



U.S. Consulate General Chennai

PRESS RELEASE

220 Anna Salai, Gemini Circle, Chennai 600006

Phone: +914428574181; <https://in.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/chennai/>;

facebook.com/chennai.usconsulate; twitter.com/USAndChennai; Youtube.com/user/AmConGenChennai

December 12, 2018

Protect Yourself from Scams Targeting Car Buyers

CHENNAI: The U.S. Consulate General Chennai would like to inform the public of a fraud involving online advertisements falsely claiming to offer for sale vehicles belonging to U.S. diplomats. We have learned of five cases in the past four months in which victims have made payments of up to 30,000 rupees to view an advertised vehicle, only later to learn that the vehicle did not exist. We have shared this information with local law enforcement.

The U.S. Consulate General does not sell vehicles online. If you would like to confirm that a U.S. Consulate employee is selling an advertised vehicle, please contact the Consulate.

How can you protect yourself?

- Always meet the seller and inspect the vehicle in person before sending a down payment.
- Beware of “alternative payment methods” like wiring deposits or paying with gift cards.
- If you have been the victim of a crime, please contact your local police department.
