A Celebration of Heritage, Harmony, and Dialogue: Sanskar Bharati’s Cultural Symposium Explores the World’s Ancient Traditions

New Delhi, May 31: The cultural symposium **“Ancient Traditions of the World”**, organized by the **Kala Sankul of Sanskar**

Bharati, unfolded as a captivating confluence of music, dance, and intellectual discourse. Blending artistic excellence with thought-provoking dialogue, the evening offered audiences a rich exploration of India's cultural heritage while drawing meaningful connections with ancient civilizations across the globe.

The event was organized as part of **Kala Sankul's ongoing monthly cultural dialogue series**, a thoughtful initiative aimed at nurturing awareness and appreciation of India's rich artistic and civilizational heritage. The series brings together distinguished practitioners, scholars, and audiences to engage with subjects that bridge art, culture, history, and philosophy. By encouraging dialogue through music, dance, literature, and scholarly discourse, Kala Sankul aspires to strengthen cultural consciousness and promote a deeper understanding of the values that connect diverse traditions across time and geography.

The programme commenced with a traditional **lamp-lighting ceremony**, led by Chief Guest **Sandeep Kaveeshwar**, National Organising Secretary, International Center for Cultural Studies (ICCS), New Delhi, alongside **Ashok Tiwari**, Central Office Secretary of Sanskar Bharati, and **Raj Upadhyay**. The ceremonial inauguration was followed by the rendition of Sanskar Bharati's anthem, setting a dignified and culturally resonant tone for the evening.

The artistic journey began with a mesmerizing performance by renowned sitar virtuoso **Pandit Pankaj Vishal**, accompanied by celebrated tabla maestro **Ustad Mustafa Hussain**. Their masterful interplay of melody and rhythm transformed the auditorium into a space of deep musical immersion. The delicate nuances of the sitar, seamlessly woven with the expressive cadence of the tabla, showcased the timeless beauty and sophistication of India's classical music tradition. The performance not only demonstrated technical brilliance but also evoked the meditative and spiritual essence that lies at

the heart of Indian classical music.

The evening continued with an enchanting Kathak recital by acclaimed dancer **Kripa Tendulkar**. Rooted in the rich aesthetics of the **Lucknow Gharana**, her performance reflected a graceful synthesis of expression, rhythm, technique, and storytelling. Through intricate footwork, elegant movements, and evocative abhinaya, she captivated the audience and reaffirmed the enduring relevance of Indian classical dance in contemporary cultural life. Her presentation beautifully illustrated how traditional art forms continue to evolve while remaining deeply connected to their cultural roots.

Following the performances, Chief Speaker **Sandeep Kaveeshwar** delivered an insightful address on the theme **“Ancient Traditions of the World.”** He highlighted the remarkable cultural parallels that emerge when studying ancient civilizations across continents. Drawing attention to shared symbols, philosophies, artistic practices, and spiritual traditions, he emphasized the importance of exploring these interconnected histories to better understand humanity’s collective cultural inheritance. He noted that many elements of Indian culture find echoes in diverse civilizations around the world, opening new avenues for comparative cultural study and dialogue. His lecture was both enlightening and reflective, encouraging the audience to view world cultures through a lens of mutual respect, curiosity, and understanding.

One of the defining strengths of the event was its seamless organization and graceful presentation. **Ritambhara**, serving as the compère for the evening, guided the programme with warmth, clarity, and poise, ensuring a smooth transition between performances and discussions. Her engaging presence helped maintain the flow and coherence of the evening’s diverse segments.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by

Vishwadeep, who expressed gratitude to the artists, speakers, guests, organizers, and attendees for their contribution to the success of the symposium. This was followed by a serene recitation of the **Shanti Mantra** by **Brijesh**, bringing the gathering to a contemplative and harmonious close.

The success of the symposium was made possible through the dedicated efforts of the Kala Sankul team. **Garima Rani, Shraboni Saha, Sneha Mukherjee, Pradeep Pathak, Mrityunjay, and Bijendra Kumar** played instrumental roles in planning and executing the event, contributing significantly to its smooth and successful realization.

More than a cultural programme, the symposium emerged as a meaningful platform for dialogue between India’s artistic traditions and the ancient cultural legacies of the world. Through the harmonious union of music, dance, and scholarship, the evening celebrated the enduring power of culture to connect communities, transcend geographical boundaries, and illuminate humanity’s shared heritage. The event stood as a reminder that in an increasingly interconnected world, the study and celebration of ancient traditions continue to inspire cultural understanding, intellectual exchange, and collective reflection.