



impresses. Not only does it have the largest wheelbase of the lot, it is the widest and has the highest ground clearance as well along with the largest boot space. Hence, it seems that Volvo engineers have learnt from the shortcomings of the competition and given the XC40 a proper SUV shape, young and refreshing yet adhereing to the typical Volvo styling traits like the front grille and logo, the Thor's Hammer DRLs and the tail lamp assembly, all of which hark to this being a Volvo. On the other hand, while the XC60 looks much like a baby XC90, the XC40 has no such sibling connections and is a stand alone modern car meant to appeal to the younger customers. In fact, the design seems to appeal to all universally.

The car is being launched in India in the R-design trim with the D4 diesel engine mated to an 8-speed automatic gearbox and an all wheel drive system from Borg-Warner where 90 per cent of the torque can be diverted to either of the axles. The D4 engine taken from the range of E-drive engines offers both efficiency as well performance and superb driveability with 0-100kmph time of less than 8 seconds and a top speed of over 200kmph.

The cabin of the XC40 is special just like all the other new gen Volvos. In fact, a lot of things seem to be borrowed from the larger siblings, the XC90 the XC60, including the Sensus with its 9-inch touchscreen and infotainment system which again has been placed vertically and has most of the features from the bigger cars, hiding behind it a Harman Kardon 13-speaker system with Air Woofer technology. In fact, the Air



XC40 IS A YOUNG AND REFRESHING DESIGN YET

IT ADHERES TO TYPICAL VOLVO STYLING TRAITS

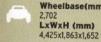


1. The 2.0-litre Volvo diesel engine makes its way into the XC40 as well but in its D4 trim - producing max power of 190bhp and peak torque of 400NM. 2. Wireless charging in keeping with the times 3. Harman Kardon music system with 13 speakers



## Volvo XC40 D4 R-Design







Price: Rs 35 lakh (estimated) On sale July '18



Woofer has been placed under the dashboard and the speakers are no longer at the bottom of the doors so as to liberate storage space and give the car larger door pockets. There are lots of storage spaces making the XC40 very practical and some additional features include wireless charging as well as a big panoramic sunroof.

The proof of the pudding is in its eating and we spent an entire day driving the car in Hyderabad, visiting various landmarks and then going for a spin around Hyderabad on the superb ORR - a 160km loop around the city. First and foremost, despite the high seating and the SUV feel it imparts, there is no body roll that one would expect from such a vehicle. This could be due to the R-Sport tuned suspension but at the same time ride quality is good and on Hyderbad roads where there is construction happening every few hundred metres, the 18-inch wheels helped negate

1. The cabin of the XC40 has a similar overall theme as the larger Volvo SUVs with the 9in vertical touchscreen for the Sensus infotainment system dominating the dashboard, 2. Fully digital instrument panel runs a list of active systems - very impressive, 3. The vertical vent theme is carried to the rear vents as well

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