PREFACE

Tourism as a socio-economic and cultural activity, it assumes importance in the international arena especially from the middle of the twentieth century. Countries with rich culture and tradition are much sought after by the tourists across the world. India is one such a country whose culture and heritage are known for its antiquity. Tamil Nadu, one of the states in India, in particular, enjoys the legacy of a classical language, rich culture and hoary tradition. Besides her natural heritage, a large number of places of worship, well-known for their excellent artistic work, fairs and festivals around temples, and Folk tradition attract both domestic and international tourists throughout the year. The Present study entitled, "Cultural Tourism In Tamil Nadu (1947-2007) - A Study" is an attempt to identify and to bring to light the culturally important centres in Tamil Nadu, with an intention to promote tourism in this region. In this work an attempt has also been made to quantify the tourist arrivals which will help to analyse the growth of tourism in Tamil Nadu.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. B.S.Chandrababu, Professor and Head, Department of Medieval History and Chairperson, School of Historical Studies, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, for his encouragement, guidance and supervision. I thank him for his creative ideas, tremendous patience, and the liberal amount of time he has devoted in the completion of this work. I also express my thanks to all the other faculty members of the School of Historical Studies, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai for their help and kindness.
I thank all the non-teaching staff of the School of Historical Studies, Madurai Kamaraj University for their help.

I wish to record my sincere thanks to Professor **Dr. S. Manickam**, former Professor and Head and Co-ordinator, School of Historical Studies, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai for giving me an opportunity to register my part-time Ph.D. research work.

My Sincere thanks to **Dr. Shahul Hameed, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.**, Retired Principal, Hajee Karutha Rowther Howdia College, Uthamapalayam, for permitting me to pursue my research work.

I express my sincere thanks to **Dr. Ramanathan**, M.S., Vice-Chancellor, **Dr. Rathnasabapathy**, Registrar and **Dr. P. Nagendra Rao**, Director, D.D.E., Annamalai University, for having given me an opportunity to continue my research work.

My heartfelt gratitude to (Late) **Mr. V. Joseph Vethamanickam**, Retired Head Master, and all teachers of M.S.P. Senthilkumara Nadar Higher Secondary School, Mallankinar, who have been instrumental in bringing me up to this position in my life.

I express my sincere thanks to **Mr. K. Jeyaram**, Retired Professor in History, **Mr. S. Doraisamy**, Retired Professor in History, **Dr. M. Howdh Mohaideen**, Principal, **Dr. S. Varghese Jeyaraj**, Reader in History, and **M. Peer Mohamed** Lecturer in History, Hajee Karutha Rawther Howdia College, Uthamapalayam, for their encouragement given to do this research.
My heartfelt thanks are due to Dr. R.Soundararajan, Professor and Head, Department of History and Tourism, D.D.E., Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai for his valuable and rare books that he has provided and also for his encouragement and concern. I thank Mr. K. Karunakara Pandian, Lecturer in Tourism, D.D.E., Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai for his encouragement and prayer.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. M. Gandhidasan, Retired Principal, S.V.N. College, Nagamalai, Madurai for offering his valuable suggestions to improvise this theses.

I am thankful to Mr. Selvam, Deputy Registrar, Mr. Arumugam, Superintendent (D), 'C' Section, and Mr. P. Murugadass, Lecturer in Mathematics, (Engineering Department), Annamalai University, for extending their moral support in the completion of my research work.

I am thankful to Librarian and Staff of Cannemara Library, Chennai, The Commissioner of Archives, and Staff of Madras Archives, the Commissioner of Tourism and Staff of Department of Tourism, Tamil Nadu, Chennai and the Librarian and staff of T.P.M. Library, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai for their providing books and materials towards completing my research work.

I express my thankfulness to my revered parents who since childhood instilled in my mind the significance of education and the desire to achieve high levels of academic excellence. I thank my father
Janab K. Razak and my mother Mrs. R.Hasara Beevi, for her fervent prayers and my brothers and sister for their support and encouragement.

This research work could not have been possible without the support of my wife Mrs. S.Mumtaj Abbas, and my daughter R.A.Yashika Izad and my son R.A. Abdul Qadir Shahul Hameed. They patiently bore all the inconveniences and support me at every level of research. If it were not for their support, encouragement and help I would have been helpless as my frequent travel to unfamiliar places alone in the pursuit of my studies had to take place.

I am immensely thankful to my uncle Hajee A. Shahul Hameed, Aunty Hajia A.Nagoor Beevi and cousins and sisters for their support and encouragement throughout my career.

Lastly I extend my heartful thanks to Mr. J.Balasubramanian, Valarmathi Typing Centre, Palkalainagar, Madurai for his careful and neat execution of this thesis on the Computer.

I also extend my thanks to each and every individual who have helped me in various ways in the completion of this thesis.

(R.ABBAS)