*Original Article*

# One Nation One Subscription (ONOS): A Game Changer for Higher Education and Research Institutions in India"

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## Abstract

*The One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) scheme, approved by the Union Cabinet, is a landmark initiative aimed at transforming access to international scholarly journals for higher education and research institutions in India. With an allocation of ₹6,000 crore for 2025-2027, the scheme ensures access to nearly 13,000 e-journals from 30 leading international publishers through a streamlined digital platform. Coordinated by INFLIBNET, ONOS facilitates equitable access to critical academic resources for institutions across urban and remote areas, especially those in tier 2 and tier 3 cities. By bridging resource gaps, it fosters interdisciplinary research, enhances educational quality, and aligns with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), and the vision of a developed India (Viksit Bharat) by 2047. This paper delves into the framework, implementation, and potential of ONOS to revolutionize the academic and research landscape in India, emphasizing its role in promoting innovation, collaboration, and global research competitiveness.*
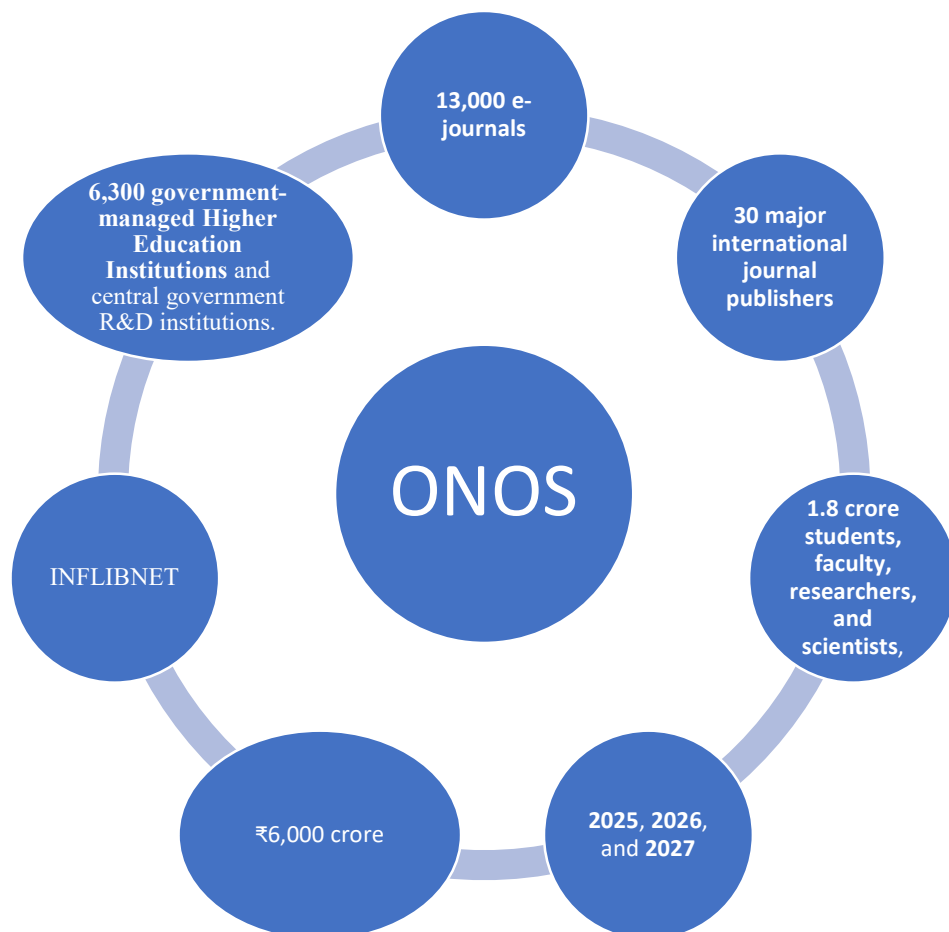
## Keywords

One nation one subscription (ONOS), Scholarly Research, Academic Journals, Higher Education, Research and Development, Research Ecosystem, Academic Innovation.

## Introduction

Aligned with the vision of making India *Atmanirbhar* (self-reliant) and achieving *Viksit Bharat* by 2047, the Union Cabinet has approved the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) scheme. This transformative initiative will provide nationwide access to high-quality international scholarly research articles and journal publications. Targeted at students, faculty, and researchers across Higher

Education Institutions (HEIs) managed by central and state governments, as well as Research & Development (R&D) institutions under the central government, ONOS is set to revolutionize academic accessibility. It aims to benefit over 1.8 crore students, faculty members, researchers, and scientists, including those in tier 2 and tier 3 cities, fostering core and interdisciplinary research and advancing India's academic and research ecosystem.



"The One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) initiative was conceived in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which recognizes research as a cornerstone for achieving educational excellence and driving national progress. The NEP 2020 stresses that to position India as a global leader and harness the full potential of its vast talent pool, there must be a significant expansion in research capabilities and output across all disciplines. The policy also advocates for the establishment of a National Research Foundation (NRF) to support and promote research and development (R&D), fostering a culture of innovation within India's higher education system."[1].

## Background and History of the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) Scheme

The One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) scheme emerges as a revolutionary step in India's educational and research ecosystem, addressing long-standing challenges of accessibility, affordability, and equity in academic resources. The scheme reflects India's strategic commitment to fostering innovation, promoting research excellence, and bridging the knowledge gap across its diverse academic and research institutions. Rooted in the principles of the National Education Policy

(NEP) 2020 and the aspirations of *Viksit Bharat* 2047, ONOS aims to position India as a global knowledge hub, empowering its vast pool of students, faculty, and researchers with access to high-quality international scholarly resources.

The genesis of ONOS can be traced to India's evolving higher education landscape, which has witnessed exponential growth in the number of universities and research institutions over the past few decades. Despite this growth, access to premium academic journals and databases remained uneven, particularly for institutions in tier 2 and tier 3 cities. High subscription costs, resource duplication, and budgetary constraints created significant disparities in resource availability, hindering research and innovation. ONOS was conceptualized to address these challenges by establishing a centralized and cost-effective subscription model, ensuring equitable access to global knowledge for all government-managed institutions.

The framework for ONOS was built on existing initiatives like the e-ShodhSindhu consortium, which provided subscription-based access to e-resources for universities and colleges. While e-ShodhSindhu laid the foundation for shared access to academic content, ONOS expands this vision to a national scale, integrating more resources, publishers, and user institutions under its umbrella. The scheme's development involved extensive collaboration among stakeholders, including the Ministry of Education, INFLIBNET, publishers, and academic institutions, ensuring a robust and scalable model that aligns with India's research priorities.

The Union Cabinet's approval of ONOS in 2024, with a budgetary allocation of ₹6,000 crore for 2025-2027, marked a pivotal moment in India's academic landscape. The scheme offers access to nearly 13,000 e-journals from 30 leading international publishers, benefiting over 1.8 crore students, faculty, and researchers nationwide. By leveraging digital platforms for delivery, ONOS ensures seamless access to resources, even in remote and underprivileged areas, enabling a broader demographic to engage in high-impact research and learning" [2].

ONOS not only addresses the immediate needs of academic institutions but also contributes to India's long-term vision of self-reliance (*Atmanirbhar Bharat*). By reducing dependence on individual institutional subscriptions and fostering interdisciplinary research, the scheme aligns with the goals of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) and the broader national agenda of building a robust and inclusive research ecosystem. It symbolizes India's commitment to creating a sustainable, innovative, and knowledge-driven society, paving the way for academic excellence and global leadership in research by 2047.

Under the *One Nation One Subscription* (ONOS) initiative, nearly 30 major international journal publishers will provide access to over 13,000 scholarly journals to more than 6,300 government-managed Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and central government R&D institutions. Coordinated through the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), an autonomous body under the University Grants Commission (UGC), the subscription will be facilitated through a fully digital process. The government has allocated approximately ₹6,000 crore for the years 2025-2027 to support this groundbreaking initiative, which aims to offer nationwide access to high-impact international research articles and journals. ONOS is designed to benefit approximately 1.8 crore students, faculty, researchers, and scientists, including those in tier 2 and tier 3 cities, fostering both core and interdisciplinary research across the country.

"This initiative is set to open a vast repository of knowledge by making top-quality scholarly journals accessible to researchers across all disciplines. The partnership with 30 leading international journal publishers will enhance research capabilities nationwide. Currently, HEIs can access journals through 10 different library consortia under various ministries. INFLIBNET, for example, administers the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium, offering access to selected journals and databases across disciplines. Many HEIs also maintain individual subscriptions to different journals. Government estimates suggest that approximately 2,500 HEIs currently have access to around 8,100 journals through these networks and separate subscriptions. ONOS will streamline and centralize access, providing equitable and cost-effective resources to institutions across India"[3].

To maximize the reach of the *One Nation One Subscription* (ONOS) initiative, the Department of Higher Education (DHE) will launch a unified portal, serving as a one-stop platform for accessing journals and scholarly publications. The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) will oversee the monitoring and periodic review of ONOS usage, focusing on the publications of Indian authors and its impact on research quality and output. This initiative will play a crucial role in enhancing India's research landscape, enabling Indian scholars to engage more effectively with global research communities.

In addition to the central efforts, ONOS will be supported through extensive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaigns. State governments will be encouraged to conduct similar outreach activities at the state and local levels, ensuring that all eligible students, faculty, and researchers are informed about the benefits and how to access ONOS. By making scholarly research more accessible, ONOS will significantly enhance India's research capabilities, foster innovation, and contribute to the country's goal of becoming a leading global knowledge hub by 2047.

Currently, multiple consortia under different ministries provide journal access to specific educational institutions, with some institutions maintaining individual subscriptions. ONOS will streamline and consolidate access by offering a unified model, bringing all central and state-run institutions under a single platform. This will not only simplify the process for institutions but also improve access to crucial research resources for students, faculty, and researchers, particularly benefiting institutions in tier 2 and tier 3 cities that previously lacked sufficient resources to access high-quality academic journals.

## Review of Literature

**01.** INFLIBNET Centre. (2024). *One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) initiative: Overview and objectives*. The ONOS initiative is a game changer for research and higher education institutions in India, offering academicians seamless access to high-quality international scholarly journals. By providing access to nearly 13,000 e-journals from top-tier global publishers, ONOS helps bridge the resource gap, especially for institutions in tier 2 and tier 3 cities. This initiative enhances research capabilities, promotes interdisciplinary collaboration, and fosters innovation across academic fields, ensuring that Indian researchers and educators have access to the most current and relevant global academic content.

**02.** Ministry of Education, Government of India. (2024). *One Nation One Subscription: Bridging the gap in academic resource access*. The ONOS initiative aims to enhance the quality of academic research and teaching in India by providing seamless access to international scholarly resources. By offering access to high-quality journals and research content, ONOS empowers Indian researchers and faculty to produce world-class research and innovative teaching materials. This initiative bridges the resource gap, ensuring that institutions across India, including those in remote areas, can benefit from cutting-edge global knowledge, fostering academic excellence and advancing India's research ecosystem.

**3.Satija, M P & Sarbrinder Kaur(2009)** Consortium members belong to different institutions with varying rules, making administration challenging. INDEST-AICTE and UGC-INFONET have revolutionized resource sharing, but librarians often lack time to manage collection development. The absence of a new national coordinator for INDEST-AICTE could hinder progress. A permanent managing body and continuous support are essential for success.

**03.Vijayakumar, Jk & Sreekumar, M G (2022)**Librarians worldwide have condemned the "excessive pricing" of electronic publications and called for an end to "attacks" on libraries' rights to redistribute documents. Over 40 library consortia signed the statement, emphasizing the need for permanent access to electronically archived information.

## Need for the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) Scheme

Access to high-quality academic resources is essential for fostering innovation, advancing research, and enhancing the quality of higher education. However, Indian higher education institutions, particularly those in tier 2 and tier 3 cities, often face significant challenges in accessing international scholarly content due to high subscription costs and limited budgets. These disparities create barriers to conducting cutting-edge research and compromise the ability of institutions to compete globally. The ONOS scheme addresses these issues by providing centralized and affordable access to premium e-journals and research articles, ensuring that institutions across the country can benefit equally from global academic advancements.

The rapidly growing demand for interdisciplinary and collaborative research further underscores the need for ONOS. Many modern research challenges, such as climate change, health crises, and technological advancements, require access to diverse fields of study. Limited access to international publications constrains the ability of Indian researchers to engage with global trends and innovations. By making nearly 13,000 high-quality e-journals available, ONOS equips researchers, educators, and students with the tools to tackle these complex issues effectively, bridging the knowledge gap and fostering innovation across disciplines.
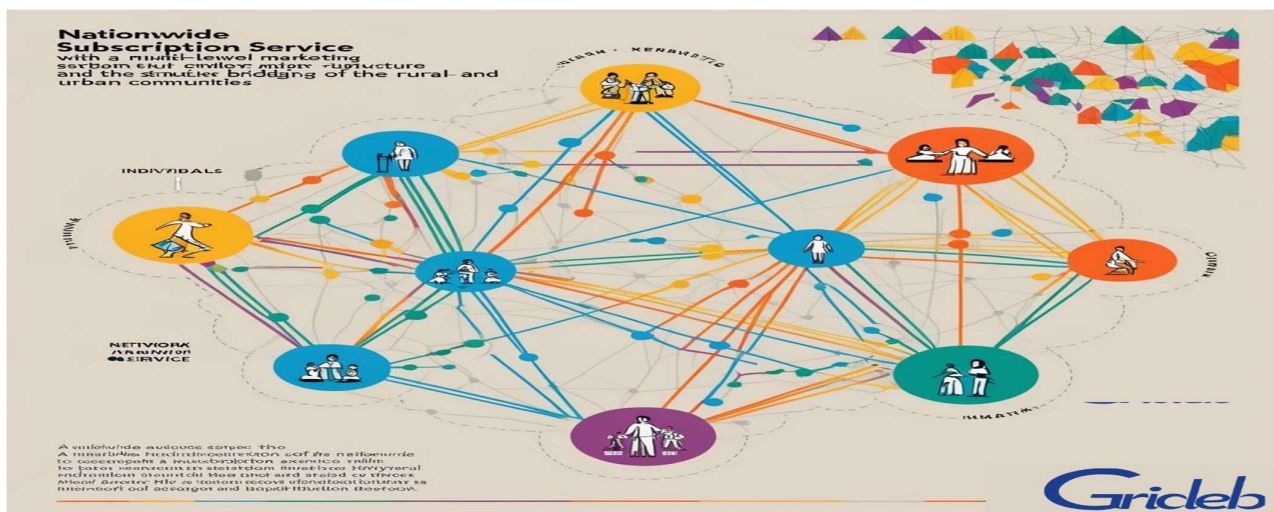
## Objectives of the ONOS Scheme

The primary objective of the ONOS scheme is to democratize access to scholarly knowledge by providing nationwide access to premium academic resources for higher education and research institutions. By centralizing subscriptions, the initiative aims to eliminate resource duplication and reduce the financial burden on individual institutions, creating a cost-effective model that benefits all government-managed institutions, including those in underprivileged areas.

Another critical objective is to enhance India's global research standing by promoting core and interdisciplinary research. ONOS aligns with the vision of *Viksit Bharat* 2047 by empowering researchers to publish high-impact work, collaborate internationally, and contribute to solving global challenges. Additionally, the scheme aims to support the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020's emphasis on fostering a research-driven academic environment and the objectives of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) to create a robust and inclusive research ecosystem.

Furthermore, ONOS seeks to bridge the digital divide by ensuring that institutions in rural and remote areas have equal access to high-quality academic resources. This inclusivity not only enhances educational equity but also promotes innovation and skill development across the country. By making resources accessible through simple digital platforms, the scheme enables seamless integration into the teaching and research practices of institutions nationwide, contributing to academic excellence and societal progress.

Ultimately, ONOS is a strategic initiative to position India as a global knowledge hub. By providing a strong foundation for academic and research excellence, the scheme supports India's ambition of becoming *Atmanirbhar Bharat* (self-reliant India) and a leader in the global research and innovation ecosystem by 2047. It reflects a visionary approach to creating an empowered and knowledge-driven society, fostering a culture of innovation and collaboration that will drive the nation's academic and research aspirations for decades to come.

### Aim of the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) Scheme

The primary objective of the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) scheme is to revolutionize access to high-quality scholarly resources across higher education and research institutions in India. By centralizing subscriptions to premium international e-journals and research articles, ONOS aims to eliminate disparities in resource availability, ensuring equitable access for all students, faculty, and researchers, regardless of their geographic location. This initiative empowers academic institutions with the tools to foster innovation, enhance education quality, and enable groundbreaking research that meets global standards.

A key focus of ONOS is to bridge the resource gap faced by institutions in tier 2 and tier 3 cities, which often lack the financial capacity to afford high-cost academic subscriptions. By providing access to nearly 13,000 e-journals from leading publishers, the scheme seeks to level the playing field, allowing researchers and educators from all regions to engage in cutting-edge research and interdisciplinary studies. This accessibility is expected to catalyze a culture of innovation and collaboration, contributing to India's goal of becoming a global leader in research and development by 2047.

Moreover, ONOS aligns with national ambitions like Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance) and Viksit Bharat (a developed India). It positions India as a knowledge powerhouse by promoting research excellence, fostering academic-industry collaboration, and supporting objectives in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF). Through this strategic initiative, ONOS aims to create a sustainable, inclusive, and globally competitive research ecosystem, advancing India's academic and research landscape for generations to come.

**A total of 30 major international journal publishers have been included in the One Nation One Subscription scheme.**

## Onboarded global publishers

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|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Elsevier Science Direct* | 16. | Indianjournals.com |
| 2. | Springer Nature | 17. | ASME |
| 3. | IEEE -IEL Online-Complete | 18. | Bentham Science |
| 4. | Wiley Blackwell Publishing | 19. | Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press |
| 5. | Taylor and Francis | 20. | ACM Digital Library |
| 6. | Lippincott Williams & Wilkins (Wolters Kluwer) | 21. | Annual Reviews |
| 7. | Institute of Physics | 22. | ICE Publishing |
| 8. | American Chemical Society | 23. | American Society for Microbiology |
| 9. | Cambridge University Press | 24. | American Association for the Advancement of Science |
| 10. | American Physical Society | 25. | American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) |
| 11. | Oxford University Press | 26. | American Mathematical Society |
| 12. | BMJ Journals | 27. | Emerald Publishing |
| 13. | American Institute of Physics | 28. | Sage Publishing |
| 14. | ASCE | 29. | SPIE Digital Library |
| 15. | Project Muse | 30. | Thieme Medical Publisher |

Role of One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) in Teaching, Learning, and Research in Higher Education Institutions in India

The *One Nation One Subscription* (ONOS) initiative plays a transformative role in shaping the teaching, learning, and research landscape of higher education institutions (HEIs) across India. By providing nationwide access to high-quality international journals, ONOS directly impacts the quality of research, teaching resources, and academic development at institutions, particularly those in tier 2 and tier 3 cities, which often face challenges in accessing global academic resources.

**1. Enhancing Research Quality and Innovation:** ONOS significantly boosts the research capabilities of Indian scholars by offering access to nearly 13,000 e-journals from prominent international publishers. This helps bridge the gap between Indian researchers and global academic advancements. With easy access to up-to-date research content, scholars can engage in cutting-edge research, contributing to global knowledge and tackling local and international challenges. The scheme promotes interdisciplinary research by providing access to diverse fields of study, which is essential for solving complex global problems such as climate change, public health, and technology development.

**2. Supporting Teaching Excellence:** ONOS also enhances the quality of teaching in Indian universities by enabling faculty members to integrate the latest research findings into their curriculum. Educators can access a wide range of academic materials to enrich their teaching and develop innovative learning resources. With access to international perspectives and teaching methodologies, faculty can design more comprehensive and dynamic curricula that align with global educational standards, ensuring that students receive a world-class education.

**3. Promoting Academic Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing:** One of the key benefits of ONOS is the fostering of collaboration among researchers and academic institutions. The scheme encourages knowledge sharing, both within India and globally, by providing a platform for researchers to engage with international scholars. This collaboration enhances the quality of research outputs and promotes an academic culture of openness and innovation. ONOS also facilitates academic networking by providing access to a wealth of research literature, helping to align Indian academic institutions with the best global practices and standards.

**4. Bridging the Digital Divide:** By ensuring that institutions in rural and remote areas have equal access to academic resources, ONOS helps bridge the digital divide in India's higher education sector. With a user-friendly digital platform, ONOS ensures that even institutions with limited resources can access the best available research and educational content. This inclusivity not only contributes to

educational equity but also empowers students and faculty in under-resourced institutions to participate in high-quality academic work, regardless of their geographic location.

ONOS initiative is a significant step toward enhancing the quality of research, teaching, and learning in India's higher education institutions. It provides equitable access to global knowledge, fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, and helps position India as a leader in global academic and research ecosystems. The scheme is aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and supports India's vision of becoming a knowledge-driven society by 2047.

The **One Nation One Subscription** initiative will build on existing government efforts to enhance access to quality education and research resources. It will support the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** in fostering a culture of research and innovation in India's government universities, colleges, and research labs. Additionally, the initiative will ensure that research from Indian authors in these institutions is actively promoted and reviewed periodically by the ANRF to ensure maximum utilization of the scheme.
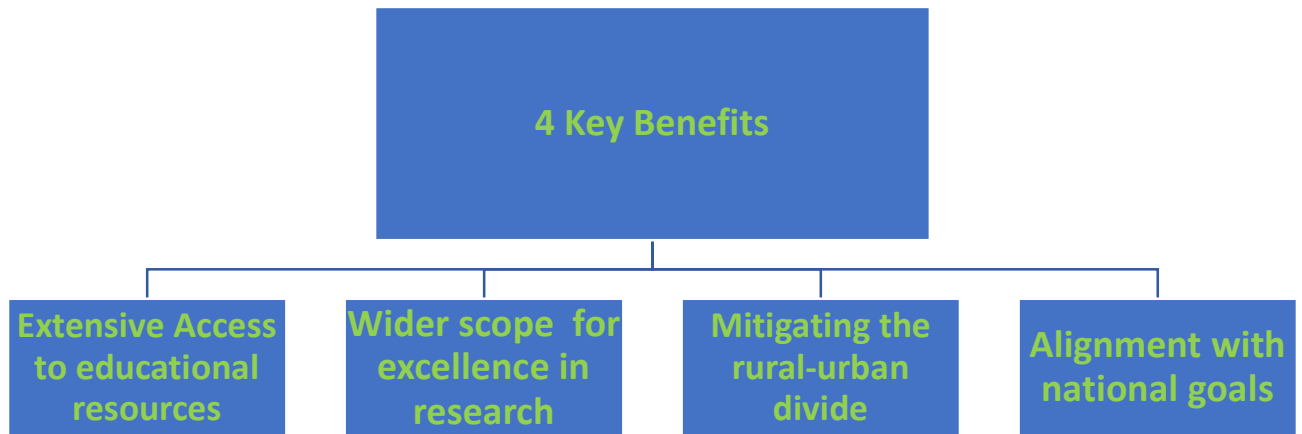
To ensure wide accessibility, the **Department of Higher Education (DHE)** will establish a **unified portal** through which institutions can easily access the journals. The scheme will also involve **Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaigns** by the DHE and state governments to raise awareness about the initiative and encourage its use across the country. This will help maximize the potential benefits for students, faculty, and researchers, ensuring the growth of India's research ecosystem.

By providing comprehensive access to top-tier scholarly content, **One Nation One Subscription** will not only facilitate research in existing academic fields but will also inspire innovation and collaboration across diverse disciplines. The initiative is a timely step towards making **India a global research hub**, enhancing academic and scientific excellence at every level of the education system.

central government is to negotiate Article Processing Charges (APCs) with journal publishers. APCs, or publication fees, are charges authors must pay to publish their research in certain journals. These fees cover publishing, editorial, operational, peer-review, and other associated costs. Open-access journals typically charge APCs to make their content freely available.

In 2021, Indian authors paid nearly ₹380 crore in APCs to journal publishers. Building on the success of negotiating a single subscription rate for government-run higher education institutions (HEIs), the government aims to adopt a similar approach for APCs to reduce overall costs. To facilitate this, subject-specific expert groups from participating ministries will be formed to negotiate with journals on behalf of researchers. As for whether ONOS will include private HEIs, the government has not yet made a decision
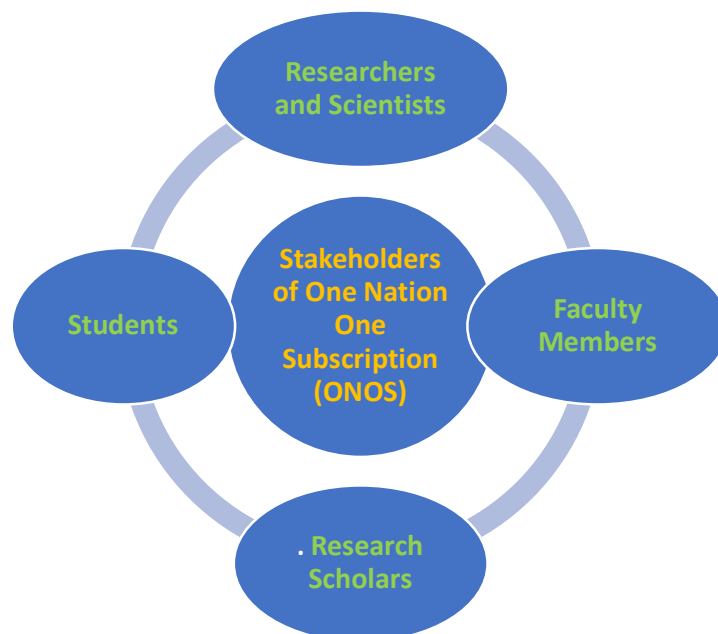
4 Key Benefits for Users (Research Scholars, faculty Members, Scientists & Students ) .

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                          │      4 Key Benefits     │
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    │Extensive│    │  Wider  │    │Mitigating│   │Alignment│
    │ Access  │    │scope for│    │the rural-│   │  with   │
    │   to    │    │excellence│   │  urban   │   │national │
    │educational│  │in research│  │  divide  │   │  goals  │
    │resources│    │         │    │          │   │         │
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**Extensive Access to educational resources**   **Wider scope for excellence in research**   **Mitigating the rural-urban divide**   **Alignment with national goals**

## Stakeholders of One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) in Higher Education and Research Institutions

The *One Nation One Subscription* (ONOS) initiative involves a diverse group of stakeholders and users across India's higher education and research institutions. The initiative is designed to democratize access to scholarly resources, providing various academic and research stakeholders with comprehensive access to international journals, research articles, and other academic content. Below are key stakeholders who will benefit from ONOS:



**Researchers and Scientists** · **Students** · **Stakeholders of One Nation One Subscription (ONOS)** · **Faculty Members** · **. Research Scholars**

**1. Researchers and Scientists:** Researchers and scientists, particularly those in government-funded institutions and R&D departments, are major beneficiaries of ONOS. The initiative provides them with unrestricted access to over 13,000 high-impact international journals and research databases, enabling them to stay at the forefront of global advancements in their respective fields. ONOS fosters interdisciplinary research by offering access to a broad spectrum of academic resources that would otherwise be difficult to afford, thus helping researchers produce high-quality publications and innovations. It also enhances collaboration opportunities by offering researchers the tools and resources necessary to engage in international research networks.

**2. Faculty Members:** Faculty members across India's higher education institutions are key users of ONOS, utilizing its resources to enrich their teaching and research. With access to cutting-edge scholarly articles, faculty can update their knowledge base, enhance their curricula, and improve the overall quality of education offered to students. ONOS also enables faculty to engage in advanced research projects, publish papers in high-impact journals, and collaborate with international scholars. This initiative plays a significant role in improving teaching outcomes, as faculty can incorporate global perspectives and the latest academic research into their courses.

**3. Research Scholars:** Research scholars, including postgraduates and Ph.D. students, are crucial users of the ONOS platform. They can access a wide variety of specialized and high-impact research materials that are critical for their thesis work, dissertations, and projects. ONOS helps research scholars develop a deeper understanding of their field by offering comprehensive access to global academic content. This not only enhances the quality of their research but also prepares them to contribute significantly to their fields upon completion of their studies. Additionally, ONOS supports interdisciplinary learning, allowing scholars to draw from diverse academic domains to inform their research.

**4. Students:** Students, especially those in undergraduate and postgraduate programs, benefit greatly from the ONOS initiative. Access to thousands of international journals allows students to conduct well-informed research for assignments, projects, and dissertations. This level of access is especially valuable for students in tier 2 and tier 3 cities, who previously may not have had the resources to engage with such global research. The availability of high-quality academic content also enhances their learning experience, as they can engage with the latest developments in their fields and apply this knowledge in real-world scenarios. Furthermore, ONOS promotes critical thinking and analytical skills by offering students diverse perspectives on academic topics.

ONOS is a transformative initiative that empowers researchers, faculty members, research scholars, and students by providing equitable access to global academic resources. By supporting these key stakeholders, ONOS aims to elevate the quality of research, teaching, and learning across India's higher education landscape, contributing to the nation's long-term academic and scientific development.

Merits of One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) in Higher Education & Research Institutions in India

The *One Nation One Subscription* (ONOS) initiative offers a range of merits that can significantly enhance the academic landscape in India's higher education and research institutions. By providing comprehensive access to high-quality international journals and research resources, ONOS plays a pivotal role in fostering academic excellence, innovation, and global collaboration. The following are key merits of ONOS:

**1. Improved Access to Global Academic Resources:** ONOS ensures that students, faculty, and researchers in all government-managed higher education and research institutions across India have access to nearly 13,000 high-impact e-journals from leading international publishers. This wide-reaching access is essential in closing the resource gap that exists between Indian institutions and their counterparts in developed nations. It allows Indian academicians to stay updated with the latest research, contributing to global scholarly conversations.

**2. Enhanced Research Quality and Innovation:** By providing access to cutting-edge research content, ONOS encourages researchers to explore new ideas, engage with global academic trends, and contribute to groundbreaking studies in various fields. This facilitates high-quality research, fosters innovation, and strengthens India's role in the global knowledge economy. With access to the best research materials, scholars can develop more informed, evidence-based studies that tackle both national and global challenges.

**3. Equity in Educational Resources:** ONOS plays a crucial role in ensuring that institutions in tier 2 and tier 3 cities, as well as remote areas, have equal access to the same high-quality academic resources available to premier institutions in urban centers. This helps level the playing field, giving students and researchers from all regions of India access to global knowledge and opportunities for academic growth. As a result, it fosters educational equity and ensures that no institution is left behind due to financial or geographical constraints.

**4. Reduced Financial Burden on Institutions:** The subscription costs for accessing international journals and databases can be prohibitively expensive for individual institutions, particularly for those in smaller or underfunded universities. ONOS, by consolidating subscriptions at a national level, reduces the financial burden on individual institutions. It provides a cost-effective solution that allows even the smallest institutions to access the same resources as well-funded universities, thereby ensuring equitable resource allocation across the country.

**5. Promotion of Interdisciplinary Research:** The wide range of available journals across diverse disciplines promotes interdisciplinary research. Researchers can access content from multiple fields, facilitating cross-disciplinary collaboration and new avenues of exploration. This is particularly important for addressing complex global issues, such as climate change, public health, and sustainable development, which require integrated knowledge and solutions from different academic domains.

**6. Support for Teaching Excellence:** Faculty members benefit from ONOS by integrating the latest research findings into their teaching materials, thus ensuring that students receive a curriculum based on the most current and relevant information. ONOS enables educators to design dynamic, research-informed courses that reflect global trends and methodologies, enriching the learning experience for students and promoting the development of critical thinking and research skills.

**7. Strengthening Academic Collaboration:** ONOS fosters greater collaboration between Indian institutions and international academic communities by providing access to global research networks. This helps build stronger ties between Indian researchers and their international counterparts, promoting knowledge exchange and collaborative research projects. Such partnerships are essential for raising the profile of Indian research on the global stage and positioning India as a leader in innovation.

**8. Alignment with National Goals:** ONOS supports the objectives outlined in India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasizes enhancing the quality of education and promoting research and innovation. The initiative aligns with the vision of transforming India into a knowledge-driven economy and positioning Indian institutions as global leaders in education and research by 2047. It also contributes to the goals of self-reliance (*Atmanirbhar Bharat*) by providing Indian academics with the tools necessary to excel in a globally connected academic environment.

**9. Digital Accessibility and Inclusivity:** ONOS provides digital access to scholarly resources, making them accessible even in remote or rural locations. This digital platform ensures that academic content is available 24/7, helping to overcome the limitations of traditional physical libraries. It promotes inclusivity by enabling students, researchers, and faculty from all parts of the country to access high-quality resources regardless of location or infrastructure limitations.

One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) initiative offers numerous benefits to higher education and research institutions in India, ranging from improving the quality of research and teaching to fostering greater collaboration and innovation. By ensuring equitable access to global academic resources, ONOS has the potential to transform India's academic and research landscape, making it more competitive on the global stage and contributing to the country's development goals.

## Challenges of One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) in Higher Education & Research Institutions in India

While the *One Nation One Subscription* (ONOS) initiative offers significant advantages for India's higher education and research institutions, it also presents a few potential challenges and limitations that may affect its full implementation and impact. These demerits include issues related to accessibility, resource allocation, technical challenges, and institutional readiness. The following outlines some of the key drawbacks of ONOS:

**1. Limited Control over Subscription Selection:**One of the primary drawbacks of ONOS is that it consolidates subscriptions at a national level, which may limit individual institutions' ability to select specific journals or resources that cater to their unique academic needs. Institutions with specialized programs or research focus areas may find that the pre-selected list of journals does not align perfectly with their academic priorities, potentially limiting access to specialized, niche resources that are vital for their research.

**2. Technological Challenges and Digital Divide:**While ONOS aims to provide nationwide access to e-journals, it may face challenges in terms of digital infrastructure. Institutions in remote or rural areas, especially those in tier 2 and tier 3 cities, may lack the necessary internet bandwidth or technological support to effectively access and utilize the platform. Slow internet speeds, inadequate digital infrastructure, and a lack of technical training for faculty and students may hinder the efficient use of ONOS, reducing its potential impact.

**3. Overreliance on Centralized Access:**By centralizing access to scholarly resources, ONOS may create an overreliance on a single platform. This could limit flexibility and choice for academic institutions that may prefer to access certain journals or databases directly or via different channels. Such centralization might also make the system vulnerable to technical failures or disruptions, leading to temporary loss of access to critical resources for all institutions, which could affect research and teaching activities.

**4. Sustainability and Long-Term Funding:**The long-term sustainability of ONOS is a potential concern. While the government has allocated significant funds (₹6,000 crore for 2025-2027), ongoing funding for such a large-scale initiative may become a challenge in the future. Continuous financial support is essential to maintain access to global journals and databases, especially if subscription prices increase or if new publishers and platforms need to be included. Without sustainable funding, the initiative may face difficulty in maintaining uninterrupted access to these resources.

**5. Unequal Utilization and Resource Distribution:**Although ONOS aims to bridge the gap between institutions in urban and rural areas, there may still be disparities in how different institutions utilize the platform. Some institutions, particularly those with limited technical expertise or lack of research culture, may not fully benefit from ONOS. Additionally, faculty and students at these institutions may not be well-versed in utilizing digital resources effectively, which could hinder their ability to access and benefit from the vast array of available journals.

**6. Pressure on Institutional Management and Administration:**The implementation and ongoing management of ONOS might place an additional burden on the administrative and technical staff of institutions. Managing the access to and usage of thousands of journals, ensuring equitable distribution, and providing technical support for faculty and students could overwhelm institutions that already face resource constraints. The absence of a dedicated on-site team for managing ONOS could lead to operational inefficiencies.

**7. Potential for Resource Duplication:**While ONOS aims to eliminate duplication by providing centralized access, some institutions may still maintain their own subscriptions or physical libraries, resulting in overlap and redundancy. In some cases, there might be a mismatch between ONOS and other existing consortia or subscription models, leading to inefficiencies in resource allocation and unnecessary expenditure.

**8. Possible Resistance to Change:**Academic institutions and faculty members accustomed to their existing subscription models or library resources may resist transitioning to a new, centralized system. Overcoming resistance to change and ensuring smooth adaptation to ONOS will require significant

efforts in terms of awareness, training, and technical support. Without proper buy-in from faculty, ONOS's full potential may not be realized.

**9. Limited Focus on Indian Academic Content:**While ONOS provides access to international scholarly journals, it may not prioritize or include significant Indian academic content or journals. This could lead to an imbalance in access, where international research is readily available, but Indian research output or region-specific knowledge is less accessible to researchers. A more comprehensive platform that includes Indian journals and publications could help address this gap and promote local research.

While the ONOS initiative offers numerous advantages in terms of improving access to academic resources and fostering global research collaborations, it also presents challenges such as technological barriers, administrative burdens, and resource duplication. Overcoming these demerits will require careful planning, continuous funding, and robust infrastructure to ensure the initiative's effectiveness and sustainability in India's higher education and research institutions.

## Conclusion

The *One Nation One Subscription* (ONOS) initiative marks a pivotal advancement in enhancing India's research and academic landscape. By offering nationwide access to over 13,000 high-impact international journals, ONOS aims to democratize scholarly content, bridging gaps between urban and rural institutions. This initiative will enhance research quality, promote interdisciplinary collaboration, and support India's vision of becoming a global knowledge hub by 2047. However, its success depends on overcoming challenges like technological infrastructure, resistance to change, and securing sustainable funding. Continuous government support, effective management, and technical training are essential for ensuring broad access, especially for institutions in tier 2 and tier 3 cities. ONOS is a transformative initiative that can foster innovation, improve educational outcomes, and position India as a leader in global research and education.

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