The Supreme Court stands at the top of the elaborate judicial system in India. It may be said to be the concrete expression and also the symbol of the acceptance of the rule of law by the Indian people. The Supreme Court together with the High Courts in the States exercises the judicial power in the Union of India. The Constitution, itself a fundamental law is not a set of mathematical formulae which have their essence in their form. On the other hand it is a set of organic living institutions imported and transplanted from many soils. Consequently, there must be some way of knowing what the Constitution means when cases arise. Laws may be said to be a dead letter without the Courts to expound and define their true meaning and operation. In any country if the rule of law is to govern judiciary must be one of the governors. India has accepted the rule of law and therefore, its Constitution may be said to assert that its objective is "a government of laws and not of men." Of course there can be no laws without men. Therefore, the idea of government by laws is always beyond the grasp of men. Yet its importance can be seen by simply supposing that all the laws of a nation are suddenly abolished and the government is left to men without the guidance of laws and limitations or without the climate of opinions and expectations, which inhere in a system which deems the law supreme.

In India the concept of rule of law can not be overemphasized. In the nature of things, the Supreme Court of India occupies the highest place in the constitutional system of the country but also has to perform a task at once delicate and difficult. As a Court of last resort the Supreme Court of India receives difficult and
uncertain cases. Consequently, its decisions are often divided.

Again the Court deals with cases and controversies, governments and people, must sue or be sued. Thus the Supreme Court is constantly occupied in interpreting law and working towards the realisation of the objective of the 'rule of law' accepted by the Indian rulers as their goal.

It is to the understanding of the position, powers and the work of the Supreme Court of India that the present writer undertook this study in 1965-66. This work is divided into twelve chapters. Chapter one and two deal with theory of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of India, its genesis, structure and organisation respectively. Chapters III, IV and V deal with jurisdiction of the Court. Chapter VI discusses judicial review and compares and contrasts with the Supreme Court of United States of America. Chapter VII deals with the Supreme Court and constitutional development, while Chapter VIII with the Supreme Court and Fundamental Rights. Chapters IX and X deal with the relation between the Supreme Court and the Executive and the Legislature. Chapter XI deals with Public Services while Chapter XII deals with International Law. At the last the writer has made observations and conclusions.

The study has been illustrated throughout by well known cases which have been discussed at some length.

The writer believes that it is a pioneer work within the scope of its study. She is also conscious of certain self-imposed limitations in this work. It is not entirely a study from the point of view of a student of law, but is an humble attempt on the part of a student of Political Science to try to understand the
working and the importance of the highest legal institution in India since law and politics are often very much mixed.

As for debts, undoubtedly the writer's intellectual obligation is to her reverend 'Guru' Dr. I. D. Sharma, Lajpat Rai Professor of Political Science and Head of the Department, Panjab University, Chandigarh, who placed his unrivalled knowledge and unimpeachable guidance at her disposal. The writer's debts to him are beyond repayment.