



Citizens For Green Doon

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Press Statement **19th April 2010**

Citizens For Green Doon expresses its anguish at the tragic death of Shruti Lodhi on Sunday due to a tree branch falling on her. It is difficult to describe in words the ordeal and the loss suffered by the family. Prayers of our members and the citizens of Dehradun are with the family.

A number of reports appearing in the press have distorted and grossly misrepresented the stand of Citizens For Green Doon as regards tree felling. For the sake of records, we wish to clarify our stand once again.

We are only opposed to felling of healthy green trees under the guise of “development”. We have urged the authorities to transplant these trees and not fell them. All our protests so far have been against felling of healthy green trees only.

We are NOT opposed to felling of dead trees or trees which pose a threat to humans or habitation. CFGD has never protested against felling of dead or dangerous trees. We also do not oppose to felling of trees (if they cannot be transplanted) for genuine developmental needs.

CFGD is not opposed to lopping of trees or cutting branches which are dangerous. The electricity department has been doing lopping of trees on a continuous basis in Dehradun and we have never opposed it.

We have not filed any PIL in High Court for a ban on felling of trees. The PIL has been filed by Citizens Action Group for a ban on felling of healthy green trees ONLY and does NOT cover dead trees or trees which are dangerous.

On numerous occasions we have found healthy green trees being cut, after being labelled as “dead” or “infected with termites”. We have photographic proof of such trees. We are opposed to felling of healthy green trees under the label of dead or dying trees.

Time and again, we have brought to the attention of relevant authorities activities which harm a tree and make it liable to fall. These include burning of fallen leaves and garbage near a tree by Municipal cleaning staff & nailing advertisements into the branches of a tree by advertisement agencies. These make a tree weak and damage it.

We urge everyone not to misrepresent the views of CFGD.

Dr Nitin Pandey
For,
Citizens For Green Doon