

I am simply not able to think of the perfect word to start writing about this machine. All that comes to mind is 'brute'. When I stepped into the Mitsubishi Montero's manual transmission version for a day's spin, I had no idea of the terrain or the climate I was going to encounter. All that I had planned was to go in for a 100 km drive but then, I ended up driving through the entire day!

That's the effect of this vehicle: You may not be in a holiday mood but 'the brute' automatically puts you in one. And I found myself cruising at 160 kph towards the brass city of Moradabad and beyond. With the weather gods lashing their fury on the countryside, I found myself wading through endless pools of water trying to avoid many stranded 'small vehicles (tut, tut)' with their bonnets open! On my part, I was snug, safe and—more important—untouched by water.



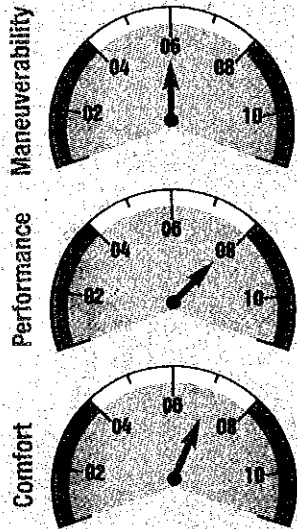
Rumbling GIANT

Nothing subtle or small about the **Mitsubishi Montero**. It's huge. It's powerful. It's nasty. And it's for those who like to announce their arrival before they actually show up. Go on... challenge the terrain!

HOT Verdict

I've found the machine that's gonna accompany me on my cross-country road trip. Guess I don't need to say anything else!

Ratings on a scale of 1-10



It was then that it dawned on me: This SUV is actually more than just an offroader. It's one hell of a safe vehicle and try whatever terrain... it will clear it and bring you back safe and secure. With its 3.2 litre engine kicking in more than enough power and after activating its four-wheel drive, I decided to change course on to a *kutchra* track. With the rain loosening the muddy path, I found myself going through one pothole after another, climbing steep and slippery gradients with slushy water flowing down at full force and driving through a river flowing in full spate! This and a lot more, I did it all, and not even

once did that hesitating thought come into my mind, "Can the vehicle cross this?" One thing that might stop you from buying this vehicle is its price tag, but then the one I drove had already done about 40,000 km and still ran as good as brand new. What more does one want from an SUV? Yeah, perhaps a bit of mileage and the good news is, even after killing the engine for hours at speeds exceeding 150 kph and encountering terrains where most vehicles could not even imagine moving forward, I got almost 10 kpl throughout the journey. Not bad I'd say. Hell, scratch it, that's 'brutally' awesome!



	mitsubishi MONTERO (M/T)	toyota PRADO (A/T)	NISSAN X-TRAIL (M/T)
Torque (nm @ rpm)	383 @ 2000	362 @ 3800	314 @ 2000
0-100 km (seconds)	11	10.5	11.5
Top speed (kph)	188	190	180
Kerb weight (kg)	2380	1900	1520
Power (bhp)	164.5	238	136
Approx. price (lakh)	35.1	42	24.1