

KEEPING THE FAITH

Nothing can beat the Volvo XC90 when it comes to inspiring confidence, feels Rahul.

A SUPREME COURT lawyer by profession and a car enthusiast at heart, Rahul Srivastava from Delhi is also a proud owner of a year-old XC90 diesel. With three cars already in the garage, we quizzed him about why another car. "Safety," he says without a second's delay. He continues, "Safety and nothing else. I own European and Japanese cars, but nothing else comes close to being the safest as my XC90." And how is he so convinced about Volvos being

safe? He says, "I have been a fan of Volvo since the '80s. My relatives owned a Volvo estate. The car turned turtle but everyone came out without a scratch. And to think that it was an old design." He goes on confidently, "I'm sure even if I hit a wall in my XC90, nothing would happen to me."

Having driven a range of other brands has further cemented Rahul's faith in Volvo. He explains, "There are other SUVs that cost nearly twice as



much as my Volvo XC90, and all of them are lacking in some form or the other. Some don't have enough space; in some, the interiors just don't look worth all that money you spend on them." Then there's how his XC90 drives. "At 60kph, you can't hear a thing and I'm quite happy with the mileage I get in the city. And, even on the highway, it is pretty efficient, despite me driving it a tad enthusiastically," he says with a grin on his face.

Conversation moves to

highway travel, and we find that "even at triple-digit speeds, the XC90 feels solid" and that you can leave many luxury saloon car owners surprised by the pace. Rahul says, "The steering becomes heavy at higher speeds, which feels really nice. Also, there's no lag; the engine sounds very sporty and doesn't

feel like a diesel. Acceleration is excellent even when throttle is applied gently." However, he does wish the XC90 came with "wider tyres" and says that driving it too enthusiastically around corners takes some getting used to.

He's quite possessive about his car and says, "Only

I drive the car; no one else. Luckily my son finds the rear seats comfortable and loves to lounge in the back." He mentions that the front seats are equally comfortable and the XC90 on the whole is an easy-to-drive car. Another thing he likes is how "the lights turn with the steering wheel, lighting up the road ahead."

"The XC90 has more than enough power and is a true value-for-money SUV," he concludes happily.

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