

NIDHI- PRAYAS Program as the scheme suggest is to help – young and aspiring innovators. The focus is to provide support/funding from idea to prototype.

Eligibility for Innovators for PRAYAS support

The PRAYAS program is focused to provide funding support to individual innovators. Innovators should use the PRAYAS grant, primarily to convert their ideas into prototype. The IP generated if any, should vest with the Innovator / Start up.

It cannot, however, be used for supporting: -

- Innovators / Start up who do not / will not own the Project know how/ IP
- Funding research / student internship in Academic institution or R& D organization
- Innovators / Team/ Start up who is already supported once under NIDHI PRAYAS
- Innovators who do not have the necessary NOC on IP, granting sufficient time to work on PRAYAS project from their respective organization / institution
- Innovator supported under NIDHI-EIR in parallel with NIDHI-PRAYAS
- Innovators who do not have a road-map / will towards commercialization

The eligibility criteria for the applicants for PRAYAS program are as follows :

Any individual applying for PRAYAS has to be an Indian Citizen with a government approved proof of nationality such as a valid passport, voter's id etc. The applicant should be in the age group of minimum of 18 years, as on date of application.

1. Individual Innovator OR Team of Innovators: -

The innovator should have the know how of the PRAYAS project. For team of innovators there has to be -

- a. an agreement among the team about the lead innovator who would apply, and the funds will be transferred to the lead innovator's account (after selection)
- b. IP generated would vest with the innovator / team and it would be further taken for commercialization

2. In case of Founders, Co -founders of Start up applying for PRAYAS:-

- a. At the time of application, the period of existence of a start up and its operations should not exceed 7 years from the Date of Incorporation,
- b. Wants to develop the prototype for a new product, for which they may have not received similar kind of support.
- c. Company should have annual turnover not exceeding Rs. 25 lakh for any of the financial year since its inception
- d. IP generated would vest with the start up

3. Innovators in employment OR Students with any R& D organization / Academic Institution:-

- a. It is mandatory that the innovators pursuing PRAYAS should have the Project know how and own the IP.
- b. The innovator has to seek the NOC from their organization / institution. The NOC should have the following
 - I. Permission to apply for PRAYAS and the innovator will be granted sufficient time to work on the PRAYAS project,
 - II. IP generated would vest with the innovator / team and it would be further taken for commercialization

Important Instructions to be followed for implementation of PRAYAS program

I. FAB LAB

Sr.No	Parameters	Important Points
1	Timeline to set up a fab lab (DST PRAYAS Shala)	The DST PRAYAS SHALA to be set up preferably within a year but not exceeding two years.
2	Space	<p>To provide 3000 sq.ft , which includes a dedicated Fabrication Lab to be termed as DST PRAYAS Shala and, common working space for innovators</p> <p>The Fabrication facility to be supported under PRAYAS will be called “DST PRAYAS SHALA”, which will be a centralized facility. This name “DST PRAYAS SHALA” should be prominently displayed. This facility will be free of cost for PRAYASEEs.</p>
3	Equipment	<p>Any variation in the list of equipment submitted with the proposal, in terms of amount / change of the equipment type, then the PC will seek approval from the sub-committee of PMU constituted for the purpose. The PC will procure those equipment only after the revised equipment list is approved.</p> <p>Even if there are no changes in the equipment list, the PC will share the final list of equipment to be procured with PMU (as per the format) for confirmation</p> <p>Amount sanctioned for infrastructure / refurbishing expenses can be used for the purpose of refurbishing of the space of Prayas Shala, buying the lab related furniture etc.</p> <p>For procuring the capital assets, it is required that a transparent procurement procedure in line with the Provisions of General Rules 2017 will be followed by the PC under the appropriate rules of the Institution/organization for the NIDHI-PRAYAS program</p>

II. Innovators:

Sr.No	Parameters	Important Points
1	Timeline to disburse the innovators grant	The timeline of disbursement by PC to all the innovators under a cycle must be completed within 30 months, from the date of disbursement of first tranche to the PC. Any funds which are not disbursed to PRAYASEEs within 30 months will be returned to PMU

2	PRAYAS outcome	<p>The outcome of the PRAYAS program will be analyzed based on the following parameters.</p> <p>60% of the innovators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Should have the working prototype within 18 months. ii. Progress towards IP filing, commercialization in form of licensing or Start up iii. Funding / Investment received iv. Expression of interest from manufacturers
3	Priority areas and Monitoring	<p>DST/PMC has priority areas for supporting innovations under the PC. The current focus areas are manufacturing, agriculture, health-care, clean-tech, energy, water and Internet of Things (IOT) and other technology areas.</p> <p>The projects relating to pure software / APP development and those involving pure academic research are not eligible.</p> <p>The innovator approved for PRAYAS grant will be registered with the incubator and can be termed as PRAYASEE. Preference may be given to those innovators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Who have bootstrapped or have got co-investment commitment. b. Who have clear road map for commercialization or start up creation. c. Women innovators d. Young innovators <p>The IP generated will be with the PRAYASEE.</p> <p>PC will put in place a proper mechanism for ensuring proper implementation and execution of PRAYAS program. This mechanism is through a Committee known as the Monitoring Committee (MC). This Committee consists of representatives of the STEP /TBI, technical experts and financial experts</p>
3	Eligibility	Refer the eligibility document attached
4	PRAYASEE funding	Maximum funding to be approved under PRAYAS per innovator should not exceed Rs. 10 lakh

Sr.No	Parameters	Important Points
5	PRAYASEE usage of funds	<p>Guidelines for Use of funds by the PRAYASEE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Outsourcing Charges for R&D/Design Engg./Consultancy/Testing/Expert cost b) Raw material/ Consumables/Spares c) Fabrication /Synthesis charges of working model or process d) Business Travel and Event participation Fees (Ceiling 10% of approved project cost) e) Patent filing Cost – (PCT- Ceiling 10% of approved project cost) f) Contingency - (Ceiling 10% of approved project cost) <p>It will not be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> g) To pay the grantee/relatives. h) To pay usage charges to the TBI. i) To repay loans/commitments made earlier. j) To pay rent of own accommodation, creation of infrastructure facility like shed etc should not form the component of support/funds. <p>The support/funds should be mainly for prototype development work/proof of concept.</p> <p>The PRAYASEE can buy small tools/equipment related to prototyping only provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The tool/equipment is not available in your PRAYAS SHALA (fab lab) 2. It should not be a capital asset, also computers, softwares, printers etc not permitted in it 3. the maximum limit should not exceed Rs. 10,000/- for any individual item and collectively it should not exceed 10% of the approved PRAYAS grant. <p>For PRAYAS project, if there is any amount exceeding Rs.10,000 /- the PRAYASEEs should make such payment through Cheque or any online payment mode only (no cash transactions). The PCs should ensure to have this clause in the agreement with the PRAYASEE.</p> <p>PCs may be permitted to charge up to maximum of Rs. 5000/month or 10 % of the approved project cost, whichever is less towards incubation support provided to PRAYASEEs. However the PRAYASEE cannot pay this amount from the approved PRAYAS grant.</p>

Sr.No	Parameters	Important Points
6	Prayasee Project Term	<p>The PRAYAS centre can release a maximum of upto 90% of funds to the PRAYASEEs the remaining 10% can be released later based on their performance OR on milestone basis</p> <p>The project term for the PRAYASEE can be for maximum of 18 months, at the end of 18 months the progress review shall be done by local PRAYAS monitoring committee at the PRAYAS centre and based on the decision of the PRAYAS monitoring committee the project term of PRAYASEE may be extended by 6 months.</p> <p>In case of project failure due to technical failure / business failure the PC local monitoring committee has the power to close the file.</p>
7	PRAYASEE information & documents to be captured	<p>The PRAYASEE should share all the team member details, along with their Aadhar card number.</p> <p>All relevant NOC to be given by the innovator on the following lines for eg :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. In case of team of innovators: an agreement among the team about the lead innovator who would apply, and the funds will be transferred to the lead innovator's account (after selection) b. Innovators in employment OR Students with any R& D organisation / Academic Institution: The innovator has to seek the NOC from their organisation / institution. The NOC should have the following <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Permission to apply for PRAYAS and the innovator will be granted sufficient time to work on the PRAYAS project, II. IP generated would vest with the innovator / team and it would be further taken for commercialization <p>a) The innovator/team will confirm that they are availing the NIDHI-PRAYAS support only from the respective PC and are not taking the PRAYAS support that may be approved for the same project by any other PC to which they may have applied. If it comes to PC's notice that the applicant/innovator and/or any of the team members have applied to any other centre for the same idea and have been approved support the matter will be escalated to higher authorities & may result in cancellation of the funding support.</p> <p>b) The innovator and team members are not eligible to avail funding support in parallel from both i.e NIDHI-PRAYAS and NIDHI - EIR schemes, either from this Centre or from any other PRAYAS /EIR centres.</p> <p>In case of Innovators in employment – I.T returns Any other documents to be taken from PRAYASEE as per the PC/TBI policy.</p>

Sr.No	Parameters	Important Points
8	Exception, Scenarios for PRAYASEEs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any Innovator / Start up founders can be supported only once under PRAYAS scheme irrespective of, same idea or different idea. For any exception, the same must be forwarded to SINE PMU for the approval 2. Any Innovator / Start up founders can avail PRAYAS grant in parallel to any other grant from a different scheme provided : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The idea proposed / approved under PRAYAS is a different idea than the one proposed/ approved under different scheme Eg : If any Innovator / Start up or its founders is approved BIG grant for idea "X" then they can avail PRAYAS grant for idea "Y" . b. If the project cost under PRAYAS proposal exceeds the approved amount, then applicant may be permitted to seek funding from any other scheme/ sources provided the milestones and scope of work defined under PRAYAS program are distinct. 3. For start up founders, who are approved PRAYAS grant , if any of the founders exit/leave the start-up, they may apply under the PRAYAS program, provided it is a different idea than that approved under the PRAYAS grant of their previous start-up and/or have not received any PRAYAS grant earlier for the said idea. 4. In case of team of innovators / start up founders working on PRAYAS project, if the lead innovator discontinues from project, then the project can be transferred to another member provided: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The NOC is obtained from the exiting lead innovator, b. The new lead innovator meets the eligibility guideline and is competent to take forward the PRAYAS project
9	PRAYASEE project completion	<p>PC to take following document at the end of PRAYAS project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original CA certified UC & SE for the entire amount utilized by the PRAYASEE • Original signed Project completion report

<u>Sr.No</u>	<u>Parameters</u>	<u>Important Points</u>
10	PRAYAS centres responsibilities for Implementation of PRAYAS program for innovators	<p>i. The PRAYAS centre shall announce the program locally.</p> <p>ii. All applicants for NIDHI-PRAYAS support grant will apply as per the application format of PRAYAS - Individual Innovator Application form (as per the format shared)</p> <p>iii. The selection of the NIDHI-PRAYAS support grantees shall be done by the PC through a Monitoring Committee and as per the eligibility criteria. (Please refer the above guidelines and annexure 1 of the agreement)</p> <p>iv. The relevant documentary proof of the innovator to be collected by the PC .</p> <p>v. The selected PRAYASEEs shall be informed by the PC, and should be given the sanction letter/Agreement which should constitute the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • details of the idea/project supported, • sanction details, duration of the project, • fund disbursement details • milestones, usage of funds and • the relevant terms and conditions of the PC <p>And the same has to be accepted and signed by the PRAYASEEs.</p> <p>vi. Quarterly review of the innovators to be done by the Monitoring Committee on regular basis. (format shared earlier)</p>
11	PRAYAS centres responsibilities	<p>i. Update the PMU portal on regular basis</p> <p>ii. Submission of UC & SEs every half yearly</p> <p>iii. Preparing Other reports as and When required</p> <p>iv. Tracking the progress of PRAYASEEs</p>