

A Memorial Lecture, Birth and Death anniversary of Chandraprabha Saikiani was organized on 16th March 2020.

At the beginning a floral tribute was offered to observe the death anniversary of Chandraprabha Saikiani. For this great occasion Patricia Mukhim, one of the most dynamic journalist, writer and an activist was invited to deliver the memorial lecture. Dean, HSS Prof.P.K Das and Pro.Vice Chancellor were present to grace the occasion. Dr. Madhurima Goswami, Head, Centre for Women's Studies addressed the gathering.

Patricia Mukhim inaugurated the 2nd edition book on Chandraprabha Saikiani published in 2020 entitled *Chandraprabha Saikiani: A Force in History*, ed Madhurima Goswami.

Patricia Mukhim started her speech mentioning herself to be a part of Women's Studies Guwahati. She acknowledged Chandraprabha Saikiani as a great activist. She talked about taboos in menstruation and which is never going to be easy to fight against such practices. She said that to make a change we have to be insane as change makers are called rebels. School, college teachers are called disruptor by people as they are weird. She challenged the house to give a good fight for change. She emphasized that bringing change needs support from both sexes, men and women. Patricia Mukhim mentioned about different violence against women such as nirbhaya case. She questioned if women are abused within family who will protect.

Mukhim further talks about the prevalent of patriarchy in the society which is again perpetuated by the women themselves. She said about how women are represented in TV serials mostly overt sexism, benevolent sexism. Women are empowered, sold to market industry though especially fair and dark complexes. She gives the ratio of violence against women but said that data is underreported. 30% of women have physical violence since the age of 15. 31% married women experienced physical, emotional violence. These women do not file a case or FIR after the crime because emotional traumatising, physically sort of clean up. She expressed that every police station should have help desk. Mukhim mentioned about Haro hills rape case where a minor girl is raped by her father. The father was released on bail but after released he raped the second daughter. At last she mentioned about the rate of rape case in Assam which was highest in north east in 2018 still 218 cases underreported. She wind up her speech telling about her field visits in Meghalaya how women and girls are in terrible condition.

After the talk there was an interesting question hour where many interested students and staff interacted with the speaker.

After the talk Patricia Mukhim distributed the prizes to the winners of International women's Week 2020 Hindi translation competition organized by the Centre.

1ST prize –Nafisa Ahmed

2nd prize-Monmi Borthakor

3rd-Mrigakhi Sharma

At last Dr.Ivy Daimary gave the vote of thanks and wind up the programme with an invitation for a cup of tea outside the hall.