



SITTING HIGH, RIDING HIGHER



In the world full of automobiles, there are cars, and then there are cult cars. And for many of us, a rugged Mahindra vehicle has always been that thing of aspiration. It is a cult marquee really if you roam the cities of India and its hinterland and see the reach and purpose its vehicles are put to. From its humble beginnings, Mahindra & Mahindra has now climbed to the top of the Indian automotive industry. And that has been achieved by a single-minded approach on building cars with its occupants in focus. The Xylo, not surprisingly, has emerged out of that thought process. It was the company's first clear departure from the quintessential cult SUV vehicles but one that got the same customer-oriented treatment, which has resulted in a car that is not only packed with features and equipment but one that will also give the time of the life to its driver and occupants.

ENGINE & POWERTRAIN

The very obvious way to start judging a new car is what beats under the hood and the Xylo comes with a rather large and powerful heart to begin with. At the core of its technological prowess is the 2498cc mEagle CRDe engine. The powerhouse brings with it a total of 112bhp, all of which arrive in a thundering stampede at as low an rpm as 3800. And if that is not enough, there's a 260Nm torque whip to make sure the car can, if need be, shoot like a canon ball if you put pedal-to-the-metal. All power is nothing without a good gearbox to complement the engine and the Xylo comes with an ultra-flexible five-speed manual transmission. The decades of automotive manufacturing expertise has been put to good use here. The well-placed gear ratios and the tremendous torque, which starts peaking at just 1800rpm and stays through, make sure the driver has to deal with lesser gear changes in the city as well as get a great mileage figure every time you return from a long-distance trip.

ON THE ROAD

The Xylo has to be one of the most comfort-oriented cars on Indian roads today. The independent coil spring at the front and multi-link coil spring at the rear work brilliantly in tandem making sure you get a soothing ride, no matter the speed. The car comes with that inherent Mahindra gene of smothering potholes and craters and the Xylo even makes it look easy. You will be hard-pressed to know the real state of the ground below you. Ample and uninterrupted

flow of power to the wheels, thanks to complex bits on the engine like dual pilot injection, enhances the overall drivability experience too.

COMFORT

The Xylo boasts of generous dimensions, which means space isn't at a premium. Passenger comfort has been one of the driving forces behind designing the interiors of its car. So you get the flexibility of choosing the number of seats that can be fitted in and also the layout. This means you have the option of either making it a seven-seater with two captain seats for the middle row or an eight-seater with a plush three-seater in the middle. The seats have been cleverly designed and placed to give unprecedented amount of legroom. While there are a few competitors who also boast of as much seats, you have to experience the third row to appreciate the real-world comfort that the Xylo offers for all its passengers, and not just to those at the front. If all the seats are not occupied, the flexible seating means you can even have a flat bed seat arrangement just so that you can stretch your legs for Business Class comfort-levels on long journeys. A powerful air-conditioner, with vents for every row makes sure you stay immune from the harsh outdoors. And then there is that array of cubbyholes, storage spaces and even snack trays to make your journey comfortable when not resting.

INTERIORS

Most people see a car's interiors the same way they look at the insides of their homes, and Mahindra appreciates that. Which is why the Xylo's interiors are so well-appointed with quality material which are pleasing to the eyes as well as to touch and feel. While the passengers enjoy their ride, the driver's life is made comfortable with power steering and subtle touches like one-touch power window switch so that he/she can concentrate more on the drive. A rather neat touch is the centrally-located multi-information display system on the top of the dashboard which helps monitor the vehicle's performance and give out relevant information such as the distance before the Xylo would need to be re-fueled. Below that are the well-crafted AC vents, which in turn are sitting on a modern in-dash 2-DIN audio system that supports all kinds of music formats. The foldable snack tray at the back of the front seat, as in passenger airlines, underseat storage, mobile charging points, individual reading lights, the feature list is near

endless for a car this price and proves what incredible value a Xylo can offer.

THE LOOK

Not many MUVs around the world will highlight this but the Xylo pays special attention to the growing expectation of the Indian car buyers when it comes to the way it looks. The devil is in the detail and Mahindra knows that which is why it has added deft touches like the M&M logo on the front grille and snugly-fit clear lens headlamps, which also give the car a distinctive look as it approaches you. View it in profile and you will notice the clean flowing lines and bold, rounded edges which make sure it stands out in a crowd. The large doors and mega door mirrors gel well with the design while aiding functionality.

SAFETY

In the modern world of automobiles, passenger safety is of paramount importance. Mahindra & Mahindra, in its quest to make the Xylo world ready, has equipped it with a whole gamut of latest technologies which help ensure you and your loved ones travel in complete peace of mind. The Xylo boasts of an option of ABS for more effective steering control while sudden and harsh braking. SRS airbags that are crucial for front passenger safety in an unfortunate event of an impact, headrests for every row to reduce head whiplash injury, seat belts and crumple zones to reduce the intensity of any impact that will be felt by its occupants. Tyres with a wide footprint that give you added grip without hampering fuel economy, rear windshield wipers and fog lamps for clear visibility are some of the other safety elements in the Xylo package. The engine immobilizer keeps it safe from thieves thus giving you complete peace of mind

BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

The area where Xylo scores the maximum brownie points is in its value-for-money quotient. Features such as airbags, individual AC vents, drive assist, park assist and alloy wheels, are there for eight people to enjoy! All of that at the cost of a luxury five-seater hatchback and something that even the Xylo's best of rivals will have trouble offering for that price. (See chart)

	XYLO E4	INNOVA GX
Ex-showroom price:	8.98 lacs	11.93 lacs

Prices as on August 1, 2010 in Mumbai. Source—based on market information.

