Democracy is actually a social organization and a form of Government. Democracy means the Government that by the people and for the people. The supreme power is vested in the hands of people because their elected representatives represent them.\(^1\)

Political parties are the result of socio-economic and political environment of a democratic country like India and they compete for power in this environment.\(^2\) They are also the manifestation of socio-economic and political aspirations of the people. Political parties compete with each other for acquiring and exercising power. They adopt various methods to come into power. But the making of promises with the people, in their manifestoes, is one of the best policies to come into power. After coming in power, they try to fulfill their promises made with the people during election.\(^3\)

In India parliament form of Government is adopted at the centre as well as state level. Rulers are chosen by the electorate democratically in a parliamentary Government. Where executive part of the Govt. is responsible for its actions to the law branch, means to parliament.\(^4\) The Govt. works by the minister elected from one or both of the parliament who are reliable to the control of parliament. Generally it’s the common people's responsibility to cast their votes to choose the new Govt. This systems is also followed in Punjab and centre as well.\(^5\)

Punjab, the land of five rivers has played a major role in the history of India. The History of the Punjab has left a deep imprint on the course of Indian history and the people of the Punjab, through their courage and patriotism cover out an important place for themselves.\(^6\)

The word 'Punjab' is a combination of the two Persian words 'Panj' and 'ab' meaning 'Five' and 'water' or 'rivers' respectively. Thus etymologically speaking it means the land of 'Five waters' (Rivers).\(^7\)
The Punjab has been called by different names in the different periods of history. In the Rig-Vedic days. When it was at the height of its glory it was called 'Sapt-Sindhu' the land of seven tributaries of the Indus. At that time seven rivers used to flow through this land. After some times when the Greek occupied the piece of land they called it 'Pentapotamia' 'Penta' from Greek word 'Pento' meaning five and 'Potamas' meaning rivers. A few centuries later the Punjab was named as Taki. The Kingdom which Hieun Tsang called Tsekia or Taki embraced the whole of the plains of the Punjab from the Indus to Beas, and form the foot of the mountains (Himalayas) to the junction of the five rivers (Panjnad) below Multan. It was called 'Taki' after a powerful tribe of that name which ruled here for a pretty long time.

During the Mugal period, the province was given the name of Suba-i-Lahore. Under Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the Punjab was generally called the 'Lahore Province' or the 'Lahore Kingdom' after the name of capital city. But under the British rule, it came to be called 'The Province of the Punjab' and after independence, the Indian portion of Punjab got the name of 'East Punjab' in the constitution of Independent India promulgated on 26th January, 1950 East Punjab began to be called 'The Punjab State' one of the class 'A' states of the Indian Union. After the reorganization on linguistic basis in November 1966 it is called 'Punjab'.

The creation of Punjabi speaking state on November 1, 1966 changed the traditional pattern of the political power in Punjab. The First elections to the Punjab Legislative Assembly after reorganization were held in February 1967. The 1967 Punjab Vidhan Sabha Elections proved to be a landmark in the history of Punjab. In these elections, the era of one-party dominance came to an end. The first coalition ministry known as united front ministry, comprising of all the non-congress parties and few independents was formed in the state under the leadership of Gurnam Singh. After that, the elections to Punjab Vidhan Sabha were held in February 1969. The Akali Dal had an electoral alliance with the Jana Sangh and partial adjustment of seats with all other non-congress parties. After the elections, the Akali Dal emerged as single largest political party by capturing 43 seats in a house of 104 members.
The next elections to the Punjab Vidhan Sabha were held on June 12, 1977. The Janta-Akali –(CPI, CPM) poll alliance won 91 seats in the assembly elections of 1977.\textsuperscript{13}

The number of assembly seats in Punjab increased from 104 to 117 on the basis of 1971 census. In these elections, the Jana Sangh also merged with the Janta party.\textsuperscript{14}

The Eleventh Punjab Vidhan Sabha elections were held on February 7, 1997. These elections were contested collectively by the Shiromani Akali Dal and BJP by making an alliance in which the BJP secured 18 seats while the SAD achieved 75 seats. They collectively secured 93 seats out of 117 assembly seats. The congress performed badly in the elections as it could win only 14 seats.\textsuperscript{15}

The Thirteenth Punjab Vidhan Sabha elections were held on February 13, 2007.\textsuperscript{16} These elections were contested collectively by making alliance by old allies namely the SAD and BJP. In these elections, the BJP got its highest seats 19 and the SAD won 49 seats. The difference between the seats won by the Akali and the congress was only five, and it was the Akali Dal's pact with the BJP that helped it to have a comfortable governing majority, Parkash Singh Badal become a record fourth time Chief Minister of Punjab.\textsuperscript{17}

Once again the Akali-BJP coalition won the Punjab Vidhan Sabha election held on January 30, 2012.\textsuperscript{18} The Akali-BJP alliances won 68 seats (56+12) out of 117 seats and Mr. Parkash Singh Badal was sworn in as chief minister of Punjab. This coalition government worked successfully till February 2017.\textsuperscript{19}

State governments in India are considered as the agents of social change, development and prosperity. They perform for social welfare. The people give their consent and provide legitimacy to only such a government which has the qualities of good governance and which is efficient, accountable, effective and responsive government. An inefficient, unaccountable government and its poor performance lead to the erosion of its legitimacy. The criteria or measurement of the people to analyze and government is the performance and functioning of the government. In this way,
the functioning and performance of government constitutes an important and
interesting subject of study. This is also true in the case of Punjab. The ruling
coalition of SAD-BJP has completed its two terms, (2007-2012) and successfully
(2012-2017).\textsuperscript{20}

Moreover, in these days, Punjab is passing through very critical situations and
facing problems like corruption, unemployment, water disputes with neighbor states,
education, lack of electricity, increasing gap between poor and rich, female foeticide,
increasing debt of Punjab, crisis of agriculture and farmer suicides, increase in deadly
diseases etc, Only an effective government can solve these problems. So, it is
interesting to analyze and examine the promises and performance of these coalition
governments.

\textbf{Review of Literature}

The work of Dr. Jamshid Ali Khan namely 'Punjab Di Rajniti (2005) provides
very useful basic information about Punjab politics. It throws a light on the politics of
Punjab after the reorganization of the Punjab. It also informs us about the political
parties of the Punjab and their working and emergence, coalition politics and
Governor's role in Punjab. The pattern of leadership and the nature Punjab crisis has
also discussed in this book.

'The Akalis: A Short History' (1996) by J.S. Grewal describes the emergence
of Akali and their entry and role in Punjab politics. This work examines the economic
and political policies, programme and ideology of Shiromani Akali Dal. The Akali
Demand 1931, Sikh memorandum to Cripps 1942, All India Akali conference, and
resolution 1944 have been mentioned in it.

socio-historical background of Punjab politics, Akalis and their ideology, organization
and their strategy. It also includes the study of Anandpur Sahib Resolution, operation
Blue Star, and Punjab Accord.
K.C Gulati's 'Akalis Past and Present' (1994) is a very useful study on Punjabi Suba movement. The work carries out useful information about evolution of the Akali Dal and Sikh politics from the days of Gurdwara Reform Movement. Although he has attempted to write a history of the Akali Dal since its inception, yet put more emphasis on the Punjabi Suba Movement.

The work of Dr. Dalip Singh namely 'Punjab Dian Milian Julian Sarkaran Saroop Te Karguzari' (1966) is a great work providing useful information about the functioning and nature of coalition government in Punjab in the context of changing socio-political conditions. The writer also discusses in this book coalition governments and alliance politics particularly Akali-Janta coalition governments and coalition ministries in Punjab.

The valuable work by Dr. Ajit Singh namely 'Shiromani Akali Dal Religious political study 1947-90' (2005) aims at analyzing the working of the Shiromani Akali Dal from 1947 to 1990 in terms of the interaction of its organization, ideology, strategy and support base. The focal points in the working and growth of the SAD have been studied both as specific and inter-related categories.

The book 'Punjab the Land of Beauty Love and Mysticism' (1992) written by Syed Abdul Qudds provides praise worthy information about the land and the people of the Punjab, both in the course of its development over the years and its present day manifestations.

Punjab Di Kirsani Ate Vishvikarn, (1999) by Dr. Balwinder Singh is an attempt to describe the worse conditions of agriculture and farmers in Punjab. It also describes the increasing debt of the Punjab agriculture sector and provides measures to reform the agriculture sector.

Bhupinder Singh's works namely 'Punjab politics: Retrospect and prospect" (2010) tries to understand. Going deep into the historical, physical, demographic, social and economic background of Punjab, it presents a critical analysis of the
electoral history of the State covering the period from 1967 to 1992. It also examines the factors that led Punjab towards terrorism and its impact on the development of the State. Finally, it analyzes the working and performance of coalition politics in Punjab.

The famous work of Dr. Dalip Singh namely 'Dynamics of Punjab Politics' (1981) covers the study of reorganization of Punjab in 1966 and nature and basis of Punjab Politics. It also presents a study of various trends and patterns in Punjab politics. It has given an elaborate account of the politics of defections and coalitions. The Lok Sabha and Assembly Elections held in Punjab along with other aspects of Punjab politics till 1980 have been analyzed. This work also provides useful information about political activities in Punjab.

The important work A. S. Narang 'Storm Over Sutlej' (1983) has a somewhat balanced attempt to examine the Akali led "Powerful inscriptive" movement for the demand of a Punjabi speaking state, and it traces the development that led to the present situation. The work includes the changing nature of Punjab politics after independence in which the demand for Punjabi Suba emerged and the causes which made the Sikhs conscious of their identity as a community. The writer ideology master Tara Singh and moderate ideology of Sant Fateh Singh. Though informative, the study however, leaves to the reader to find a coherent theoretical perspective in it.

The book written by Jamshid Ali Khan, 'politics of Coalition Governments in Punjab(2006) examines different dimensions of coalitions governments in the state formed from 1967 to 2002. The book is divided into six chapters. The first chapter deals with theoretical aspects of coalitions. The second chapter presents an overview of history, economy, culture and social composition of the Punjab. The third chapter describes the formation and working of coalition governments in the State. The fourth chapter analyses the basis, stability, and inter-party conflicts of Coalition governments on the office of Governor and chief Minister has been discussed. How the centre-state relations get impacted, also constitute the part of the chapter, The sixth chapter
critically examines the performance of coalition Government in the state vis the earlier Congress Governments.

Vishav Bharti’s article published in 'Economic and political Weekly' namely 'Indebtedness and Suicides: Field notes on Agricultural Laborers of Punjab (2011) present the analysis of suicides among the agricultural laborers in the cotton belt of South Punjab and their bad conditions which had not received the required attention or concern. The author made a field trip to around 20 villages in Sangrur, Bathinda, Barnala and Mansa districts to explore the conditions of landless laborers in the midst of the agrarian crisis, how the economic crisis had unleashed a social calamity, how the widows are faring in the struggle to survive and how the children/orphans are coping.

Dr. Rajinder kaur in her work Vishvikarn ate Punjab –Kuj Pehlu (1999) examines the impact of globalization on the third world countries as well as punjab. She also criticizes the neo-colonial policies of globalization. She further condemns the partial role of IMF and world Bank and Blames globalization for the worse conditions in the fields of health, education, agriculture and poverty in Punjab.

**Objectives of the study**

1. To examine the historical experience of Akali-BJP governments in Punjab.
2. To bring out the promises made by the Akali-BJP governments in Punjab during assembly election since 2012.
3. To analyze the performance of Akali-BJP governments in Punjab since 2012.
4. To compare the promises and the performance of Akali-BJP governments in Punjab since 2012.

**Hypothesis**

1. The promises made by the political parties generally reflect the aspirations, feelings and ambitions of the different sections of the society.
2. The promises are linked to ideology and support base of the political parties.
3. Promises reflect the main motives of the political actors.
4. The performance of coalition partners mainly depends upon their strength in the legislature.

5. Pre-poll and post-poll electoral alliances also affect the performance of coalition government.

Significance of the study

The present study is an attempt to analyze promises and the performance of the Akali-BJP governments in Punjab, since 2012, in changing socio-economic and political conditions of the Punjab in this age of globalization. Punjab is facing various problems like corruption, unemployment, water disputes with neighbor states, Education, lack of electricity, increasing gap between poor and rich, female foeticide, day by day increasing debt of Punjab, crisis of agriculture and farmer suicides etc. That is why, it is very essential to analyze the promises and performance of the Akali-BJP government since 2012, so that the future governments of Punjab could learn lesson from the omissions and commissions of the previous governments and also could address the problems confronting the society effectively and fulfill the aspirations of the people of Punjab.

METHODOLOGY

In the present study both historical and analytical methods have been used for the collection of material both primary and secondary sources have been used. The primary data is collected from various official departments like Punjab Vidhan Sabha secretariat, Directorate of Sanik Welfare, Punjab State Forest Development Corporation and Chief Electoral Office, Chandigarh, Child Welfare, Education Department (Social Welfare Department) Chandigarh. The secondary sources would comprise books, journals, newspapers, clipping and websites etc.
CHAPTERIZATION

1. Introduction
2. Formation of Coalition Governments in Punjab: A Historical Experience
5. Conclusion and Suggestions.
References

6. Ibid.
8. Ibid, P-55.