CONCLUSION

The rivers are the cradles of civilisation. The prehistoric man started wandering in search of water and food and he settled in the places where his basic needs like water facility and food were available. The Cauvery is considered as holier than Ganga in Puranas and adored as Dakshina Ganga. Cauvery is also referred as “Kanni” and it is referred as “Kanni Theertham” (Maiden River). It finds mention in vedic lores, many literatures, epic poems and dramas of this country. Cauvery is popularly known and adored from time immemorial by the Hindus as mother divine flowing in the form of a river. She is ever pure and compassionate. Ages have passed; several kingdoms have risen and fallen, the river Cauvery of divinity, peace and prosperity is always flowing with grace and majesty as a manifestation of divine grace and blessings for the people who love and adore her as divine mother. People worship Cauvery every year on Adi 18th and Lord Renganatha will marry her at Amma Mandapam. Cauvery Bathing Ghat Mandapam and perform worship and wear new ear rings, bangles, clothes etc. and presents on the occasion of the function. Cauvery blesses and protects those who surrender to her and pray with faith and devotion and seek her blessings.

Cauvery river after traversing eight hundred kilometres from Thala Cauvery joins the Bay of Bengal at Kaveripattinam of Sangam age, once a capital and sea port of the Cholas conducting famous festivals like Indira Vizha and carrying on a brisk sea-trade with the Yavanas and Romans. This place was eroded by sea water and became a small village on the eastern coast which has now been restored and developed as a tourist centre with a museum housing modern sculptural representations of the Sangam epic having references in the Silappadikaram.

The Ganges of the South is one among the most sacred seven rivers of India. The origin of Sri Cauvery River is called Tala Cauvery. It is located at the Brahmagiri hills, which is a part of the Western Ghats in Kodagu district of Karnataka.
State at an elevation of 4,400 feet (1,341 m) above mean sea level. Its (Cauvery) basin extends over an area of 81,155 square kilometres and covers areas in the State of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

The Cauvery River receives good rainfall during June to September and its flood flow will feed about 50 lakh acres to cultivate and irrigate paddy, sugarcane, turmeric, banana, betel vines, coconut, etc. During these months there will be heavy rainfall in the Western Ghats which is the catchment area of the River Cauvery and the Cauvery will carry adequate flow till the end from June to January. The rains during the months of August, September and October make the flow of the river continuous as the North East Monsoon will be active in Tamil Nadu from August to December. The flow of Cauvery is augmented by its tributaries, Harangi, Hemavathi, Shimsha, Arkavathi, Lakshmanathirtha, Kabini and Swarnavathi in Karnataka.

Several less important streams carrying the northeast monsoon rain waters join the main Cauvery river below the Hogenakkal falls near Dharmapuri where it enters the territory of Tamil Nadu. Three tributaries, the Palar on the West and Chinnar and the Thoppaiyar on the East joins the Cauvery near Mettur. Then the rivers Bhavani, Noyyal and Amaravathy and joins in Coimbatore, Erode and Karur District of Tamil Nadu.

Under Instrument of Treaty of 1799 the administration of Mysore State had been taken over by the East India Company. Later on after about 50 years by the Instrument of Transfer of 1881, the possession of the State was again handed over to the then Maharaja of Mysore. The origin of the dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu on the sharing of the Cauvery waters can be traced back to the year 1807. From 1807 communications were exchanged between Mysore and Madras Governments. In those years the hydraulic detracts of the river such as yield of water, monthly rainfall and quantum were not ascertained. In 1892 an agreement
was concluded between the two Governments to share the waters of River Cauvery for taking up new schemes and projects without affecting the interests of Mysore and Madras Presidency.

Apart from imposing restrictions on the utilisations of the Cauvery waters by both the Madras Government and Mysore they had to furnish the details of the proposals for obtaining other’s prior permission and no irrigation work could be undertaken in the Cauvery basin without others approved. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the dispute also involved other major rivers emanating from or flowing through Mysore into Madras Presidency. This agreement in the form of rules specifically brought construction of new irrigation reservoirs and even repair of existing irrigation reservoirs to be cleared by Madras Government and vice versa before execution. Accordingly in 1924 an agreement was executed after prolonged discussion and consultations on behalf of the Government of Madras and the Mysore Durbar which finally settled the longstanding disputes relating to the utilisation of the waters of the river Cauvery in Madras and Mysore. The agreement in 1924 enabled the construction of Mettur reservoir by the Madras Presidency and the Krishnarajasagara by the Princely State of Mysore. Subsequently both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have constructed many reservoirs big and small. In spite of the availability of technical knowhow of water utilised for irrigation, power generation, drinking water supply and industrial use etc., the utilisation of Cauvery waters have exceeded the yield from its catchment by Madras. Madras wanted its prescriptive rights to be safeguarded in its favour. Dispute arose between the riparian States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry. The Government of Tamil Nadu and Kerala had approached the Supreme Court and filed necessary suit for adjudication of the dispute by appointing a Tribunal. The Central Government formed Cauvery Fact Finding Committee (CFFC) to ascertain the ground realities and technical details etc. and the report of the CFFC was also submitted to the Central Government.
Pursuant to the above mentioned direction of the Supreme Court the Union Government on 2nd June 1990 constituted a Tribunal. As prayed for by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Tribunal gave Interim Relief by its order of 25th June 1991, which was extremely adverse. The Government of Tamil Nadu as per the interim orders of the Tribunal the Government of Karnataka has to release 205 TMC.ft. of water from June to May in a water year and above as monthly. Final order and decision of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) was issued on 5th February 2007 after 17 years of hearing, long awaited verdict Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has announced that the total of the 740 TMC.ft. of water available in Cauvery and accepted by the basin states was distributed at 419 TMC.ft. for Tamil Nadu, 270 TMC.ft. for Karnataka, 30 TMC.ft. for Kerala, 7 TMC.ft. to Puducherry, 10 TMC.ft. for environment purposes to safeguard of Cauvery and 4 TMC.ft. as unavailable wastage into the sea.

The ryots of basin States are pleading for certain additional allocations, while the ryots of the State pledge to safeguard their traditional good neighbourly relations through public and ryots cooperation and political consensus have turned an association of Cauvery family an amicable settlement. With such a resolve and declaration the ryots of the States meet often and action taken to move away from the past century of conflict in the Cauvery waters between Karnataka, Kerala, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu to an era of sustained co-operation. Technical experts and ryots from the basin States are anxious for a negotiation and if allowed and encouraged to do so, can play a major role in formulating sustainable and amicable solutions.

Ultimately it is for the leaders of the basin States and at the centre to rise to the occasion and for people of goodwill to urge them to entrust all the inter-state rivers to be taken under the control of centre for early nationalisation of rivers would be the only way for permanent solution to avoid and solve the dispute in future on sharing of inter-State rivers.
The Cauvery water dispute is continuing for a long time without any solution because, the political parties in power in the States do not think of solving this problem. Contrarily, these States party to the Cauvery water disputes, want to keep this problem to be used for political gains.

The parties to the Cauvery water disputes must unite with a strong desire to settle this problem amicably forgetting their differences in language.

To achieve this, the Union Government must amend the Constitution so as to include inter-state rivers as a subject in the Union list which will enable the Indian Parliament to make Law like National Inter-State Rivers Linking Act by which the Central Government may be empowered to establish a project for linking inter-State rivers.

If such a parliamentary law is enacted the Central Government can establish a project for linking of National Inter-State rivers. If such a project were to be established the dispute will come to an end.

Then only the population of India will be benefited by employment opportunities. The consolidated water resources, will lead to vast areas of waste lands being converted as agricultural lands and resulting in increased production of food grains. Further such a project will prevent the danger of flood and also the loss of lives and property due to sudden flood. The other benefit of such a project is that there will be possibility of establishing hydro-electric power stations, in many places which will go a long way to help the industries by supplying their required quantity of electricity. This factor will play a major role in developing more and more industries which will open new employment opportunities to the unemployed youth of India. These employment opportunities will go a long way in raising the living standards of the families from which the youth seek employment in the emerging industries. In this way we can see a new India self sufficient in its economy.