Case Study: The Honour Killing of Balram & Drishti (Baraut, Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh)

A) Case Background and Family Structure

The case took place in Baraut, Baghpat (Uttar Pradesh) under the jurisdiction of Badot Police Station, registered as FIR No. 0140 U/S 103(1) dated 09.03.2025. A field visit was conducted by Asif and Chanchal on 28.08.2025. The victims were Balram, approximately 17.5 years old and belonging to the Nai caste, and Drishti from the Jaat community, indicating an inter-caste dynamic often associated with honour-based crimes. Balram's family comprises members of the Nai caste, with Balram being the younger son and his elder brother serving in the Indian Army; during the visit, the mother, daughter-in-law, grandson, devrani, saas, and jeth were present. Drishti's family, belonging to the Jaat caste, includes the accused individuals named in the FIR and family accounts: her father Pushpendra, mother Suman, brother Shakti, tau Mannu, and cousin Vineet, with some accused currently in jail while others surrendered collectively.

b) Incident Summary

Balram and Drishti reportedly became acquainted through Drishti's brother Shakti, with whom Balram often trained for police physical tests. On 09 March 2025, Shakti visited Balram's home and took him along while only the grandmother was present. When Balram did not return by 11 p.m., his family began searching for him, but later that night they were informed that both Balram and Drishti had been killed, allegedly by the girl's family. According to the FIR and media reports, the suspected motive behind the murders is honour killing linked to an inter-caste relationship, and several accused family members reportedly surrendered after the incident.

c) Analysis of the Case (Key Points)

- The incident reflects common patterns of honour-based violence, including an inter-caste relationship between a Nai boy and a Jaat girl.
- Multiple family members' involvement indicates planned, family-arranged violence driven by perceived threats to family honour.
- The girl's family held higher caste status and social dominance, influencing the power dynamics in the case.
- Patriarchal norms likely contributed to controlling the girl's choices and justifying violence as a means to restore honour.
- There is a clear discrepancy between Balram's family's denial of any relationship and the versions reported by media.
- The collective surrender of the accused raises concerns of a possibly coordinated attempt to manage the narrative.
- Delay in filing the chargesheet has hindered timely progress in legal proceedings.

d) Conclusion

An important limitation in this case is that Balram's family categorically denied the existence of any relationship between Balram and Drishti. Since the family did not acknowledge the relationship — a crucial factor in identifying and pursuing honour-based crime interventions — we were unable to take the case forward or initiate any further support processes. Their denial restricted the scope of additional documentation, verification, and engagement.