

Maharashtra cop named in sex racket sent on leave

A senior police officer named by a teenager victim of an alleged large-scale sex racket in Maharashtra was Wednesday asked to proceed on leave with immediate effect.

The racket's victim, an 18-year-old girl, in her affidavit Monday accused district Superintendent of Police Deepak Pandey of sexually exploiting her.

Pandey has been asked to proceed on leave with immediate effect and Additional Superintendent of Police Pravin Padvad has taken his charge, official sources said.

Besides Pandey, the girl has also named other government officers as her exploiters.

A high-level team of state Crime Investigation Department (CID) arrived here from Pune to probe the sex scam allegedly involving top government officers.

The police Tuesday arrested Niku Takvat, the main accused of the scam, who would remain in police custody till Feb 17. Nitu has admitted that she knew Pandey and others named by the teenaged girl.

In the affidavit, a copy of which was sent to local Marathi daily Deshonnati, the teenaged girl said Takvat allegedly ran the sex racket. After trapping her into it, the alleged kingpin forced her to entertain many highly placed officers in the police and other government departments besides other influential people.

The girl stated in her affidavit that many girls like her are being exploited in the racket.

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