



Helping build urban houses faster, cheaper

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Tech innovation grant of Rs.2.5 lakh planned for 6,000 lighthouse units

- The Centre will offer about Rs.150 crore as a technology innovation grant to build 6,000 homes — cheaper, faster and better — using alternative technologies and materials under the Global Housing Technology Challenge.
- However, the challenge may not do much to actually speed the pace of construction under the urban section of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana or Housing for All, which has completed just over 10% of its target as the scheme reaches its halfway point.
- Another section of the challenge will identify potential future technologies which may not yet be market ready, and offer incubation facilities and accelerator support in collaboration with four of the IITs.

‘Mindset change’

- Once innovative technologies have been tested and proved, they will be included in the Central Public Works Department list, with an approved schedule of rates.
- However, they will still be optional for use, and there is no guarantee they will be adopted by private or government builders, or even used to construct PMAY homes.

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