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Veerpal Kaur
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PREFACE

History is the series of events. Since the beginning of mankind many historical events took place in the history. The Morcha of Jaito is one among of them. The ruler of Nabha Maharaja Ripudman Singh had sympathy for the Gurudwara reform (or) Akali movement with the result the British Government forced him to abdicate on July, 1923. The Akalis launched an agitation in his favour which is known as ‘Jaito Da Morcha’ on 9th September Nabha day was observed by the Sikhpanth. The Sikhs started Akhand Path of ‘Shri Guru Granth Sahib’ in the Gurudwara of Gangsar, Jaito. The British Govt. Proclaimed the S.G.P.C and Akali Dal unlawful bodies on 21st February 1924 a Jatha of 500 sikhs proceeded forward to Jaito while reciting Gurbani. In the government action, many Sikhs were martyrard while many were injured. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, K. Sathnam and Dr. Kitchlu also visited Jaito and participatd in the Morcha. They were detained and kept custody for some time. The Jathas of Sikhs from outside also began to come. Sixteen Jathas of 500 Sikhs each took part in the Morcha of Jaito. The Government tried to stop that Morcha but Sikhs kept up their confidence and the efforts of William Birdwood as well as Government were failed.

At last the Government was successful to get agreement of Sikhs and passed the Gurudwara Reform Act 1925. On the other hand, Sikhs got a stable platform of law in the form of the Gurudwara Reform Act 1925. After passing this act the Sikhs stopped the Morcha.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:–

The literature of Sikh shrines had been studied of various of scholars who dealt directly with the activities of Gurudwara Sudhar Lahar movement. The details are given below:–

The important book is Akali Morchian Da Itihas, Arsi Publisher, Patiala, 2007 was written by Sohan Singh Josh. This book gives us information about all sikh shrins and Gurudwara Sudhar Lahar. The Shahi Country of Nabha, published by P.C.P. Publisher, Nabha, 2000, was written by Ravinder Singh Sodhi from this book we learn about the roll of Maharaja Ripudman of Nabha in the Morcha of Jaito. The book on the subject, Akali Movement, published by publication Bureau Punjabi University, Patiala, 2015 was written by Mohinder Singh. This book explained the starting of Gurudwara sudhar lahar (or) Akali Movement and different shrines as well as the response of Government toward these shrines. Harjinder Singh Dilgir’s books are S.G.P.C. Kive Bani, and Shiromani Akali Dal, published by S.G.P.C Amritsar, 2000 tells us about the
formation of S.G.P.C. and Akali Dal and gives us the information about the contribution of these bodies in Sikh shrines.

Gurudwara Reform Movement And Sikh Awaking, Published by S.G.P.C., Amritsar, 2000 was written by Teja Singh gives us the information about the history of all Sikh Shrines.


Khushwant Singh’s book History of Sikhs, published by Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 1972 gives us the details of Sikh struggle as well as Sikh Shrines and other movements of Punjab during 20th century.

SCOPE

The Morcha of Jaito is a historical event of history of Punjab. The Maharaja of Nabha’s dispute was with the Maharaja of Patiala not with the Government of India. But he had taken interest in the affairs of the Sikh community and the Government was aware of his sympathy with the nationalist and Akali movement, so government pretended to solve the dispute with the state. The Sikhs were stopped to recite The Gurbani in their Gurudwaras. One such ceremony held at the temple of Gangsar Jaito was interrupted by the police. The Sikhs felt it as insult of Shri Guru Granth Sahib, so they launched a Morcha at Jaito.

The S.G.P.C and Akali Dal were declared illegal. The Indian National Congress declared its full sympathy with the Morcha. The Government tried to isolate the Akalis by giving wide publicity to the story that they wished to restore Sikhs rule in Punjab. But the Sikhs felt that it was their duty to support a party which intended to restore their kingdom. The Sikhs kept their confidence and continued the Morcha. When the Government realized that it was very difficult to stop the Sikhs, it tried to solve their questions. The Sikhs got sympathy from all national political parties and with the help of those parties, the Sikhs were able to change the Government and to compel the Government to pass the Sikhs Gurudwara Reform Act. 1925. At last, Government passed the Act, 1925 for which the Sikh agreed with Government and stopped the Morcha. The Sikhs won this Morcha in a very peaceful manner and got a permanent law for them which is enacting till now.

THE NEED FOR STUDY
The *Morcha of Jaito* is an important event in the history which was took place in 1923 to 1925. This event plays an important role in changing the policies of British Government and to give a stable platform to Sikhs in formof *Gurudwara* Reform Act 1925 and S.G.P.C. which is working for Sikhs till now. After this event, The Sikhs were enable to get permanent law for themselves in the form of Gurudwara Act 1925. So it is very important to study this event.

**AIM AND OBJECTIVES**

I. To know about historical importance of *Morcha of Jaito* in the history

II. To explore the contribution of *Morcha of Jaito* in the Gurudwara reform Act 1925.

III. To explore the struggle to get freedom of religious worship by Sikhs.

IV. To Know about the role of Maharaja of Nabha in the *Morcha of Jaito*.

V. To know about the policies of British Government regarding Sikhs.

VI. To know about the contribution of S.G.P.C.& all political parties in the *morcha*.

**THE RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY**

The study perspective of my work is historical The study is based on the proceedings of government ,work of S.G.P.C,files and reports of home political department of India,Newspapers,Files of Punjab State Archive Patiala and National Archive New Delhi. Relevant information had also been gathered from secondary sources such as books ,Journals,Unpublished thesis works .And  I have done my work.

**CHAPTERIZATION:**

The study had been divided into five chapters for the sake of convenience.The first chapter higlites the formation of Gurudwaras and sikh religion. Many Sikh shrines are described in this chapter also.The second chapter deals with whole circumstainces in which Maharaja Ripudman Singh had to give resignation and description of whole event of *Morcha of Jatio*.The third chapter concern with the efforts of S.G.P.C,Akali Dal and all Political parts these were in favour of Sikhs.The action (or) response of British Government regarding this agitation is described in the chapter. The forth Chapter higlites the  formation of *Gurudwara* Reform Act 1925.The fifth and the last chapter concludes the research study ,which is based on the Primary and secondary sources.