

Dighori horror: Accused's mobile, laptop to be cloned

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Nagpur: Seized mobile phones and laptop of the Thane youth accused of rape and torture of the Class 12 girl will be cloned to extract crucial digital evidence, said police.

The survivor was taken to court on Thursday for recording her statement before the magistrate. Investigators now want a complete forensic clone of his mobile handset and laptop to recover deleted chats, images, videos, call records, and browsing history that may throw light on the full extent of the crime and other potential victims.

The digital trail is likely to also reveal how the accused groomed the survivor and the planning and execution of the crime. The case has been accorded top priority by Regional Forensic

TRACKING DIGITAL TRAIL



➤ Seized devices to undergo forensic cloning

➤ Deleted chats, videos, and images sought

➤ Police investigating alleged grooming and planning

➤ Investigators probing possible other victims

➤ Financial transactions and blackmail being examined

Science Laboratory, led by director Dr Vijay Thakare and deputy director Ashwin Gedam.

The accused is currently lodged in the 'adaan cell' barrack of Nagpur Central Jail and is under round-the-clock vigil. The youth is accused of keeping the 16-year-old daughter of a senior govt official hostage for nearly 20 hours at a rented flat in Dighori. During this period, he allegedly subjected the minor to repeated rape and sexual perversions.

Officers are keen to establish the nature of his relationship with the girl, and any pattern of similar contacts with other girls and to check the possibility of blackmail, demands for money, or other forms of exploitation. After cloning the recovered data will be analysed to strengthen evidence against the accused under BNS sections and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

Police have recorded statement of witnesses.