Elections are foundation stone of any democracy. As the democracies in modern times are mainly representative in character they are shaped by method of election. They induct an element of accountability into a political system and make it possible for the citizens to exercise genuine and meaningful degree of political choice and political control. This makes the system itself a democratic and effective instrument of governance. The elections are considered as a device for legitimacy, integration, communication, political education, political choice, participation, values and goals of different political system. India has adopted indirect or representative system of democracy. Besides, universal adult franchise free, fair, regular and independent election machinery is prominent among the features of the Indian democracy. The conduct of free, fair and impartial election depends much upon the performance of the independent and impartial electoral machinery, the political parties, candidates, the electorate and also the independent press. The law or the Constitution can provide only one of these elements – the system through which the people can give effect to the other elements. According to the Constitution of India, the entire electoral machinery is supposed to function under the Election Commission of India. Holding a regular periodic election based on universal adult franchise in a vast Country like India with huge population, is not a small and easy task. So, Election Commission like other institutions faces many challenges in its functioning like electoral malpractices electoral offences, role of money and muscles power etc. Although people are more satisfied with the working of the institutions in whose making they are not exercising a choice than those political institutions where they are exercising a choice. Because the
Election Commission has to ensure that electoral processes do not get clogged by malpractices. It has to see that social hatred, religion or caste is not whipped to win elections. It has to ensure that criminalization is not resorted to for defeating political opponents. It has to implement the electoral rules firmly and ensure a disciplined adherence to the norms. Therefore, election is the most important exercise on the part of the people in democracy and the Election Commission is not only responsible to make the process a success but also the government, the political parties and the electorate are equally responsible.

The main problem of electoral reforms in India is the deep rooted apathy of the political leaders as well as the lack of public awareness to the imperative need to arm the Election Commission to deal with the loathsome and corruption that has crept into the electoral process. The politicians would very much want a docile Election Commission they would not appreciate any programme of electoral reforms but only an obsequious Election Commission. It is rather unfortunate that the politicians of this country fail to appreciate the Election Commission’s role to conduct free, fair and peaceful elections and are afraid to act. May be free, fair and impartial election go against their personal interest. Numerous proposals of electoral reforms have been advanced in the past but have not gathered enough support in the public to create enough pressure on the rulers to see the urgency of the task of electoral reforms. However, several recommendations have been implemented through government orders and legislations. One of them is the anti-defection law. The second most important of them is to furnish antecedents of the candidates in the nomination forms filed before elections. The third most important implementation rather it is the Supreme Court decision on JMM case on corruption. The fourth the Delimitation Council on the formulation
of boundaries and rotation of seats. To name further there are several other recommendations which have been in the process of implementation. There are other recommendations which are equally important and I hope that the Parliament, political leaders and the citizens of India would implement them sooner and later.

The purpose of the present research is to implement various recommendations, suggestions or proposals of the Election Commission, the Law Commission, prominent leaders and other intellectuals given at various intervals of time shall be helpful to clean the Indian electoral system from various malpractices and to make politicians responsible to their promises and commitment which they make to the public particularly at the time of election campaign. Politicians should be educative, skillful and intelligent so that they can face new challenges which are increasing day by day.

Objectives:

The main objectives of the study are:

1. To focus on the role of the Election Commission as a result of the provisions of the Constitution as well as the political usage of the office.

2. To emphasis the administrative aspect of the election machinery.

3. To analysis different aspects of administrative, systemic and legal distortions that have cropped up in the electoral process.

4. To discuss the problems faced and the remedies tried to solve these problems.
Methodology:

The methodology used for the study is based on primary document, government reports of various Committee and Commission and Constituent Assembly Debates. The secondary sources such as books, journal, magazine, Newspapers and print media. In addition to these, the decision of various High Courts and Supreme Court of India have been extensively used as primary data.

The thesis has been divided into five chapters.

Chapter I
highlight how the institution of the Election Commission came into existence it includes its Genesis, its constitutional provisions, controversies of single and multi-commission, changing trends and nature of functions of the Election Commission and conflict between Election Commission and political parties.

Chapter II
deals with the Electoral machinery and complete electoral process as evolved in India. It also includes preparation of an election, the selection of candidates by the political parties, nominating process, as also the campaign and actual voting etc.

Chapter III
discussed the categories of corrupt practices that are bribery, undue influence, appeal on the ground of religion, race, caste, community or language and the use of appeal to religious or national symbols etc., publication of false and defamatory statements, hiring of vehicles, incurring booth capturing and procuring the assistance of government servants and it also include detail of electoral offences and the speedy disposal of election petitions.
Chapter IV makes a study of different Electoral Reforms proposals which have been suggested by Election Commission, the Law Commission, various Committees, associations and political leaders etc.

Chapter V focuses on the Role of Political Parties and Electoral Reforms. This chapter deals with different aspects of Indian politics and the role of political parties. Whether they have to play any positive role in making the Indian electoral system transparent or curbing the influence of electoral malpractices which are deeply rooted in Indian political system.

In the conclusion of the thesis certain suggestions have been made which are necessary and also certain amendments in the Representation of People Acts, 1950-51 which in the basic law for the conduct of election in India and also to resolve election disputes arising out of the after the election.
Chapter 1