



FITNESS COMPANIONS

A quick look at the world of cycling and something about two new lean and mean entrants from Thailand
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ALTHOUGH IT LOOKS RATHER SIMPLE FROM outside, the world of cycling contains within it a whole universe that takes into account every detail not just of physics, but much else too. From our childhood romps in the backyard or around the neighbourhood, cycling has now become a veritable passion, so much so that avid cyclists describe the thrill of riding on a track as 'NASCAR on two-wheels'. We have burnt the fuel in a geared motorcycle many times, so let's now burn some fat on a geared bike.

GT Transeo 4

If you wish to take things to all possible dimensions, then here is a bike that fits the bill. Referred to as a cross-bred between the road bike and the mountain bike of the GT family, the Transeo can tackle minor uneven terrain, dirt roads and trails as if these were paved streets. Its 700 x 40c Schwalbe Landcruiser tyres indicate the same and, coming as it does with Suntour NEX4110 63 mm travel fork, the bike can handle minor off-roading comfortably, but not the extreme terrain. One



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1 & 8 While Transeo offered riding comfort with its well-padded saddle, Tachyon's saddle was too hard for street riding



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2 & 7 Both the bikes come with 24 Shimano gears to choose from



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3 & 6 Tachyon's 700x40c Schwalbe Landcruiser make it good for both streets and slight off-roads, Transeo's 700x32c Kenda Kinipion are strictly meant for streets only



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4 & 5 Tachyon comes with Suntour NEX4110 63 mm travel fork, to take care of bumps on the go. The Transeo comes with carbon fork in the front, with no travel whatsoever

interesting feature of this bike are its puncture-protected tyres. These come with an additional puncture belt. The Transeo has an aluminium frame with sport fitness geometry and the riding posture suits both street and mountain riding. The Transeo comes with a Shimano Hyperglide eight-speed cog set, EF-51 Rapid Fire plus and FD M101 (front) and Acera 8 (rear) dérailleur. As for brakes, it has direct pull front and rear brakes with 110-mm arms. The saddle is much more comfortable, with a GT bio-morphic design. The bike is available in three different sizes (S, M and L) and is priced at Rs 19,950.

GT Tachyon 3.0

Talking of a true-blue street bike now, the GT Tachyon 3.0 is an ultra-light street bike meant for recreation. Made of an aluminium frame, the bike comes with a carbon front fork and boasts of 24 cogs (three front and eight rear). It comes with Kenda Kinipion 700 x 32c (front/rear) tyres and Shimano shifters as well as front and rear dérailleur. The rims are Jalco DRX-3000 double wall, high-profile ones with CNC side walls. The bike might be meant for roads, but the saddle doesn't agree with it. Its GT Type R race saddle is far from being comfortable for day-to-day use, with very thin cushioning for the rider's bottom. The Tachyon has Tektro RX-1 direct pull brakes (both front and rear). This bike comes in five sizes to suit the rider's height (XS, S, M, L and XL) and two colour options. The Tachyon is priced at Rs 32,200. **BIKE**

