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WHAT'S UP, CAMPUS?

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## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

# CITY STUDENTS FIND INSPIRATION IN WOMEN AROUND THEM

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International Women's Day celebrates important milestones and achievements made by women all over the globe. For years, women have been striving to make a mark in fields like the arts, media, science, and academics, which have hitherto been considered male-dominated areas. And while it may not be right to have just one day to celebrate women and their achievements, there is, no doubt, a sense of pride and joy when we look at those who have made a name for themselves in male bastions.

In that context, what better way to celebrate the day, which falls on March 8, than by reflecting on the women who inspire each of us every day. We asked students across the city to share their thoughts on Women's Day and tell us about their female role models.

**MINATI PANDA,**  
St. Joseph's College Autonomous



Women's Day is just another day for me because I am the same way every day.

**ROLE MODEL:** My mom is my role model; not because she boasts great achievements, but because she did not. Back in the day, she wanted to pursue

medicine, but due to certain issues she could not. After she got married, she did her post-graduation, but a career eluded her; as she focused on her family. The sacrifices she made for our happiness inspire me to follow in her footsteps. My aim would be to make my family happy.

**THANUJA RAJKASHEKHAR,**  
St. Joseph's College Autonomous



These days, Women's Day is all about commercialization; all you hear is of the special sales and discounts for the ladies. Honestly, celebrating the day in India is a big farce, as we continue to live in a regressive society that does not allow women to do well.

**ROLE MODEL:** The late Hollywood siren Marilyn Monroe is my role model. For years, I struggled with issues relating to my size, until I managed to get a handle on it. Marilyn was not a size zero model, but she believed that there is beauty in everyone and that you just have to identify it. Beauty really has nothing to do with how you look, it is about your inner

**THANUJA RAJKASHEKHAR**  
Marilyn Monroe is my role model because, she always believed that beauty is not just skin deep

**ANJANA RAMESH**  
I do not have just one role model but three, and they have taught me how to stand up for myself and live positively

**SANJANA JAGADISH**  
My role model is every woman out there, who is working and breaking clichés to support their children and family

strength, confidence, intelligence and the way you carry yourself, among others.

**MANASWI BHOWMIK,**  
St. Joseph's College Autonomous



It is ironic that we celebrate Women's Day in a patriarchal society like ours. A man's achievement continues to garner far more attention than a woman's, and yet the scale at which we celebrate Women's Day continues to grow year-on-year. The truth, however, is that no matter how good men are, they cannot do without women.

**ROLE MODEL:** I look up to several people, but my biggest and most important inspiration has got to be my mother. For the past 20 years,

**TANYA BAGGA**  
Neerja Bhanot is my role model. From her I learnt how to live life with no compromise and to be kind and humane

**SANJANA JAGADISH,**  
Mount Carmel College



This year's Women's Day could not have come at a more opportune time than now, considering that the whole world is keenly looking at gender equality and other issues faced by women. In the day of #MeToo and #Time'sUp, it is heartening to see women stand up for each other.

**ROLE MODEL:** Ideally for any girl, it is her mom who is her role model. My mother, for instance, is a working professional who balances her work and personal life perfectly; never letting either suffer. I see that kind of dedication among women

in a lot of fields. For instance, your househelp takes care of her household and children before she comes to work at your place. I admire the courage of locopilots on the Metro; it really takes a lot to break into a field like that. Teachers are also a great source of inspiration as they share their knowledge with newer generations, day in and out. I see a role model in every woman around me.

**ANJANA RAMESH,**  
Mount Carmel College

There is marked difference in the way women are seen and perceived these days, thanks to the global call for gender equality and stop

to sexual harassment. Women's Day is a time for us to remember what we should actually stand up for so that we are not taken for granted.

**ROLE MODEL:** My mother, my best friend and my French teacher. They stand up for themselves, never let go, no matter what the problem is. They will get to the root of the matter and look at ways to solve it. All three of them have been exceptionally amazing in shaping my life positively.

**TANYA BAGGA,**  
Jain University, CMS

Something is better than nothing, so, I am glad that there is at least one day to celebrate women and their achievements.

**ROLE MODEL:** My role model is Neerja Bhanot, the flight attendant who lost her life protecting the passengers on the ill-fated Pan Am Flight 73 that was hijacked in 1966. How she lived her life and never compromised even in the face of extreme danger is something everyone should learn from. After I got to know about Neerja, I have been taking care to do everything with utmost kindness, diligence, and humanity. It is the least I can do, apart from not compromising on anything and living with self-respect. I try to inculcate her way of life in everything I do.

**ANAMIKA LOHANI,**  
Jain University CMS

The way Women's Day is celebrated now, is, to a large extent, empowering, which, in turn makes you aspire to achieve something in life.

**ROLE MODEL:** The act of selflessness any mother shows is what inspires me. I feel I need to be like that. Apart from that, doing whatever I can with utmost sincerity is my motto.

Pics: Rakesh Ravindran