

# CONCEALED

**A barely-used 2008 model luxury sedan for Rs 2.8 lakh! The ad on a popular website piqued us enough to expose the con**



DEBI PRASAD SARANGI

An almost-new Toyota Corolla, 2008 model, for just Rs 2.8 lakh! When we saw this ad on a popular website, we immediately smelt, er, a flat. Anyways, we decided to pursue the matter.

Posing as a buyer, we emailed

Desmond Kumar, who was named in the ad, for further details. He replied soon enough. Desmond confirmed that the car indeed cost only Rs 2.8 lakh but said that it had to be shipped from London. He clarified that we had to pay Rs 80,000 upfront as shipping charges and the rest once we had the car registered in our name. He mailed us saying it would

take just two weeks for the car to be brought to Bangalore and that he had a good contact with the British High Commission in Delhi who would expedite the process.

#### PLAYING ALONG

Now, that bit about the high commission really got us going. Something bigger here than we thought?

So we mailed Desmond again asking him about the exact condition of the car's engine, whether we should pay in cash or cheque etc and then smuggled in a request for details of the contact person. Usually, this is as far as con jobs go. But this con-man was either plain desperate or he was game enough to risk our calling his bluff. **TURN TO PAGE 4**

## ವಿಜಯnext

The Times Group's latest offering in Kannada, 'Vijaya Next' is launched today.

Vijaya Next aims at meeting a long felt need for a wholesome product for the entire family. It will present to Kannadigas issues and stories that are enriching and enjoyable.

Vijaya Next makes for an indulging read. It is insightful yet youthful and has content mix that focuses on culture, fashion, lifestyle, entertainment and sports apart from current topical issues. Enjoy reading.

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## BOLLYWOOD

### A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME



Even as Priyanka Chopra trains in a special gym set up in Coorg for *Khatron Ke Khiladi*, the channel is preparing to bowl a googly when she returns