# First UN Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage

**Topics:** Important Days · UPSC Prelims · TNPSC · SSC · Current Affairs




## News

The world will observe the first International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage on 27 Nov 2026. The UN General Assembly adopted the resolution creating the day in September 2026 without a vote. The day was championed by Bhuwan Ribhu, founder of Just Rights for Children (India), and Dr Fatima Maada Bio, First Lady of Sierra Leone. The date matches India's Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat campaign, launched on 27 Nov 2024.

## Key facts for the exam

| Point | Details |
|---|---|
| **Day** | 27 November (first observance 2026) |
| **Declared by** | UN General Assembly (Sept 2026) |
| **Indian link** | Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat campaign (27 Nov 2024) |
| **Global goal** | SDG target 5.3 – end child, early and forced marriage |

## Background

- In India, the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 sets the minimum marriage age at 18 for women and 21 for men, makes child marriages voidable and provides for Child Marriage Prohibition Officers. It replaced the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (the "Sarda Act", moved by Harbilas Sarda).
- Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat was launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The International Day of the Girl Child is observed on 11 October. Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi founded Bachpan Bachao Andolan (1980).

**Tamil Nadu link:** Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy, India's first woman legislator (nominated to the Madras Legislative Council), campaigned against child marriage and the Devadasi system.

## Frequently asked questions

**What is this news about?**

The world will observe the first International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage on 27 Nov 2026. The UN General Assembly adopted the resolution creating the day in September 2026 without a vote.

**What are the key facts to remember for the exam?**

Day: 27 November (first observance 2026); Declared by: UN General Assembly (Sept 2026); Indian link: Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat campaign (27 Nov 2024); Global goal: SDG target 5.3 – end child, early and forced marriage.

**What is the background to this news?**

In India, the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 sets the minimum marriage age at 18 for women and 21 for men, makes child marriages voidable and provides for Child Marriage Prohibition Officers.

## Practice questions (with answers)

**1. The new UN day against child marriage shares its date with which Indian campaign?**

**A) Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat**

**B)** Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

**C)** Mission Shakti

**D)** POSHAN Abhiyaan

**Answer: A** – Explanation: Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat was launched on 27.11.2024 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

**2. Who is the founder of Just Rights for Children, which championed the international day against child marriage at the UN?**

**A)** Sunitha Krishnan

**B) Bhuwan Ribhu**

**C)** Kiran Bedi

**D)** Malala Yousafzai

**Answer: B** – Explanation: Sierra Leone's First Lady Dr Fatima Maada Bio also championed it.

**3. Who moved the Bill that became the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929?**

**A) Harbilas Sarda**

**B)** Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

**C)** Raja Ram Mohan Roy

**D)** B.M. Malabari

**Answer: A** – Explanation: It is known as the 'Sarda Act' after Harbilas Sarda, who moved it. Malabari's campaign led to the Age of Consent Act, 1891; Vidyasagar worked for the Widow Remarriage Act, 1856.

**4. Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 – which is/are correct?**

**1. It repealed the Hindu Marriage Act.**

**2. A party married as a child can seek to annul the marriage.**

**A)** 1 only

**B) 2 only**

**C)** Both 1 and 2

**D)** Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: B** – Explanation: It replaced the Sarda Act (1929); the Hindu Marriage Act (1955) is still in force. A party married as a child may seek annulment, so only 2 is correct.

**5. Who became India's first woman legislator and campaigned against child marriage and the Devadasi system?**

**A) Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy**

**B)** Annie Besant

**C)** Sarojini Naidu

**D)** Rukmini Lakshmipathi

**Answer: A** – Explanation: Nominated to the Madras Legislative Council, she also founded the Adyar Cancer Institute; Rukmini Lakshmipathi was Madras's first woman minister.