

# Tipu Sultan's Mint Policy – An Analyse

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## Abstract

*This paper examines the mint policy of Tipu sultan. There are evidences of the coinage of Tipu sultan. There are several mints where coins were minted all through his 17 years of reign he issued coins of different denominations & different weight. There were several mints along his empire. Hider issued coins only in gold & copper. Historians have proved with evidence that Tipu sultan issued initial coins from his Sri Rangapattanna mint only. Some coins were issued form nagar mint. The number of mints was increased after fifth year of his reign now there were eight mints in his empire. His mint policy had economic as well as political implications. He was seriously affected by the colonial intrusions into Mysore territory. He wanted to make his country's resources to churn out beneficial results for the countrymen. He had far reaching visions about making Mysorean economy support his wars with British. Hence his mint policy was minutely designed & effectively implemented.*

**Keywords:** Tipu sultan, Mint policy, Economic implications, Political connection

## Introduction

The concept of Tipu's mint policy was directly related to his augmentation of commercial activities around his empire. . He reassured his direct monopoly control over trade process & industrial production processes because he was aware of the fact that the Colonial interests always eyed on economic resources of Mysore pryncedom. He introduced commercial Regulations during the year 1793-94 which were so meticulous and comprehensive that every miniature detail regarding the country's commerce came under the purview of the state. These regulations described comprehensively the duties of Commercial department officers. His regulations were driven by political tribulations & economic pressures to augment resources. Historian Wilks M. in his Historical Sketches of the South of India reflects on mints. The following is the list of mints under Tipu sultan

- Sriranga pattana
- Nagar
- Gutti
- Bengaluru
- Chitaldurg
- Calicut
- Farukki

- Satyamanagalam
- Dindigul
- Garamkonda
- Dharwar
- Mysore

Historians have reiterated the following mints minted gold & silver coins in larger number compared to other mints.

- Bengaluru
- Calicut
- Chitaldurg
- Gutti
- Nagar
- Sriranga pattana

These mints were strategically important places Military & politically very important All these mints were given different names for by Tipu His coins bear the new name given by Tipu Sultan It is described Shimoga district , Hole honnur is described & renamed as Benazir in one of his coins. There were several attempts to rename the strategic provinces by Tipu sultan.

### **Chief features of Mint Policy**

1. Tipu sultan issued initial coins from his Sri Rangapattanna mint only. Some coins were issued form Nagar mint.
2. The number of mints were increased after fifth year of Tipu sultan reign Now there were eight mints in his empire , this was because Tipu sultan lost half of his kingdoms after 1793 AD hence the following mints ceased to work after 1792 AD
  - Calicut,
  - Feroke,
  - Dindigul,
  - Gurrankonda
  - Dharwar
3. But Sri Rangapattana always enjoyed the status of the regular mint in his domain. Gutti always minted copper coins. Even Nagar mint minted copper coins & Gold coins
4. There is no mention of Tipu sultan's name on his coins But gold & silver coins always a had an increased letter of his father's name Hyder Ali. Historians have also pointed that omission of the name of his father & he had great political imperatives. He used the name of hider who was a cousin of Prophet Mohammad.
5. Tipu sultan did not even mention the names of Moghul king Shah Alam II even though he claimed nominal allegiance to this Moghul emperor There was resentment regarding this issue
6. The dates of his coins record HIJRI year. This is a typical feature of Tipu coins. The digits in number read from left to right
7. But Tipu sultan coined a new era called mauludi era after his 5th year of coronation & the numerals here read form right to left
8. Tipu sultan was promoted by the beginning of a new era in calendar hence there were changes in his coins as well.
9. But as historical have pointed out the Mysore kingdom observed Hindu calendar & this was popular too. According to Hindu calendar the era consisted of 60 years.
10. Tipu sultan renamed the Hindu calendar year & months. Gold & silver coins were named after Muhammad saints Khalifs & imams.

11. There is an ornamental border in the form of a wide double-lined circle enclosing groups of four- dotted flowers. Commencing with 1782 , in which year both types of border occur, and continuing to the last year, the border consists of the usual double-lined circle enclosing a row of dots.
12. Copper coins in five different values, viz., double-paisa, paisa, half-paisa, quarter-paisa and eighth-paisa were issued by Tipu Sultan .The copper coins have a figure of an elephant with its trunk upward lifted. This is a figure indicting trained attitude of an elephant while it also suggests act of respecting. The elephant shown is fully ornamented with metal anklets, decorative cloth & head gear which is common for elephant dress code in ceremonial occasions. But here they are representative of royalty.

### Conclusion

Thus coins of Tipu sultan bear testimony of his independent sovereign authority. Since January 1786 he wished to name himself as padshah instead of mogul emperor's name. Tipu sultan coins mirror individuality his far sightedness & his love for innovation. Tipu sultan coin & mint policy provide almighty god all potency & reflect the king as his mere shadow. All the names of the coins mention his thorough allegiance to god Allah & the saints of Islam religion. But the imagery of tiger which Tipu sultan emphasized so much a in all his routine life & royalty was never reflected in his coins. Besides Tipu sultan coins showed the image of elephant in all ceremonial attire respecting which again meant his allegiance to supreme lord.

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