

MAHINDRA GUSTO

RIDING A PATH LESS VENTURED

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Two-wheelers offer you spontaneity, like no four-wheeler can ever dream to offer, especially when the traffic outside is choc a bloc. Want to see a movie? Want to go out and grab a bite? Want to go out and feel the monsoon rains caressing your tired body? Want to snuggle with your loved one on a romantic ride? Want to go off-road? Off-road on a two-wheeler? Off-road on your Mahindra Gusto?

It may sound insane, but when you know these guys at Mahindra & Mahindra make the toughest SUVs in the country, why doubt them when it comes to their two-wheelers?

So off I went, with my photographer following me in his car, to a desolate section of a jungle near my office. It was spontaneous and I enjoyed every bit of it. We soon reached an area on the outskirts of Delhi. It was wild in every sense. Wild bushes grew everywhere. Rocks as big as our egos stood across our paths. I could see my photographer trudging along as he had to park his car much earlier on more hospitable terrain. All I could see was acres and acres of thick foliage...wild, wild and wild.

The earth here was in its roughest element. Could the Gusto cut through it? I was prepared and as I tugged the throttle, the wheels of the scooter took up the challenge with alacrity. I was a tad surprised, the way the Gusto rode through the rough terrain. The 109.6 cc, 4 stroke, air cooled engine hardly complained as it showed its prowess with 8bhp@7500 rpm and a neat torque of 9Nm @ 5500rpm.

Wild bushes scraped my tough jacket. Low-lying

branches beat against my helmet. They took the beating quite gracefully. I was glad that this scooter came with a great ground clearance. In fact, it has the highest ground clearance of 165mm, the highest in competition with likes of the Honda Activa having just about 153mm, the TVS Jupiter having 150mm and the Hero MotoCorp Maestro having around 155mm. What a relief, I thought to myself.

I zipped across, from unstable ground to soft sandy surfaces. The wheels seldom lost traction. Thanks to the large tubeless tyres, which are not there in some of the competitor models, I could ride through the rough and tough terrains with ease. Coupled with the telescopic suspension with air springs, the ride left me in no distress. The last thing I wanted was to be tossed around like a rag doll. Mercifully, the ride was smooth and enduring.

The word Gusto means "Enjoyment and enthusiasm in doing something". I could now well understand what the men and women behind Gusto wanted to achieve. With a wheelbase of 1275mm, the Gusto is like a fleet-footed jungle animal. I spent a good hour or so, riding non-stop, criss-crossing the path no faint hearted person would dare. The Gusto has been in my garage for a while and each time it has forced me to do something different, something, adventurous, something spontaneous. This time it was the path less taken. The scooter performed beyond expectations. It growled as it accelerated and it rode like nobody's business. I was just out to have some fun. The Gusto ensured that I had more than my share of fun. This Mahindra scooter has a lot to offer...all you have got to be is spontaneous! **MI**

