



Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs)

[Source: TH](#)

Recently, the [Supreme Court \(SC\)](#) has warned states and Union Territories of contempt proceedings if they don't establish **Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs)** in every district.

- **370** out of 760 districts in India lack operational SAAs, despite court orders mandating their establishment nationwide.
- This gap has led to a significant disparity between adoption registrations (**13,467** in 2023-2024) and actual adoptions (**approximately 4,000**), mainly due to inadequate infrastructure.
- Only **Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, and Chandigarh** have fully complied with the SCs' directive.
- Larger states like **Uttar Pradesh** face serious challenges, **with 61 out of 75 districts lacking SAAs.**
- Adoption in India is governed by the [Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act \(HAMA\)](#), 1956 (for Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and Buddhists), and the [Juvenile Justice \(Care and Protection of Children\) Act, 2015.](#)
- [Central Adoption Resource Authority \(CARA\)](#) is the **nodal body** regulating the adoption of **orphaned, surrendered and abandoned children** in India.
 - It was set up in **1990** under the **Ministry of Women and Child Development.**
 - It is signatory to the **Hague Convention On Protection of Children and Co-operation of 1993.**
 - It regulates **State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA), SAA, Authorised Foreign Adoption Agency (AFAA), Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), and District Child Protective Units (DPUs).**

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TIMELINE OF ADOPTION LAWS IN INDIA

HINDU ADOPTION AND MAINTAINANCE ACT

1956

- **Objective-** to find children for "childless couples".
- Allowed **only hindus, sikhs, buddhists and jains** to adopt.

THE JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT

2000

- Facilitated rehabilitation of abandoned, orphaned and abused children in **formal institutions**
- extended adoption to all **religious communities**

THE JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT AMENDMENT

2006

- More concentration on **child rights**
- Terminology- "**legitimate**" parent
- Extended adoption to **single parents**
- Adoption process becomes clearer

THE JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT

2015

- terminology changes to "**lawful**" parent
- **Single male** is barred from adopting a **girl child**
- Central Adoption Resource Authority (**CARA**) becomes a statutory body
- All mechanism, processes and authorities become clear

ADOPTION REGULATIONS

2017

Laws for adoption- both within the country and overseas.

Aided clarity on :

- procedures
- requirements
- involved bodies
- rules/framework
- eligibility criteria for children and parents



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Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas

Source: PIB

Recently, the declaration of 25th June as **Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas** serves as a poignant reminder of the period when the [Constitution of India](#) was undermined, particularly during the [Emergency imposed in 1975](#).

- The Prime Minister of India emphasised that this day will pay homage to all those who suffered from the excesses of the Emergency. It serves as a tool for educating citizens about their rights and the significance of the Constitution in protecting democracy.
- The Emergency was a period from **25th June 1975 to 21st March 1977**, when then PM Indira Gandhi's government used **special provisions in the Constitution** to impose significant executive and legislative changes in the country.
 - The declaration of Emergency **centralises power, allowing the Union to direct state governments**, bringing them under the complete control of the Centre, effectively creating a **unitary system**.
 - India has declared a National Emergency **three times**. The first was from 1962 to 1968 during the [India-China war](#), the second was in 1971 during the [Indo-Pakistan war](#), and the third was from **1975 to 1977 due to political instability**.
- **Emergency Provisions in Constitution:**

Articles	Subject Matter
Article 352	Proclamation of Emergency
Article 353	Effect of Proclamation of Emergency
Article 354	Application of provisions relating to the distribution of revenues while a Proclamation of Emergency is in operation
Article 355	Duty of the Union to protect States against external aggression and internal disturbance
Article 356	Provisions in case of failure of constitutional machinery in States
Article 357	Exercise of legislative powers under proclamation issued under Article 356
Article 358	Suspension of provisions of Article 19 during Emergencies
Article 359	Suspension of the enforcement of the rights conferred by Part III during Emergencies
Article 360	Provisions as to Financial Emergency

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