



Woman's World



pg 14 Be it a club or your house... we bring you outfit options for every party

ADC

pg 16 We tell you why we love Vision Express' latest eyewear collection

Afternoon Despatch & Courier

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WOMEN ON TOP

The news every day may remind you of all the horrible things happening in the world, but **Rhea Dhanbhoora** & **Priyanka Singh** are here to spread a little holiday cheer. Take a look at some of the best things that happened for women and their rights this year

There's two sides to every coin and while the world laments all the bad things that happened this year (and sure, there were several!), we prefer to applaud the good. This year may have been a terrible one for women's safety but on the upside, it brought the situation to the forefront, making women stand up and speak out against a patriarchal society and some terrible laws. Women the world over took a stand this year, so here are some of our favourite moments for women from 2013.

AIB made a stellar short film

There were a lot of viral videos in 2013, some that we're glad went viral and others that were erm... Miley Cyrus. Among the bunch was a little parody that All India Bakchod (AIB), India's resident comic group decided to share with the world. With a name like that



and a video titled, *Rape: It's Your Fault*, we didn't expect much, but it quickly became a representation of everything ridiculous (chow mein and working late included) that

has been touted as an excuse for rape in the country. A clip that is meant to encourage people to stop blaming the victim, it went super viral almost the minute it went up and was a collective effort by AIB (Tanmay Bhat, Gursimran Khamba, Rohan Joshi and Ashish Shakya) along with Kalki Koechlin and Juhi Pandey.

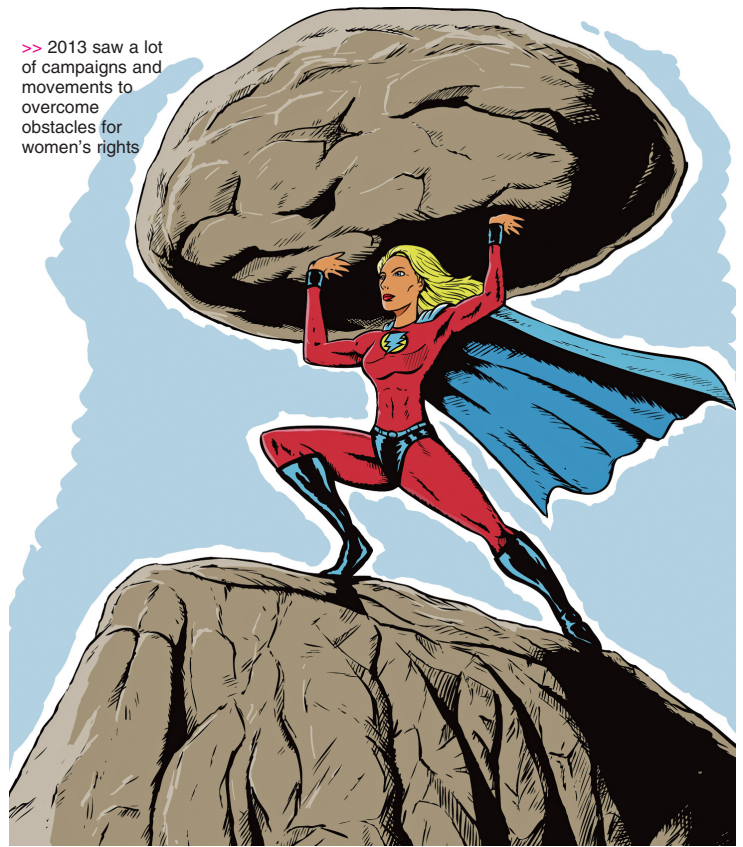
Orange became everyone's new black

Sure, there are a lot of new shows out there with strong female leads and which speak out for women's rights. So, why are we picking *Orange is the new Black*, a show about a female con artist who got sent to prison for 15 months? Well, for one, it's a female dominated show that's as unfeminine as you can get. The women on the show are far removed from pretty little things — they're gritty, raw, unclocked by feminine societal norms and doused in groundbreaking doses of reality. That's enough of a reason for us to watch, but then there's Laverne Cox. She's the first transsexual woman (of colour at that) to have a leading role on a show that isn't a dramatic talk show. We see that as a big step forward, especially after watching her performance.

Facebook took a stand

If you're a regular Facebook user, you know that all sorts of nonsense can swim around on the site. People can ask to "make friendship" with you or creepily save your

>> 2013 saw a lot of campaigns and movements to overcome obstacles for women's rights



pictures. But, this year, there were very inappropriate rape jokes and pictures that said things such as "Don't wrap it and tap it, Tape her and rape her." There was even an Indian page dedicated to horrific pictures and comments about how women should stay put in the kitchen, explaining how rape

is indeed, a woman's fault if she dares to venture outside her house. All the jokes caught the attention of activists Soraya Chemely, Women, Action & the Media's Jaclyn Friedman and Everyday Sexism

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Afternoon

8hrs | 4hrs | 6hrs

48hrs

8hrs | 12hrs | 16hrs

2hrs | 8hrs | 4hrs | 6hrs | **48hrs** | 8hrs | 12hrs | 16hrs | 24hrs

Where's the party?

« Feature

Don't miss some of the biggest parties this New Year's Eve. We bring you a list of where you should go

« Weekend Planner

Check out what deals and offers you can avail of this weekend

« Food

We bring you some of the craziest cocktails on offer this season

« Shop

Do up your home for the parties with our pick of decor

« More

How the world celebrates NYE, events, new launches and more

8 PAGES THIS FRIDAY! BOOK YOUR COPY NOW!

Continued from pg 13 «

Project's Laura Bates. An open letter to the site, a petition and joining forces with several women organisations later, Facebook vowed to correct the problem. Whether to save face or because it actually cared — we're still chalking it up as a victory!

Women were finally given a choice... sort of

Why shouldn't women have a choice? Age-old biblical laws led to an Indian woman in Ireland losing her life this year because abortion was illegal, even if it was fatal to the mother's life! The story sparked outrage all over the world. While abortion is partially legal in India, it still has a long way to go. After the case of the Indian woman, the Irish government was forced to pass a law which legalised abortion if it had serious health consequences — a step up that will come into effect in the New Year. We still think the world has a long way to go making it less taboo to talk about and letting a woman decide for herself.

Slutwalks gained fervour

We're not completely sold on the idea of this, but any step for women is a step forward so we'll give it that much. Held all over the world, 2013 saw it sweeping through India. Indian women were angry and though there have been walks in the country before, none were as publicised and as highly debated. If you're pro slutwalks, you'll see this as a good thing but even if you're not, you can't deny that it brought attention to the fact that someone needs to look out for us women in India! There was also the Don't Skirt the Issue walk in Bangalore where men wore skirts to support women's equality.

Two women lifted a globe

Let's get a little lighter — with our two favourite feminists. Making it fun and appealing to all are Amy Poehler and Tina



Fey, always ready with a crazy joke or a witty comment. They hosted the Golden Globes this year and that's a win for us women not only because they broke through the usually male dominated award show hosting lineup, but also because they were such a hit — everyone wants them back next year... and the next!

Films get feminist ratings

This was funny but brilliant at the same time. While we continue to bicker over what deserves an R-rated censorship in India, Sweden went a step further and unveiled a rating scale to make feminists over the world happy. Called the Bechdel test, the film has to have two named female characters, who speak to each other about something other than a man! It was unveiled in November and may be a bit much, but it was well-meaning and worth knowing about. We're going to wait and watch out for this one.

Jennifer Lawrence helps us love our bodies

Jennifer Lawrence has been making waves and statements about how no one should have the right to decide how you look and the way you look except for yourself. In an interview with *Harper's Bazaar* UK, she



Simply Be's plus size campaign has been making waves



Photo credit: www.pamperandcurves.blogspot.in

Numbers stopped mattering

Well, when it comes to weight and waist inches at least. From plus-sized models Robyn Lawley and Tara Lynn (in a brilliant campaign by H&M) in focus to Curvy Girl lingerie for plus sized women and Italian luxury plus-sized brands campaign called Women Are Back celebrating women of all shapes and sizes, plus sized models and bloggers are in focus and we're loving it. Very recently, UK based plus-sized retailer Simply Be unveiled their new campaign for cocktail dresses and glittery pants. With no Photoshop, retouching or slimming down, the women in the campaign look confident, happy and utterly gorgeous! Vogue also this year banned too-skinny models from its pages, promoting a healthier look for women while Israel banned models (and mannequins!) who were too skinny this year as well.

admitted that she was ordered to lose weight or risk losing her job if she didn't start starving herself. Jennifer, without giving away where she was working at the time, said, "Somebody told me I was fat, that I was going to get fired if I didn't lose a certain amount of weight." Also, whoever told her this also made her look at practically nude pictures of herself. "They brought in pictures of me where I was basically naked, and told me to use them as motivation for my diet. It was just that," said Jennifer. When she was asked how she was affected by this, Jennifer replied, "If anybody even tries to whisper the word 'diet,' I'm like, 'You can go f**k yourself.'"

Mallika Sherawat does the right thing

While she is mostly in news for all the wrong reasons, this time Mallika Sherawat did the right thing and made a buzz, not only in India, but worldwide. At an interview, when she was asked by a female (ironically) reporter to defend her comment of India being "regressive and depressive," she shot back at her and how! Mallika said, "I think you need to do your homework well Indian society is regressive for women. With female feticide, infanticide happening on an almost daily basis; with gang rapes making the headlines of almost every newspaper; with honour killings... I think it's a very, very regressive state for women." When the reporter tried to intervene, saying she is giving the country a bad image, Mallika said, "As a woman, I should lie about the state of women that's in our country? So, I didn't lie. I said the truth." Take a bow, Ms. Sherawat!



Malala's speech blew us away

Malala Yousafzai's actions are not just an example of valour but also set a path-breaking example for women across the world. A question that loomed large over most women was "if a 16-year-old can do it, why can't I?" On her 16th birthday, she made an awe-inspiring speech, her first one since she survived a bullet to the head by the Taliban. Her words encouraged women worldwide when she made feminist statements such as, "We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back."



This had led to a massive uproar across the country and the world. On March 19, a new anti-rape bill was drafted that guarantees new protection for victims of violence. The bill includes doubling the punishments for rapists: "Under the changes, the minimum sentence for gang rape, rape of a minor, rape by policemen or a person in authority will be doubled to 20 years and can be extended to life without parole." In certain cases, harsher measures will also be enforceable. Attackers, whose victim remains in a "persistent vegetative state" or dies, will face the death penalty. The bill also introduces voyeurism and stalking as crimes punishable by law. We're waiting for more — but it's at least a start.

Beyoncé defines a modern-day feminist

What's the fuss about Beyoncé's new album which has been making black feminists go crazy (in a good way)? While her earlier albums have been centered on love and men, the new album, that has broken all sales records on iTunes, has a good dose of independence and motherhood and why the idea of conventional beauty is of no importance. We especially love the song *Pretty Hurts* where the lines, "Shine the light on whatever's worse, perfection is the disease of a nation... It's the soul that needs surgery," tell us how accepting your looks and being comfortable in your body is so crucial. Before the release of her self-titled album, she told *Vogue*, "I guess I am a modern-day feminist. I do believe in equality. Why do you have to choose what type of woman you are? Why do you have to label yourself anything? I'm just a woman and I love being a woman."

An anti-rape bill took centre stage

On December 16, a 23-year-old was gang-raped and thrown on the streets. She succumbed to injuries a few days later.

Getting your period became more fun

Remember being ashamed about your period when you were little? Well, a new ad from a company called Hello Flo is worth a watch, so go online and take a look. The company introduced a new line of mail-order tampons in a cute service that sends them to you along with that much needed bar of chocolate — right when you're craving it most! What's more, the company sends surprise gifts and goodies, a do-it-yourself kit, a canvas on-the-go pouch, guides and cotton pads in a special starter kit for little girls. All the discreet boxes come with special treats. Who would've thought someone could make getting your period something to look forward to?!

