PREFACE

The doctoral thesis “History of Road Transport in Kanyakumari District 1956-2004” was taken up for investigation since March 2008. The topic of research is fascinating as it forms a vital aspect in the socio cultural and politico economic life of the people. Though some piece meal attempts have been made to trace the history of road transport of other districts in Tamil Nadu no concrete and attempt has been made to study the road transport in Kanyakumari District. Hence, the present study in which an attempt is made to highlight the multifaceted role of road transports system to cope up with the requirements of the people.

The period of study commence with 1956 the year of blossoming of Kanyakumari District and ending with 2004 known for the disasters of tsunami which devastated most of the coastal areas of Kanyakumari District. This study is intended to highlight the land road transport otherwise known as bus services only and no attempt is made to study on the water transport system that existed in some parts of the district earlier. So also no analysis is made to narrate the private mini bus services introduced in the recent years.

In the preparation of the thesis, I received encouraging support from many quarters. At the very outset, I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to my research guide Dr. M. Desayar, Senior Professor and Head (Rtd), Department of History, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli for his sincere help, untiring guidance and valuable suggestions throughout the preparation of the thesis. His vast fund of knowledge has been a source of inspiration for me. His timely comments and hints have me put my work in the right perspective. I also express my thanks to Dr. S. Ammini Desayar, S.G. Lecturer and Head, Department
of Political Science, Christina College, Thiruvanathapuram for her encouragement in preparing the thesis.

I also express my thanks to Mr. M. E. Manikavasagam Pillai, Professor (Rtd), Department of History, Arinagar Anna College, Aralvaimozhi, who whole heartedly helped me in correcting the script with almost care in the midst of his numerous preoccupations. I extend my earnest thanks to Dr. D. Raju, Assistant Professor, Department of History, for his constant encouragement and valuable suggestions in the preparation of the thesis. I am indebted to Dr. K. Balasubramanian, Professor of English, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, for his encouraging support in correcting the manuscripts. I also express my thanks to Dr. B. Maria John, Professor and Head Department of History, Dr. P. Sermakani, Reader of History and Dr. Ramasubramaniam, Assistant Professor in History.

I record my sincere thanks to Miss. M. A. Amutha, Mr. A. Bhilal, and my beloved uncle Mr. T. Gangatharan, and my family members for their full encouragement and support in preparing the thesis.

I record my thanks to the authorities and staff members of Tamil Nadu Archives, Chennai; Connemara Library and Madras University Library, Chennai; Institute of Road Transport, Taramani; Kerala Legislative Assembly Library, Center for Development Studies, Ulloor, Kerala; Scott Christian College Library, Women’s Christian College Library, St. Hindu College Library, Kanyakumari District Library (Kavimony), Nagercoil; Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Library, Tirunelveli.

Finally I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Miss. G. Saritha and Mr. R. Mohan, Rainbow Graphics, Nagercoil for the neat execution of the thesis and to all those who have helped me in one way or the other in making this venture a success.