



VAIBHAV Scheme

Why in News?

The **Government of India** has introduced a new fellowship programme called [Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik \(VAIBHAV\)](#) to facilitate collaboration between the **Indian diaspora in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM)** and Indian academic and research institutions.

- VAIBHAV Summit was also organised as an event dedicated to **connecting the Indian STEMM diaspora with Indian institutions**.

What is the VAIBHAV Fellowship Scheme?

- **About:**
 - The **VAIBHAV Fellowship aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's Higher Educational and Scientific Institutions** by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world through mobility of faculty/researchers from overseas institutions to India.
 - It is **implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Ministry of Science and Technology.
- **Key Features of the VAIBHAV Fellowship Programme:**
 - **Knowledge Verticals:** The programme will focus on **18 identified knowledge verticals**, including quantum technology, health, pharmaceuticals, electronics, agriculture, energy, computer sciences, and material sciences, among others.
 - **Eligibility:** The fellowship is open to outstanding scientists and technologists of **Indian origin (Non-resident Indians (NRI)/ Persons of Indian Origin (PIO)/Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)** who are actively engaged in research activities in their respective countries.
 - **Collaboration Duration:** Selected fellows will have the opportunity to work in collaboration with **Indian Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs)**, universities, and public-funded scientific institutions.
 - They may spend up to two months per year, for a maximum of three years, at an Indian institution of their choice.
 - **Fellowship Grant:** VAIBHAV fellows will receive a monthly fellowship grant of INR 4,00,000, which will support their research activities during the collaboration period.
 - **Travel, Accommodation, and Contingencies:** The fellowship will cover international and domestic travel expenses, accommodation, and contingencies, ensuring a conducive research environment for the fellows.

What are the Other Government Initiatives involving Overseas Indian?

- **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)** is celebrated on 9th January every year to mark the contribution of the Overseas Indian community in the development of India.
- **Know India Program (KIP)** is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for diaspora engagement which familiarises Indian-origin youth (18-30 years) with their Indian roots and contemporary India.
- **VAJRA (Visiting Advanced Joint Research) Faculty Scheme of the Department of S&T** enables NRIs and overseas scientific communities to participate and contribute to research and

development in India.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q. 'Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries'. Comment with examples. **(2020)**

Source: PIB

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