

## CAR WARS

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Model: Pajero

Maker's Name: Mitsubishi Corporation

# The long run

**GIVEN** a few years time, India will become the hub for SUVs as demands in the category (and MUV) continue to rise. There was a time when car enthusiasts in India were hesitant about buying jeeps for everyday use, restricting the purchase to government circles. The station wagons manufactured by Willy's not only were high on power but were also covered vehicles with enough leg space.

The attitude of Indian buyers changed with the introduction of the Tata Sumo in the

early 1980s. The vehicle had the power of a jeep and the comfort of a sedan. Better highways also meant people were travelling longer distances. Then there are those who simply take off without rhyme or reason. In other words, we're travelling more often.

All big car manufacturers with SUV variants are doing good business ~ Honda CRV, Hyundai Terracan, Toyota Innova, Chevrolet Travera, Mercedes M class, Sumo Grande, Safari, Mahendra Scorpio, Xylo are now familiar names. Two years back I came across a doctor who was driving his Scorpio to Gurudambar Lake in Sikkim. The road was tough to navigate and he decided to take chances (read: self drive).

Mitsubishi Lancer and Cedia are very popular sedans but those who prefer a tougher vehicle, prefer Pajeros, which is ideal for long distance and off-road journeys. On well-maintained roads, the car simply glides and even on bad roads, performance doesn't slacken. Adding to its list of advantages, is the car's road grip ~ a good set of brakes and state-of-the-art suspension make it ideal for Indian roads.

Recently I took a Pajero on a test drive and ended up in an agricultural field. The approach road was muddy and very slippery. My friend, who owns the vehicle, was not scared. And why should he be? The car ~ with water coming up to the bonnet ~ didn't face any problem negotiating the road! A few minutes

## Specifications

**ENGINE** 3.2 litre DI-D 16-valve Common Rail Intercooled Turbocharged diesel engine with 200hp. 3.8-litre V6 24-valve MIVEC petrol engine

**TRANSMISSION** Five-speed manual transmission, MIVEC five-speed automatic transmission

**DRIVE SYSTEM** Super select 4 WD system (SS-4-II)

**DIMENSION** (3.2 DI-D A/T) Length: 4,385 mm. Width: 1,875 mm. Height: 1,880 mm (with roof rail). Wheelbase: 2,545 mm.

later we were once again on the highway and the car well covered in mud.

A senior official at Mitsubishi told me that special care is taken to provide every Pajero with a good security system. The car manufacturer ensures fatigue-free journeys by providing enough leg, head and elbow room ~ an essential requirement during long drives. The air conditioning has been installed keeping the Indian climate in mind. Finally, the driver doesn't need to worry about ground clearance as the undercarriage will never be harmed by the worst of Indian roads.

Travelling in a Pajero is truly an experience, a good experience.

