CONCLUSION

The main aim of working on the research topic “Life and Times Of Maharani Jind Kaur (1817 A.D.-1863 A.D.)” was to highlight the social and political life of Maharani which awarded her with the name Mai/Rani or the Queen Mother. She was known for her beauty as well as strength of will and act of diplomacy. Having the nature full of love and care, she made her good relations with the other Rani’s in the mahal. She never felt jealous of each other which made her important place in the heart of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Owing her greater duty to her only son she refused to perform sati along with the other wives of Maharaja Ranjit Singh after his death. She stood up for her son to protect his right and assured him as a “Real Sovereign” of Punjab by regimental committees of Punjab and acted as a regent of the Sikh Empire for her young son. She resisted the efforts of British to annex Punjab for sometime and conducted the state with no commonsense in some of the most difficult situations facing by the kingdom in Punjab.

The various reasons which resulted in the decline of Lahore darbar after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh were:

- Poor Administration
- Increase in number of followers of throne after death of Shere-E-Punjab Maharaja Ranjit Singh.
- Lack of unity among Sikh community.
- Character of Maharani Jind Kaur
- Beneficial results to the British.

Keeping in view the above points the first point clearly indicates the lack of administrative power. After the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, administration came to an end. The way Maharaja Ranjit Singh hold the Darbar and maintained the
administration totally failed and resulted in the decline of Lahore Darbar. None of the policies and regulations resulted in existence after his death.

Secondly after the death of Shere-E-Punjab Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the number of followers raised for the holding the position of King. It was all because Dalip Singh was small in age and it was difficult for him to hold this Sikh Raj. Dhyan Singh, Gulab Singh, Kharak Singh, Hira Singh, Nau Nihal Singh and many more were in the race to become the Maharaja of Punjab. They killed each other but none of them was successful. Finally Dalip Singh was sworn into as Maharaja.

Thirdly unity among Sikhs lacked after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Sikh started killing Sikh community only. It was a horrible condition in the state. Nothing was possible for the reunion of the Sikh community. All that benefitted British a lot for the set up of British rule in the state.

Maharani’s dual character was also one of the reason of the decline of Sikh Raj in Punjab. Along with the securing of the Sikh Raj she too helped British which was only for the well being of Dalip Singh.

Finally all this resulted in the beneficial aspect in favour of British and they were able to set up their empire in Punjab. They never fulfilled the desire of Maharani Jind Kaur and Maharaja Dalip Singh. They never made any attempt so that Maharani and Maharaja could meet each other. After the long time of thirteen and half year, they met each other but in the final stages of life both of them never returned back to Punjab and were cremated in England.

A critical view on Rani Jind Kaur was necessary which assessed her responsibility in losing the Sikh Kingdom. Jind Kaur’s passion overmastered her reason, colored her
vision, and led her to embark on a course of action that was cruel, difficult to control, lack of all political judgment and statesmanship. The Queen mother lacked patience, tact, caution and an ability to man curve political events and situations to her advantage. It was not in her character to win over man and use them to strengthen her position. In the delicate situation prevailing in Punjab in those days, she behaved more like any autocrat ruler than like a sharp power and fat-seeing statesman.

Maharani Jind Kaur had a dual picture of herself for her responsibility in the first Sikh war. Out of which the foremost was reducing the power of Khalsa army by making their fight against British. To fulfill that agenda she sent messages to various sardars to fight against British. On the other hand Maharani Jind Kaur was alleged for sending confidential letters to the British Resident which was regarding the dispatch of Sikh army towards the British. She tried to divert the army attention to different cannel to get rid from the unnecessary interference of army in the administration by provoking them to fight against the British. By her agenda she had a dual perspective for result of war. In case of victory over British the khalsa Raj would have been enriched in the power and in case they were defeated by British would have resulted in weakness of Sikh empire.

Everything in her hand misfired and boomeranged upon her. In her desperation, she took recourse to the British help who were only eagerly waiting round the corner to grab much a gold opportunity. Since the Queen, despite her faults and follies saddled the political horse so tightly under her legs that the horse itself perished underneath her fast hold. It was not in her character to play up the political cards with tier, caution and wisdom. The result was that the British as soon as they got into the arena on that side of the Satluj river they at once began to tighten the strings around the Queen’s neck.
On the other hand her social life was somewhat good. Her beauty, power, political and full of enthusiasm characteristic gave her the name of The Iron lady. She was a fearless lady who held Sikh Raj properly after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and along with this she also looked far behind her son. She was called as Jindan in the family and she got familiar with this name only because of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. After the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, she and her son Dalip Singh held the Sikh Raj for few years. She was the first woman who held an importance in the first Independence war for India. Unfortunately she could not hold her power for long time to unite the Sikh empire and at the last stage none of her and son Dalip Singh’s wishes were fulfilled by the British and were not permitted to return back to Punjab. Thus the end stage of her life was very problematic and was not so much relaxed. Neither mother nor son’s last desire of their cremation in Punjab were fulfilled by the British. The name ‘Jinda’ is still given to the daughters in rural Punjab as the state’s fascination with rebellion and standing up to a more powerful enemy refuses to go away.

Maharani Jind Kaur was the most remarkable woman in Sikh history and had a fascinating personality. Of all the wives of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, only Rani Jind Kaur was destined to play an important role in Sikh history. This eminent and great personality played a very significant role for the freedom of Punjab from the British yoke. So in the history of Punjab the most dispute period was of Maharani Jind Kaur’s who was reagent of Maharaja Dalip Singh from the time period of 1843 A.D. to 1848 A.D. After the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, she and Dalip Singh commanded Sikh rule and governed it for some time. She was known to be the first lady who fought in the war of independence of India. Maharani was the youngest wife of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. She was the 18th wife of Shere-E-Punjab. The name of Jinda was all due to him only and was remembered in the history of Punjab. She was named as the Iron lady due
to which there was always fear of her among the British. Maharani Jind Kaur’s life was full of sacrifices which correlated with the rise and downfall of Maharaja Ranjit Singh’s rule.

Thus Maharani Jind Kaur emerged as a prominent Sikh lady during the past 1838 period. She played an important and very vital role in the resolving the disputes along with British government. She entered Sikh court politics and also fought the Anglo-Sikh war. She dominated Sikh politics in Punjab from 1838 to 1863. Due to her political leadership quality she was known as the Iron lady and is still remembered among the entire Sikh community.