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# Check dam to revive Karamana ghats

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Thiruvananthapuram: The irrigation department is constructing a check dam across the Karamana River near the Dhobi Ghat. Besides reviving five ghats, the check dam and a biodiversity park are expected to turn the stretch near the NH bridge at Karamana into a picnic spot.

The dam is being constructed as part of the Karamana River scientific management project (KRSM), with the support of Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE).

The construction began after CSIR-NIIST conducted an environment impact study.

The Rs 65-lakh check dam "will prevent the back flow of saline water from Poonthura pozhi, besides checking polluted water from Parvathy Puthanaar from entering the river," Surajith S R, assistant engineer of the irrigation department said.

He added that the dam would also address the problem of pollution of water at the KWA's water supply project at Trikkannapuram.

Once commissioned, the check dam would transform the water body like a lake, and it, along with the biodiversity park being developed by KRSM, would give a fillip to the area's tourism potential.

"We have approached the tourism department to check the possibility of launching coracles or solar boats," Surajith said,

adding that his department had accorded administrative sanction for the reconstruction of a bund road on the other side of the river.

The Dhobi Ghat was recently revived under the project. Around 25 families, dependent on the ghat, were given restroom and other facilities as part of the project.