'Vaibhav' Fellowship Scheme

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The Department of Science and Technology announced the first batch of 'Vaibhav' fellows.

[Ref: DST]

About 'Vaibhav' Fellowship Scheme:

- Vaishvik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Fellowship, initiated by the Department of Science and Technology, is designed to attract **Indian-origin scientists** from overseas for short-term collaboration in India.

Key Details of the Fellowship:

- The first batch consists of **22 scientists**, primarily from institutes in **North America** and **Europe**, including prestigious universities like the **California Institute of Technology**, the **University of Oxford, and the University of Michigan**.
- Fellows will spend one to **two months annually**, for up to three years, at host Indian institutions such as the Indian Institute of Science, various Indian Institutes of Technology, and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.
- Each fellow will receive a **stipend of ?4 lakh per month**, accommodation, and their host institution will receive a research grant.
- Fellows are expected to initiate projects or technology startups, build long-term research connections, and introduce new ideas in their fields within Indian universities and research settings.

'Vaibhav' Fellowship Scheme vs Vajra Scheme:

- The 'Vaibhav' Fellowship shares similarities with the **Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty (Vajra) scheme of 2018**, also by the **DST**.
- While Vajra was open to all foreign scientists, 'Vaibhav' is **exclusive to the Indian diaspora**.