

# **FIRST ANGLO MYSORE WAR (1767-69)**

The Anglo-Mysore Wars was a series of four military confrontations in India between the British and the rulers of Mysore.

## **BACKGROUND**

- I. In 1612, a Hindu kingdom under the Wodeyars emerged in the region of Mysore. Chikka Krishnaraja Wodeyar II ruled from 1734 to 1766.
- II. Hyder Ali who was appointed as a soldier in the army of Wodeyars became the de-facto ruler of Mysore with his great administrative skills and military tactics.
  - During the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Mysore emerged as a formidable power under his leadership.
- III. Mysore's proximity with the French and Hyder Ali's control over the rich trade of the Malabar coast threatened the political and commercial interests of the English and their control over Madras.
- IV. The British, after their success in the Battle of Buxar with the nawab of Bengal, signed a treaty with the Nizam of Hyderabad persuading him to give them the Northern Circars for protecting the Nizam from Hyder Ali who already had disputes with the Marathas.
  - The Nizam of Hyderabad, the Marathas, and the English allied together against Hyder Ali.
    - Hyder diplomatically turned the Marathas neutral and Nizam into his ally against Nawab of Arcot.

## **HYDER ALI**

The introduction to Hyder Ali is given in points below:

- I. Started his career as a soldier in the Mysore Army.
- II. Soon rose to prominence in the army owing to his military skills.
- III. He was made the Dalavayi (commander-in-chief), and later the Chief Minister of the Mysore state under Krishnaraja Wodeyar II, ruler of Mysore.
- IV. Through his administrative prowess and military skills, he became the de-facto ruler of Mysore with the real king reduced to a titular head only.
- V. He set up a modern army and trained them along European lines.

## **COURSE OF WAR**

- I. The British, along with the Marathas and the Nizam of Hyderabad declared war on Mysore
- II. Hyder Ali was able to bring the Marathas and the Nizam to his side with skilful diplomacy
- III. He paid the Marathas to turn them neutral
- IV. War continued for a year-and-a-half without any conclusion
- V. Hyder changed his strategy and suddenly appeared before the gates of Madras

## **RESULT OF THE WAR**

- I. Following complete chaos and panic at Madras, English was forced to conclude a very humiliating treaty with Hyder on April 4, 1769—Treaty of Madras which brought an end to the war
- II. The conquered territories were restored to each other
- III. It was also agreed that they would help each other in case of a foreign attack