

## FEATURE

### Mitsubishi Cedia Select LPG



Mitsubishi - a name that conjures images of Lan Evos going sideways in the dirt, gravel, snow and names like Tommi Makinen and Richard Burns. In India though, Mitsubishi has been singing a different exhaust note altogether, one that excludes enthusiast delight and includes promising cars ruined by uninspiring engines. Which is true in case of Lancer Cedia as well. The legendary Evo genes have failed to filter through in all aspects except perhaps the looks and to some extent the stiffer chassis when compared to previous gen Lancers. The sales trudged along at a complete un-Evo like pace, the understated looks and the uninviting price tag not helping matters. Initially offered in three variants of Select, Spirit and Sports, Mitsubishi first pulled out the Spirit variant from the market followed by the recent unavailability of the Sports trim. In return though, the Select has been slapped on with a LPG kit attempting with a (now) attractive price tag to lure lost buyers.

Externally, the only give-away to the LPG drinking Cedia is the usual LPG inlet located next to the fuel tank cap. The toggle switch for the fuel lines is conveniently located next to the gear knob on the central dash and is a one touch affair. Don't go looking for the cylinder though since it is out of view hidden behind the rear seats, devouring substantial luggage space in the process. Although Mitsubishi has no official word for what the luggage capacity of the boot is, we estimate it will be close to 200 litres which is more than 50 per cent down on the 430 litres of the conventional Cedia.

The long stroke 2.0-litre engine on the Cedia traces a flat torque curve peaking at 4250rpm with 175Nm which endows it with great drivability in the city. Even while running on LPG, the drop in poke is almost unnoticeable. We found ourselves driving enthusiastically in LPG mode without the knowledge of the fact with the post-journey discovery catching us by surprise.

The big engine still has dollops of low end torque, be it flat out acceleration or overtaking manoeuvres in higher gears. The 100kmph mark comes up in 13.96s as opposed to 10.45s of the crude-powered Cedia and we would mostly attribute it to the absolutely drenched conditions which meant loads of time-wasting wheelspin. The now smudgy picture becomes a little clear in the roll-on tests where the LPG variant catches up to its petrol sibling posting 18.96s in fourth and 25.40s in fifth gear for the 40-100kmph dash, narrow-

ing the gap to under two seconds in the real world stakes.

Coming to the all-important fuel efficiency bit, the Cedia manages to push a litre of LPG to 5.8 kilometres in the choc-a-bloc city traffic with the AC at full blast and 17.36 kilometres on the highway sans the AC. The petrol on the other hand stretches a litre to 8.8 kilometres in the city and 18.9 kilometres on the highway. Some basic mathematics later one realises that running the Cedia for a kilometre on petrol costs Rs 4.85 when compared to Rs 4.25 while on LPG. Like the XETA, the Cedia LPG was also a brand new vehicle with hardly 400km on the odo and these figures are surely to go up once the break-in is complete and scheduled service has been carried out. These additional savings come at an increase of initial acquisition cost to the tune of 32 grand which seems completely worth it considering that the drop in performance - always of some consideration for a Cedia owner, is negligible. Add the considerable saving at the pump, the involving and still practical nature coming at an inviting price tag and we find no reason not to like it. **C**

#### MITSUBISHI CEDIA SELECT LPG

STATS	PETROL	LPG
0-100kmph	10.45s	13.17s
Quarter Mile	17.36s@130.8kmph	18.87s@119.97kmph
Standing Km	31.90s@162.0kmph	34.98s@148.43kmph
<b>ROLL ON</b>		
40-100 4th gear	17.42s	18.96s
40-100 5th gear	23.5s	25.40s
<b>FUEL EFFICIENCY</b>		
City	8.8kmpl	5kmpl
Highway	18.9kmpl	17.36kmpl
Overall	11.32kmpl	8.09kmpl
<b>RUNNING COST (CALCULATED ACCORDING TO FUEL COSTS IN PUNE CITY)</b>		
Cost per kilometer Rs.	4.85	4.25
<b>PRICE EX-SHOWROOM PUNE</b>		
Rs. (Lakh)	8.77	9.09

