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# Check-dam across Silandhi a risk to water security: experts

Silandhi river is a tributary of Amaravathy river, a water source of Amaravathy dam. Kerala's dam construction 'will dwindle' the inflow to the river, affecting thousands of farmers

**The Hindu Bureau**  
COIMBATORE

**K**erala's move to construct a check-dam across the Silandhi river – one of the tributaries of the Amaravathy river that remains a water resource for the Amaravathy dam – poses a serious risk to water security, said experts in the region.

## In Tiruppur

The Amaravathy dam, with a water holding capacity of 4 tmcft, is located in Tiruppur district, 25 km from Udumalpet. Constructed

in 1958, it serves as a source of irrigation for 55,000 acre of farmland in Tiruppur and Karur districts.

Major tributaries of the Amaravathy river are Pambaru, Thenaru, Chinnaru and Silandhi. A decade ago, Kerala constructed a check-dam at Pambaru in Pattiseri in the Kandalur panchayat, and MDMK general secretary Vaiko had visited the Amaravathy dam and staged a demonstration. Now, in another set back to the dam, in Vattavada village panchayat under Deviku-

lam taluk in Idukki district, Kerala has started constructing a check-dam across the Silandhi in Peruguda.

If this is completed, inflow to the Amaravathy river will dwindle and thousands of farmers will face difficulties, Velu Sivakumar, VCK's Farmers' Wing State Deputy Secretary, said, flaying Kerala's stand that the check-dam was being built to address drinking water needs of the local population. If Kerala's plans become successful, not even a drop of water will reach the Amaravathy

dam, he added.

He further said that a demonstration would be held on May 27 at the Amaravathy basin Executive Engineer's office in Dharapuram against Kerala's move.

## Construction confirmed

When contacted, Public Works Department officials confirmed that the works to build the check-dam had begun, and that they were looking into whether this was being done in accordance with the final ruling of Cauvery Water Management Board.