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May 23, 2003

Traumatised by wife's threat of lodging a false police complaint for dowry harassment, 27-year-old school teacher committed suicide by strangulating himself on May 19. His parents and sister also attempted to kill themselves by consuming a pesticide on the same day.

The police say Janmojay Mhatre, resident of Uran, married Rajshri Patil a year back. There had been frequent quarrels between the two. Rajshri left the Mhatre household and began staying with her parents.

Janmojay had been trying to reconcile with her several times. However, Rajshri threatened to lodge a complaint against him and her in-laws of dowry harassment and since then the Mhatre household had been under stress.

On May 20, while Janmojay committed suicide by strangulating himself in his house, his shocked parents and 22-year-old sister Kalpana attempted to end their lives too by consuming Baygon Spray.

Before attempting mass suicide, the Mhatre family had scribbled on the walls of their house that Rajshri and her threats should be held responsible for their death. A letter with similar text was also found in Janmojay's pocket.

While Janmojay's parents are battling for life at Vashi's NMMC FRU Hospital, his sister Kalpana has been shifted to Indira Gandhi Memorial Rural Hospital. The Uran police are investigating the case.

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