First of all I would like to propose hearty vote of thanks to our Chief Guest Mr Chandramouli for gracing today’s Seminar and delivering the Inaugural Address. Thank you for your very interesting and thought provoking address. I am sure that all the participants have taken note of your suggestions and will be discussing within their organizations the action to be initiated at their level.

ILSI-India has put NCDs as one of the top items on the Agenda for its work. I would like to mention that ILSI-India was the first organization in the country to organize a major International Conference in 2000 on Diabetes and Nutrition and provided guidelines which later became the basis for ICMR’s guidelines. We have also worked on overweight and obesity and how to prevent this through appropriate nutrition and physical activity. We have also been working on novel foods, new technologies for food processing, functional foods, food fortification etc. with a view to educate the industry on how healthier foods can be prepared public health improved.

India with its growth story should not be left behind on the health aspects. It is very important that we march ahead with a Fit
and Healthy population. We have to join hands to deal with the NCDs and for achieving health for all. While it is important that industry should devote attention towards using healthier oils, less salt and sugar, and more dietary fibers in their products without compromising on the flavor and taste; the Government and Medical practitioners and Nutritionists should create awareness in the general public about balanced diet and physical activity. It must be realized that food eaten at home is more important than food eaten outside and therefore, the housewives need to be educated on what is a healthy diet. Dietary approach for managing NCDs will be effective only if there is a change in total diet taken by an individual supplemented by physical activity.

With these words I would like to thank our distinguished speakers: Dr Kamala Krishnaswamy, Dr Bachani, Dr. Ganguli, and Dr Robespierre CostaRibeiro for making excellent presentations and making this Seminar interesting and meaningful. I would also like to thank our Chairman, Mr Panandiker for his contributions and guidance.

I appreciate the hard work of ILSI-India secretariat headed by Ms Rekha Sinha and I am thankful to SCOPE Convention Center secretariat for providing excellent facilities for the Seminar.

May I now request you all to join us for Lunch in the Banquet Hall. The ILSI-India Board of Trustees will meet in the Fazal Hall at 2.30 PM.