World Kindness Day 2026 (13 November)

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News

World Kindness Day is observed on 13 November (Friday, 13 Nov 2026). It encourages kind acts in daily life and a kinder society. No official global theme has been announced for 2026.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Date	13 November every year
Started	1998 by the World Kindness Movement
Origin	World Kindness Movement formed at a 1997 Tokyo conference
Status	Not a UN-declared day

Background

- Other November days: 11 Nov – National Education Day (Maulana Abul Kalam Azad); 14 Nov – Children's Day and World Diabetes Day; 16 Nov – International Day for Tolerance (UNESCO).
- Kindness links to the constitutional Fundamental Duty, Article 51A(g): compassion for living creatures.

Tamil Nadu link: Thirukkural chapter 25, "Arulutaimai" (Possession of Compassion), says "the wealth of compassion is the wealth of wealths". Vallalar (Ramalinga Adigal) preached Jeevakarunyam, set up the Sathya Dharma Salai (1867) and Sathya Gnana Sabhai (1872) at Vadalur, and wrote "I wilted whenever I saw wilting crops". Bharathiyar sang "Kaakkai kuruvi engal jaathi" (crows and sparrows are our kin).

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

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What is the background to this news?

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Practice questions (with answers)

1. When is World Kindness Day observed?

A) 11 November

B) 13 November

C) 14 November

D) 16 November

Answer: B – Explanation: 13 November. (11 Nov – National Education Day; 14 Nov – Children's Day/World Diabetes Day; 16 Nov – International Day for Tolerance.) No official theme was announced for 2026.

2. Which organisation introduced World Kindness Day in 1998?

A) UNESCO

B) Red Cross

C) World Kindness Movement

D) WHO

Answer: C – Explanation: The World Kindness Movement, formed at a 1997 Tokyo conference, has marked the day since 1998; it is not a UN-declared day.

3. In the Thirukkural, "Arulutaimai" (Possession of Compassion) is which chapter?

A) 8

B) 33

C) 57

D) 25

Answer: D – Explanation: Chapter 25 is Arulutaimai (Book of Virtue): "The wealth of compassion is the wealth of wealths." Chapter 8 is Anbudaimai (Love), 33 is Kollamai (Non-killing).

4. Where did Vallalar, who preached "Jeevakarunyam" (compassion to all life), found the Sathya Gnana Sabhai?

A) Vadalur

B) Chidambaram

C) Mettukuppam

D) Karunguzhi

Answer: A – Explanation: At Vadalur (Cuddalore district) he set up the Sathya Dharma Salai (1867) and Sathya Gnana Sabhai (1872); "I wilted whenever I saw wilting crops" is his line. Mettukuppam is where he disappeared.

5. Who wrote "Kaakkai kuruvi engal jaathi" (crow and sparrow are our kin), expressing love for all beings?

A) Bharathidasan

B) Subramania Bharathi

C) Namakkal Kavignar

D) Kavimani

Answer: B – Explanation: The line is by Mahakavi Bharathiyar, born at Ettayapuram on 11 Dec 1882; Tamil Nadu observes his death anniversary, 11 September, as "Mahakavi Day" (announced 2021).

Sources: World Kindness Movement (official site, worldkindness.org); Thirukkural – Tamil Virtual Academy (tamilvu.org). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.