

# Volvo XC60: This SUV for the tech-savvy has near autonomous capabilities

Prasid Banerjee

prasid.b@livemint.com

NEW DELHI

When it comes to technology in cars, few can take on Volvo in India right now. The XC60 is the second among the company's three SUVs in the country—the other two being the XC40 and XC90. And it packs in enough technology to amaze anyone who puts tech first when buying a car.

Let's start with the driver assist systems in the car. The Volvo XC60 is one of the few cars that offer a semi-autonomous driving system on Indian roads. It's called pilot assist and allows the car to automatically maintain a lane and speed, as long as the driver has their hands on the wheel. You don't have to steer, but you can't take your hands off the wheel for more than 10 seconds.

The pilot assist mode is extremely handy when driving on open roads, as long as there are proper lane markings. The car even slows down when it detects traffic on your lane, and speeds up again when the traffic clears out.

Next, there's the traffic alert system, which detects incoming traffic when you're reversing, even if you can't see it on the rear camera. The car alerts you of the same by playing a series of beeps. The car also detects animals, pedestrians, cyclists and other cars on the road, warning you about the same when required. In fact, if it is absolutely necessary, the car will actually screech to a halt if there's an obstruction in front of you.

The obstruction detection features are especially handy when a pedestrian suddenly walks out in front of you, or there's an unforeseen accident on the road while you're driving.

Volvo has also included a 360 degree camera system in the XC60, allowing you to see all around your car. There's automatic parking assist systems, and adaptive cruise control as well.

The only drawback, depending on how we see it, is that most of Volvo's driver assist systems rely on road

markings, which are hard to notice (or absent in most cases) in India. However, if you do cross-state trips often or drive mostly on highways, you will find these systems to be quite dependable.

The driver assist technology overshadow Volvo's in-car infotainment system. The company's Sensus touch screen system though is another nifty offering. You get a 9-inch vertical touch screen on the dashboard, which will give you access to Volvo's in-built navigation features—Bluetooth controls for media, phone, etc., seat massagers and more. While Volvo's in-built maps aren't dependable, the car also has Apple CarPlay and Android Auto support for good measure. So, Google Maps will show up on the screen when you need it.

And the icing on the cake amid all this technology are the 15-speaker Bowers and Wilkins audio system. If you've driven a Volvo V90 Cross Country before, or read our review of the same, you may have heard of this. It's by far the best audio system we have seen in any car in India right now.

There's a Gothenburg Concert Hall mode, which tries to mimic the acoustics of Sweden's famous concert hall inside the car. While we can't confirm whether it actually sounds the same, what we can say with certainty is that it sounds fantastic. If you listen to a lot of music in your car, this car will deliver punchy bass, crisp highs and mids, and an overall pleasant audio experience.

In sum, the Volvo XC60 is undoubtedly one of the best options for SUV buyers who focus on technology.

The fact that the car is comfortable and offers an excellent drive seems like an afterthought at times.

## PROS

- ▶ Semi-autonomous pilot assist feature
- ▶ Alerts you to incoming traffic and has blind spot detectors
- ▶ Excellent audio system

## CONS

- ▶ USB placement is somewhat cumbersome
- ▶ No rear seat massagers

**Price starts at**

**₹52,90,000 (ex-showroom)**

