



## One Nation One Subscription: An Evaluative Study

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**Abstract:** The Government of India's 'One Nation One Subscription' initiative for magazines and journals aims to provide seamless and affordable access to digital content and services to small institutions and departments across the country. This article discusses the important role that 'One Nation One Subscription' initiative will play in the country's economic and educational sector in line with the vision of Developed India 2047. The high cost of digital content articles required for research was creating many obstacles and was directly affecting Indian research. The impact of the Government of India's ambitious 'One Nation One Subscription' scheme, its advantages and disadvantages, has also been studied in this article. The databases covered under this initiative have also been studied. The One Nation One Subscription Scheme is a nationwide initiative to make academic research and scientific journals accessible to all Indian institutions and researchers. By centralizing subscriptions under a single government-funded model, ONOS eliminates financial barriers and promotes knowledge-sharing. This initiative supports academic excellence, fosters innovation and strengthens India's position in global research. Through strategic negotiations with publishers, ONOS ensures that universities, colleges and independent scholars can access high-quality research materials without additional costs.

**Keywords:** E-Journals, Research, databases, education, Financial Framework, Inflation, ANRF.

### I. Introduction:

The Government of India has approved the 'One Nation, One Subscription' (ONOS) scheme. It became operational from 1 January 2025. The scheme aims to make academic research papers and world-class research journals easily available to all educational and research institutions in India. The 'One Nation, One Subscription' scheme will promote academic research and innovation. The scheme is in line with the objectives of 'National Education

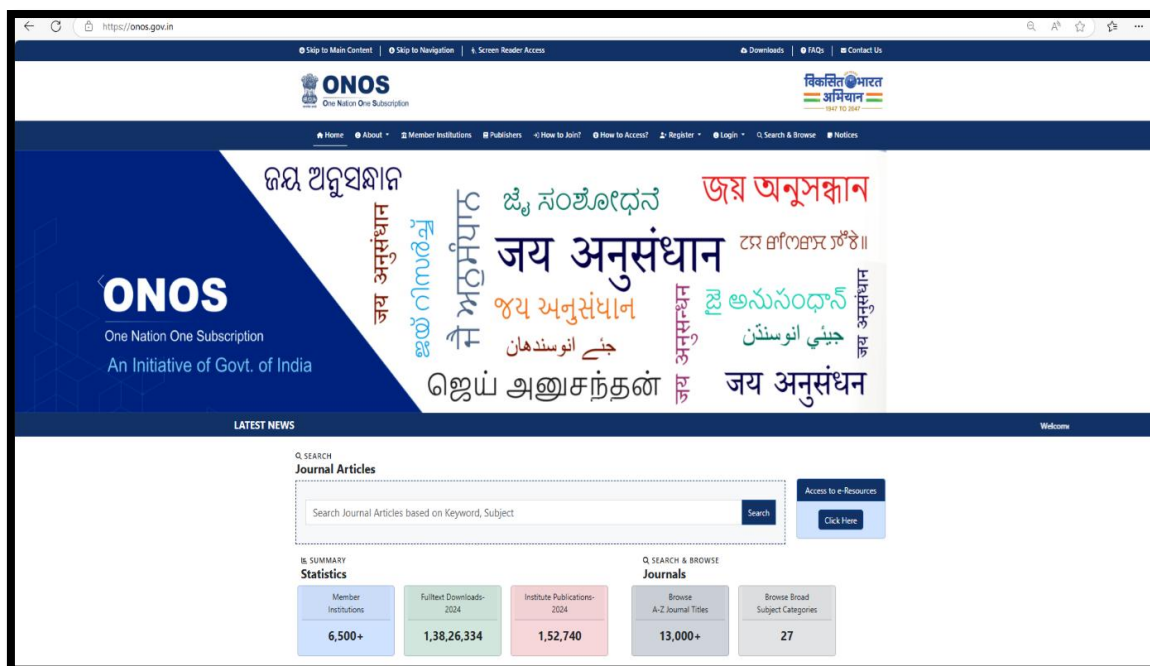
Policy, (NEP) 2020' and 'Developed India, 2047'. This scheme has been proposed to take advantage of various educational and research contexts in India. The scheme gained more momentum after it became a part of the 'National Education Policy'. Equity of access to quality education and efforts to foster a research-based ecosystem are at the heart of the scheme. In November 2024, the Union Cabinet approved a provision of Rs 6,000 crore for the implementation of this scheme for three years from 2025 to 2027, and the 'One Nation, One Subscription' scheme was sealed in true sense.

The ONOS initiative provides access to over 13,000 scholarly journals from 30 leading international publishers. It targets over 6,300 government-run higher education institutions and research centers. The initiative benefits about 18 million students, faculty, and researchers across disciplines including STEM, medicine, and social sciences.

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The initiative supports academic excellence, fosters innovation, and strengthens India's position in global research. Through strategic negotiations with publishers, ONOS ensures that universities, colleges, and independent scholars can access high-quality research content at no additional cost.

The Department of Higher Education, Government of India will have a unified portal "One Nation One Subscription" (<https://www.onos.gov.in/>) through which institutions can access journals. ANRF will periodically review the use of One Nation One Subscription and the publications of Indian authors by these institutions.



**ONOS Portal**

All Government (Central as well as State) Higher Education Institutions and Central Government Research and Development Institutions are eligible to participate in ONOS. Eligible institutions are required to register on the ONOS portal to obtain a User ID and Password. For new registration, the name of the institution, AISHE code and contact details of the Institute Nodal Officer will be required. The Nodal Officer will be a regular, senior, full-time employee of the institution. Registered member institutions can be viewed at <https://www.onos.gov.in/instituteListInstitution>. AISHE code is mandatory for registration. Institutions which do not have AISHE code are required to apply for AISHE code on the AISHE portal (<https://aishe.gov.in/>). Institutions in which students are pursuing UG/PG/Doctorate/Post-Doctoral degree/Diploma

are required to apply as College/University/Stand-alone Institution in the AISHE portal. Institutions engaged in Research and Development activities and do not have students are required to apply under R & D category in the AISHE portal. For R&D institutions, a letter authorizing them to join ONOS from their parent Ministry/Department in the Central Government is required. Existing government consortia users, including state government higher education institutions with static IP addresses, are being automatically ported to the ONOS portal for smooth transition. In case of further assistance, please write to support[at]onos[dot]gov[dot]in with the name of the institution, designation and contact details of the nodal officer of the institution

The list of participating publishers includes the following: Accessible via <https://onos.gov.in/>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACM Digital Library</li> <li>• American Chemical Society</li> <li>• American Institute of Physics</li> <li>• American Physical Society</li> <li>• American Society for Microbiology</li> <li>• Annual Reviews</li> <li>• ASCE</li> <li>• ASME</li> <li>• Bentham Science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lippincott Williams &amp; Wilkins (Wolters Kluwer)</li> <li>• Oxford University Press</li> <li>• Project Muse</li> <li>• Springer Nature</li> <li>• Taylor and Francis</li> <li>• Wiley</li> <li>• American Association for the Advancement of Science</li> </ul>
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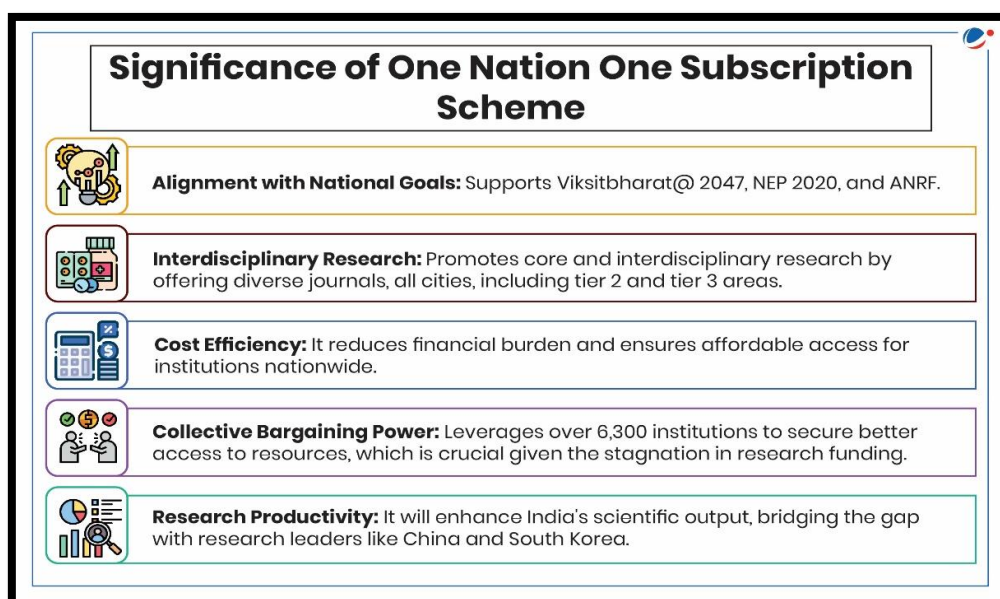
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BMJ Journals</b></li> <li>• <b>Cambridge University Press</b></li> <li>• <b>Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press</b></li> <li>• <b>Elsevier Science Direct</b></li> <li>• <b>ICE Publishing</b></li> <li>• <b>IEEE</b></li> <li>• <b>IndianJournals.com</b></li> <li>• <b>Institute of Physics</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)</b></li> <li>• <b>American Mathematical Society</b></li> <li>• <b>Emerald Publishing</b></li> <li>• <b>Sage Publishing</b></li> <li>• <b>SPIE Digital Library</b></li> <li>• <b>Thieme Medical Publisher</b></li> </ul>
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The major 10 library consortia were:

Sr. No.	Consortium/Group of Institutions/Department/Ministry
1	E-ShodhSindhu (ESS) Consortium under Department of Higher Education (DHE)
2	National Knowledge Resource Consortium (NKRC) of the Department of Science & Technology (DST) and Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR)
3	DERCON Consortium under Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)
4	CERA Consortium under Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE)
5	DRDO Consortium under Department of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D)
6	Electronic Resources in Medicine (ERMED) Consortium under Department of Health Research (DHR)
7	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
8	DeLCON Consortium for Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and North-Eastern Region Institutes
9	Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) consortium
10	Department of Space (DoS) consortium

**Methodology:** This research paper is published based on the evaluation of recent information published on the internet and other relevant sources and is a kind of evaluative study. One Nation One Subscription is very important from the point of view of libraries and from the point of view of researchers.

## 1. Significance of the study:



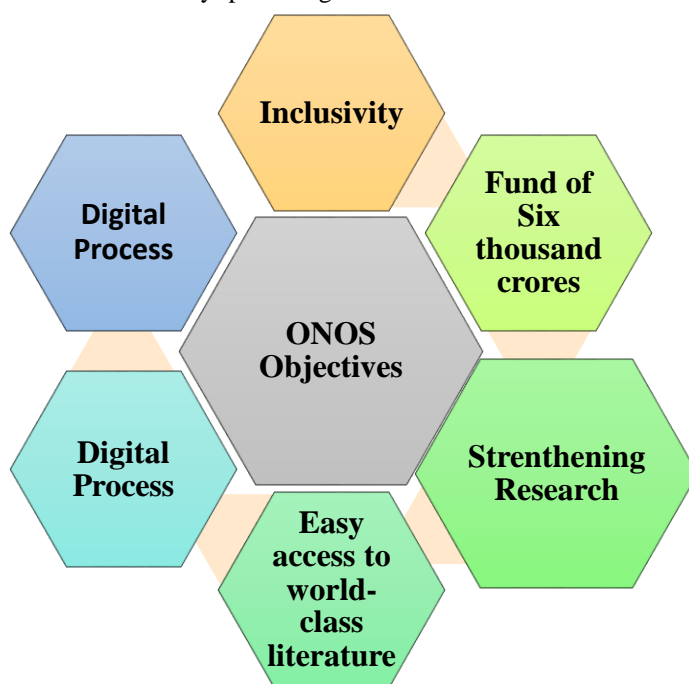


**2. Objectives:** Objectives of One Nation One Subscription Scheme. The objectives of One Nation One Subscription Scheme are focused on creating an inclusive, knowledge-based research environment. The key objectives include:

➤ **Easy access to world-class literature** - Nearly 13,000 e-journals from 30 leading international publishers will now be available to 6,300 government higher education institutions and central research institutes. The scheme covers higher education institutions as well as research and development (RD) institutions under the central and state governments. This scheme will definitely help such researchers to access the resources they need for high quality academic content. By providing

access to high-quality research materials, 'ONOS' will enhance the academic and intellectual capacity of Indian students and researchers. This is expected to boost India's position in the world research rankings.

➤ **Digital Process:** As this scheme will be implemented under the supervision of 'INFLIBNET' (Information and Library Network) access to materials will be easy and quick. Access to journals will be done entirely through digital portals. Different educational institutions can subscribe to these resources and access them without the need for physical infrastructure. This process is going to be less costly and user friendly.



### Objectives of ONOS

➤ **Inclusivity:** 1.8 crore students, teachers and researchers will get research facility in various disciplines. Through this scheme, various educational institutions will be facilitated to collaborate with international publishers. It will encourage interdisciplinary research and enhance collaboration between institutions. Along with this, the scheme will address the disparity between urban and rural educational institutions. Institutions in remote areas can also avail educational resources through this scheme like major institutions in cities. This scheme will eliminate the need for each individual organization to purchase a national subscription/subscription to an expensive journal.

This will significantly save the cost of educational and research institutions.

➤ **Financial Framework of ONOS:** For three years from 2025 to 2027, a fund of six thousand crores has been given for this scheme. The scheme is in line with the 'National Education Policy, 2020', emphasizing the need for quality higher education and research. This will also promote a strong research ecosystem in the country, aligning with the goals of the National Research Foundation (NRF). A budget of Rs 6,000 crore has been earmarked for the ONOS initiative from 2025 to 2027. This funding will cover the subscription fees for all participating institutions. In addition, Rs 150 crore will be



allocated annually to support authors for publication in high-quality open access journals.

➤ **Strengthening research:** Increased access to international research will encourage Indian researchers to publish more in world-class journals, thereby improving the country's academic reputation. This scheme will enhance knowledge level for students and boost research capacity in rural areas. With access to journals from multiple disciplines, researchers can explore interdisciplinary projects. It will stimulate new ideas and solve problems in a comprehensive manner. Interdisciplinary research will develop in many educational institutions. The contribution of Indian researchers to global publications will increase, thereby enhancing the reputation of India's academic standing

### 3. Scope and Limitations:

The 'One Nation, One Subscription' scheme can bring about a major revolution in the field of education and research in India. Through this scheme, research promotion, knowledge creation and easy access to world-class literature will strengthen the intellectual progress of the country. 13 thousand journals from 30 international publishers will be available on this shared platform, including 'Elsevier Science Direct' (including 'Lancet'), 'Springer Nature', 'Wiley Blackwell Publishing', 'Taylor & Francis', 'IEEE', 'Sage Publishing', 'American Chemical Society' and 'American Mathematical Society' etc. To access these journals, all institutions need to simply register on the platform. 'INFLIBNET' has been appointed as the implementing agency for this initiative. **Limitations of nationwide subscription:** ONOS may prioritize popular journals, ignoring specific fields. This limits access for small communities and reduces research diversity.

### 4. Challenges in Implementation:

Although the scheme promises many benefits, its success depends on addressing several challenges.

- **Digital Infrastructure:** Despite the progress, many organizations lack the necessary digital infrastructure to fully utilize the scheme, especially in rural areas. So, modernization of these facilities will be crucial for the success of the scheme.
- **Awareness and Training:** Currently many educators and researchers may not be familiar with the digital tools needed to access these resources. 'Awareness Campaign' and 'Training Programs' are essential for maximum impact of the scheme.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** A strong monitoring mechanism will be necessary to ensure effective utilization of resources. Organizations must report their usage data periodically to assess the plan's impact and make necessary adjustments.

- **Sustainable Sustainability:** This facility needs to be reviewed regularly by INFLIBNET and the Higher Education Department for proper utilization. The financial sustainability of the scheme after the initial three-year period will depend on its impact and the government's willingness for long-term funding.

5. **Outcomes:** There are some outcomes in this paper are following:

1. Unrestricted access to thousands of international journals and research databases.
2. Strengthening research capacity in small institutions.
3. Promoting collaboration between academia and industry.
4. Increasing India's research output and improving global academic rankings.
5. Reducing dependence on expensive individual subscriptions, saving institutions significant costs.

### 6. Recommendations:

- **Institutional Open Access Repositories:** Incorporating a Green OA model will allow Indian researchers to archive their work, making it globally accessible without APCs.
- **Rights retention policies:** Adopting frameworks like Harvard University can protect authors' intellectual property rights while promoting accessibility.
- **Investment in Indian journals:** Building a strong domestic publishing platform can reduce dependence on international publishers and attract global submissions.
- **Digital preservation:** Ensuring long-term accessibility of research through self-archiving and repository networks should complement ONOS.

7. **Conclusion:** The ONOS initiative is a transformative step to bridge the knowledge gap and advance India's research ecosystem. By providing comprehensive access to world-class resources, it empowers students, faculty, and researchers to achieve academic and scientific excellence. This





integrated approach will drive innovation, strengthen India's global leadership in research, and lay the foundation for a self-reliant, knowledge-driven nation by 2047.

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