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Arms trader 'nets' cars worth Rs 6 cr

OUR CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI | 23rd Sep 2012



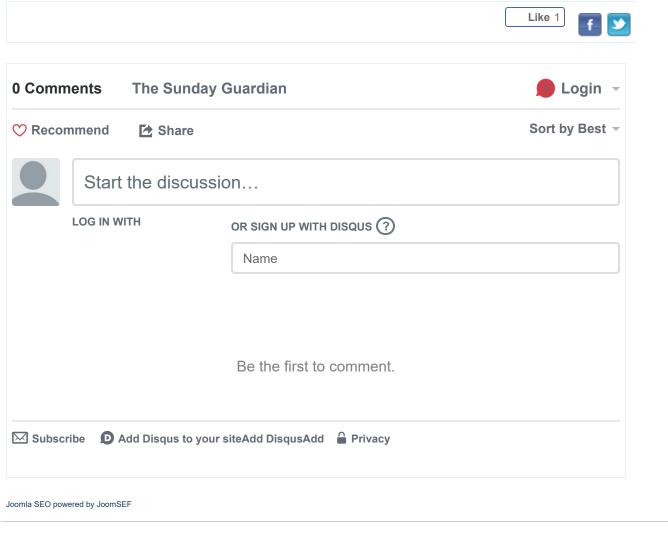
he list of people allegedly conned by serial scamster and arms trader Abhishek Verma and his Romanian wife Anca Neacsu is getting longer by the day. BMW Financials India, the financing and leasing arm of the German luxury carmaker, and LeasePlan, another Gurgaon-based car leasing company find themselves duped of five cars with a combined value of close to Rs 6 cr.

The five cars that include two Range Rovers, a Jaguar and two BMWs, were leased by Sig Sauer India, the subsidiary of an American small arms firm for Anca Neacsu's personal use. Neacsu is a director of the company. The two leasing companies have so far received monthly rentals for just the months of June and July. The cheques issued by Sig Sauer for subsequent payments were dishonoured. They have been unable to recover the cars so far.

The worried leasing companies have written to the other directors of the company and Sig Sauer's HQ in the United States threatening legal action. Vikki Chaudhry, one of the directors on the board, and a former friend and business associate of Abhishek Verma claims that Neacsu purchased these cars without the consent of other directors or the parent company. "She forged a board resolution okaying the purchase with the signatures of all directors," he says. Vikki Chaudhry points out several oddities in the luxury car transactions. The board resolution on the basis of which the cars were leased was dated 25 May 2012, but the cars were delivered two days before. "The cars were given on a zero down payment basis, which is very strange," he says. A LeasePlan official said that the company wanted to recover the cars but did not know who to seize them from. "We are trying to get

in touch with several directors of the company, but nobody is traceable. We have written to Sig Sauer's HQ too. We are exploring legal options," he says.

Anca Neacsu, as part of the leasing agreement had supplied Sig Sauer India's financial statements. LeasePlan now suspects that too could be forged. The Verma couple is currently in jail and under CBI investigation for alleged cases of money laundering and bribing Ministry of Defence officials to get a European arms company off the procurement blacklist.



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