AIMS AND RELEVANCE
According to Birenbaum and Montag (1956) since the introduction of the Sensation Seeking construct by Zuckerman and his associates over two decades ago (Zuckerman et al., 1964) this construct has generated much interest among researchers and applied psychologists. Reasons are not far to seek for the upsurge of interest in this concept. Sensation Seeking is related to important day to day behavioural characteristics. The Sensation Seeking construct has been thoroughly investigated in the fields of clinical, vocational and social psychology. Significant relations have been found between the Sensation Seeking Scale and behaviours such as use of drugs, alcohol consumption, cigarette smoking, gambling, reported sexual experiences, preference for stimulating foods, volunteering for unusual activities, attraction to physically risky sports and preference for perceptual complexity, etc. Goldsmith (1984) reported innovators to score higher on Sensation Seeking than adaptors.

Adding greater detail to this picture, Brown et al. (1974) reported that a sensation seeker is also inconsistent in his academic performance, he is inclined to cut classes, he is undecided with regard to his career plans and he is a drug user. Furthermore, he is a frequent traffic offender; enjoys gambling; is inclined to play the field with the opposite sex; and while he enjoys reading, the subject matter is often unrelated to his classwork.
In other words, the high change seeker appears to meet the description of the typical discontented student, the so-called college 'drifter' who may have academic ability but who cannot 'settle down'.

Studies, comparing the Sensation Seeking tendencies of subjects in various professions, have resulted in different Sensation Seeking profiles (Levin and Brown, 1975; Musolino and Hershanson, 1977; Biersner and LaRocco, 1983; Zaleski, 1984). Expansion of research in this direction to enable application of Sensation Seeking Scale in personnel selection, especially for high risk-taking jobs would be very relevant, opined Biersner and LaRocco (1983).

The all pervasive effect of Sensation Seeking on behaviour is overwhelmingly evident, both in positive and negative direction. On the positive side, high Sensation Seeking can be an asset in high risk professions and being innovators high sensation seekers may see explicitly new solutions to the problems, accept and initiate change more readily and seek the new and different. On the negative side Sensation Seeking has been related to pathological gambling, alcohol and drug usage. In the words of Teichman et al. (1989 a and b), regardless of age, Sensation Seeking is the main personality attribute in explaining the experimentation with drugs. Need for research to explore the
psychological and behavioural correlates of Sensation Seeking with a view of identifying potential deviants cannot be overemphasized. In this light, such a study would be even more meaningful if carried out on adolescent or college going students, as there is a paucity of research in this area in India. Therefore, the aim of the present investigation is to study the relationship of Sensation Seeking with Eysenckian dimensions of personality, Impulsiveness, Venturesomeness, Machiavellianism, Vividness of mental imagery in seven sense modalities viz., visual, auditory, cutaneous, kinaesthetic, gustatory, olfactory and organic, Murray's needs as measured by Edwards Personal Preference Schedule and Academic achievement in 500 college students.

Although review of literature suggests that gender differences exist in Sensation Seeking, very few studies provide evidence of qualitative sex differences in males and females i.e., identify differences in the correlates of Sensation Seeking in the two populations. The present investigation will study the correlates of Sensation Seeking in total sample, as well as separately for male and female college students.

Most of the previous studies have used correlation as a technique to identify correlates of Sensation Seeking. Given the possibility that Sensation Seeking in college
students involves multiple, interacting and predispositional factors, the use of multivariate techniques in studying the correlates of Sensation Seeking is imperative. In the present study, in addition to correlational analysis, factor analysis has also been used to understand the structure of various factors underlying the construct of Sensation Seeking.

**Phase II**

Another important feature of the present study will be to compare high sensation seekers and low sensation seekers on certain behavioural correlates postulated to be related with Sensation Seeking. 25% top scorers on Total Sensation Seeking Score comprised the high sensation seeking group, 25% low scorers on Total Sensation Seeking Score comprised the low sensation seeking group. They were given a questionnaire to obtain their responses in various areas e.g., drug and alcohol use, music, food preferences, gambling, participation in strikes/high risk sports, volunteering for unusual experiences etc.

The results of this phase of study may provide validation to earlier studies clearly associating these behavioural characteristics with Sensation Seeking.