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Couple pays with life for love

HT Correspondent
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A newly-married couple was lynched in broad daylight in Patna City on Friday. They had to pay with their lives for daring to fall in love and eloping, which the girl's family was not ready to accept.

The couple — Shailendra Mishra and Pushpanjali alias Juli — had returned on Thursday after getting married in Hajipur court against their families' wishes. The girl's father, Umesh Mishra, an astrologer, visited Shailendra's house at Machharhatta on Friday morning and asked him to accompany him.

An unsuspecting Shailendra stepped out of his house with his father in-law and was surrounded by Umesh's accomplices armed with lethal weapons. They held him captive and escorted him to the girl's house at Keshav Rai Ki Gali nearby.

What followed was macabre. Shailendra was assaulted by Umesh and his henchmen with sharp weapons and pelted with stones till he succumbed to his injuries. A distraught Julie rushed to her husband's rescue, but her world crashed when she found that her family had already killed Shailendra.

Juli asked her father to kill her too as life without Shailendra seemed "worthless". An enraged Umesh retorted, "Tum bhi maro (you also die)." The girl was meted out the same treatment as Shailendra. The entire drama ended in 10 minutes. As Juli crumpled within five metres from her husband, the "killers" fled. But the police arrived on time and managed to arrest them. A case has been lodged against the assailants.

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