Today the world is facing twin problems of ‘Drug Abuse’ and ‘Drug Traffic’ on an unprecedented scale. India has been the vulnerable transit point in international traffic in narcotic drugs as situated between two major global sources of illicit drugs, the Golden Trangle (Thailand, Mayanmar and Laos) and the Golden Crescent (Pakistan, Afganistan and Iraq). Heroin smuggled into India from these places is transported to U.S.A. and other European Countries. The menace of narco-terrorism is wreaking havoc in the valley of Jammu and Kashmir and in the North Eastern States and threatening peace and stability of our nation.

In India, statutory control over the Narcotic drugs was exercised through various Central and State Acts and the principal central enactments were Opium Act, 1857, The Opium Act 1878 and the Dangerous Drugs Act 1930. The Government of India having concerned with the twin problems of Drugs Abuse and Illicit Traffic took stern legal, administrative and preventive measures to combat the same. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 was enacted as a first major step by the Government of India which provides deterrent punishment for drug trafficking offences.

The current amendment (NDPS (Amendment) Act 2001) is yet another legislative attempt to wipe out the anomalies and to remove the technical snags. The current amendment has extended the scope of the Act to all citizens of India outside India and all persons on ships or aircrafts registered in India.

The aim of the study is to contribute in determining the judicial interpretations of various provisions of different statutes related to drug abuse laws in India by in depth analysis of judicial pronouncements. This study also contributes in determining the attitude, efficiency and efficacy level of functioning of enforcement agencies in preventing drug abuse in India. For enforcement agencies, the findings of research have also contributed in providing a comprehensive and meaningful set of guidelines acting as a framework prepared on the basis of judicial pronouncements for implementation of various statutory provisions for prevention of drug abuse in India.

It has been highlighted that the courts especially the Apex Court of our nation is very active and have issued numerous guidelines on the subject with the aim of
curbing the menace of drug abuse. In spite of availability of number of statutory provisions, comprehensive guidelines and a vast network of enforcement agencies, there is lack of coordination between various agencies and a very poor functioning of individual agencies due to various reasons including inefficiency and corruption and this situation/trend has weakened the overall enforcement mechanism. This pathetic situation has further given impetus to drug mafia and strengthen them thereby contributing in increasing the menace of drug abuse manifold.

The research also highlights the efforts of the judiciary in prevention of drug abuse in India and also to highlight the shortcoming on the part of judiciary so that corrective steps can be taken at appropriate level by appropriate agency for effective implementation of statutory provisions. The study is also aimed at making the administration aware about the apathy of the drug users and to give them their basic rights. The study is also aimed towards enhancing the efficacy of criminal justice administration system.

The scope of this research covered the critical examination of current state of enforcement mechanism for regulating drugs uses and abuses in India. An in depth analysis of various measures taken for prevention of drug abuse and various guidelines issued by judiciary aimed at prevention of drug abuse. It also includes the analysis of efficacy of these guidelines and making suggestions as to the steps need to be taken for effective implementation of these guidelines and for improving overall functioning of enforcement mechanism so as to ensure effective prevention of drug abuse in India.

This research has been covered in six chapters. The Chapter - 1 provides overview of the concept of Drug Laws in India and general policy as well as national and international tools of the drug laws. Chapter - II provides classification and identification of the drugs most commonly found and misused in India. The origin, chemical composition and effects of these drugs have also been analyzed. In Chapter - III a brief introduction of all the prevalent Drug Laws in India has been given and how far these laws are effective to combat the drug problem of India. In Chapter - IV, the role of enforcement agencies have been discussed critically. Various guidelines issued by the Courts regarding the defective investigations have also been analyzed. The Chapter - V of the research analyzed the Judicial Response as regards
drug laws of India. The role of judiciary has been analyzed in interpreting these laws and other various guidelines issued by the Supreme Court as well as various High Courts along with judicial precedents. In *Chapter - VI*, the researcher while concluding the research brings out the nature of the Drug Abuse in India and how far the law has succeeded in achieving the objectives enshrined in Drug Laws.

It is expected that this research is useful not only for the judiciary, executive (enforcement agencies) and legislature but will be of immense use for the future researchers for further researches related to various aspects of drug laws and their implementation. This research concludes with a discussion of the implications of the findings as well as recommendations for further research in the area.