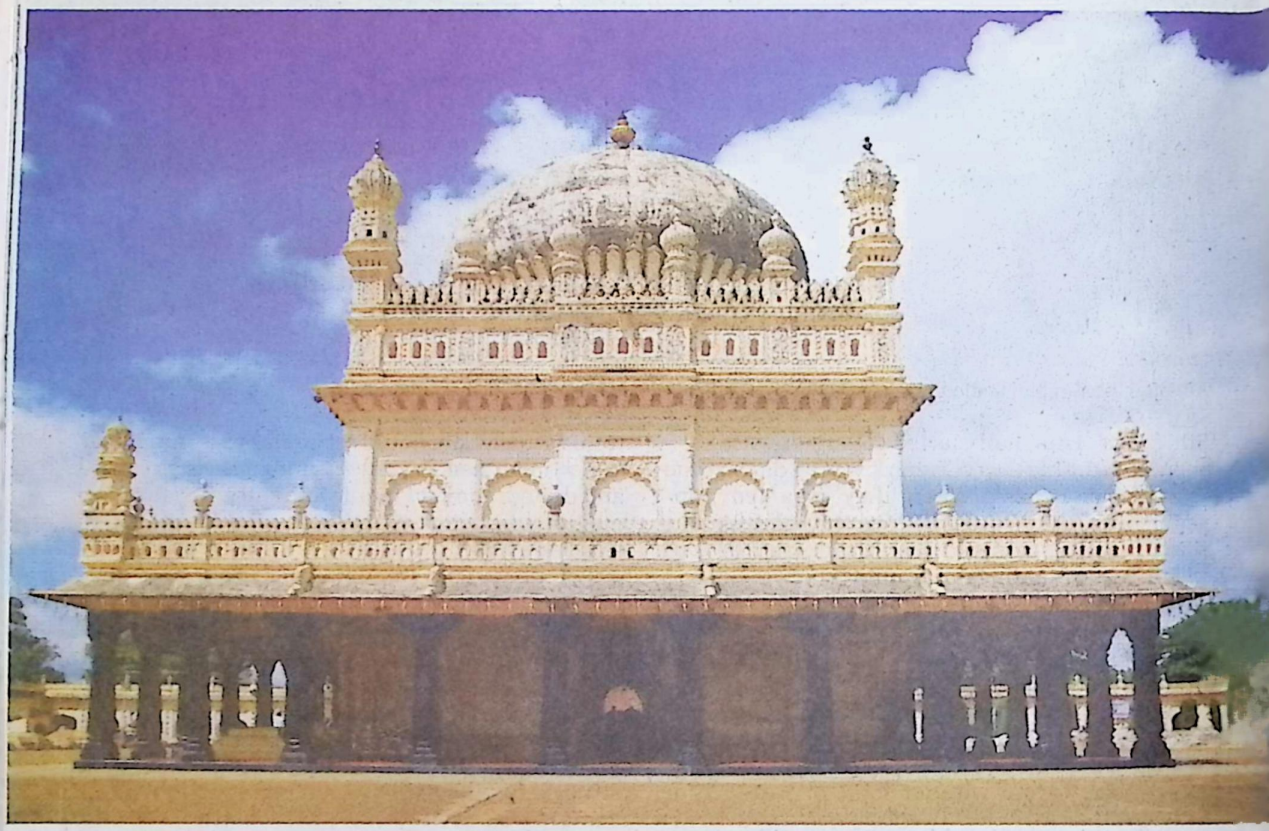
A Long-overdue Visit

AZIZUL JALIL



Tipu Sultan's Mausoleum – Gumbaz Srirangapatna.

Having travelled in my mind from our school days to my hero, Tipu Sultan's kingdom in Mysore, a visit to his last resting place was long overdue. One of my good friends from the World Bank days, Rangachar is settled after retirement in Bangalore and had invited us many times to go there. This year we availed of the opportunity and went to Bangalore via Kolkata. Despite the advice of many friends in Dhaka not to use Biman because of their irregularity, we dared to take it to Kolkata and from there we took the Jet Airways to Bangalore. Biman was punctual and the short flight in its Airbus was comfortable. The new Kolkata airport was large and modern, though there were not that many planes and passengers at the airport, the structures and facilities compared well with many western airports.

Our friend had arranged a rental car to meet us at the equally, if not bigger and modern airport in Bangalore. The driver took us to a small boutique hotel on the outskirts of the town, close to our friend's house. Rangachar had gone on one of his many consultancies to Yemen but delegated his responsibilities to guide and accompany us to the tourist attractions and shopping to his able wife, Vaggya, a social worker devoted to the spread of childhood learning methods. We were taken to see the Nandi Hills, 60 kilometers from Bangalore where at the top we visited an ancient temple. There is a restaurant nearby, which had a commanding view of Bangalore. It is also called the Hill of Happiness- people often come here for peace and tranquility. Next on our list was Lal Bagh Botanical Garden, a 240 acre, well-planned garden