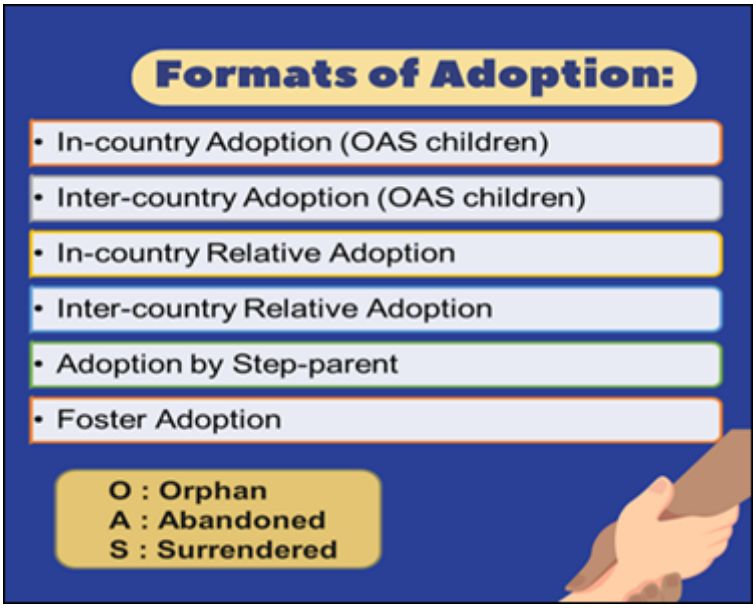
Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)

Prelims - *Current events of national and international importance| Economic and Social Development – Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector initiatives, etc*

Why in News?

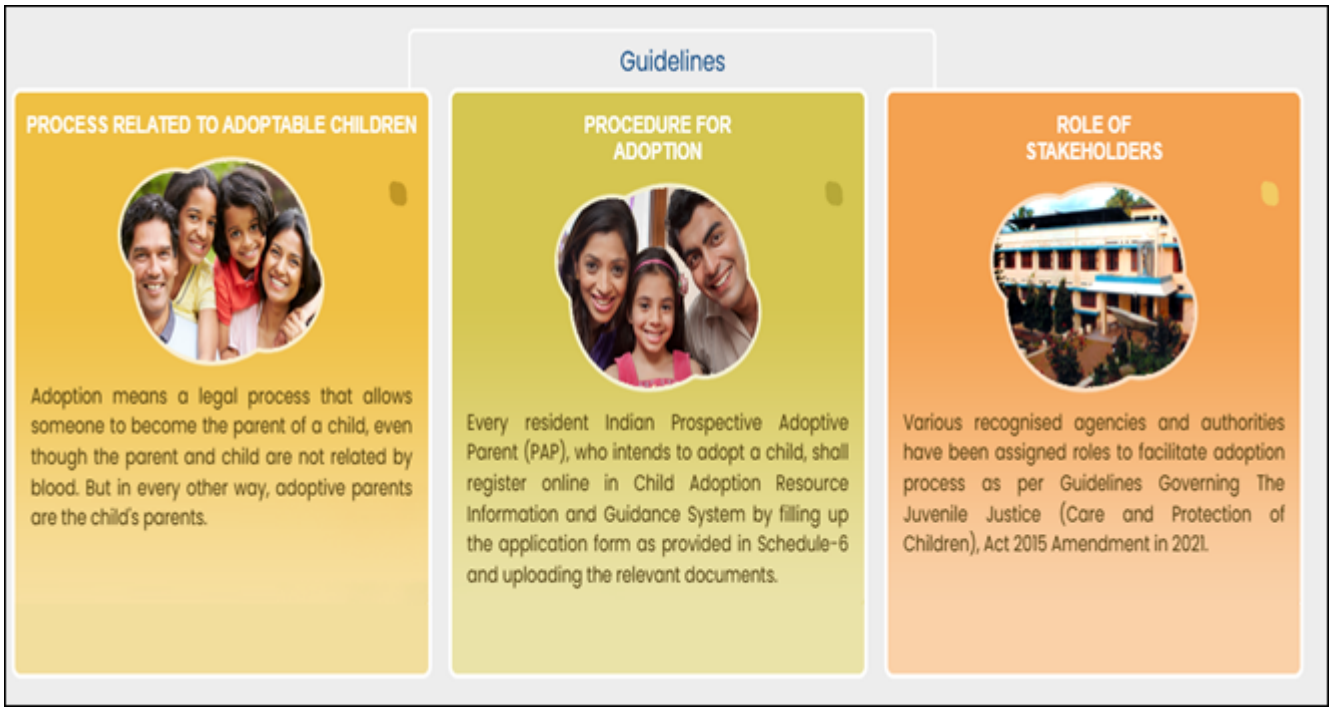
In Financial Year 2024-25, India saw a record 4,515 adoptions, the highest in nearly a decade and of these, 4,155 were domestic, marking a powerful shift in societal attitudes.

- **CARA** – It acts as the nodal body for ***adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered Indian children*** through its associated /recognised adoption agencies.
- **Set up** – 1990
- **Legality** – It is a *statutory body* through Section 68 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
- It is headed by Member Secretary & CEO
- **Nodal ministry** – Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- **Mission –** To ensure ***no child is left behind***.
- **Mandate** – To monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions through Child Adoption Resource Information & Guidance System (CARINGS).



- **Functions** – To promote In-country adoptions and to facilitate Inter-state adoptions in coordination with State Agency.
- To regulate Inter-country adoptions.
- To carry out the functions of the Central Authority *under the Hague Convention* on protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption, 1993, ratified by India in 2003.

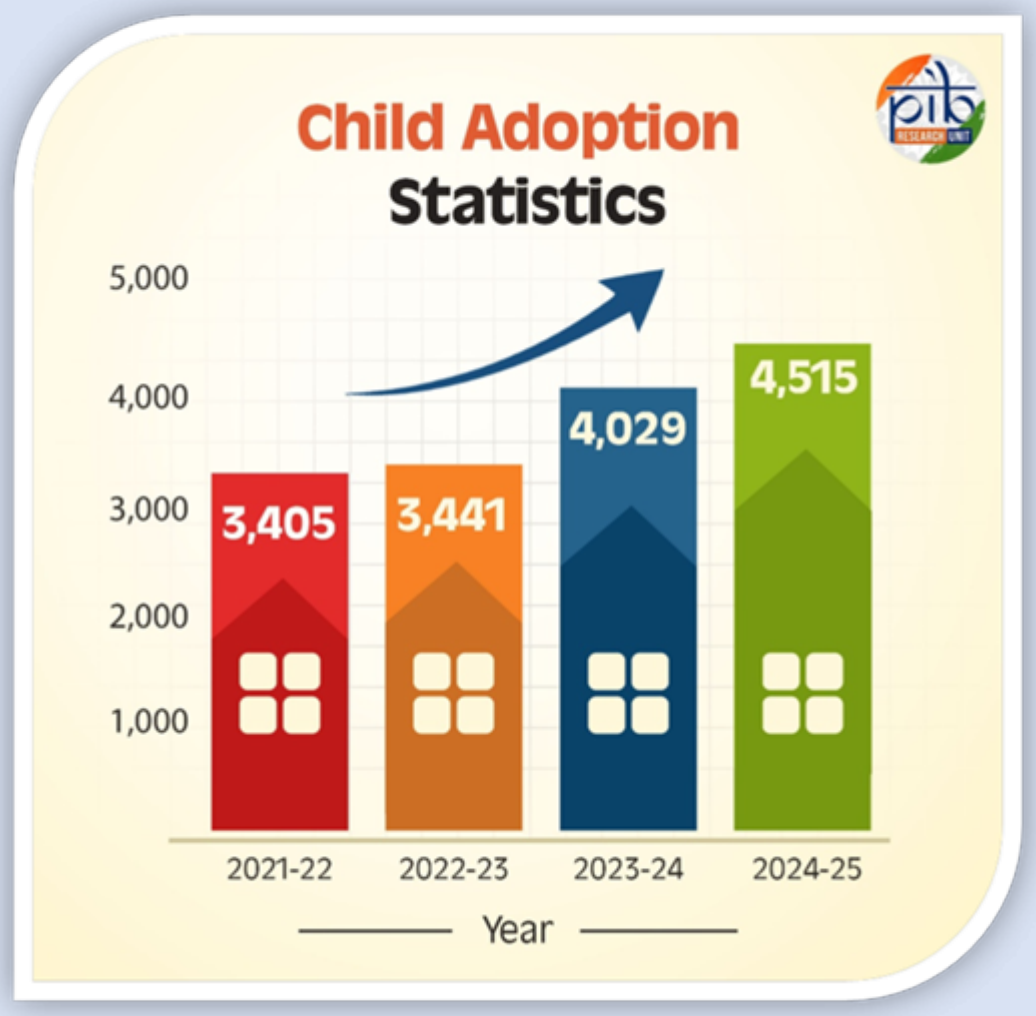
- To *frame regulations on adoption* and related matters from time to time as may be necessary.



- **Fundamental principle** – Preference shall be given *to place the child in adoption with Indian citizens* with due regard to the principle of placement of the child in their own socio-cultural environment, as far as possible.
- **Illegal adoption** – It *amounts to child trafficking* and is a punishable offense under The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2021.

Recent Status of Child Adoption in India

• **In 2023-24** – Over 8,500 children were identified and added to the adoption pool—many of them from institutions where they had long waited to be seen, chosen, and loved.
• 245 new agencies were added to CARA's network, making adoption more accessible than ever.



References

1. PIB| Successful Stories of Child Adoption

CARA| Central Adoption Resource Authority

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