

**Address by Maj. Gen. Praveen Kumar, SM, VSM,
Judge Advocate General (Army)**

Hon'ble Shri Justice Krishna Murari, the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court-cum-Patron-in-Chief, Chandigarh Judicial Academy, Hon'ble Ms. Justice Daya Chaudhary, the President, Board of Governors, Prof. (Dr.) Balram Gupta, the Director (Academics), Chandigarh Judicial Academy, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a matter of great pride and honour for me as the JAG of Indian Army to have this opportunity to address my officers in the august presence of the Patron-in-Chief, and President, Board of Governors. At the outset, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Justice for his personal indulgence due to which we could make a new beginning in the field of training our young Judge Advocates in this illustrious Academy. It is the benign understanding which has been shown by Hon'ble Ms. Justice Daya Chaudhary, the President, Board of Governors towards the requirement of this training for our officers which due to various circumstances has become the need of the hour. This is a new beginning in the field of training of our young Judge Advocates, being the first course of its kind. The involvement and untiring efforts of Dr. Balram K. Gupta from the time this idea was first mooted has finally fructified. Beside introducing our officers to the trial procedures in the civil courts, this

programme will indeed open a new prospect in the field of interaction between the Armed Forces and Judiciary.

As a matter of fact, after the establishment of the Armed Forces Tribunal a large number of cases pertaining to the defence forces were transferred from the High Courts to the respective AFT Benches all over the country. Many of those were also admitted in appeal under the AFT Act. While disposing of these matters, the Hon'ble AFT and in particular Hon'ble Shri Justice Virender Singh, Chairperson AFT, observed that to ensure flawless trial procedure in Courts Martial, besides the effecting defence of court cases before the AFT, officers of the Judge Advocate General's Dept in the Armed Forces, must be exposed to judicial training outside the system. With a view to fulfill this requirement, matter was examined by an Expert Committee in the Ministry of Defence. In its recommendations the Committee enumerated methods whereby the cases pending in the courts and tribunals are defended in the best possible manner and consequently, the total pendency of the cases against the three services is brought down to manageable levels. Imparting training to young officers of JAG's Dept. outside the system was one of the recommendations of the Committee.

Once the objective was clear, the next step was to shortlist an Academy which could impart effective training in this respect to the

young Judge Advocates of the Defence forces. We found Chandigarh Judicial Academy as the best Institution which would fulfill all our requirements in every respect. With a positive approach, the Director (Academics) of Chandigarh Judicial Academy, Professor (Dr.) Balram Gupta, agreed to take up the matter with the Board of Governors and we eventually got the approval of BOG. Contribution of Dr. Gupta in the commencement of this course is thus commendable, for which we are grateful to him.

Last but not the least, I would like to mention the name of Col. Jatinder Singh, who has been with us right from the beginning and I feel that without his hard work the complete programme would not have reached its present stage.

In the first ever course which starts today, we have 25 officers from JAG's Dept (Army) and 03 officers from JAG (Navy). I expect these officers to derive maximum benefit of learning from this prestigious Academy which holds the distinction of imparting training to one of the best lot of judicial officers in the country.

I wish you Good Luck.

JAI HIND !