was the daughter of the Governor of Kadapa Fort.

From a very early age, Tipu was exposed to politics and military by his father. Tipu commanded a corps of cavalry against the Marathas in the Carnatic (Karnataka) region of western India, and he fought against the Marathas on several occasions between 1775 and 1779. During the second Mysore War he defeated Col. John Braithwaite on the banks of the Kollidam (Coleroon) river in 1782. He succeeded his father in December 1782 and in 1784 concluded peace with the British and assumed the title of 'Sultan of Mysore.'

He learnt to shoot, ride horses and swordplay at a very young age that

is the reason he, at the young age of 15, won a war with a force that was only two to three thousand people strong. Tipu also pursued his strong interests in academics and various languages.

As a ruler, Tipu proved to be an efficient one. He completed the projects left behind by his father, including building roads, bridges, public buildings, and ports, and made numerous military innovations in the use of rocketry in wars. Tipu brought sericulture to Karnataka and banned liquor. He built roads, introduced new coinage and also promoted silk production and trade.

Tipu Sultan had several wives and numerous children including Shahzada Hyder Ali Sultan, Shahzada Abdul Khaliq Sultan, Shahzada Muhi-ud-din Sultan, and Shahzada Mu'izz-ud-din Sultan.

The Sultan got several names of places replaced by Islamic ones. Mangalore or Mangalapuri was changed to Jalalabad, Bepur to Sultanpatanam, Cannanore to Kusanabad, Gooty to Faiz-Hissar, Dharwar to Quarshed-Sawad, Dindigul to Khaliqabad, Ratnagiri to Mustafabad, and Kozhikode to Islamabad.

Tipu Sultan had an obsession for horticulture and gardening. The statement is supported by the fact that much of his correspondence

with foreign dignitaries would invariably carry a request for new varieties of seeds and plants. He attributed for establishing the 40-acre Lalbagh Botanical Garden in Bangalore.

He built numerous monuments including Daria Daulat Bagh, or the 'Palace of Wealth' in Srirangapatna, the Jamalabad Fort, Sultan Battery Fort, Gumbaz, and Manjarabad Fort.

Tipu wrote a Book of Dreams, 'The Khwab Nama,' in which he recorded his dreams. He looked for signs and portents about the outcome of his battles in his dreams.

During his reign, he was greatly respected by his people and earned the trust of various international allies such as the French, the Amir of Afghanistan and the Sultan of Turkey, to assist him in his fight against the British. Through his determined efforts, he built a formidable military force that inflicted serious damages to the British forces.

He was a great believer in the modern system of Militarisation. He strengthened Mysore rockets and his Naval forces. He was ambitious to defeat the British with an intention of becoming the Badshah of India. The British Army's National Army Museum ranked Tipu Sultan among the

greatest enemy commanders the British Army ever faced.

Described as a small, plump man with a round face and black moustache, who wore clothes glittering with jewels, Tipu was a devout Muslim ruling a mainly Hindu population.

The legend goes that once when he went hunting in the forest with a French friend, he came face to face with a tiger. His gun did not work, and his dagger fell on the ground as the tiger jumped on him. He reached for the dagger, picked it up, and killed the tiger with it. That earned him the name 'The Tiger of Mysore'. Tipu adopted this animal as the symbol of his rule. He had a special reverence for tigers. He had six tigers in his fortress-city of Srirangapatna, it is believed that they were shot dead by the Britishers after Tipu's death.

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, the former President of India, called Tipu Sultan the innovator of the world's first war rocket. He expanded the use of rockets, deploying as many as 5,000 rocketeers at a time.

He provoked the British by attacking their ally, the Raja of Travancore in 1789. He remained restless and unwisely allowed his negotiations with Revolutionary France to become known to the British. Despite signing the Treaty of Versailles, the French deserted him and the combined forces proved immense for Tipu who had to cede half his dominions by the Treaty of Seringapatam in 1792, as huge war indemnity.

In the Fourth Anglo-Mysore war in 1798 which was Tipu Sultan's last, he lost his life at the hands of the British Military led by Sir Richard Wellesley, Earl of Mornington. On May 4, 1799, the British entered Mysore's capital, Srirangapatna, breaking through the city's walls and Tipu Sultan was slain whilst defending the city walls on the same day. Another version of the story is that on his last day, Tipu was wounded in the war and his staff tried to carry him to safety in a palanquin, but Tipu was killed for his jewellery by an unidentified British soldier.

Tipu is buried alongside his father and mother, in a mausoleum built by him in 1784, known as 'Gumbaz', in his capital city. As one of the first Indian kings to have died on the battlefield while defending his kingdom against the Colonial British, he was officially

recognised by the Government of India as a freedom fighter.

After the death of Tipu Sultan, the British forces took away the sword and ring of Tipu Sultan as war trophies. Both were displayed in the British Museum till 2004 after which Vijay Mallya bought the sword of Tipu Sultan in an auction. The siege and looting of Tipu's capital at Srirangapatna, is the opening scene of Wilkie Collins' famous novel, 'The Moonstone.'

Besides Tipu's grand legacy, he also left behind royal memoirs that include his exquisitely ornamented weaponry, the mechanical 'Tipu's tiger', his golden 'tiger-head' throne, Tipu's coinage, as well as the famous engraved royal 'Sword of Tipu Sultan' which he fiercely possessed until after he breathed his last.



