

## 1. One Nation, One Student ID Initiative

### Introduction

The 'One Nation, One Student ID' initiative, launched by the Union government as part of the National Education Policy 2020, aims to streamline the education system in India by introducing the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) for students.

### Understanding APAAR: The Student ID

APAAR, short for Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry, is a unique identification system designed for all students in India. This initiative ensures that each student is assigned a lifelong APAAR ID, which simplifies the tracking of academic progress from pre-primary education to higher education.

### Digital Access with Digilocker

APAAR also serves as a gateway to Digilocker, a digital platform where students can securely store essential documents, including exam results and report cards. This digitalization makes it easier for students to access and utilize their academic records when pursuing higher education or seeking employment.

**ACADEMIC BANK OF CREDITS**  
Ministry of Education, Government of India

Name [REDACTED]  
Date of Birth [REDACTED]  
Gender M  
ABC ID [REDACTED]

QR Code

Verified by Digilocker

Digitally signed on 06/10/2022 12:47:48 IST

**Note:**

1. This digitally signed document is legally valid as per the IT Act 2000 when used electronically.
2. To verify this certificate, download Digilocker Android application from Google Play and scan the QR code.

**APAAR CARD REGISTRATION**

### **The Purpose Behind APAAR**

The primary goal of introducing APAAR is to make the education process hassle-free and minimize the necessity for students to carry physical documents. It helps state governments monitor literacy rates and dropout rates more efficiently, facilitating targeted improvements.

### **Preventing Fraud and Duplicate Certificates**

APAAR plays a crucial role in reducing fraudulent and duplicate educational certificates. It ensures the authenticity of educational records by only allowing authorized institutions to deposit credits into the system.

### **The Functionality of APAAR ID**

Each individual is assigned a unique APAAR ID, linked to the Academic Bank Credit (ABC), which stores information about the credits earned throughout the student's educational journey. With the APAAR ID, students can store both formal and informal learning certificates, making the transfer of data to new schools seamless.

### **Registration Process**

Students signing up for APAAR need to provide basic information such as name, age, date of birth, gender, and a photograph. This data is verified using their Aadhar number, with the assurance that only essential information for verification is used. The registration for creating APAAR ID is voluntary, not mandatory.

### **Addressing Concerns**

Concerns exist regarding the security of Aadhar details. However, the government has stated that student information will remain confidential and will only be shared with entities engaged in educational activities. Students can choose to stop sharing their information at any time, with any data already processed remaining unaffected.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Source: The Indian Express

## **2. 8 Indian Navy veterans sentenced to death by a court in Qatar**

### **Death Sentence**

Eight former Indian Navy personnel have been sentenced to death by a court in Qatar. They were arrested by Qatari authorities on August 30, 2022. Their trial began on March 29 this year, they were put in solitary confinement and now they have been awarded death sentence.

The reasons for the veterans' long custody in Qatar, and the awarding of the death penalty, are not in the public domain. The families of the veterans were not apprised of the formal charges under which the trial was being held.

### **What were they doing in Qatar?**

The eight former Navy personnel were working at Al Dahra Global Technologies and Consultancy Services, a defence services provider company.

The company is owned by an Omani national, Khamis al-Ajmi, a retired squadron leader of the Royal Oman Air Force. This man too, was arrested along with the eight Indians, but he was released in November 2022.

One of the eight former navy personnel, Commander Purnendu Tiwari (retd), who was Managing Director of the company, received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman in 2019 for his services in furthering the bilateral relationship between India and Qatar.

### **What are the charges against the men?**

The charges against the men were never made public, but the fact they were put in solitary confinement led to speculation that they had been detained in connection with a security-related offence.

### **What is the nature of the relationship between India and Qatar?**

The two countries have had friendly relations for decades. Since Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Qatar in November 2008, the first by an Indian Prime Minister, the relationship has burgeoned.

The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, visited India in 2015, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi went to Qatar in 2016. Approximately 800,000 Indians live and work in Qatar. Indians are the largest expatriate community in Qatar.

In 2021, India was among the top four export destinations for Qatar; it is also among the top three sources of Qatar's imports. The bilateral trade is valued at \$15 billion, which is mostly LNG and LPG exports from Qatar worth over \$13 billion.

### **Reaction of External Affairs Ministry**

The Ministry of External Affairs said that it was "deeply shocked by the verdict of death penalty" and was "awaiting the detailed judgement". The Ministry also said that it was "exploring all legal options".

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Relations

Source: The Hindu

## **3. An 800-Year-Old Connection between India and Jerusalem: Baba Farid's Lodge**

### **India's Presence in Jerusalem**

Long before Jerusalem became a globally contested city, India established a connection there in the 12th century. An old stone building within the city's walls bears a plaque that reads, "Indian Hospice, Estd. 12th century A.D."

### **Baba Farid's Role**

Legend has it that Baba Farid, a Sufi saint from Punjab, meditated at this place for 40 days. His visit to Jerusalem and prayers at the Al-Aqsa mosque marked the beginning of this connection.



During his stay, he resided in a lodge. After Baba Farid's departure, the lodge evolved into a hospice for travelers from India, earning the name Zawiya Al-Hindiya, meaning "the Lodge of Hind."

### **Association with independent India**

The leaders in Jerusalem sought assistance from Indians for the repair of the Lodge. Khwaja Nazir Hasan Ansari, a young man from Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, took on the task of repairing the lodge. The repairs were complete by 1924.

After India gained independence, Nazir Ansari sought official recognition for the lodge from the Indian embassy in Egypt, cementing its Indian identity. The Ansari family continues to maintain this hospice even today.

Relevance: GS Prelims

Source: The Indian Express