



## Oh Baby!

Angelina Jolie & Madonna have it in Hollywood, Sushmita Sen & Raveena Tandon have it in good old Mumbai! If you think we're talking about their mesmerising beauty, think again!

**T**here's more to their beauty that meets the eye. These divas not only floored masses with their charismatic beauty on screen but also inspired thousands by adopting children in real life!

Stars like Sushmita Sen and Raveena Tandon led the trend of single parenting or adopting a baby in India. Adoption rules in the country have been rather stringent. Earlier when only couples could adopt a baby, bold moves by these celebrities came in the news and encouraged many single people across the country who had for long been thinking of becoming parents.

Moreover, single males were also refrained from adopting or even when they were allowed, they could only adopt a boy and not a girl. Salsa guru Sandip Soparkar reportedly became Mumbai's first single man to adopt a child last year. So while you're reading this, incase you are contemplating an adoption, here are few rules & regulations that might come in handy:

- ▶ A parent who opts to adopt, should be medically fit and financially able to take care of a child. A person wishing to adopt a child must be at least 21 years old. There is no legal upper age limit for parents but most adoption agencies set their own benchmarks with regard to age. For a child who is less than a year old, the parents can have a maximum combined age of 90 years. Also, neither parent must be older than 45 years.

- ▶ In the case of adoption of older children, the age of the parents may be relaxed accordingly. For example, for a one-year-old child, the age limit is 46 years, for a two-year-old child, it is 47 years and so on. The upper age limit for an adopted child is 12 years while for an adoptive parent it is 55 years.

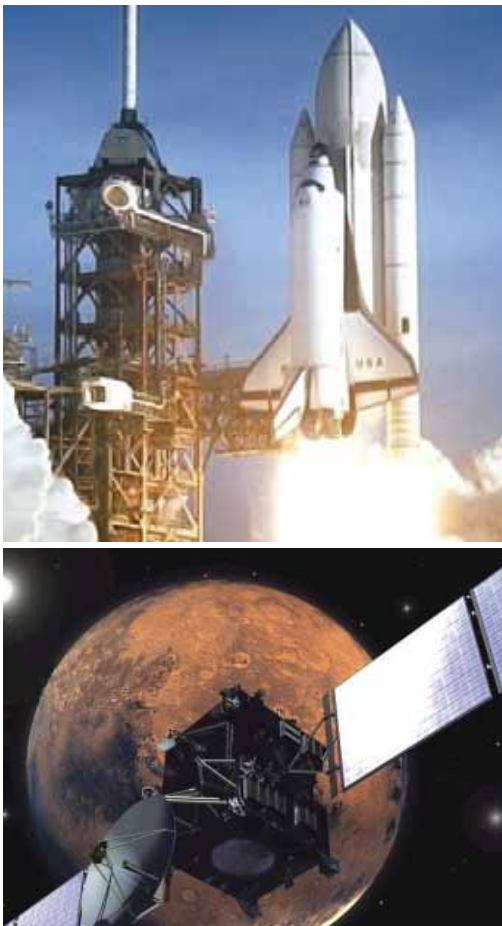
### Indian Laws governing Adoption

Indian citizens who are Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, or Buddhists are allowed to formally adopt a child. The adoption is under the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act of 1956. Under this act, a single parent or married couples are not permitted to adopt more than one child of the same sex. Foreign citizens, NRIs, and those Indian nationals who are Muslims, Parsis, Christians or Jews are subject to the Guardian and Wards Act of 1890. Under this act, the parent who adopts is only the guardian of the child until she reaches 18 years of age.

### Can a parent ask for a specific child?

A parent is allowed to ask for a child, as per his/her preferences. For example a parent may ask for a child of a certain age, gender (if it is the first child in the family), skin colour, religion, special features, health condition, etc. However, greater the specifications, more difficult it is to find a child who conforms to them. This restricts the pool of children available for adoption. The entire adoption process takes some months to complete. However, when all the hurdles are cleared, you are ready to welcome your new child into the family.

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## Race to Space!

Kranti Khandekar tries to find out what Nations across the world are doing to lead in the race to space!

**F**or many years, the United States and the Soviet Union were engaged in a fierce competition—the space race. The space race began in 1957 when the Soviet Union launched the first artificial satellite, Sputnik. The Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev and the American presidents Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon all agreed that conquering outer space was very important. Both countries wanted to win—to prove their scientific superiority and to show their military strength.

Soviet Premier Khrushchev wanted to show that communist technology was superior. President Kennedy wanted to beat the Soviets to the moon. The European Space Agency is investigating spaceships to carry astronauts. China is laying the groundwork for a moon shot. Even India plans to send its own astronauts into space. Over the years, many nations have utilized a great deal of resources to explore the mysteries of the universe and creating their own way in the space race:

### Nations that are making progress toward putting humans in the orbit and participating in the space race:

**The European Space Agency:** The 17-member agency plans a March inaugural liftoff of a spaceship carrying supplies to the station. The ship could be the basis for a capsule that would carry humans, says Alan Thirkettle, chief of the European agency's space-station program. The capsule or something like it would be designed to take astronauts to the moon.

**China:** It lofted humans into space in 2003 and 2005. It's likely to try a fall mission that would feature the first Chinese spacewalk. China also plans to send humans to the moon in roughly 2025, as stated by Vincent Sabathier, who studies global space policy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. There is "huge public sup-

port" in China for a moon mission. But, NASA hopes to return astronauts to the moon in 2020.

**India:** Our country blasted into the international space race with the successful launch of an ambitious two-year mission, Chandrayan-1. Packed with an international suite of science instruments, the orbiter is headed to the moon. Besides this, India is already the proud owner of a rocket capable of carrying a human crew and spacecraft into space. Last year, Indian engineers sent a small unmanned capsule to orbit and recovered it back on Earth. G. Madhavan Nair, chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization, stated in Washington that his agency has drawn up plans to develop a human spacecraft. He expects "no major hurdles" to obtain funding.

**Japan:** A Japanese laboratory will be delivered to the space station as early as March, and a Japanese robotic cargo ship is scheduled to make its first trip to the station later this year. Japan will handle their day-to-day operations, the first time it has been in charge of spacecraft with humans aboard or nearby. Japan's new space policy calls for it to be ready to send humans to space in 20 years.

### SPACE TERMS:

In the United States, astronaut is derived from the Greek words ástron (star) and nautis (sailor). While, in Russia, a space traveler goes by the name космонавт (English: cosmonaut), which is derived from the Greek words kosmos (universe) and nautis (sailor). Westerners call a space traveler from China a taikonaut, based on the 1998 writings of Chiew Lee Yik and Chen Lan where the term tàikōng (great emptiness), Chinese for "space". In China, the term yuháng yuán (universe navigator) is used for space traveler.

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