

One Nation One Subscription and the Vision of Viksit Bharat@2047: Strengthening India's Research Ecosystem

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Abstract: *One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) is one of the key policy measures aimed at expanding access to scholarly journals and research publications in Government Institutions of Higher (GHIs) and Central Research Laboratories (CRLs) in India. This paper analyzes ONOS from the perspective of the national aspiration of Viksit Bharat@2047, where research, innovation and knowledge driven development are anticipated to be the main drivers of inclusive development. The paper applies an official policy document and a qualitative policy-review methodology to analyse the education reforms; priorities set in research ecosystems and official policy documents. It suggests that ONOS can help to minimize information inequality, boost research productivity, facilitate interdisciplinary cooperation and foster evidence-based innovation. But it will impact the long term based on digital infrastructure, research training, language inclusivity, responsible publishing and other reforms like National Education Policy 2020 and Anusandhan National Research Foundation.*

Keywords: One Nation One Subscription, Viksit Bharat@2047, Research ecosystem, Higher Education, Scholarly access, Innovation policy.

I. INTRODUCTION

Knowledge creation, circulation and application are equally important for India to become a developed country by 2047, in addition to economic growth. Availability of high-quality research literature is an essential prerequisite for scientific discovery and technological innovation; for scientific policymaking and the competitiveness of higher education systems in the modern knowledge economy. Importantly, the vision of 'Viksit Bharat@2047' demands a research ecosystem where students and faculty, researchers and institutions in all geographies are not limited to contributing to knowledge production because of unequal access to scholarly resources.

In November 2024, the Government of India approved the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) scheme as a central sector scheme, which aims to provide access to scholarly research articles and journal publications across the country to the government higher education institutions and central government research and development laboratories (Press Information Bureau [PIB], 2024). The scheme received Rs. 28 lakhs. The allocation of Rs 6,000 crore for the next three years (2025, 2026 and 2027) suggests that access to research literature is regarded as a national research infrastructure and not as a strictly institutional cost (PIB, 2024). ONOS therefore offers the potential to decrease the number of duplicate subscriptions and to increase the accessibility of scholarly resources, all of which are digital and collective access.

This paper explores ONOS as a strategy to enhance the research environment in India in sync with Viksit Bharat@2047. It poses three questions: How to tackle structural inequalities in access to scholarly knowledge with ONOS? Secondly, how is ONOS related to broader reforms like National Education Policy 2020, Anusandhan National



Research Foundation (ANRF) and national innovation programs? Third, what are the governance, capacity building, and implementation challenges to overcome to gain measurable research outcomes from ONOS?

II. METHODOLOGY

The methodology of this study is Policy-review approach which is qualitative in nature. The analysis draws on official government communications, policy statements and scholarly communication, open science, research capacity and higher education development secondary literature. The paper is not based on primary survey data but instead consolidates documentary evidence to uncover potential pathways in which ONOS might impact India's research ecosystem.

There were four steps in the method. First, official documents related to ONOS, Viksit Bharat in 2047, higher education reform and... The various national research programmes were discussed. Second, the policy objectives of ONOS were aligned with regular research ecosystem issues: Access inequality, institutional capacity, publication quality, collaboration, and research translation. Third, the expected benefits and risks were analysed from a systems perspective, seeing research access as part of a wider knowledge infrastructure. Fourth, policy recommendations were derived from universities, libraries, government agencies and researchers.

This paper is of an interpretive and policy nature. It is not the aim of ONOS to be the silver bullet for research productivity. Instead, it looks at ONOS as an enabler and its impact will rely upon complementary reforms in funding, training, evaluation, digital infrastructure, and research ethics.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Research ecosystems rely on the interdependent elements: literature, researchers trained, funding, labs, institutional autonomy, peer connections, publishing ethics and translation to social and economic impact. For institutions that do not have the funds for expensive journal subscriptions, access to journals has long been a problem. These obstacles not only impact on the quantity of publications, but also the quality of teaching, doctoral supervision, grant acquisition and innovation.

The policy landscape in India is increasingly embracing the importance of research and innovation for national development. High-quality education and research are also crucial for the development of an equitable and vibrant knowledge society, and a knowledge superpower India in the future, as stated in the National Education Policy 2020 (Ministry of Education, 2020). Further government releases have highlighted the importance of research, innovation, and entrepreneurship in the journey towards Viksit Bharat@2047 (PIB, 2024a). The creation of ANRF also indicates the commitment to offering strategic guidance for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the fields of natural sciences and engineering, technology, health, agriculture, environmental sciences, including interfaces with the humanities and social sciences (PIB, 2025).

ONOS is coming to the policy landscape as a reformer of knowledge access. Some institutions had more access to library resources through prior library consortia and institutional subscriptions, but access was still uneven. Highly funded universities might have access to additional databases, but other colleges and universities, especially public and smaller institutions, might have few databases or limited collections or might be part of an informal network. The national aggregation of demand can ensure equality at the base level of access with ONOS. This is particularly important for researchers in state universities, colleges and emerging institutions that must serve large numbers of students with small library budgets.

There are also lessons to be learned from literature on scholarly communication that access is a precondition, but it is not a sufficient condition. Researchers need to be knowledgeable in using databases, evaluating the quality of journal publications, using reference management tools, understanding predatory publishing, and how to responsibly report research while also adhering to copyright. These are all essential components of digital access: information literacy, librarian training, research-methods education, and transparency of metrics. If expanded access is realized, benefits might be uneven, benefiting stronger institutions more than weaker ones with only mentoring and research support.



The Viksit Bharat@2047 framework gives ONOS a wider significance. A developed India will require innovations in health, agriculture, climate resilience, education, manufacturing, artificial intelligence, digital public infrastructure, and social policy. These challenges are interdisciplinary and intensive evidence. Access to global research literature can help Indian researchers avoid duplication, identify frontier questions, build collaborations, and adapt global knowledge to local problems. ONOS can therefore be read as part of India's attempt to build public knowledge infrastructure for a long-term national development agenda.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

ONOS as Research Infrastructure

The most direct contribution of ONOS is the democratization of access to scholarly literature. When researchers across eligible public institutions can consult a wider range of journals, the minimum knowledge base for research and teaching improves. This can strengthen literature reviews, experimental design, data interpretation, and publication quality. For doctoral scholars and early-career faculty, access to current research may reduce dependence on outdated materials and informal document-sharing practices.

ONOS should therefore be understood as research infrastructure, similar in importance to laboratories, computing facilities,

and data platforms. Its value lies not merely in the number of journals available but in how effectively researchers use them. If implemented with reliable authentication, user-friendly discovery tools, and institutional support, ONOS can reduce the gap between metropolitan research universities and institutions in smaller cities and rural regions.

4.1 Contribution to Equity and Inclusion

Viksit Bharat@2047 is expected to be inclusive as well as advanced. ONOS can contribute to inclusion by enabling students and faculty in publicly funded institutions to participate more fully in research culture. This is particularly relevant for first-generation learners, regional institutions, women researchers, and scholars outside elite networks. Equal access to literature does not automatically create equal research capacity, but it removes one major structural barrier.

Equity will require attention to institutional readiness. Some colleges may lack high-speed internet, trained library staff, research databases orientation, or a culture of faculty research. Therefore, ONOS should be accompanied by capacity-building modules, multilingual user guides, research clinics, and library modernization. Usage data should be analysed not only at the national level but also across regions, disciplines, and institution types to identify underuse and design targeted interventions.

4.2 Alignment with NEP 2020 and ANRF

NEP 2020 emphasizes multidisciplinary learning, research orientation, and institutional quality improvement. ONOS supports these goals by giving teachers and students access to the research base needed for updated curricula and inquiry-based learning. ANRF can complement ONOS by funding projects that convert access into original research outputs. Together, ONOS and ANRF can create a pipeline from knowledge access to research funding, publication, innovation, and societal application.

The strongest impact will emerge when ONOS is integrated with research evaluation reforms. If universities continue to reward publication quantity over quality, access to journals may not improve research integrity. Institutions should link ONOS training with responsible research assessment, plagiarism awareness, open data practices, and ethical publication choices. This would support the requirement that manuscripts be original, unpublished, properly cited, and low in similarity.



4.3 Innovation, Industry, and Societal Translation

India's development goals require research that addresses practical problems. ONOS can support applied research by helping scholars track global advances in fields such as renewable energy, healthcare technology, agriculture, digital governance, semiconductors, biotechnology, and education. Better access can improve patent searches, technology reviews, policy briefs, and industry collaborations.

However, scholarly access must be connected to translation pathways. Universities should create research-support cells that help faculty identify funding calls, write proposals, build industry partnerships, protect intellectual property where appropriate, and communicate findings to communities and policymakers. Without such support, ONOS may increase reading but not necessarily innovation. The scheme's success should therefore be evaluated through indicators such as interdisciplinary projects, citations, patents, prototypes, policy outputs, start-up linkages, and improvements in teaching quality.

4.4 Challenges and Risks

There are several potential challenges to limit ONOS. One, negotiations with publishers must include sustainable pricing, and broad coverage, and terms of fair use. Secondly, the scheme should not create a dependency on closed access publishing without also offering an opportunity to open access publishing. Promoting open access repositories and Indian journals. Third, access control and digital platforms should have privacy features that allow users to: allowing useful analytics. Fourth, institutions need to stop copyright infringement, misuse and unethical mass downloading. Fifth, regional and language barriers need to be overcome as many may require training in academic English, and database navigation.

Another risk is that ONOS might be seen as a library procurement programme, not a research transformation programme. To prevent this, it is important that implementation requires involvement by the vice-chancellors, librarians, deans of research, faculty mentors, and doctoral students, supervisors, and students. The national platform should include dashboards, tutorials, guides and support for citation management for each discipline. Independent review on a regular basis can determine if access is yielding improved research results.

V. CONCLUSION

ONOS is an apt and ambitious step towards Viksit Bharat@2047 in India. By increasing access to scholarly It can help to close the knowledge gaps, enhance universities and laboratories, and aid in the support of, among others, journals and research publications. Enhance research and teaching and conduct multidisciplinary inquiries. It is important because it deals with knowledge strategically. Access as a public good and national infrastructure.

However, ONOS is not considered a comprehensive solution. Digital readiness, research literacy and the capacity to strengthen and develop research skills will be central to the success of the scheme. ethical publishing, institutional mentoring, linkage with ANRF and NEP 2020 and careful monitoring of outputs. The life cycle of ONOS can help India make a transition from access to excellence, from the use of knowledge to the production of knowledge, from individual scholarship to innovation for development. In In this context, ONOS can be one of the key enablers of a self-reliant, inclusive and research-based Viksit Bharat by 2047.

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