

Doing business in Maharashtra

State's chief minister says new acquisition model has helped smooth land deals for key projects

MAHARASHTRA chief minister Devendra Fadnavis is keen to keep his state ahead of the curve when it comes to doing business.

He said a “war room” approach of assembling relevant authorities at timely intervals for speedy and efficient decision-making is critical to the success of infrastructure projects.

He cited the Mumbai Metro, Trans Harbour Link and a super expressway as projects that had benefited from this administrative streamlining by his office.

Mr Fadnavis, who was in Singapore on a two-day visit, said this while addressing an audience of 200 at the ISAS-CII Lecture on Infrastructure-led Growth: Maharashtra – India’s Engine of Development, on Sept 28.

He was here as the 57th Lee Kuan Yew Exchange Fellow.

In his address he focused on three key areas, namely agriculture, ease of doing business and infrastructure development.

Mr Fadnavis explained that the adoption of a “consent land acquisition” model has helped in obtaining land in a smooth manner



Engaging session...Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis (left) and Ambassador Gopinath Pillai at the ISAS lecture. PHOTO: ISAS

for key projects.

Under this model, the Maharashtra government offers farmers remuneration worth several times the value of their land.

Mr Fadnavis’ address was followed by an active discussion with the audience.

The issues raised ranged from tackling waste and frequent flooding, slum redevelopment and conservation of heritage sites to aviation opportunities, port development and administrative reforms.

Chairing the session, Ambassador-at-Large Gopinath Pillai, chairman of the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) at the National University of Singapore, shared his 30-year experience of doing business in India.

“States like Maharashtra, in particular, are taking the lead in reforming business conditions and reducing costs for investors. If Maharashtra can hasten its efforts in this regard, and if other states in India can learn from these examples, then the investment conditions in India would vastly improve,” said Ambassador Pillai.