

IIT graduate was to marry next week

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MUMBAI: She was all set to tie the knot next week. Now her world has fallen apart. Khushboo Jha's fiancee, Malayesh Banerjee, was shot dead in the firing in Colaba on Wednesday.

An IIT-Kharagpur graduate in architecture, 27-year-old Malayesh worked with a Mumbai-based firm; his fiancee was in Delhi. The two were to marry on December 6 after a 7-year courtship. On Wednesday night, Khushboo's world came crashing down when she received a phone call from a friend informing her of Malayesh's death.

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Malayesh along with two of his colleagues had gone to Cafe Leopold's in Colaba causeway for dinner, when firing broke out on the street outside. What happened after that is not clear. All Malayesh's friends know is that at the end of it they lost a dear friend.

"I got a call at 2 am informing me of the tragedy. I couldn't believe it," said Saket Kumar, who had known Malayesh for a decade. Saket and Malayesh had met in Ranchi, where Malayesh's father is a professor.

"Malayesh and Khushboo were to wed in Ranchi. In fact we were all very excited about attending their wedding," said a visibly shaken Saket. With his voice breaking and a hint of tears in his eyes, Saket said the two had been engaged for a little over six months.

Since Malayesh's parents are in Ranchi, his friends in Mumbai took the responsibility of informing them and identifying his body at the St George's hospital. They plan to take Malayesh's body to Ranchi to his parents on Thursday morning, said Saket.

Malayesh's cousin, Madhuri Kumar, who incidentally works with TOI, Patna said, "He was my uncle's only son. I brought him up when we were together in Ranchi. In fact, I also had the responsibility of organising his wedding. I don't know what to do."

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