

GADCHIROLI WILL BE A STEEL HUB SOON: FADNAVIS

**DC CORRESPONDENT
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Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday announced that Gadchiroli — once considered to be one of the state's most underdeveloped regions — is poised to transform into a major steel-producing hub. Speaking at the inauguration of several projects by Lloyds Metals and Energy Ltd (LMEL), he said the district is now witnessing a rapid



**Devendra
Fadnavis**

growth. Mr Fadnavis also laid foundation stone for the company's 4.5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) integrated steel plant at Konsari in the Naxal-affected district.

"Today, Gadchiroli ranks among the bottom two districts in Maharashtra in terms of per capita income. But in the next five years, it will be among the top 10," Mr Fadnavis declared. The CM, who also serves as the "guardian minister" for Gadchiroli, emphasised that the district — part of the Vidarbha region and historically a Naxal stronghold — is changing. "Naxalism is shrinking in Gadchiroli. Only a handful of Naxalites remain, and they can be counted on fingers," he said,