

A.P. is all set to become a water-surplus State: Naidu

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The Andhra Pradesh government has set an ambitious target of completing 62 major and minor irrigation projects before May next year, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said here on Monday.

"From the Vamsadhara project in north coastal Andhra to the Gandikota project in Kadapa district, this government has designed projects aimed at tapping every drop of water. Of the 62 irrigation projects, 17 have been completed and the rest will be completed by May-end," Mr. Naidu told a gathering of farmers.

He was laying the foundation stone for the first phase of the Godavari-Penna river-linking project here on Monday.

Five phases

The project was designed to be completed in five phases at a cost of ₹83,796 crore, with the first phase beginning with the diversion of Godavari waters at Harischandrapuram and construction of a lift irrigation scheme at Nakerikallu, 80 km from Vijayawada.

The first phase would cost ₹6,020 crore and require 3,500 acres of land, which was to be acquired from farmers.

"I have set a deadline of five months for the first phase and I want land acquisition completed within three months. Farmers should get inspired by the magnanimity shown by farmers in Amaravati, who parted with 35,000 acres to facilitate the construction of a greenfield city," Mr. Naidu said. The Godavari-Penna river-linking project would be completed within two years, he added.
