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'Save sparrow campaign' protests cutting of old trees

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Kanpur: Though Kanpur city has a very low green cover (1.8 percent), despite that the forest department and other departments had issued orders to cut down old trees in the name of development. The activists of the 'Save sparrow campaign' lodged a protest in a unique way. They stood at the entry point of Kanpur collectorate with a placard to draw the attention of the district officials to take cognizance in this matter. They alleged that just to protect an illegal locality near the JK Temple canal, the PWD officials cut a 100-year-old banyan tree on the ground that it was causing a hurdle in construction of the road. As per the PWD officials, around 90 trees had been cut but the investigation revealed that there were around 600 trees, the activists further alleged.

They claimed that PWD was not only covering a live canal but also cutting trees standing on the bank of the canal just to make a road. According to a survey conducted by the Forest Survey of India and the forest report-2019, it was recorded in the report that in 2017, the city had just 2.09 percent green cover. It means within two years the city could not witness even 0.1 percent increase in its green cover.