

# DAILY PT POINTERS

3rd December, 2024



## The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page8

# India's 'One Nation, One Subscription' plan

Is the global research ecosystem increasingly embracing open access publishing away from subscription-based models? What is an article processing charge? Do researchers own the copyrights of their work after it has been published in a journal? What are open access repositories?

### EXPLAINER

Moumita Koley

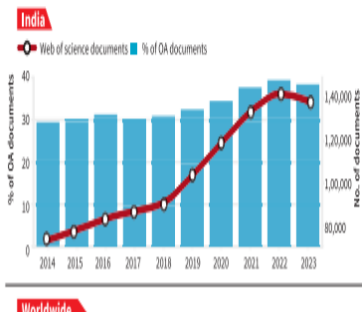
#### The story so far:

The Union Cabinet approved the Indian government's 'One Nation, One Subscription' (ONOS) scheme on November 25. The ONOS promises to provide equitable access to scholarly journals in all public institutions.

#### What does the ONOS entail?

First mooted around 2018-2019, the scheme's ambitious rollout comes with a substantial financial outlay of ₹6,000 crore over three years (2025-2027), to be paid to 30 major international journal publishers. For perspective, the Indian public and its academic institutions collectively spend around ₹1,500 crore every year on journal subscriptions. This is a rough estimate and probably includes the cost of subscription to databases as well; if so, the current total public expense to access journals will be well lower than ₹2,000 crore per year.

At the outset, ONOS's promise to offer equitable access to research articles, irrespective of an institution's prestige or financial capacity, which seems like a step towards democratising knowledge. But a closer examination reveals complexities that call for deeper analysis.



work in OA repositories. Many institutes like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Oxford followed suit. ONOS has the opportunity to emulate these models by incorporating a nationwide 'rights retention' policy, enabling Indian researchers to deposit their work in institutional repositories immediately after publication – a practice known as green open access.

India's own 2014 Open Access Policy requires researchers funded by the Departments of Biotechnology and of Science & Technology to make their work openly accessible – but its implementation has been lacklustre. The ONOS could have been the ideal platform to enforce this mandate, ensuring Indian research becomes globally accessible through open repositories immediately after publication.

#### Is digital content preserved?

Another issue is the long-term preservation of research articles, now that almost all major journals are published online. A recent study in the *Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication* reported that 28% of articles with Data Object Identifiers (DOIs) – unique IDs to identify published papers – aren't preserved, exposing gaps in current practices. The discontinuation of *Heterocycles*, a journal published by the Japan Institute of Heterocyclic Chemistry, in 2023 left around 17,000 articles

### THE GIST

In the subscription model, a journal receives manuscripts from scientists (about their studies, etc.), evaluates them through peer review, and accepts (or rejects) them. Once a paper is accepted, the journal publishes it and makes money by charging people and institutions to access it.

Open Access (OA) refers to papers that are published to be freely accessible. There are different kinds of OA. A common type is called gold OA, where the journal makes money by charging authors an article processing charge (APC) to publish papers in the journal. The APC for a single paper has been known to be thousands of dollars. For example, *Nature Communications* charges \$6,790 per paper.

ONOS can be lauded for its ambition to democratise research access, but it should have addressed deeper

The Union Cabinet approved the 'One Nation One Subscription' (ONOS) initiative for centralised access to research articles and journal publication for government higher education institutions and research and development (R&D) laboratories of the central government. The central government has allocated ₹6,000 crore for ONOS until 2027. All higher education institutions under central or State governments and R&D institutions of central government can avail the benefits of the initiative through a national subscription.

## What is ONOS?

ONOS is a plan to consolidate researchers' subscriptions to prominent academic journals and other similar publications. Once in place, the ONOS initiative will provide access to journal articles to all individuals in India for one "centrally negotiated payment". The ONOS will replace individual institutional journal subscriptions.

## The Hindu-Economy(GSIII) –Page13

### Govt scraps windfall profit tax on domestic crude oil, export of fuels

Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary tabled a notification in Rajya Sabha scrapping the levy on crude oil produced by firms like state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

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PTI



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- The government scrapped 30-month old windfall profit tax on domestically-produced crude oil and on export of jet fuel (ATF), diesel and petrol following a decline in international oil prices.
- India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022 joining a growing number of nations that tax super normal profits of energy companies.
- Windfall taxes are designed to tax the profits a company derives from an external, sometimes unprecedented event— for instance, the energy price-rise as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- These are profits that cannot be attributed to something the firm actively did, like an investment strategy or an expansion of business. The United States Congressional Research Service (CRS) defines a windfall as an “unearned, unanticipated gain in income through no additional effort or expense”.

## The Hindu-Species(GSIII) –Page18

### Scientists gather to decode puzzle of world's rarest whale

The spade-toothed whale has never been seen alive at sea

Updated - December 02, 2024 04:47 pm IST

AP



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- a small group of scientists and cultural experts in New Zealand began studying a spade-toothed whale, one of the rarest and most enigmatic species in the world. Only seven spade-toothed whales have ever been spotted, and none has been seen alive.
- Spade-toothed whales are believed to live in the deep waters of the Southern Pacific Ocean and are known for their extreme diving abilities.

## Indian Express-Governance(GSII)-Page 2

### Centre to formulate stricter 'non-negotiable' norms on accessibility

**NIKHIL GHANEKAR**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

THE GOVERNMENT is formulating "non-negotiable" and a "minimum core" set of rules in compliance with the SC's orders on framing mandatory accessibility standards, officials of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) said Monday.

The new set of rules are being drafted in consultation with other ministries, rights bodies and stakeholders. This is being done to define what would be the minimum enforceable standards for a barrier-free environment in buildings and on digital portals.

As part of the stricter enforce-

ment, the government will include steps such as larger fines, penalties and non issuance of completion certificates to buildings for non-compliance with accessibility standards, officials said.

On Tuesday, the department is set to roll out around 16 initiatives, such as the standard Bharti Braille code draft to provide a unified Braille script in 13 Indian languages, on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The Centre is also set to roll out initiatives such as Sugamya Bharat Yatra. The yatra will see persons with disabilities travel across major cities and towns, and visit important public establishments to assess their accessibility and rate them accordingly, said DEPwD Secretary Rajesh Aggarwal.

- The government is formulating non-negotiable and minimum core accessibility rules in compliance with Supreme Court orders.
  - Consultation: Rules being drafted in consultation with other ministries, rights bodies, and stakeholders for a barrier-free environment in buildings and digital portals.
  - Enforcement: Stricter enforcement measures include larger fines, penalties, and withholding completion certificates for non-compliance.
- Initiatives: Launch of standard Bharti Braille code draft for a unified Braille script in 13 Indian languages.  
Sugamya Bharat Yatra, where persons with disabilities will travel across major cities and towns to assess and rate the accessibility of public establishments

Indian Express-Governance(GSII)-Page 9

## Manipur forms panel to review Inner Line Permit as 29 arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
IMPHAL, DECEMBER 2

THE MANIPUR government has constituted a state-level committee to review overall implementation of the Inner Line Permit System (ILPS) after 29 people were found with ILP permits not adhering to system guidelines.

The 29 people, all from Assam, were held at Mayang Imphal in Imphal West district during a raid conducted on Saturday.

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh said based on an input regarding some illegal immigrants, suspected to be from Bangladesh, a special police team conducted a raid.

"The 29 individuals, working in a bakery, had 'Labour' category ILP, which upon verification through Deputy Commissioner, Imphal West, were not found to have been issued in compliance with the Manipur ILP guidelines, 2019. As per preliminary findings, we have identified the officers who



Manipur CM N Biren Singh in Imphal, Monday. PTI

As per the extant guidelines, those individuals should have been considered under Regular ILP valid for 90 days, subject to sponsorship by any permanent resident of the state.

Singh said the 'labour' category ILPs were cancelled and the apprehended labourers were sent to their respective states.

He further said the Manipur Home Department has instructed the district administration and the Deputy Labour Commissioner to run a detailed inquiry into such lapses and initiate stern action against the

- The Manipur Government constituted a state-level committee to review the implementation of the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system after 29 people were found to have been issued ILP in violation of guidelines.
- The Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an **official travel document** required for Indian citizens from outside certain **protected states to enter these areas for a limited period.**
- Established under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations, 1873, initially to protect British commercial interests, the ILP now **aims to safeguard tribal cultures in northeastern India.**
- There are **various types of ILPs**, including those for tourism and long-term stays.

Tourist ILPs are typically issued routinely.

**The states which require the permit are:**

**Arunachal Pradesh**

**Mizoram**

**Nagaland**

**Manipur**

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## Indian Express-Governance(GSII)-Page 15

### Electronic monitoring of prisoners: arguments for and against

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

PRESIDENT DROUPADI Murmu last month released a report by the Supreme Court's Centre for Research and Planning, which suggested several measures to address the problem of overcrowding in India's prisons.

The report, *Prisons in India: Mapping Prison Manuals and Measures for Reformation and Decongestion*, has a section on "Electronic Tracking of Prisoners", which discusses the use of tracking technology as a condition for bail to reduce the number of undertrial prisoners who make up the vast majority of prisoners.

This July, the Supreme Court had held that bail conditions that allow the police to track the movement of an accused released on bail, violate the right to privacy.

However, the report — like the Law Commission of India and the Parliamentary

Standing Committee on Home Affairs — has said that tracking, with the right guardrails, would be beneficial.

#### The case for tracking

As of December 2022, India's prisons had an overall occupancy of 131.4%, with 5,73,220 inmates against a total capacity of 4,36,266, according to figures compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). More than three quarters of prisoners were undertrials, who had not been convicted of a crime.

According to the report, electronic monitoring "could prove to be a cost-effective method to decongest jails". It gives the example of Odisha, where the government spends about Rs 1 lakh annually on each undertrial, while a tracker "would cost around Rs 10,000 to 15,000".

A report submitted by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs last year noted that "through the use of ankle/bracelet

trackers, administrative machinery or human resources staff involved in keeping track of prisoners who are out on bail can be reduced". (*Prisons: Conditions, Infrastructure and Reforms*)

#### Lessons from the US

Several studies have argued that electronic monitoring is essentially incarceration by another name — "e-carceration".

In a report published in September 2022, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) noted that "EM (electronic monitoring) serves as an extension of the carceral crisis, expanding the punitive power of jails and prisons beyond their traditional physical walls as a system of 'e-carceration'".

The "overuse of government surveillance can create oppressive, criminalizing environments, especially for communities of color", the report, *Rethinking Electronic Monitoring: A Harm Reduction Guide*, said.

Electronic monitoring and restrictions on movement for persons on parole or in the pre-trial stage is common in the US. Like people of colour in the US, members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) are overrepresented in prison populations in India. The latest NCRB data show almost 70% of prisoners belong to these communities.

**EXPLAINED  
LAW**

The other question is of bearing the cost of electronic monitoring. The Supreme Court's report suggests it should be the government — in the US (which has been cited as an example in the report) though, the costs are often borne by the individual under monitoring. These include \$100-\$200 in setup charges and daily charges of up to \$35, according to the nonprofit Electronic Frontier Foundation.

The report also acknowledges the possibility of stigma associated with a visible monitoring device: "Some individuals may resist wearing [them] due to concerns about social stigma or a perception of invasive surveillance".

#### Question of privacy

On July 8, an SC Bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan struck down a bail condition imposed by the Delhi HC on two foreign nationals booked for offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 — that they must "drop a PIN on the google map to ensure that their location is available to the Investigation Officer...".

This, the top court held, would violate the fundamental right to privacy under Article 21. "The investigating agency cannot be permitted to continuously peep into the private life of the accused enlarged on bail," it said.

The Standing Committee Report of 2023 had noted that such measures must only be taken with the consent of the individual. "It must be ensured that to avoid any kind of human rights violation this scheme or method should be used on voluntary basis after procuring the consent of inmates," the report said.

Research by George Washington University on the impact of electronic monitoring on privacy in 44 US states reported that "people on court supervision (including those who are on monitors) are often subjected to invasions of their bodily autonomy through random drug testing, blood and DNA sampling, as well as invasions of their home through mandatory home visits...".

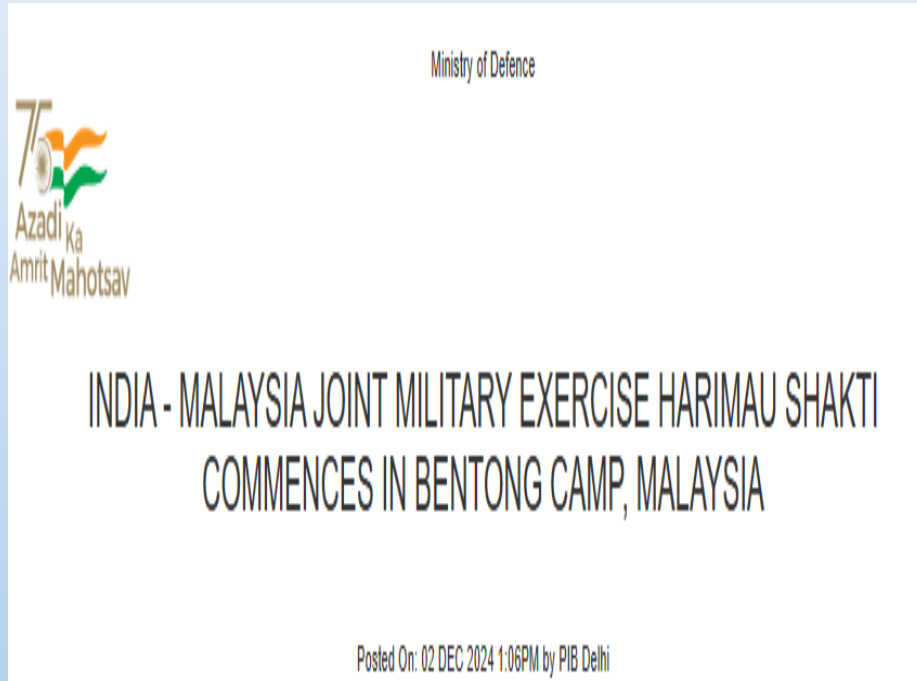
The 268th Report of the Law Commission of India, published three months before the SC verdict recognising the fundamental right to privacy, argued for electronic monitoring but acknowledged the possible "grave and significant impact on constitutional rights".

"Such monitoring must be used only in grave and heinous crimes, where the accused person has a prior conviction in similar offences," the report said.

- President Droupadi Murmu released a report titled "Prisons in India: Mapping Prison Manuals and Measures for Reformation and Decongestion", which highlights electronic tracking as a potential solution to address overcrowding in Indian prisons.
- The report, authored by the Supreme Court's Centre for Research and Planning, suggests that electronic monitoring (such as ankle or bracelet trackers) could be a cost-effective alternative to incarceration and help alleviate overcrowding, with prisons in India facing a 131.4% occupancy rate as of December 2022. Over 75% of prisoners are undertrials, and electronic tracking could reduce the need for large administrative staff to monitor such prisoners.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB-Defense(GSIII)



- The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of India- Malaysia Joint Military Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI commenced today, at Bentong camp, Pahang district, Malaysia. The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024.
- Indian contingent comprising of 78 personnel is being represented by a Battalion of MAHAR Regiment. The Malaysian contingent is being represented by 123 personnel from The Royal Malaysian Regiment. Joint Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI is an annual training event conducted alternatively in India and Malaysia. Last edition was conducted in Nov 2023 at Umroi Cantonment in Meghalaya, India.
- Aim of the Joint Exercise is to enhance joint military capability of both sides to undertake counter insurgency operations in jungle terrain under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate. The exercise will focus on operations in the jungle environment.



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## Air-Economy(GSIII)

Over 94 Lakh Candidates Trained Under PMKVY Since 2019-20: Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary



- Since the financial year 2019-20, around 94 lakh candidates have been trained under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) implemented by National Skill Development Corporation. The objective of this Skill Certification Scheme is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood. Individuals with prior learning experience or skills will also be assessed and certified under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## Air-Economy(GSIII)

### India Records 45% Surge In FDI To \$29.79 Billion In April-Sept



- The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has witnessed tremendous growth of 45 per cent to over 29 billion dollars in April to September this year as compared to the same period last year. According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the main sectors of the economy that benefited from the FDI include services, computer software and hardware, telecom, automobile, pharmaceuticals and chemicals.
- The FDI inflows lead to higher investments and job creation in the economy along with better technology. The FDI inflows for the second quarter from July to September also surged by 43 per cent to 13.6 billion dollars during the current financial year compared to the same quarter last financial year.