

Auto Bild

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AN INDIA

Hyundai's new 'i'

1st COMPARISON



i20 takes on the Fabia & the Swift

TOP STORY

Citroen homologates C4 & C6 for India

EXCLUSIVE



1st



Rs 7.69 lakh

DRIVEN

Mahindra Xylo

Toyota Innova challenger impresses



1st COMPARISON

ML320 Cdi vs X5 3.0d

Mercedes' premium SUV takes on the BMW's luxury behemoth

DRIVEN



Mercedes C230



1st

Clash of super Audis

A4 DTM vs R10 Tdi

AUTO BILD ADVISOR

Sat nav systems explained
How to get the best out of your sat nav

Seven music systems under Rs 10,000



A very special Lancia Stratos



The new year is well underway and the automobile industry is still coming to grips with the changed market conditions. Already many companies have delayed expansion plans while others have put the manufacture of additional capacities on hold. Most of them have scaled down from the three shifts that they were getting used while some others have even scaled down on the number of working days with one even working just three days a week to get rid of piled up inventory. What this translates into for the buyer is the continuation of great deals and a lot of bargaining power. We continue to bring you some of the great deals available in the marketplace. This along with all the other loaded pages of the ADVISOR section which help you with the ownership experience of the car.

However, the centerpiece of this issue is the M&M Xylo. As expected the company has put all its learnings in the car business (mind you, the car business) into it, combining some great features with snazzy interiors and what I expect to be a good price - which will be announced by the time you are reading this magazine. Will it match up with the Innova - unlikely! Will it be a better buy than the Innova - most likely! But for now we are again the first magazine to bring you a detailed report on another new car. The story of the Hyundai i20 is much the same. It might not match up to the Skoda Fabia in terms of vehicle dynamics or comfort but by clever packaging and higher equipment levels is able to come out on top of the Czech car.

We are also the first to bring you a comparison drive of the new BMW 7 Series with the Mercedes S-class in the battle of the top-most luxury cars in our country. And in keeping with our reputation of breaking more stories than anyone else, our top story is another exclusive - that about Citroen's foray into India. And this time around, the cars we are talking about are already in India, undergoing homologation at ARAI - a process that can at times take a lot of time. So you will have to be a little patient before you will get to see these French cars on the road in India. Safe driving till

I see you next, this time with a bumper AUTO BILD issue in fourteen days time!

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Jazz in June

THE Honda Jazz perhaps is one of the most awaited cars of 2009. But here's some bad news. Honda has postponed its launch to June this year. However, one of the strong reasons behind it is that the company expects more sops for small cars in this year's budget and so it will help price the Jazz competitively. As we had reported previously, the Jazz will get a 1.2-litre petrol motor and an optional automatic too.



Here's the kmpl

THE Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers had announced a voluntary labelling programme for all member companies at its Annual Convention last year to disclose fuel efficiency of their models by end of March 2009. Prior to this Maruti has taken a bold step and disclosed the same. The figures are certified by three government approved test agencies - Automotive Research Association of India, Pune; Vehicles Research and Development Establishment, Ahmednagar and International Centre of Automotive Technology, Manesar. But the figures can still

be called rather optimistic considering these are under standard test conditions.

| Model | Certified kmpl |
|--------------|----------------|
| M800 | 16.1 |
| Omni | 16.9 |
| Versa | 12.7 |
| Alto | 18.1 |
| Zen Estilo | 17.3 |
| Wagon R | 17.0 |
| A Star | 19.6 |
| Swift Diesel | 21.0 |
| Swift Petrol | 15.9 |
| Dzire Petrol | 15.9 |
| Dzire Diesel | 21.0 |
| SX4 | 15.0 |
| Gypsy | 11.2 |
| Grand Vitara | 11.2 |



CARS TO WAIT FOR

| WHAT | WHEN |
|------------------------|------------|
| ▶ Audi A6 (new) | late 2010 |
| ▶ Audi A6 (facelift) | early 2009 |
| ▶ Audi Q5 | early 2009 |
| ▶ BMW X6 | early 2009 |
| ▶ BMW 7 Series | Jan 2009 |
| ▶ Chevrolet Beat | late 2009 |
| ▶ Chevrolet Aveo sedan | 2010 |
| ▶ Chevrolet Cruze | 2009 |
| ▶ Renault Sandero | 2009 |
| ▶ Ford Fiesta hatch | 2010 |
| ▶ Fiat Bravo | 2009 |
| ▶ Fiat Linea | Jan 2009 |
| ▶ Fiat Grande Punto | 2009 |

▶ Honda Jazz

June 2009



▶ Hyundai Santa Fe early 2009

▶ Mahindra Xylo

Here this month



| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| ▶ Mercedes E-Class | late 2009 |
| ▶ Mitsubishi Lancer | 2009 |
| ▶ Nissan Micra | 2010 |
| ▶ Nissan Teana | 2009 |
| ▶ Nissan X-Trail | 2009 |
| ▶ Nissan Qashqai | 2009 |
| ▶ Nissan Murano | 2009 |
| ▶ Proton Savvy | 2010 |
| ▶ Proton Gen-2 | 2010 |
| ▶ Porsche Panamera | late 2009 |
| ▶ Suzuki Splash | 2009 |
| ▶ Suzuki Kizashi | 2010 |
| ▶ Skoda Fabia Sport | 2009 |
| ▶ Skoda Fabia Combi | 2009 |
| ▶ Skoda Octavia | late 2009 |
| ▶ Skoda Yeti | late 2009 |

▶ Skoda Superb

Feb 2009



| | |
|----------------|------------|
| ▶ Tata XOver | 2009 |
| ▶ Tata Nano | Feb 2009 |
| ▶ Tata Indigo | 2009 |
| ▶ Toyota Prius | late 2009 |
| ▶ Volvo XC60 | early 2009 |
| ▶ VW Up! | 2010 |
| ▶ VW Polo | late 2009 |
| ▶ VW Passat CC | mid 2009 |
| ▶ VW Golf | 2009 |
| ▶ VW Beetle | mid 2009 |
| ▶ VW Tiguan | 2009 |

Yeti details emerge

A few months back, we revealed Skoda's grand plans for India. We had informed you then about the Yeti, a compact SUV marginally longer than the Fabia, heading to India. A choice of front-wheel-

drive and four-wheel-drive models will be available, with the latter featuring a Haldex 4x4 system.

Engine options have yet to be confirmed, but a 1.8-litre petrol and 1.9-litre TDI are likely for India. The Yeti will get into production by the first half of 2009 in the UK and the Indian launch is expected by the end of the year.



Fabia 1.4 on hold

IF you are planning to buy a 1.4 petrol Fabia, don't be surprised if the dealer discourages you by saying, you have to wait for two to three months! This is because the company has temporarily stopped production of this model thanks to the economic slowdown. Actually they want the best possible option in their inventory. But the model isn't discontinued and production will resume shortly.



New engines for A4

AUDI is all set to offer the A4 with a new engine. The car will now be offered additionally with a 1.8-litre turbo petrol engine. Churning out just about 120bhp, this new engine will be able to propel the A4 to 100kmph in 10.5 seconds.

The second car in the anvil is the A6 and it is going to be offered with a 2.8-litre petrol motor which churns out 220bhp and zips to 100kmph in just 7.9 seconds flat.

Hyundai 2009 plans

WHILE manufacturers are struggling to cope with the credit crunch, Hyundai is getting ready to launch an array of models this year. The South Korean company is planning to launch an upgraded model of their flagship, the Sonata Embera.

The new makeover is similar to a mid-life face lift and this means the Sonata will get a new set of bumpers with chrome mouldings and side body protectors in chrome as well. A new set of projector head lamps will be accompanied

by a new grille.

Fog light recesses too have been given a makeover to make it a more elegant looker. The alloy wheels sport a new design. Inside, the Sonata will get a redesigned dashboard with a new centre console and integrated music system. Auxiliary input for your iPod and a USB dock too are offered.

The company is also planning to unleash a diesel variant of the i10 this year. The Santa Fe SUV too has been long in the waiting and 2009 should be the year when finally it gets launched to declare war on the CR-V.



MPV with the X factor

Xylo
E6

Xylo is all set to up the benchmark in cabin space, passenger comfort and features like reverse parking assist which is a first in the segment

Pictures: Suresh Narayanan

Will Shakespeare might have dismissed the importance of a moniker when he grandly said, "What's in a name?" Clearly Mahindra begs to disagree. The company has introduced a multi-purpose vehicle (MPV) with a snazzy and futuristic name: Xylo. The name may not have any meaning, but it certainly comes across as a Star Wars character in the mould of human Jedi warrior Xanatos.

Going from cosmic battles to more down to earth matters, the manufacturer is probably glossing over the fact that in reality there are very few private car owners in the MPV segment. Xylo, therefore, will have to do a juggling act between Mahindra's other private sellers, Scorpio and Bolero, without stepping on either one's toes or denting their market share. The Xylo is Mahindra's third vehicle in the 'o' league after Scorpio and Bolero. Why the fixation with 'o'? We have no clue but as long as the names sound sane we aren't complaining.

The Xylo is no Angelina Jolie when it comes to looks. Actually it is more of, pardon me, Bette Midler. Bear with us, but the front grill looks too in your face and rather loud like the wide Midler smile. The typical Mahindra grille actually makes



the nose look disproportionate to the rest of the body and the added chrome just makes it an attention-seeking MPV. From the side, the Xylo looks like a

Chevrolet Tavera with *Ghajini* muscles. It does try to look contemporary and succeeds to some extent. The rear looks like it has been inspired by the Sumo

Grande but then with the Tata MPV having decent takers, the Xylo should not lose any sleep over it. It's all about keeping the looks simple and Mahindra has



The cabin has a driver information system—a digital monitor at the centre of the dash that shows the mileage, the kilometres it will run, the gear in which it is running, outside and inside temperature, date, month

Rival check

The MPV segment has very limited players and Mahindra is hoping to cash in on this. The Toyota Innova is the kingpin of this segment and with the friendly neighbourhood Tavera quietly churning out steady numbers, Xylo will have to get its hands dirty in both the private and commercial market to make an impact. When it comes to power the Xylo is ahead of its competition and also is at par in cabin space and comfort level. But in terms of refinement, the Mahindra loses out to Toyota but as an all rounder it provides more features like driver information system. Xylo should be priced just above the Tavera making it a value for money MPV.



Auto Bild India was bang on target as the Xylo looks exactly like what we had predicted in issue 4

Quick shift

Prithviraj Jadhav
Dy GM R&D, Mahindra



- How is the Xylo platform different from current Mahindra vehicles?** This platform is longer than our flagship SUV Scorpio but in terms of height it is lower, fitting the MPV profile. The platform is called Ingenio.
- What has M&M learnt from the Scorpio development that has helped in making the Xylo?** This is the first time the company has made a vehicle from inside out making sure there is more than adequate cabin space for the passengers. We have also reduced the bonnet space making it possible to create more knee room for the second and third row.
- Are there any plans for the new MPV to come in petrol option?** There will be one later and as announced earlier there is also a plan to launch an automatic variant.
- Why is the de-tuned 2.6 Crde used in the Xylo?** We have been using this 2.5 Crde engine in our vehicles for international market. This engine is more fuel efficient than the 2.6 Crde and is a lot smoother. Even the power is more than sufficient for the segment the Xylo will compete in. Also it makes it cheaper for us to use a ready made engine available rather than manufacturing a new one.
- Will the Xylo contribute to Mahindra's export figures? If so then which countries?** The company plans to export Xylo to South Africa after two to three months of its launch. It will export the MPV to ASEAN countries thereafter. As announced earlier a left-hand drive Xylo would also come around next year to target markets in Brazil, Egypt.

and year. This helpful device is a first in its class. The vehicle has so many cubby holes and cup holders that one might just think one is in a Barista outlet. The top two variants have 2-Din music systems with four speakers, which is good enough to keep you tapping your feet.

Another feature the Xylo gets is reverse parking sensors. Again this is a first in the MPV segment. So with good visibility, the parking sensors makes life easier to reverse the Xylo in crowded parking lots. It has a decent turning circle as well.

The Xylo drives like a breeze. The gearbox is smooth and it doesn't wrestle with you. The stick is tilted towards the driver like the Scorpio 2.2 mHawk's, making it more convenient. It employs independent suspension in front



The third row folds up to provide enough space to dump big suitcases and bags

and multi-link layout at the back, which is setup on the softer side to aid comfort in the second row. The ride quality as a result over slightly broken surfaces at slower speeds is good, but pick up speed and it starts wallowing like a boat when zooming over troughs and crests.

Verdict

Arup Das



The Mahindra Xylo will not win any awards in the looks department but then MPVs are not about their exterior beauty, only their functionality. This vehicle has loads of knee space in all three rows and comfortable seats, which are the two most important factors of this segment. The cabin fit-finish and quality of the plastic is a step up for Mahindra. One interesting feature is that the top variant has a radio antenna embedded in the rear windshield. All the carmaker has to do now is to price it correctly and Mahindra should have a winner which could eat into the D-segment saloons.



The glove box is very disappointing as it is puny and shallow. Lets not forget the atrocious purple colour. It gets sunglasses holder neatly tucked in the roof



Cup holders in the between the front seats for the second row passengers and food trays for the middle row to make eating easier while on the road

