

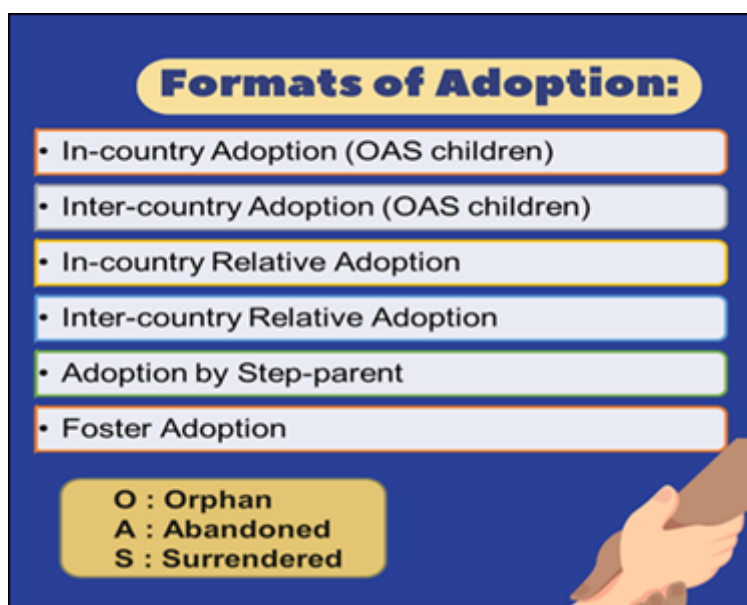
Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)

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

Why in News?

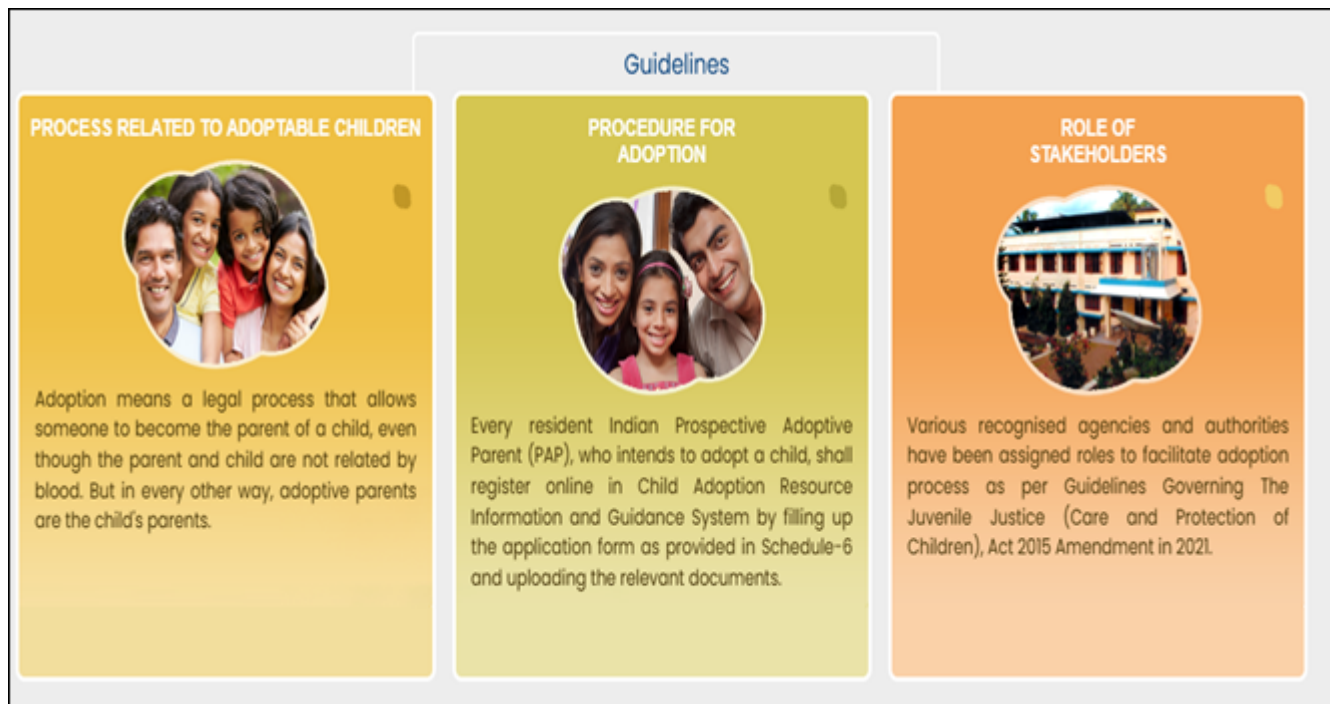
In Financial Year 2024-25, India saw a record 4,515 adoptions, the highest in nearly a decade and of these, 4,155 were domestic, marking a powerful shift in societal attitudes.

- **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.

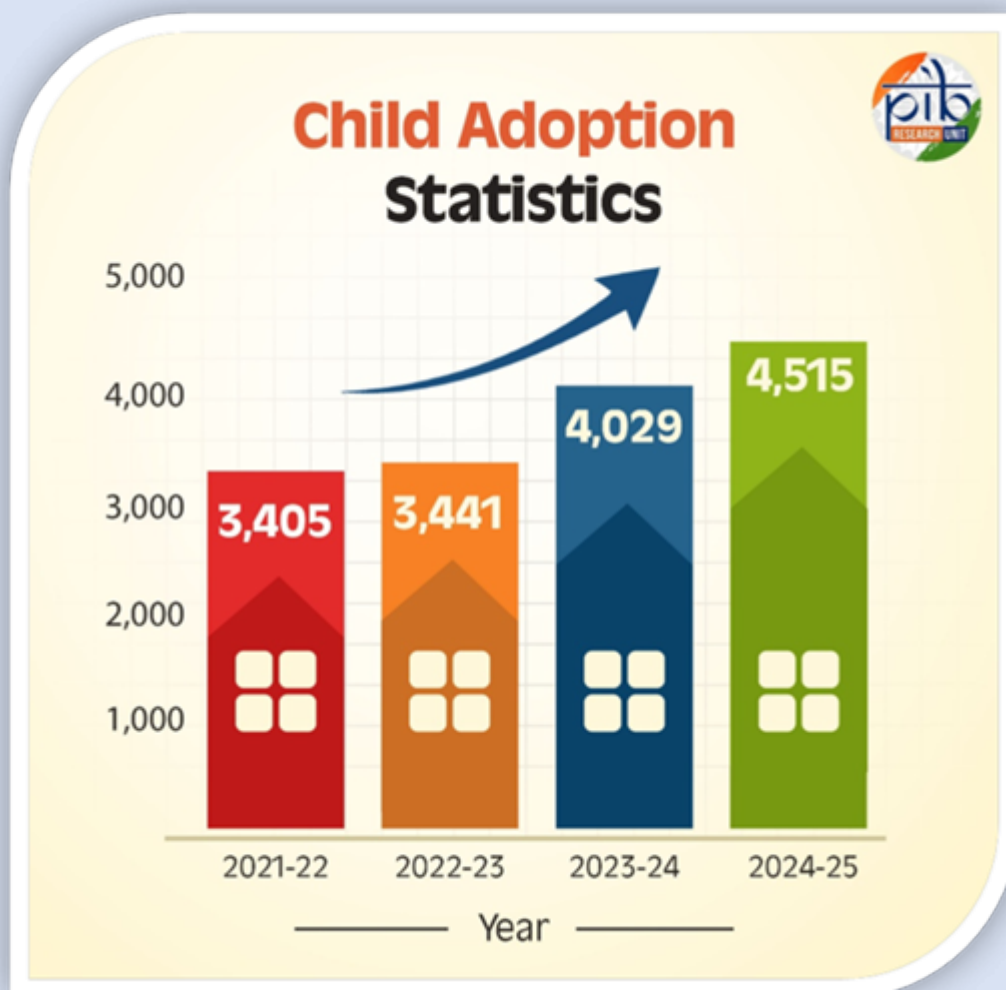
- To frame regulations on adoption and related matters from time to time as may be necessary.



- **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](#)