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BENGALURU

Trees on Kanakapura Road have already been cut



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Tree officer used 'discretionary powers' to allow felling of 45 trees between Yelachenahalli and Thalaghattapura

Buckling under 'intense pressure' by BMRCL and the State government, the BBMP has allowed contractors to cut 45 trees on Kanakapura Road.

More than 30 trees on this stretch have been cut in the past month. | Photo Credit: [Bhagya Prakash K](#)

Initially, nearly 190 trees were to be felled on the road for extending the Metro line by 6.52km from Yelachenahalli to Anjanapura. After

public objection, a 12-member tree committee had been formed to look into a matter, but even after a year, a decision is yet to be made.

However, BBMP forest cell officials said, pressure mounted to grant permission as the delay saw the highly-anticipated metro project nearly stalling. Without the knowledge of the tree committee, the tree officer used 'discretionary powers' to allow the felling of 45 trees between Yelachenahalli and Thalaghattapura. More than 30 trees on this stretch have been cut in the past month.

"We have sent strong protest letters over this decision. The BBMP cannot blame us for the delay. Our recommendations on geo-tagging, rectifying erroneous data or proper afforestation have not been implemented. The committee is not being taken seriously. There is no sincerity from the BBMP," said T.V. Ramachandra, researcher, Indian Institute of Science and member of the tree committee.