CONCLUSION

Tamilnadu is a land known for temples with rich Cultural Heritage and Civilization. The heritage of Tamilnadu is revealed by St. George Fort, Museums, Art Gallery, Vedanthangal Birds Sanctuary, Mahabalipuram, Kanchipuram, Thiruvannamalai, Madurai, Thirupparankuntram and Rameswaram. The Pallava, Chola, Pandya and Nayak rulers enriched the towns with temples and monuments.

The traditional forms of tourism were basically Cultural Tourism and Religious Tourism. Countries with rich culture and tradition are all much sought-after by the tourists across the world. Heritage is the off-shot of the culture. India is one such country, since its culture and heritage known for its antiquity.

Tamilnadu is one of the states in India, enjoying legacy of classical language, particularly rich cultural heritage and hoary tradition. Besides having rich cultural heritage of that region, a large number of places of worship, reveal their heritage in Tamilnadu such as excellent artistic work of temples, the colourful fairs and festivals. This kind of natural and man-made heritages attract, both domestic and international tourists throughout the year.

The present study entitled, *Heritage Tourism (with special reference to Tirunelveli District)*" is an attempt to bring out the
important heritage places of tourism in this district along with people's cultural activities.

Many of the tourists visiting Tamilnadu after visiting Madurai cross over to Kanyakumari, neglecting Tirunelveli. Hence this study is an effort to bring out the glorious heritage resources of the district and is offering suggestions and ways and means to promote them as areas of tourist attraction.

For this study the researcher has used of both primary and secondary sources. In addition to the primary and secondary sources information has been gathered by way of interviewing respondents selected at random across Thirunelveli district. This helps to understand the cultural heritage of the people who are real inheritors of the past.

Heritage Tourism and Cultural Tourism, after a detailed study in this thesis have been understood to mean both nature and man-made cultural tradition and monuments as also scenic attractions in Tirunelveli District.

This study assumes importance in the context of Tourism promotional activities in the District. The findings and suggestions, that have been listed out are of primary importance to attract tourist traffic both domestic and foreign in the district.
Tirunelveli is one of the important districts of Tamil Nadu, having been endowed with ideal geographical location, topography, climate, hillocks, forests, beautiful plains, sanctuaries, temples and rich heritage. Significantly resourceful district which is making strides in various spheres of social development, the people of Tirunelveli enjoy their cultural heritage with all their history, traditions and beliefs.

Having been endowed with rich fauna and flora, Tirunelveli district has got the distinction of attracting the tourists towards its lush green forests, hillocks, water falls and bird sanctuaries. Besides, the places of worship of different communities of historical importance offer opportunities to participate and enjoy the multifarious religious activities of those places.

If religion is the lifeline of people, the fairs and festivals that accompany worship of gods and goddesses, are colourful and attractive. The district remains colourful with gay and happiness and with religious fervour in most of the days, throughout the year. They offer opportunities for artisans living in and around Tirunelveli to show-case their intricately produced articles. Such of those articles are purchased by the tourist traffic who visit the places on occasions of celebrations in this region.
The findings and suggestions, based on researcher's field study, interaction with the people and personal observation and participation in fairs and festivals, ensure the right suggestions for the promotion of heritage tourism in the region. They include, the efforts of the government, NGO's and other private-individuals to preserve and sustain the heritage more as a tourist product.