

Chapter 2 of the Mitsubishi Pajero 'Heart in Mouth' off-road rally, ZigWheels, August 29

The second leg of the Mitsubishi Pajero 'Heart in Mouth' rally took place in Delhi/NCR on a bright and sunny Sunday morning. Zigwheels took part in the event to get a taste of the Heart in Mouth experience

There we were standing at the unearthly hour of 7am on a Sunday morning amongst a fleet of Mitsubishi Pajeros and the odd Montero. The off-road rally was a closed invitational event for proud owners of the Pajero and Montero. As the participants started driving in and the car park filled up with the well known two tone colour combination SUV, our sleep gave way to the realisation that we were standing amongst one of the most legendary off-road vehicles of all time, the Mitsubishi Pajero.



Before we begin it would be worth mentioning that this is not some promotion event clobbered together at a make shift location. Mitsubishi went to great lengths to organise the event. The event was run under the FIA international sporting code and the National Competition rules of the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI). Mitsubishi Motors India collaborated with Cougar Motorsport to organise the Delhi leg of the 'Heart in Mouth' off-road event.

Officials from Cougar Motorsport held the responsibility of scrutinising the vehicles and qualifying them suitable to take part in the event. All 42 participating vehicles were inspected and deemed fit to take part in the event. A competition number was stuck on the vehicles certifying them legible to take part in the event.



Once the driver's briefing was over the event was flagged off and the fleet of Pajeros and Monteros drove to the nearby village of Pali, in Haryana. En-route the interior roads were in such destitute condition that some were beginning to wonder if the road was part of the event.

Our yellow and white Pajero SFX had no problem tackling potholes the size of craters and the ride was very much comfortable. The Mitsubishi Pajero SFX sold in India is a lightened and improved version of the second generation Mitsubishi Pajero. On the road the car shows its age a bit, the gearshift could be more refined and the engine has a relatively narrow useable powerband but as long as you change gears in time the smooth and refined engine will deliver enough of a power surge every single time. The car holds the road very well for a tall SUV and the steering has fantastic feedback around bends on the highway. For an SUV its size the Pajero SFX is a joy to drive on the road. But it's off the road where the Pajero SFX stands head and shoulders above its competition.

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