



## VAIBHAV Fellowship

**For Prelims:** [Department of Science and Technology \(DST\)](#), [Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik scheme](#), [Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty \(Vajra\) scheme](#), [Non-Resident Indians \(NRI\)](#)

**For Mains:** Indian Diaspora Significance in India's technological advancements.

**Source:** TH

### Why in News?

The [Department of Science and Technology \(DST\)](#) recently unveiled the first cohort of **fellows under the Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) scheme, a strategic initiative aimed at fostering **short-term collaborations with Indian-origin scientists based abroad**.**

- Vaibhav scheme finds similarities with the [Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty \(Vajra\)](#) scheme initiated in 2018.

### What is VAIBHAV Scheme?

#### ▪ About:

- The Government has launched VAIBHAV fellowships programme in 2023 to connect the **Indian STEM** (Science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine) **diaspora with Indian academic and R&D institutions** for collaborative research work leading to sharing of knowledge, wisdom, and best practices in the frontier areas of science & technology.
- The VAIBHAV Fellow would identify an **Indian Institution for collaboration and may spend up to two months there in a year for a maximum of 3 years**.
  - The VAIBHAV fellows are expected to collaborate with their Indian counterparts and help initiate research activities in the host institution in the cutting-edge areas of Science and Technology.

#### ▪ Incentives Offered:

- Fellowship would include **fellowship grant (INR 4,00,000 per month)**, international and domestic travel, accommodation and contingencies.
- Host institutions receive research grants to support the collaboration.

#### ▪ Significance of Vaibhav Scheme:

- Strengthens **global collaboration in scientific research**.
- Fosters knowledge exchange and expertise infusion in Indian academic and research institutions.

#### ▪ Implementation:

- The VAIBHAV fellowships programme to be implemented by the **DST**, Ministry of Science and Technology, would be awarded to outstanding scientist/technologists of [Indian origin \[Non-resident Indians \(NRI\) / Persons of Indian Origin \(PIO\) / Overseas Citizen of India \(OCI\)\]](#) who are engaged in research activities in their respective countries.

## What is the Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty Scheme?

### ▪ About:

- **VAJRA (Visiting Advanced Joint Research) Faculty Scheme** is a dedicated program exclusively for overseas scientists and academicians with emphasis on **NRI** and **PIO/OCI** to work as adjunct / visiting faculty for a specific period of time in Indian Public funded academic and research institutions.
  - The Scheme recognizes the value of collaborative research as a crucial element for information sharing among researchers for updating and acquiring knowledge and skills, and also to draw different perspectives to solve a shared problem.
- The area of research undertaken by the Faculty should be of interest to India including **translation of science to practice**.
  - Faculty can also teach/mentor during the period of stay.
  - The Faculty will work for a **minimum of 1 month and a maximum of 3 months** a year in an institution in India.
    - The Indian host institution may engage him/her for a longer duration even after the completion of the assignment.
    - The part-time position for faculty will be **initially offered for 1 year and can be renewed every year**.

### ▪ Incentives Offered:

- The VAJRA Faculty will be provided an amount of USD 15000 in the first month of engagement in a year and USD 10000 per month in the other two months to cover their travel and honorarium.
  - While **no separate support is provided** for e.g. accommodation, medical/personal insurance etc., the host institute may consider providing additional support.
  - The payment to the faculty will be made in Indian Rupees.

### ▪ Implementation:

- VAJRA Faculty Scheme is implemented by the [Science and Engineering Research Board \(SERB\)](#).
  - The SERB is a **statutory body** of the Department of Science and Technology. It was established in 2008 through an Act of Parliament (**Science and Engineering Research Board Act, 2008**).
  - The SERB's objectives include promoting basic research in science and engineering, and providing financial assistance to researchers, academic institutions, and other agencies.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### **Mains:**

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