

Dr. Shekhar Patel, President ICCS ,
Ms Neelu Kalla, Executive Vice President,
Distinguished guests,
Leaders, Artists from various countries,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good Morning,

Today is a special day
Let me first express my immense gratitude for inviting me to this great event
and thank you for organizing such a useful event.

I am sure these cultural studies promote cultural exchanges between the two countries and broaden global vision to cultivate the spirit of innovation and the perfect personality, and to create a civilized, harmonious, positive and progressive culture.

It is suggested that I should speak about ancient traditions of India especially Nagaland and other North-East Regions of India. India has a strategic culture. I hope and pray this participation/initiation of mine will have the desired outcome in the preservation of our rich cultural heritage. I congratulate the ICCS, US for such an important initiative, which will have immense impact in the carrying forwards to our treasured age-old tradition, culture and heritage. On behalf of North – East India in general and Nagaland in particular I would like to convey our highest appreciation to ICCS, USA.

Cultural studies are an interdisciplinary field concerned with vital issues. Friends, to have a better understanding of the richness of age-old cultural assets of any region or state, it is very important that we initiate comparative and cross cultural studies of ethnic societies. In order to understand the culture and organisational structures that characterise Native American communities in the contemporary United States, one must be alert to diversity. And I trust, this Workshop will be the flag bearer of such endeavours covering different countries, and also with that of India in general, and north east in particular.

North East India is the most linguistically and culturally diverse region of the country. It is the platform of the co-existence of different people, language

and culture. The Northeast region of India comprising of eight states – Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim – a region poorly connected to the Indian mainland by a small corridor, and surrounded by many countries such as Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh and China, is the setting for a multitude of conflict that undermines the idea of India as a prosperous and functioning democracy.

The population of eastern India [northeast India in our vocabulary] includes a large population of tribal and minority people who speak languages closely related to languages of Southeast Asia rather than to the languages of India proper, and their cultures in many ways resemble the cultures of neighbouring Southeast Asian people. The tribal-non-tribal cleavage in northeast India resembles that of many Southeast Asian countries. Despite the several attempts of the eradication of native culture American Indian have succeeded in retaining their heritage through cultural practices and today have to balance living in the modern world we do with their ancient traditions. This workshop compares and contrasts the experiences of two cultural traditions of India and America. The mission of ICCS to facilitate the revitalization of diverse ancient traditions and cultures of the world by fostering a forum for learning, understanding and networking inspire new directions in ancient traditions and studies. I am to happy learn that ICCS engages in advocacy, networking and research and provides vital and innovative scholarship and training to young people, and conducts research in ancient traditions across the world.

Culture has two aspects: the known meanings and directions, which its members are trained to; the new observations and meanings, which are offered and tested and is always both traditional and creative. Cultural studies explore larger layers of significance and meaning in the world. It reveals aspects of the familiar that are hidden, confusing and meaningful. Together we will continue work to showcase and share the rich cultures of global America and we have a great deal more to contribute in this direction. I believe this workshop will deliberate how living ancient cultures can adapt and contribute their wisdom and knowledge. In the wake of globalization, Indian culture in general and North-East Culture in particular needs special attention to safeguard its own identity and heritage. The ICCS's mission to promote a better appreciation