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VOLUME 09 • ISSUE 10 • MAY 2024

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The second-gen Surface Laptop Studio shows Microsoft is still willing to experiment with unique kit – and it sure is special

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ALPHA-THETA OMNIS-DUO

Carting some decks, a mixer and a crate full of vinyl around every time you want to DJ a party is an excellent way to knacker your back. But while plenty of digital mixing tools exist, they lack the tactile pleasure of cueing up tunes manually. Fortunately, Alpha-Theta – the parent company of the Pioneer DJ brand – has brought you the best of both worlds with the OMNIS-DUO, the lightweight all-in-one DJing system. It doesn't just offer a two-deck-and-mixer interface, EQ controls, tempo controls, 14 FX buttons and 8 Hot Cue triggers. But thanks to its 4.6kg weight and a battery that lasts up to five hours, you can sling it in a large bag and rock up to play any party, from a bar to the beach. And it's versatile enough you can play tracks from a USB drive, SD card or even hook it up to control a laptop.
₹1,43,000, thedjshop.co.uk

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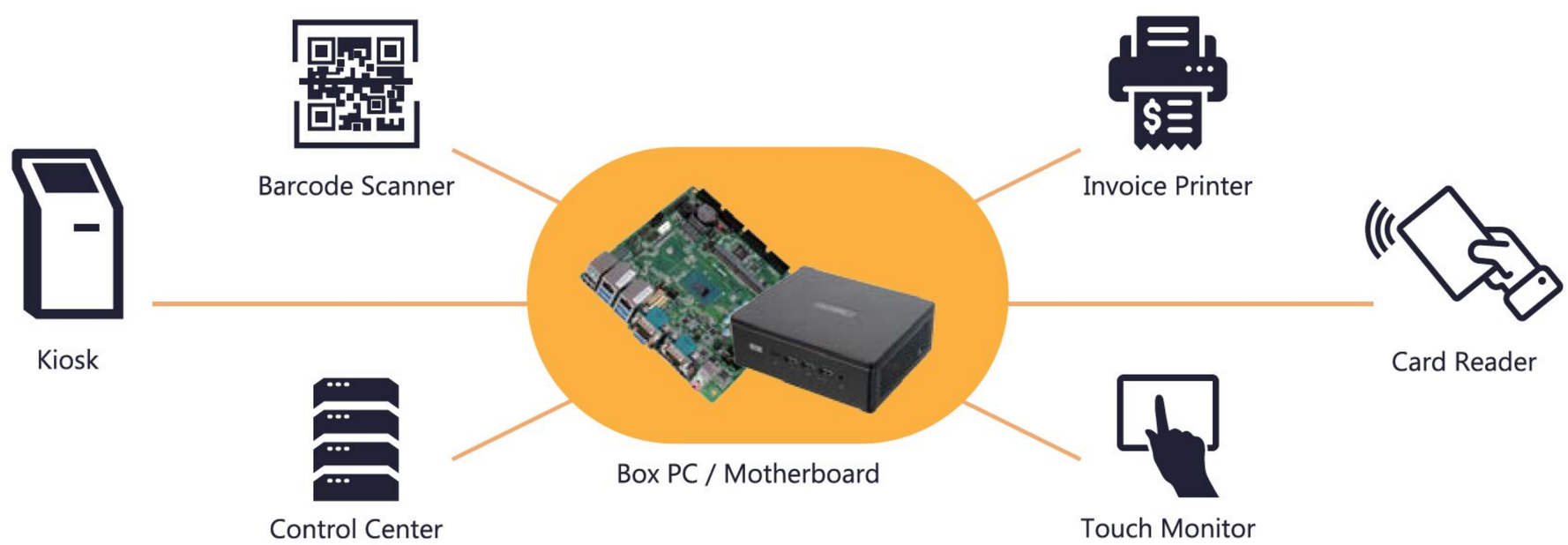

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HUMAYUN DHANRAJGIR
(2/12/1936 TO 23/4/2024)

NEXT GEN PUBLISHING mourns the sad demise of our beloved former Chairman, Humayun Dhanrajgir. A rare human being, humble and all caring and a perfect gentleman. We will deeply miss him.

May his soul rest in eternal peace!

THE ENTIRE TEAM OF NEXT GEN PUBLISHING

T3 Editor's letter

Girish Mallya

Editor, T3 India
@girishmallya on X (formerly Twitter)

The surge in digital scams across India in recent months is alarming. Beyond phishing emails and malware via WhatsApp, extortion calls masquerading as identity theft for courier packages, purportedly from customs and police departments, are on the rise. These scams, orchestrated by BPO-style call centres with trained personnel, target the urban, educated consumers (a close friend recently fell victim to one such scheme). Exploiting both trust deficits and fears regarding law enforcement integrity, these scammers employ sophisticated psychological tactics to manipulate citizens into paying hefty bribes or bail bonds over WhatsApp or Telegram calls.

It's perplexing why individuals who have committed no wrongdoing would comply with such demands, but the reality is that these psychological tools are effective at coercing compliance.

We urge government bodies, law enforcement agencies, banks, and credit card companies to take proactive measures, including:

a) Launching an aggressive trust-building campaign across all media platforms.

b) Utilising advanced predictive AI tools to identify and block suspicious transactions, including restricting high-value or multiple small-value transactions from low-balance accounts beyond regular patterns. Additionally, profiling dormant accounts used for transaction routing.

c) Strengthening Know Your Customer (KYC) norms for opening bank accounts.

d) A self-service helpline should be established to enable the reporting of any type of scam to the cyber cell. Acknowledgment of the report by the cyber cell is crucial. Every scam should be reported because we are transitioning away from a cash-based economy, and conventional police forces have limitations. To effectively address cybercrimes, we need to invest in skilled cybersecurity professionals in every city. Recording every case is essential to justify the necessary investment; otherwise, the allocation for cybersecurity will remain insignificant compared to the overall crime reporting budget.

Remain vigilant and prioritise safety.

Shapoorji Pallonji
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T3 is...

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From phones to pillows, AI will be in all your gadgets this year – and it's going to be a real game-changer

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Near Surat Peoples Bank, Surat - 395001

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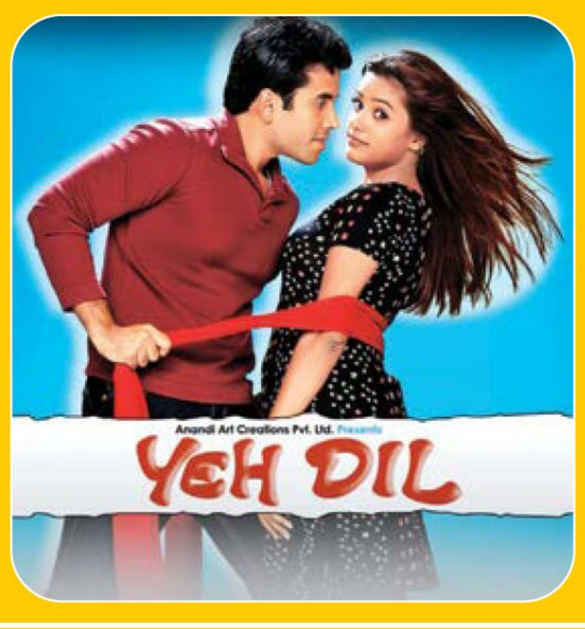

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HMD BARBIE FLIP PHONE

₹TBC, hmd.com

Human Mobile Devices (HDM) is collaborating with Barbie's famed Mattel for a one-of-a-kind, fully functional flip phone, likely to be based on the Nokia 2660 4G. Arriving this summer, the Barbie Flip Phone is expected to arrive in a Barbie pink shade and is meant for those, who are looking for a trendy solution for digital detox. While there isn't much information on the exact features and specifications of this device, it is expected to offer modern connectivity standards and most likely last days without needing a charge.

T3 SAYS: A chick-styled flip phone, meant for digital detoxing.

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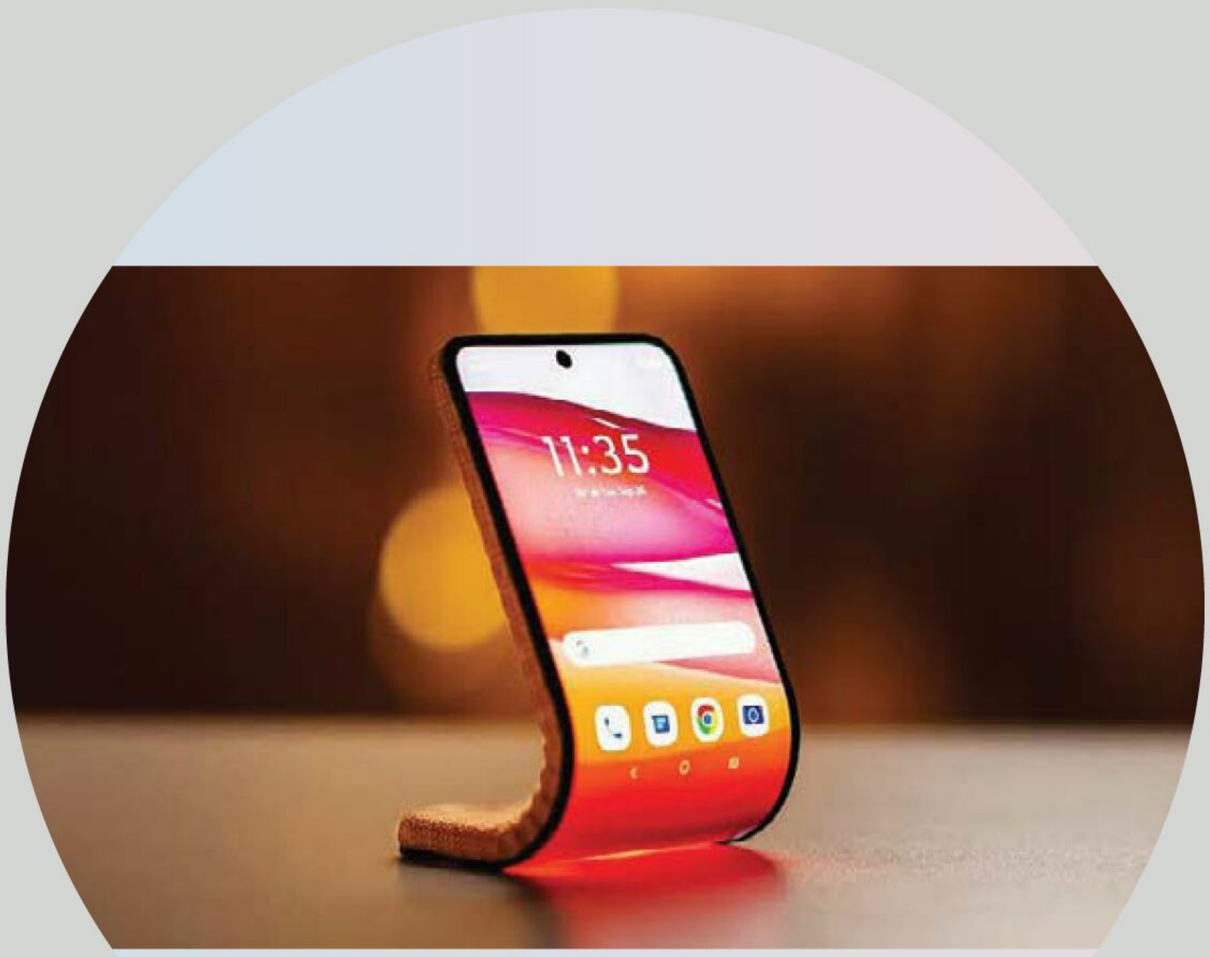

MOTOROLA BENDABLE SMARTPHONE

₹TBC, motorola.com

Motorola is known for its flip phones, both in the early era of mobiles and in the modern era, and the company has now showcased a new bendable smartphone concept, which can be worn on an arm like a bracelet at Mobile World Congress 2024. Running on Android, the bendable concept smartphone from Motorola can do everything and a bit more than a regular smartphone, potentially bridging the gap between a smartwatch and a smartphone. Right now, it is just a concept, and as of now, there is no information on whether this concept will even end up becoming a mainstream device that users can buy.

T3 SAYS: The next big smartphone form factor, which can be worn like jewellery.

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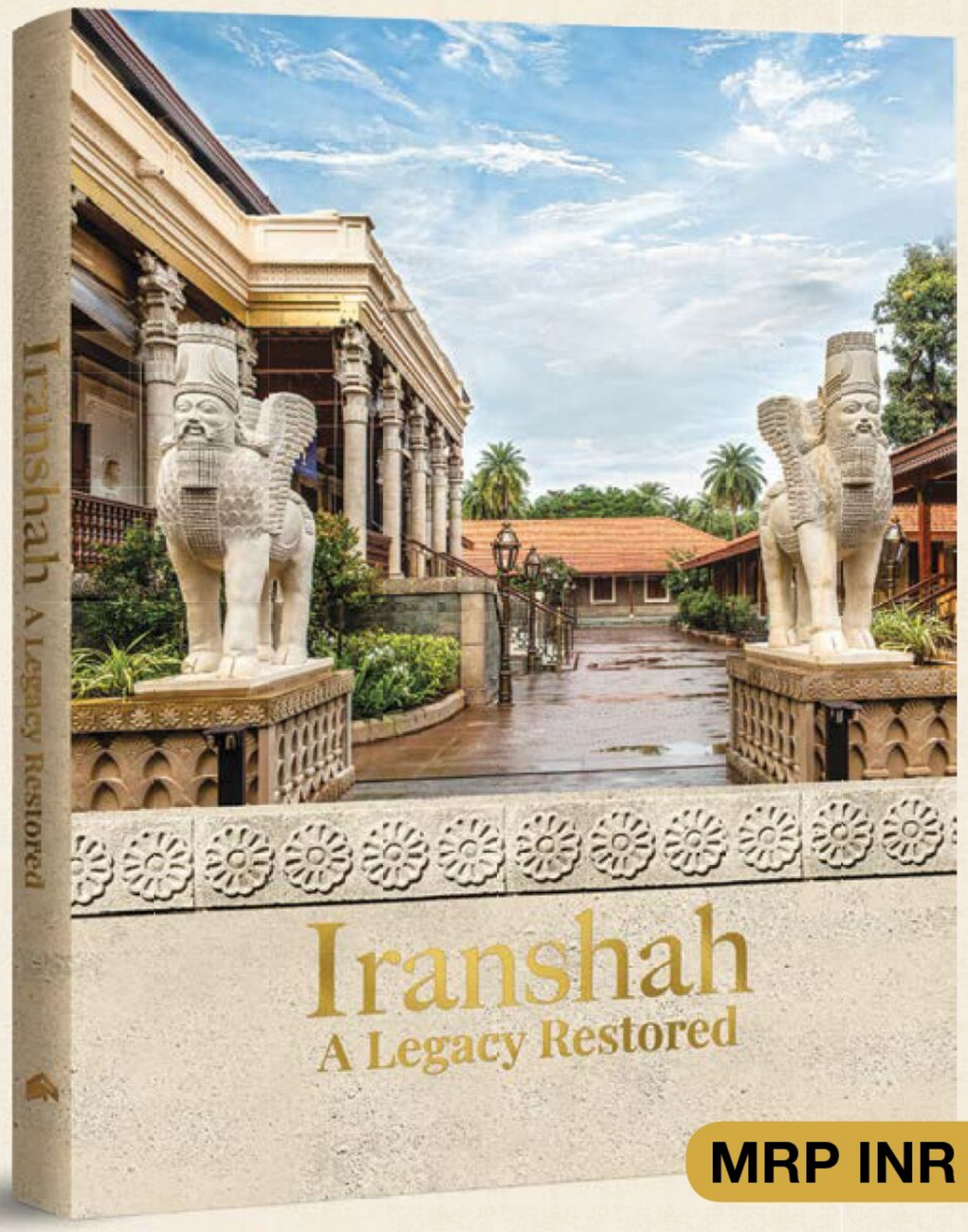

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'Iranshah A Legacy Restored' is a book about the heritage restoration of the Iranshah Ātash Behram in Udwada.

Available at

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www.amazon.in

Global

www.pagdandi.org

ASUS INTEL 700, 600 SERIES, AND AMD AM5 MOTHERBOARDS

₹TBC, asus.com/in

ASUS has announced BIOS updates enabling support for up to 256 GB of memory on its Intel 700 and 600 series motherboards with DDR5 modules. Four DIMM slot models can now handle 256 GB, while those with two slots can handle 128 GB, enhancing multitasking potential for smooth computing. AMD AM5 motherboards from ASUS already support up to 256 GB of DDR5 memory modules without needing a BIOS update. Users with Intel 700, and 600 series need to update the BIOS to unknown the full memory bandwidth on these motherboards, while there is no update required for the AM5 motherboard users.

T3 SAYS: A boost to an already existing motherboard to support more memory.

TECH-O-METER

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INNOVATION
FEATURES

ASUS ROG SWIFT OLED PG27AQDM GAMING MONITOR

₹1,24,999, rog.asus.com

The ROG Swift OLED PG27AQDM gaming monitor, boasting a 26.5-inch QHD OLED display with a rapid 240 Hz refresh rate and 0.03 ms response time is ideal for immersive gaming. It supports NVIDIA G-SYNC and Asus is addressing the OLED burn-in issue with custom heatsinks and voltage optimization, which prevents the panel from overheating. There is also an anti-glare coating, and the monitor offers up to 1000 nits of peak brightness along with 99% DCI-P3 gamut, Delta E < 2 colour accuracy, 1,500,000:1 contrast ratio, and true 10-bit colour depth.

T3 SAYS: Colour-accurate, high-resolution, fast gaming monitor.

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Z 8

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Image courtesy - Harpreet Singh

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*1 12-Bit N-RAW video *2 Enhanced AI Algorithm for AF, Skin softening and Portrait impression balance

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Nikon Z 8 Product Page

SAMSUNG GALAXY RING

₹TBC, Samsung.com

At CES, Samsung finally showcased its first smart ring to the world, which was first teased during the Galaxy S24 series launch event, at Galaxy Unpacked 2024. Galaxy Ring, the latest smart wearable from Samsung is said to pack Galaxy AI features to deliver various fitness monitoring capabilities. On top of that, the Galaxy Ring is said to come in different colour options and different sizes. Some of the prominent features of the Galaxy Ring include heart rate monitoring, blood oxygen monitoring, sleep monitoring, step tracking, and more. The Galaxy Ring is said to go on sale in the second half of 2024.

T3 SAYS: The next big innovation from Samsung with an emphasis on health and fitness.

TECH-O-METER

COOLNESS
INNOVATION
FEATURES

ONEPLUS WATCH 2

₹24,999, oneplus.in

The flagship OnePlus smartwatch that runs on the latest version of Wear OS by Google (Wear OS 4) along with RTOS. Featuring a 1.43-inch circular AMOLED display, the smartwatch offers 32GB storage, and 2GB RAM. The watch offers up to 100 hours of battery life in the smart mode and can last up to 12 days in the power-saving mode. It is IP68 rated for water and dust resistance, and the watch can be paired with a OnePlus or any other Android smartphone.

T3 SAYS: A premium smartwatch with best-in-class battery life.

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INNOVATION
FEATURES

FeiyuTech

GIMBAL OF THE YEAR
FeiyuTech
VB4

Smartphone Gimbal

VB 4

Steady And Smooth, Freedom In Creation

FEATURES

- A light weight of 335 gm and ultra compact when folded to carry in pocket or bag
- Multiple status indicator light on control panel
- Multi functional knob allows follow focus and zoom control
- Joystick for tilt and pan access control
- Built in extension pole of 216mm
- Easily switch between horizontal and vertical filming modes with one button
- Built in 950mAh battery for up to 6.5 hours of run time
- Connect to feiyu on app for more creative video

Smartphone Gimbal

VB 4SE

Steady And Smooth, Freedom In Creation

FEATURES

- A light weight of 315 gm and ultra compact when folded to carry in pocket or bag
- Multiple status indicator light on control panel
- Multi functional knob allows follow focus and zoom control
- Joystick for tilt and pan access control
- Easily switch between horizontal and vertical filming modes with one button
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KINGSTON XS1000 EXTERNAL SSD

₹8,250 (1TB), kingston.com

The latest and one of the smallest external SSDs in the market with up to 2 TB of storage capacity that just weighs 29g. Its small and sleek form factor makes it easy to carry around, and it can be used with smartphones (including iPhone 15 series), tablets, laptops, and PCs. It offers up to 1,050MB/s with USB 3.2 Gen 1 compatibility and offers a premium metal and plastic casing, and the drive carries a 5-year limited warranty with free technical support.

T3 SAYS: A pocketable modern storage solution which is easy to carry around.

TECH-O-METER

COOLNESS
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FEATURES

LENOVO TRANSPARENT LAPTOP

₹TBC, Lenovo.com

A concept laptop unlike any other product in the market, featuring a transparent display and a translucent keyboard. It features a massive 17.3-inch transparent display, and its futurist design allows users to interact with the digital and real world. The laptop also offers generative AI capabilities, and the new transparent display technology featured on this machine makes the content on the display visible, both indoors and outdoors. Right now, this is just a proof of concept, and Lenovo is using the same to showcase how the laptops might look in the future.

T3 SAYS: A futuristic-looking laptop with a cutting-edge transparent design.

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NEW

LC500R mini

Handheld Brilliance

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TCL NXTPAPER

₹TBC, tcl.com

TCL is expanding its innovative paper-like display technology to more devices such as tablets and smartphones. This eye-friendly screen technology, featured on devices like the TCL NXTPAPER 14 Pro, a 14-inch tablet and the TCL 50 XL NXTPaper 5G smartphone cuts down on blue light and uses multi-layer filter technology to offer paper-like reading without compromising on the picture quality or colour accuracy. The display also has a paper-like surface texture, which makes it easy to take notes using a stylus, and it also has a dedicated reading mode, which will offer a greyscale effect, which transforms these devices into full-fledged ebook readers.

T3 SAYS: A new display technology that can reduce eye strain and offer a pleasing note-taking experience.

TECH-O-METER

COOLNESS
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FEATURES

ZTE NUBIA FLIP PHONE

$599 (₹48,000) ztedevices.com

Flip-style foldables are usually more expensive than regular smartphones, however, the Nubia Flip Phone is not. It is currently the most affordable foldable smartphone in the market. Despite its affordable price tag, it has everything that one expects from a folding phone, including a large 6.9-inch foldable display with a 120Hz refresh rate, a circular secondary display, and a 50 MP dual-camera setup. The smartphone is powered by the Snapdragon 7 Gen 1 SoC, hence, the performance of this device isn't that impressive.

T3 SAYS: A relatively affordable folding smartphone with a premium design.

TECH-O-METER

COOLNESS
INNOVATION
FEATURES

FUJIFILM INSTAX MINI 99

₹17,999, instax.in

A retro-looking instant camera that gives more creative control over instant photos. This camera has six colour effect settings, brightness control capability, double exposure mode, bulb mode, and it even has an integrated flash unit for those low-light pictures. Unlike most instant cameras, the Instax Mini 99 comes with a rechargeable battery, which can take up to 100 photos on a single charge, and it even has a tripod mount, makes it easy to take those group pictures by setting up a timer.

T3 SAYS: One of the most refined instant cameras in the market that offers more control to the user.

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COOLNESS
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FEATURES

LG CINEBEAM Q

$1,299.99 (₹1,10,000), lg.com

A portable 4K UHD laser projector with a built-in webOS smart TV OS. It is design makes it easy to carry around and it comes equipped with a 60-degree rotating handle, which also doubles as a stand. This 4K projector can project up to 120 inches and offers premium features like HDR with a 450,000:1 contrast ratio for rich image reproduction with deeper blacks. Thanks to webOS, one can download major OTT platforms like Netflix, Disney+, and Prime Video without needing an external streaming stick. The lamp on the CineBeam Q is rated to last up to 20,000 hours, making this a versatile 4K projector for content consumption.

T3 SAYS: A retro-looking projector with smart features and functionalities.

TECH-O-METER

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FEATURES

NEW CARS ON THE HORIZON

MASERATI GRANTURISMO FOLGORE

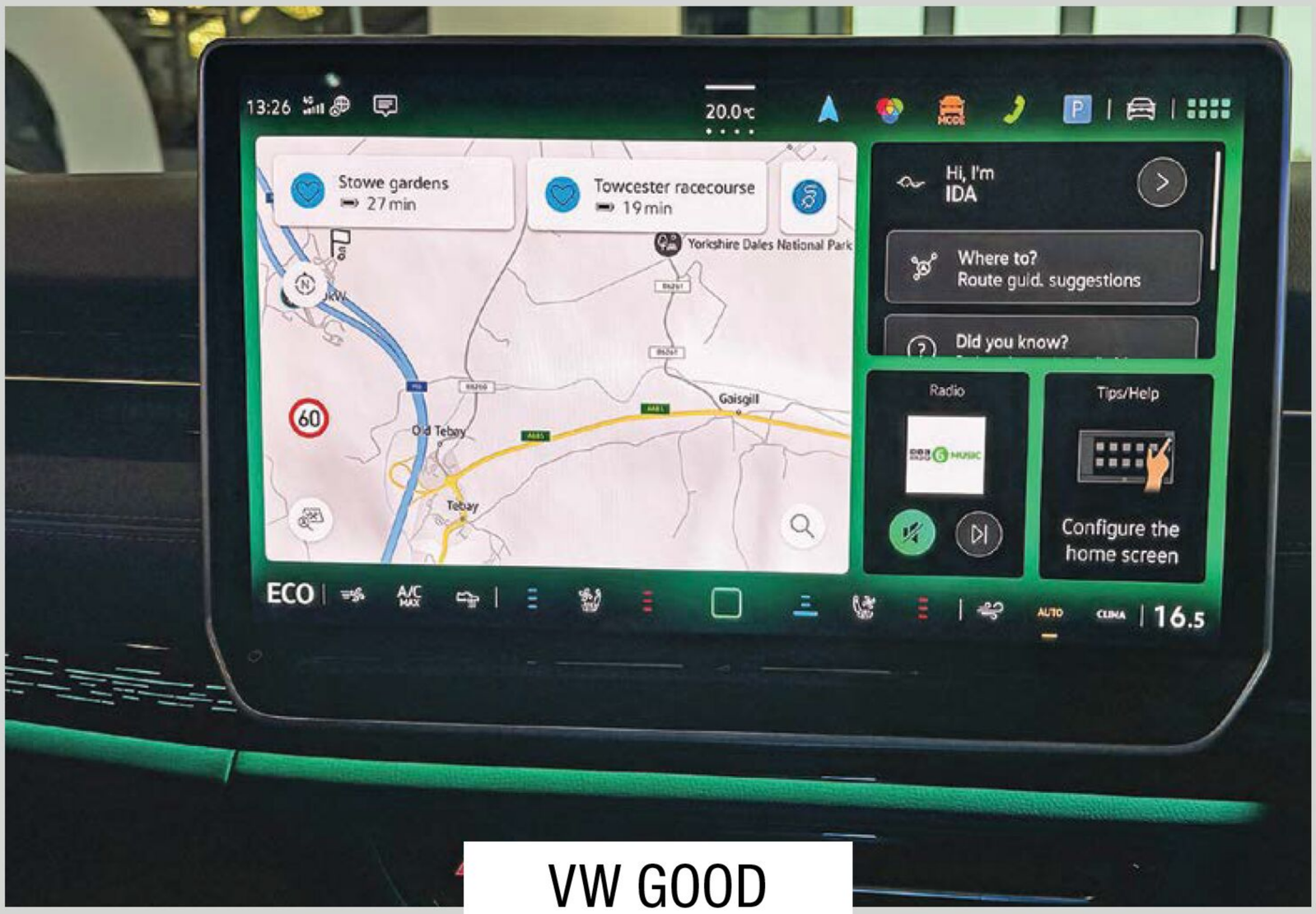
Maserati is taking orders for its first EV, the GranTurismo Folgore. A whole range of all-electric cars under the name Folgore is expected but the GranTurismo will be the first, with prices starting from £179,950.

PORSCHE MACAN SUV

Porsche has revealed its second all-electric car, in the form of the all-new Macan SUV. Coming in two variants, the Macan 4 provides the longer 381-mile range, and 403hp, while the Macan Turbo has 631hp and a 3.3 second 0-62mph.

ASTON MARTIN VANTAGE

Aston has upped the power of its Vantage by a massive 30% and the performance figures land just shy of its DB12 big brother – a 3.4-second 0-60mph time and a 202mph top speed. There's no price yet, but we expect it to cost around £165,000.



VW GOOD

VW ID.7 GETS A STUNNING OS UPGRADE

The VW ID.7 offers a huge infotainment upgrade from past EVs

Sitting in the brand new VW ID.7 is a very pleasant experience. This long-wheel-base electric car is the company's new flagship model and is ideal for longer commutes and distant business meetings, thanks to its spacious interior and nearly 400 miles of range.

Perhaps the most striking feature of this new EV, however, is the updated OS on the 15-inch central display. This has been redesigned to offer a simpler user interface with lots of customisation and a new voice assistant too.

As default, there are two main home screens that you can swipe between on the OS. Both of these screens can be customised, and you can have up to five pages on the system at any one time. It means you could have different screens for different drivers, or different purposes.

New top and bottom bars offer quick access to features. The top bar is a series of customisable quick access buttons, such as navigation, drive mode, phone and parking mode, while the bottom bar is related to the vehicle's climate controls and seat heating/cooling. The Climate screen now includes the ability to change the direction of the air vents, rather than manually directing them.

This has been popular on Tesla models.

IDA is the new VW voice assistant and uses ChatGPT's large language model to better understand your commands. The nice part though is that you can easily change the activation word, to whatever you want it to be. So, if you want to name your car, you can have that as the activation word. So it could be Bunny, or Herbie or Brian...

The navigation system includes live information about EV charging stations. When you find a charging station on the map it will tell you how chargers are available and their speed. When you plan a route, it will also calculate how many charging stops you need and add them to the journey automatically.

The main instrument panel has been pared right back on the ID.7 to just a small simple display behind the wheel. This is because the head-up display becomes the main source of information for the driver, with lots of info in your line of sight and the small display behind the wheel is more of a fall-back.

Overall, these small changes have made a big difference to how the VW OS operates and make it a far better system than before. The combination of head-up display, new home screen and improved voice assistant make this a leap forward.

BEST FITNESS TRACKERS

WHOOP

Whoop has developed a unique system of tracking strain on your body caused by physiological factors via its free-of-charge wearable, allowing you to train hard and recover even better afterwards. Thanks to the lack of display on show, the Whoop tracker is less intrusive than traditional smartwatches, too.
From ₹24,000/year, whoop.com

FITBIT CHARGE 6

The Google-powered Fitbit Charge 6 is a superb wrist wearable that offers onboard GPS, a bright AMOLED screen, automatic activity tracking, week-long battery life and more. This slim fitness tracker can also measure ECG and help you keep track of your stress level.
₹15,000, fitbit.com

HUAWEI BAND 8

Thanks to its TruSleep 3.0 technology, the Band 8 can provide insights into your sleep like no other fitness tracker. It also has over 100 sports modes straight out of the box, so no matter how you keep fit, the Band 8 will be able to track it.
₹5,200, consumer.huawei.com

HAPPY FEET

ROAD RACING HOTS UP

With the Cielo X1, Hoka re-enters the super shoe market with a bang

The super shoe business is a cutthroat one, with companies continuously trying to outdo each other using space-age tech to create the lightest and fastest shoes. Hoka has been lagging behind somewhat compared to brands such as Nike, Adidas, New Balance and more.

However, the latest addition to the Hoka road racing lineup, the Cielo X1 (₹26,000, hoka.com), might change the status quo. The highest energy return shoe from Hoka to date, the Cielo X1 was designed with insights and feedback from the Hoka roster of elite athletes and features tons of innovative technologies.

These include an exaggerated new rocker profile, asymmetrical Active Foot Frame, dynamic winged carbon fibre plate and a cored out midsole.

An all-new engineered knit upper provides a lightweight, breathable foot-hugging fit, while the asymmetrical gusseted knit tongue enables easy entry and a race-ready lockdown.

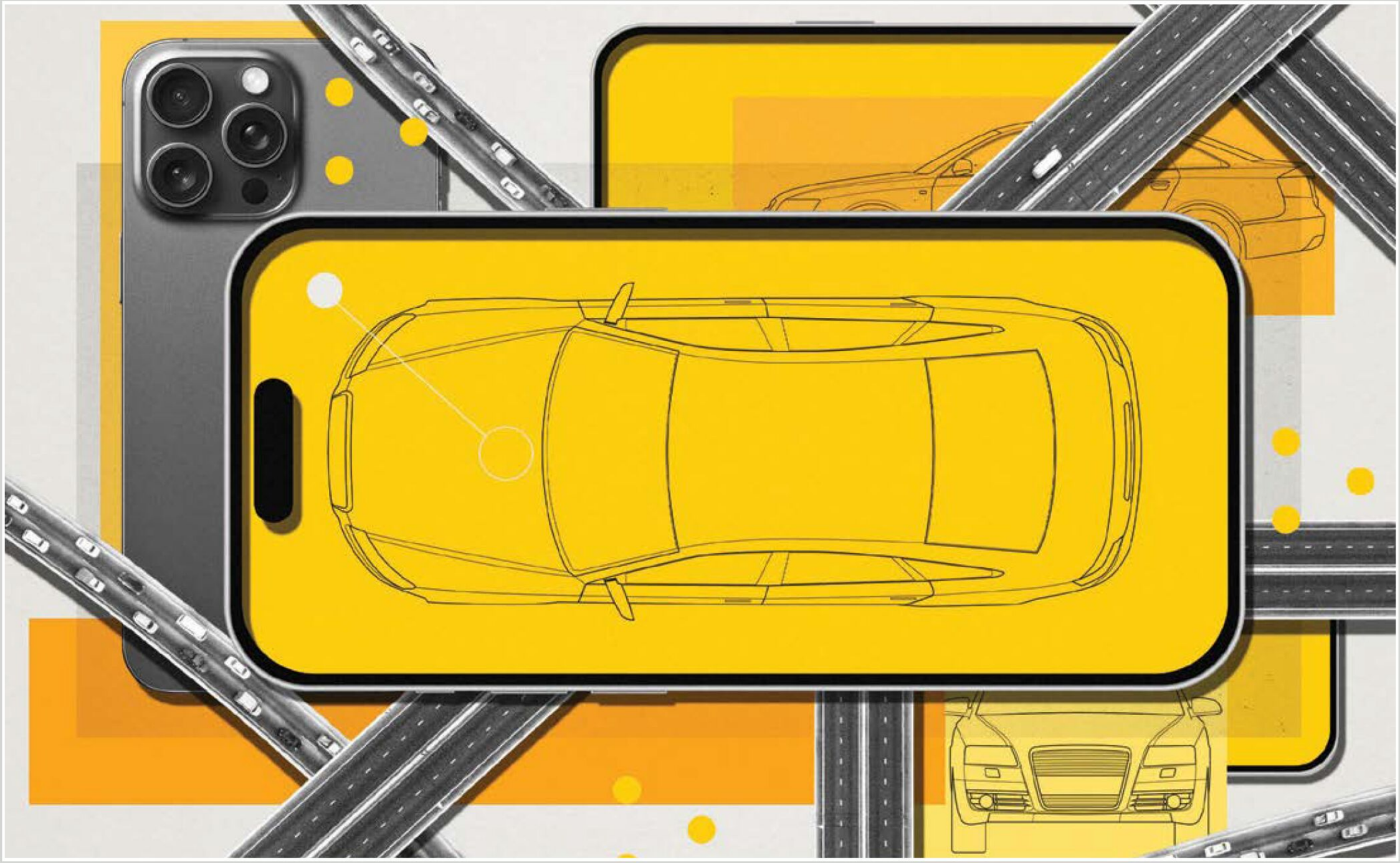
MAKES SENSE

AT YOUR OWN PACE

A smart treadmill that can automatically 'sense' changes in pace

Wahoo's latest home gym equipment offering, the Kickr Run Smart Treadmill (₹TBC, wahoofitness.com), has a 'revolutionary' new sensing system called RunFree Mode, which allows you to change pace without touching the controls. With RunFree Mode, a high-speed motor reacts in milliseconds to your position on the running surface, allowing natural and confident pace changes – without any interaction with the console. With tilting functionality, you can also automatically level the Kickr Run.

GADGET GURU | *T3*'s fast-thinking tech roadster plugs in to answer more queries



Q Can I connect my phone to my car wirelessly?

A You've probably heard that many big manufacturers are planning to drop support for Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, presumably because they are steaming idiots. Well, let's just say you should enjoy this while it lasts.

The good news is that adapters exist for both platforms that let you go from wired to wireless, even when using a head unit that does not natively support wireless connections. Apple users will want to look at the QuadLock Wireless CarPlay Adaptor (₹8,300), while Android folks must make do with the decidedly more rinkydink-seeming AAWireless (around ₹6,200) or one of its countless clones. These sit in your USB port and act as a bridge – once you get in your car and your phone connects to their built-in Wi-Fi, they send what needs to be sent to the car's screen.

Do be careful, though: these can draw a little bit of power, so you'll need to unplug them if your car's USB port decides to deliver juice even with the ignition off. Cars, eh? Who'd have them?

Those with older autos may consider a more extreme upgrade like the Kenwood DMX7722DABS (₹45,000), as long as it fits the dashboard. It does wired and wireless connectivity for both motoring phone platforms, and it's almost certainly a lot more user-friendly than your current car stereo, which was designed by a sadistic demon focused only on your discomfort. Just make sure you don't lose access to any screen-based core car functions when switching out.

ABOVE **That junction makes Milton Keynes look like a dream to drive...**

YOUR CURRENT CAR STEREO ISN'T USER-FRIENDLY. IT WAS DESIGNED BY A SADISTIC DEMON FOCUSED ONLY ON YOUR DISCOMFORT

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPHEN KELLY

Q How can I keep the recordings on my DVR?

A GaGu's favourite 'reader' returns with another stumper: he has a bunch of precious things in his box and wonders if anything faff-free can be done to save his special recordings when said box reaches its natural end-of-life. Heck no, Mr Lewin. This is not the age of VHS.

Here's the thing: you don't really own those recordings. The law says you kinda vaguely own a theoretical and non-perpetual license to keep one single time-shifted copy of the content in one place. In this sense, the things on your DVR are similar to your hoary VHS copy of the ITV airing of RoboCop where there are inexplicably no swears or penis shootings. Keeping your own tape of that is fine (you do you) but if you were to start dubbing it onto blank E180s in order to make more copies you'd be entering the realm of piracy.

The same would be true of making copies of the content on your cable box. There's a reason TV providers encrypt the recordings that go onto DVRs. You wouldn't even need to faff around with cables and getting the tracking right – piracy would be a drag-and-drop endeavour, and they'd be enabling it if they didn't lock it down. That sucks for you, but it's the way it is.

Guru could make long-winded suggestions involving computers and HDMI capture cards and all sorts, as it is at least possible to force-copy those recordings if you are truly determined. GaGu suspects there would be very little chance of someone knocking on your door for a serious chat even if you did. But think of the inevitable demise of that box as just another format shift: you might have a room full of Betamax tapes and HD-DVD discs that you can't bear to part with, but most people are happy to just shrug and awkwardly move on to the next thing.

ABOVE There's one person who really does love Marmite

GADGET GURU'S MAGIC BOX

Allow GaGu his indulgences, serf, for this bit of this particular page is his so he gets to spout off about the Apple Vision Pro (somewhere upwards of ₹3,65,000, probably) and you can't stop him even if you're Tim Cook himself. Guru does not dislike the Vision Pro. He's not sure what it is for, at this point – nothing VR or AR makes any sense unless it has a vibrant ecosystem supporting it, and Apple hasn't built one of those – but the hardware itself is incredibly impressive. It's a glimpse of the future.

The problem is the people. It's you. It's the dorks wibbling their hands around typing on an invisible keyboard while sat on a train. It's the utter dingbats walking along a road wearing that stupid headset on their stupid faces just for attention, as if anyone seeing you will think anything other than creative swears. It's the utterly irresponsible wastes of skin – get this – driving (or, worse, allowing their Teslas to drive themselves) with their eyeballs completely covered by expensive Apple technology and their peripheral vision gone. The Vision Pro has brought out the worst in people trying to get attention on the internet, and it won't be long before someone is severely beaten up or even killed because of their actions.

Believe it or not, Guru doesn't want to see anyone hurt. Here's an idea for a TikTok-friendly stunt: you shove that thing on your face, in your house, sat safely in a chair, and then – here's the difficult bit – don't film yourself at all. That'll be friendly to Guru's timeline anyway.

Or how about taking the Vision Pro off, putting it down, going for a mildly risky ride on a OneWheel GT (around ₹2,40,000), and returning to your house exhilarated through having enjoyed the world through your own two eyes rather than through expensive wally-goggles?

Q How do I personalise my partner's breakfast?

A You'll need to put ₹12,500 in your pocket and mount an expedition to a remote mountain in rural Vermont. There, in a cloud of strange-smelling smoke, you will find Galen Dively III, one-time proprietor of the Vermont Novelty Toaster Company. He is, he says, "not very good at keeping a company together", preferring instead to create tie dye art and groove to jam bands. But if you cross his palm with dollars and help him fulfil his ongoing obligations to the IRS, he may create a one-of-a-kind personalised toaster that will scorch your face onto bread. There is literally no other way to get the job done: you must make them eat your face. And if you can't make the hike to Galen Dively's stoner resort, you could upload a picture and some cash through burntimpressions.com – though GaGu presumes this depends on how 'motivated' he happens to be on any given day.

What can I do to secure my pocket info?

Are we carrying too much of our financial lives around with us? If we are, asks Jon Bentley, what can we do to make us less vulnerable?

A recent New York Times article shocked many, me included, by showing how easily a stolen passcode can ruin your digital and financial life. It centred on iPhones but Android users are no safer. A criminal would observe someone entering their passcode, trick them into giving it away, or worse still make them reveal it at knifepoint. Then they'd steal the phone and change the passcode, change the face in FaceID, the password in AppleID, turn off Find My iPhone, and render the passwords in a keychain unusable, all within a minute or two.

My own enthusiasm for financial apps dates back to interviewing an ex-hacker, many years ago. He strongly advised doing online banking through a phone rather than a browser because it was way more secure. Since then, helped by reassuringly sophisticated biometric security features and sheer convenience, phone-based banking has become the norm. Surveys suggest 90% of us now use banking apps, but unauthorised access to them plus everything else on your phone – social accounts, photos, emails and even these days your car keys – compromises almost all aspects of your life and makes this portable 'attack surface' so rewarding for the criminal. It doesn't help that many extra verification codes are sent through to your phone too – whether by SMS or through a (more secure) authentication app. The very device that institutions use to try and protect you is the one that's been nicked. Some banks have been sufficiently concerned about your phone's vulnerability to start generating their own versions of your biometric identity, which they store on their servers rather than locally on your phone.

> The very device institutions use to try and protect you is the one that's been nicked

To be fair Apple has begun to address the issue seriously in iOS 17.3. The new Stolen Device Protection feature requires additional Face or Touch ID authentication when you're not in a familiar location and access features like stored passwords. It also introduces a one-hour delay followed by a second Face or Touch ID authentication when you change 'critical security settings' like your Apple ID or Face ID. It should give you time to thwart the worst in an emergency.

Are these precautions enough? I called Ken Munro of cyber security experts Pen Test Partners. He's of the view that, balancing the risks, people should still "bank using their phone rather than web apps, because it's much more likely that someone would compromise your home PC". He added that Stolen Device Protection is "one of the best things Apple has done" and that you should switch it on. His major worry, at least for iPhone users, is elsewhere – the recent EU ruling that forces the company to open their phones up to other app stores. "That changes things to my mind, because while Apple is good about keeping rogue apps out of its app store... this potentially exposes customers to bad app stores."

For the moment, Ken's words reassured me that I wasn't quite as vulnerable as I'd feared. I don't think I'll abandon my financial apps wholesale and go back to banking purely in a browser. But I might rehearse what to do if my phone gets stolen – an emergency disaster planning scenario that will help me be more effective if the nightmare becomes reality.

2024 will be the year of camping

Matt Kollat thinks we should all get under canvas on our next holiday – because tech is making it an absolute pleasure

Camping is a nostalgic throwback to childhood, triggering memories of parents fumbling with portable stoves sat atop wobbly tables while we kids danced around, partly for fun, partly to escape pesky bugs. Spending a night in a tent under the blanket of the starry sky has changed significantly since those times. The being in nature element is still very much present, but thanks to innovative technologies, camping in 2024 is a very different experience from yesteryear.

In the US alone, a whopping 66 million folks pitched tents in 2021, with 8.3 million embracing camping for the first time. That's a huge increase year on year. Similar numbers are observed in the UK, where 1 in 5 adults have been camping or caravanning post-Covid. Spending on camping trips increased to £2.7 billion in 2021 – 80% more than in 2020.

Why the camping craze? It's a mix of eco-consciousness and budget-savvy adventuring. Airbnb prices have soared 36% between 2019 and 2023, nudging folks towards cheaper camping trips.

The most significant increase in interest comes from the younger generation: 45% of millennials and 44% of Gen Z have the highest level of interest among prospective new campers. These are the same generations who have vague memories of camping trips with their parents and would like to recreate those memories. However, their expectations of what it means to camp are different, and they require more sophisticated camping gear than before.

Lucky for them, camping has undergone a tech-savvy makeover, blending nature with innovation. Spending time outdoors without giving up many of your creature comforts has never been easier.

> The most significant increase in interest comes from the younger generation

Rooftop tents are an excellent example. Championed by companies such as Thule and TentBox, they provide a home-from-home experience with luxurious double mattresses, lights, extensive storage and more.

Sleeping bags are also getting lighter, more compact and repairable, and so are sleeping pads. Nemo's Endless Promise collection is made with a mono-polymer design, creating a product that's nearly entirely made from a single material family, making it much easier to recycle at the end of the product's lifecycle.

On-the-go water filtration is also getting more efficient, enabling you to have drinking water wherever you are. LifeStraw's Peak Solo Filter is hardly any bigger than a USB stick (does anyone still use those?), yet it can fill a 1-litre bottle with clean water in under 20 seconds. LifeSaver's Jerrycan can filter 20,000 litres of water without missing a beat.

Portable power stations can power all your devices, provide light and ensure you never run out of juice when out and about. Dabbsson's new power stations use semi-solid state LFP batteries, which have a 15-year lifespan and can maintain their efficiency for over 4,500 charge cycles.

Snoozing under the stars in 2024 is a plush affair and something you should try, too. Thanks to the increased interest in camping, the infrastructure is way better than it used to be, not to mention the exciting new products in the category. Time to get out and pitch those tents, people!

TONE WINNER

AT-2300

DOLBY ATMOS DECODE 4K CINEMA AVR 7.1.4

AT-2300 is a Dolby Atmos theater & Karaoke integrated amplifier. It's a all in one machine which combines home theater system, personal music center and professional Karaoke system. AT-2300's professional 5.1.2 channel immersion karaoke system is pioneering in audio industry. Support audio return channel (ARC), which can make smart TV turn into song-order machine.

KRIPA ELECTRONICS (INDIA) PVT. LTD.

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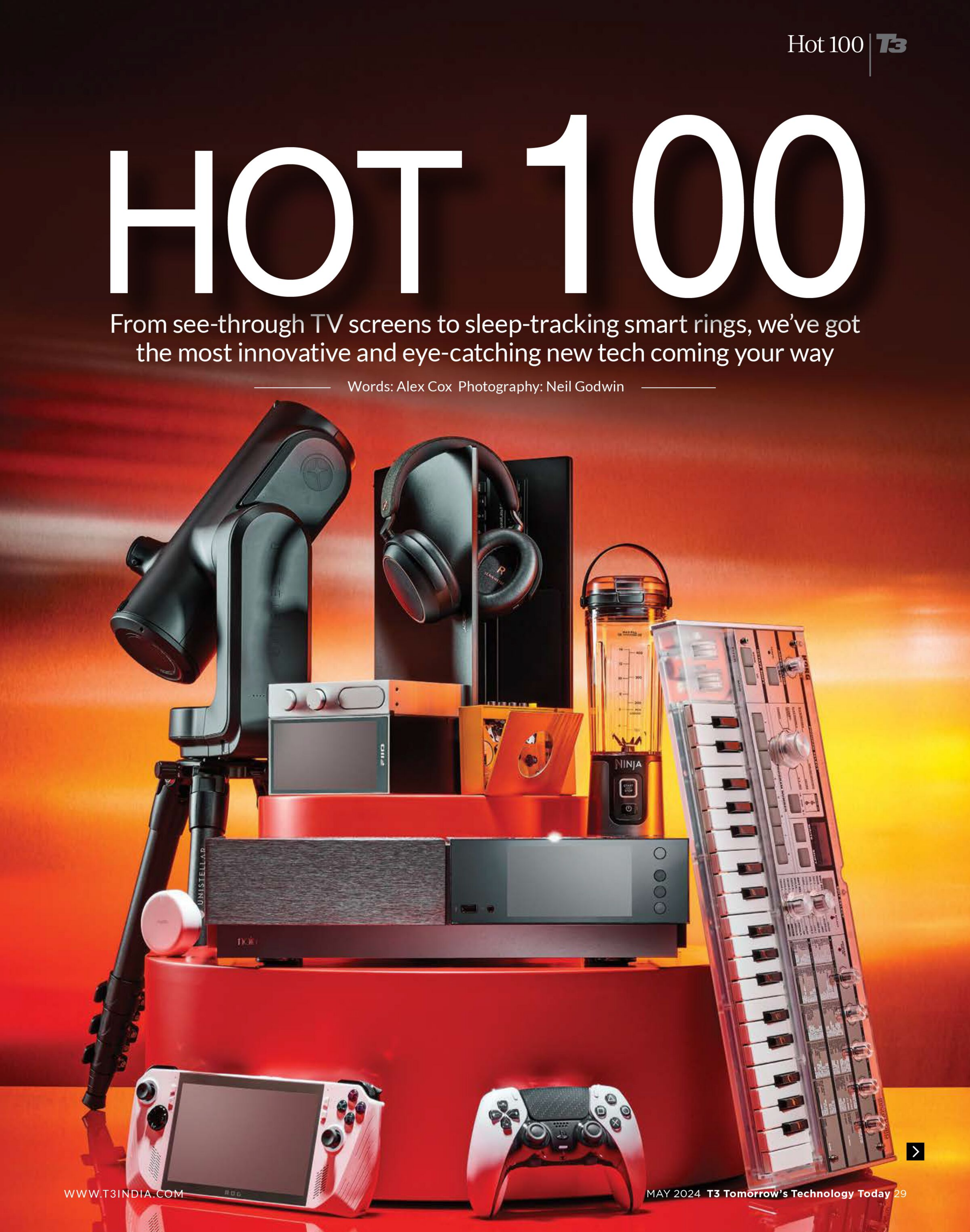
A Wing, 801, Kanakia Wall Street, Andheri East, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400093

HOT 100

From see-through TV screens to sleep-tracking smart rings, we've got the most innovative and eye-catching new tech coming your way

Words: Alex Cox Photography: Neil Godwin



#100
PROJECT ASCENSIO

The concept art for this space elevator, designed by 30-year-old Jordan-William Hughes, might look like it belongs on a *Magic: The Gathering* card, but the concept of switching out rockets for wires connected to a seafaring spaceport might just transcend the world of fantasy. The future isn't burning fuel – it's about sustainable transport.
jordanhughes.artstation.com

#99
RAZER BLACKSHARK V2 HYPERSPEED

Razer's Hyperspeed wireless connectivity is the perfect partner for a capable headset like this. Not only do you get full freedom of movement – doubly so since, despite its chunky looks, the Blackshark V2 weighs just 280g – but also sound that's as lag free as possible without wires. Oh, also superb sound and an excellent mic, but that goes without saying.
₹21,000, razer.com

#98
LINKFACE MOISTPOD

Don't call your device that. Seriously, it's gross. But whatever it's called, the Linkface MoistPod does have some practical application. Hold the unit up to your face and, through a link to your phone, it'll analyse just how dry your eyes are. Then it will spray out just the right volume of moisturising mist to take them from crispy to sparkling. Why have we waited so long for this?!
₹TBC, linkface.imweb.me

#97
TARGUS ERGOFLIP

Left-handers have been denied the luxury of ergonomic mice for far too long. The ErgoFlip doesn't just cater for those on the sinister side – it's fine to share or swap hands as you wish, with a top shell that spins around to accommodate fingers and thumbs in either configuration. And it includes an antimicrobial coating that should prevent it getting too gross.
₹6,300, targus.com

#96
DERUCCI T11 PRO SMART MATTRESS

What if your mattress knew a little too much? DeRUCCI's does. It includes 23 sensors that track your sleep state and position, and builds in 18 support air bags that help it shift you about when it detects that you're not sleeping sweetly. Check the report in the morning, and you might learn about health issues you never knew you had.
$8,250 (around ₹6,88,000), derucci.com

#95
LOOKING GLASS GO

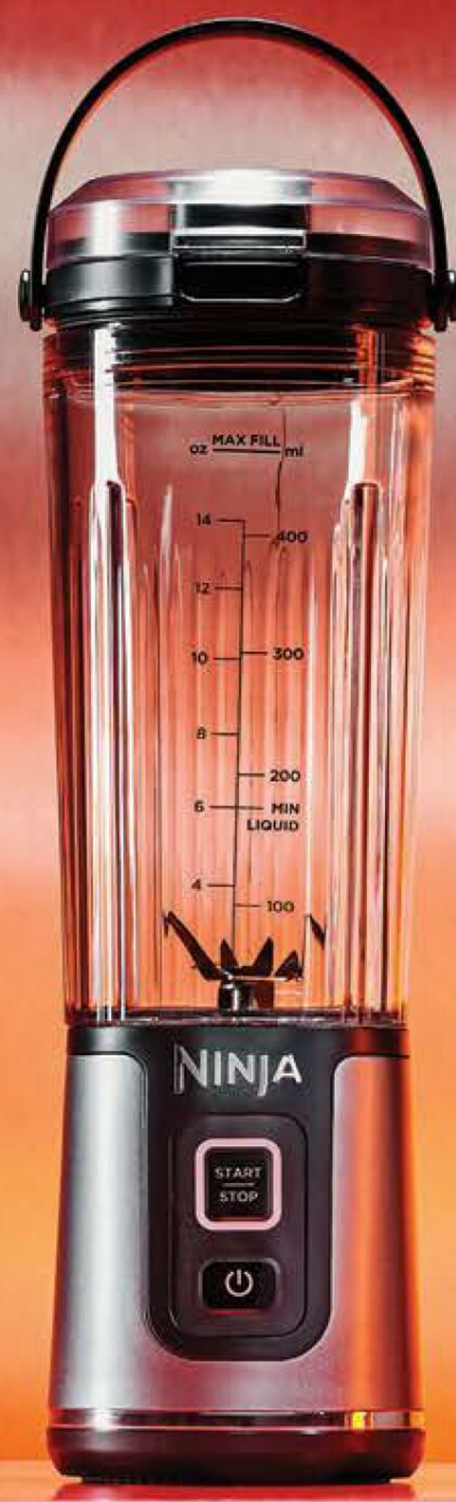
There's really no point to Looking Glass' nifty holographic screens other than to elicit an 'ooh, look at that' reaction – but sometimes that's all you need. The Go marks a smaller, more affordable take on the depth-of-field display, made for what Looking Glass calls Spatial Memories – and its software can 'turn just about any photo 3D'.
$300 (around ₹25,000), lookingglassfactory.com

#94
COLDSNAP ICE CREAM ROBOT

While we're sure the ColdSnap, which has been in development for several years, will serve up a delicious bowl of ice cream, you must feed it special first-party pods before it'll spit out a scoop. Ice cream is not rare. You can buy it, ready to go, from a shop, without the need for a wacky machine. Silly.
₹TBC, coldsnap.com

#93
WILLCOOK OVEN BAG

Keep leftovers warm or actually cook food on the go with a stylish battery-powered bag that somehow doubles as a 150-degree oven. Switch it off, let it cool, and its insulation will even keep stuff cold. An innovation, particularly for those that can't stand to eat a room-temperature snack.
$200 (around ₹17,000), willtex.co.jp



#92
NINJA BLAST

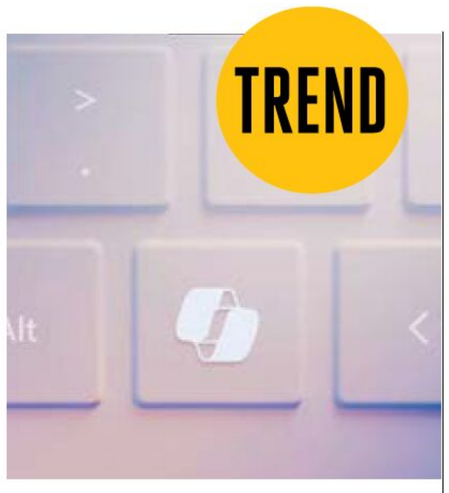
Every time we've made a smoothie and left it longer than about five minutes, it has transformed from an appetising whole into several distinctly less palatable layers of different ingredients. With the compact, battery-powered Blast, you can make your smoothie when and where you want it. Pack it full of fruit, take it to the gym, and whizz it up.

₹5,200, ninjakitchen.com

#91
AQARA PRESENCE SENSOR FP2

A smart home revelation? Certainly, if you're creative. Aqara's sensor can detect up to five individual people. What you use it for is up to you: there are obvious security, lighting and smart thermostat applications, but also certain not-so-obvious automations that its multi-person detection opens up. Sleep sensing is one. Delaying one's wake up routine if someone's still in bed sounds glorious.

₹7,200



#90
MICROSOFT AI KEY

Windows 11 users will have noticed Microsoft's pushing of Copilot, its new AI assistant, on the desktop. Laptop buyers will soon be forced to contend with its appearance on their keyboards, too, as Microsoft is set to pair the 30-year-old but still contentious Windows key with a new AI key. For around 5% of the population, this is going to be hugely useful.

#89
STERN PINBALL JAWS

The leading name in pinball keeps scoring multiball jackpots. *Jaws* is available in three trims, from the perfectly acceptable Pro to the outrageously indulgent limited edition, and all take advantage of Stern's Insider Connected system, which links the world's machines to pit all players against one another.

From ₹8,53,000, sternpinball.com

#88
KOHLER E-INK NUMI 2.0

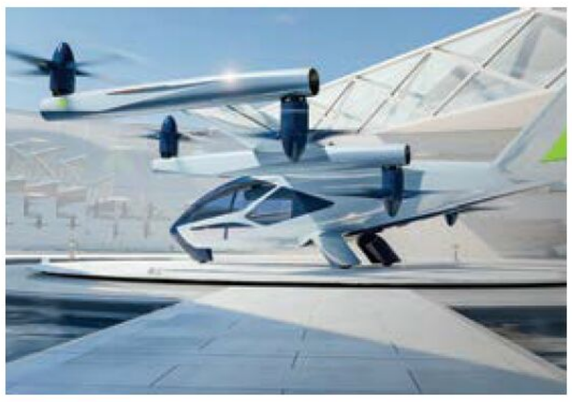
You'll agree that 'Numi' is a terrible name for a toilet, particularly one that's introduced as an 'immersive sensory experience', but we can't fault the innovation here. Cloaked in e-ink, like last year's monochrome morphing BMW, the whole commode can change appearance, offer up music and lighting, and respond to voice control. For some reason.

₹TBC, kohler.com

#87
CURRENTBODY SKIN

Red and near infra-red therapy can have a positive effect on the tightness of one's skin, so there's no wonder it's the flavour of the month. The Currentbody Skin range includes a number of soft but terrifying looking devices that can help you apply IR to the bits that matter most to you – the neck, around the eyes, the lips, or even the full face.

From ₹28,000, currentbody.com



#86
SUPERNAL S-A2

The flying car future keeps getting pushed back, so far that we can see barely a glimmer of it on the most distant horizon. We don't think you'll be piloting one of these. But we could absolutely see Supernal's mini electric flyer forming the core of a super-premium Uber-like service, flown by responsible people who know what they're doing.

₹TBC, supernal.aero

#85
HONDA OTOCOMPACTO

What's the best way to get around a city? Honda thinks it might be this, a luggable suitcase-like device that transforms into a little electric moped. As implausible as it might seem, it actually turns out to be very practical – particularly as it sits neatly on a luggage rack.

$995 (around ₹83,000), motocompacto.honda.com

#84
OGMEN ORO

Why should humans have all the fun? The ORo is a companion robot especially made for dogs. Excellent for dealing with separation anxiety, whether that be the human or canine variety, since this can play with your dog and give it treats, or offer you a look at what your hound is destroying while you're stuck at work.

$799 (around ₹67,000), orobuddy.com

#83
VIVOO AT-HOME SMART URINARY TRACT INFECTION TEST

An odd choice for the Hot 100? Hear us out. The app is the cool bit, being a practical use of deep learning tech. It uses AI to analyse the test stick to determine whether or not you actually have a UTI. Though you'll probably have an inkling.

₹TBC, vivoo.io

#82
RAZER HUNTSMAN V3 PRO

The Huntsman V3 is more than just a mechanical keyboard. It uses Razer's second-gen analogue optical switches, which feature a customisable actuation height, meaning it can be as sensitive as your fingers like and be made to reactuate without fully retracting one's finger from the key. It's basically an unfair advantage, and what gamer doesn't want that?
From ₹1,87,000, razer.com

#81
OTTOBOT BREW

More of a commercial robot here, much though we'd love to have a little guy trundling around our house offering us freshly poured beer. The Brew carries with it a Cooler Keg, which is a combination cooler and CO2 draft system, and its app-based ordering system is definitely a neat idea if you're crying out for a drink and don't want to leave your cushy table.
₹TBC, ottobotbrew.com

#80
QI2 CHARGING

With Apple on the design committee, Qi2 is on the way, and ready to right a few wrongs. That means a boost in official charging power to 15W, with a likely upgrade on the way down the line, and backwards compatibility with existing Qi devices. It also offers magnetic alignment for extra reliability, and works with phone cases with an added magnet.

#79
KOHLER PUREWASH E930

Not ready to rip out your toilet to replace it with a smart model? Crown your current throne with Kohler's add-on bidet system and you'll be able to get the benefits with a little less outlay. Sure, it's not cheap, but anyone who's used it will describe the benefits in uncomfortable detail...
₹1,40,000, kohler.com

#78
ABODE EDGE

We're not just thrilled by the security camera. It's the tech inside. Wi-Fi HaLow utilises sub-1GHz frequencies and some technical wizardry to create a range of over a mile, so if you're lucky enough to live on palatial grounds this could be just the solution to get coverage without all those wireless repeaters.
$199 (around ₹16,500), goabode.com

#77
BARACODA BMIND

Smart mirrors may be starting to find their niche. The BMind isn't just a quirky showcase of a screen glowing behind mirrored glass – it offers wellness advice. AI will identify your mood and make recommendations based on what it perceives to be your mental state.
₹TBC, baracoda.com

#76
KANTO AUDIO ORA 4

Back in the PC's heyday, everyone had a set of small powered speakers on their desks. Kanto's Ora speakers are basically that, sporting dinky tweeters, but they output what Kanto calls audiophile-grade reference-quality sound – so they're as good for musicians as they are for gamers.
₹32,000, kantoaudio.com

#75
ATARI 400 MINI

The latest classic computer to get the mini treatment is the Atari 400. For those of us in the UK, this will be more a journey of discovery than one of nostalgia, given that the 400 didn't reach the heights of the C64 and others here, but we can't fault the effort, and there are plenty of gems pre-installed.
$120 (around ₹10,000), atari.com

#74
DOMETHICS CAREPET

Taking one's pet to the vet every time they cough gets expensive fast. A smart pet bed appears to be a wiser investment, and the Carepet can offer data on heart rate, respiration and sleep quality as they doze, as well as tying those stats to environmental conditions. Through its app, you get early warning on potential issues and peace of mind.
₹TBC, domethics.com

#73
DYSON AIRSTRAIT

Take a guess as to how Dyson's innovative straightener flattens out multiple types of hair without using hot plates and without damaging the hair. The clue is in the name: it uses hot air. Precisely angled and intricately controlled, the air can even do the job on wet hair straight from the shower, or be made to blow cold to set a style.
₹47,000, dyson.com

#72
MAXI-COSI SEE PRO 360° BABY MONITOR

Can this really translate a baby's cries? We'll stay dubious about the efficacy of Maxi-Cosi's CryAssist feature, but we're not concerned about its 2K camera, its five-inch parent screen, and the panning, tilting and zooming that'll keep your baby in frame.
₹21,000, maxi-cosi.com

#71

SONY DUALSENSE EDGE

For PS5 or PC players, the DualSense might just be the best controller on the market. But – hear us out, here – what if it could be better? What if it could give you exactly what you want? Replaceable stick modules, changeable caps, customisable triggers and multiple built-in profiles make this the very best of the best. Worth the extra investment.

₹22,000, playstation.com

#70
NAD M66

NAD is an elder statesman of high-end hi-fi, and the reputation it carries from the past few decades is just as relevant today as it was then. The M66 sees it planting its feet firmly in the present: it's an advanced streamer packing support for all relevant hi-res tech and an audiophile-grade DAC and preamp.
₹4,69,000, nadelectronics.com

#69
IMOU CRUISER 2

Home surveillance tech is now so affordable and easy that everyone should have a camera or two installed somewhere. Imou's newest combines panoramic pan and tilt with a built-in AI engine that can detect intruders. This will mean nobody's setting foot on your property without you knowing about it – even in twilight, thanks to colour night vision.
₹7,200, imoulife.com

#68
AIRTHINGS RENEW

If any company knows a thing or two about air quality it's AirThings, though to our knowledge this is the first time it has gone beyond detectors to do something about it. Looking like a cross between a suitcase and a subwoofer – but far, far quieter – the Renew uses both HEPA-13 and charcoal filters to pull everything nasty out of the air around you.
₹36,000, airthings.com

#67
SKWHEEL ONE

We're all for innovation in the personal mobility space. Electric all-terrain skis with a top speed of 50mph, though? Perhaps that's a tool best left for the Red Bull generation, or those with less respect for their own teeth. We're positive that the SKWheel One will be an absolutely exhilarating experience, but we're terrified to strap them on.
₹3,92,000, skwheel.com

#66
KOHLER ANTHEM PLUS

Invest in the things you use the most, they say. Your shower should definitely be on that list, and an investment in the Anthem Plus gets you an app-controllable shower that lets you set presets for the perfect water temperature; exceptional light and sound ambience; and even a custom amount of steam.
₹TBC, kohler.com

#65
LOCKLY VISAGE

Serious security here, with a vast array of options for getting in. The Visage offers an auto-mixed PIN pad, a fingerprint reader, facial recognition, RFID key fobs, Apple Home Key and Alexa smart home support, Matter connectivity and even a slice of metal with teeth on it. Perfect for short term rentals, or those prone to losing their keys.
$349 (around ₹29,000), lockly.com

#64
SAMSUNG BALLIE

There's clearly a place for smart home robots, but whether that's in countless development labs or countless homes remains to be seen. The Ballie might just have us convinced, though. It's adorable (of course), helps manage home appliances, can follow your pets around to give you updates when you're not home, and even projects videos on the floor.
₹TBC, samsung.com

#63
MERCEDES MBUX SOUND DRIVE

The MBUX system is very neat, offering personalisation and app installation where most infotainment platforms lock it down. Sound Drive takes things several steps further: it's a reactive soundtrack generated from your journey and feedback from the vehicle's hardware, straight from the barmy mind of Will.I.Am. Essential? No. Fun? Maybe.
mercedes-benz.com

#62
EUREKA DUAL WASHING BOT

It washes! It dries! It vacuums, mops and even empties its mop bucket into the same drain as the washing machine. Eureka's ultimate cleaning combo does require the right home layout to get the most out of it, but it's an ingenious combination of smart appliances, and the most effective space saver you're likely to find.
₹TBC, eureka.com

#61
ACER EBII

The best thing about the ebike is that it doesn't need to conform to established ideals about bike design. Acer's latest sidestep into electric vehicles wears its unique look on its sleeve, building on a modular architecture and AI-based platform to create a lightweight, versatile and super-smart belt-driven two-wheeler perfect for city riding.

From €1,999 (From ₹1,78,000), acer.com

#60
HARMAN/ KARDON ALLURE ESSENTIAL

HK's newest take on smart speakers keeps the glassy looks, the 360-degree sound and Alexa from old models, but gives it a golden makeover and ambient dynamic lighting to offer your music a little light to go with super sound.

₹TBC, harmankardon.com

#59
CELLICO EYECANE

Age-related macular degeneration sees the middle of one's vision deteriorating and becoming more blurry. Samsung-backed Cellico has come up with something that might help: smart glasses that use a 4K camera to transpose that central vision into the peripheral, still working areas of the eye.

₹TBC, cellico.nanugo.kr

#58
BRANDENBURG LABS AUDIO AUGMENTED REALITY HEADPHONE SYSTEM

AR is not just for the eyes, as Brandenburg Labs is attempting to prove. It's working on immersive all-around sound that projects a directional soundscape right to your ears – the kind of thing that'll fully immerse you in VR, or simply offer up a sound-only imagination experience. There are practical uses too – but fun's the headline, we think.

brandenburg-labs.com

#57
GOZNEY ARC

Gozney makes brilliant pizza ovens. We have no reason to suspect the Arc, its brand new gas-fired outdoor oven, will be any different. The name comes from the arc the flame makes over the curved roof, which offers your dough a consistent and super-hot heat. We like that they've incorporated a digital thermometer this time, too.

₹62,000, gozney.com

#56
REOLINK DUO 3 POE

We're sure security cameras should probably try to look less cute. But there's smarts behind those eyes – they're pointed in such a manner as to provide a full 180-degree panorama of whatever they're pointed at, without having to resort to too much fish-eye distortion.

₹TBC, reolink.com

#55
HYUNDAI MOBIS E-CORNER SYSTEM

The term carcinisation describes the strange phenomenon of multiple species' evolution heading towards crab form. Hyundai puts the 'car' into that: the e-corner system sees a concept Ioniq 5 turn all of its wheels 90° and crab-drive into spaces.

hyundai.com

#54
SEERGRILLS PERFECTA

Here's something that could be revolutionary, but it has its work cut out for it if it's going to get there. Not because it doesn't work – we presume the Perfecta is brilliant at what it does – but because what it does is cook steaks in what amounts to a special sideways toaster.

$3,499 (around ₹2,90,000), seergrills.com

#53
MATIC

It's a robot vacuum. One that's not nearly as connected as some of its rivals. But that's a good thing. Matic keeps the position of your couch private, sucking and mopping without sending a map of your house to Amazon – and it does it quietly, with a high level of internal smarts and the ability to react to voice control.

$1,795 (about ₹1,49,000), maticrobots.com

#52
NANOLEAF HESTRATOR

Nanoleaf remembers music visualisers, and plans to immortalise them by upgrading the reactive tech it's used in previous devices. The Orchestrator software picks out different frequencies, beats and melodies to give each tune its own unique light show – perfect for parties or gaming.

nanoleaf.me

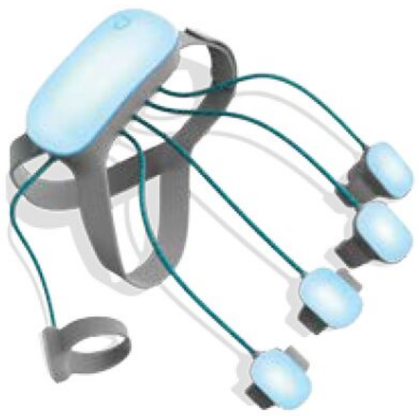
#51
FIIO R9

Let's face it, portable media players may as well drop the 'portable' given how often you'll actually put hi-res audio in your pocket. FiiO cuts out the middle man with this desktop spin on the format, and adds the kind of extra connectivity options (and dual ES9038Pro DACs) that truly make this viable as the core of a modern hi-fi setup.

₹1,45,000, fiio.com

#50
MCAFEE PROJECT MOCKING BIRD

The threat of AI-created deepfakes is so insidious that we find ourselves excited by a McAfee product for the first time in decades. Project Mockingbird fights fire with fire, using its own AI to spot computer-generated falsehoods, so you'll always know if that celebrity is really offering you a free car. (Hint: they aren't.)
mcafee.com



#49
PALMPLUG ONE

VR hand tracking is already pretty darned good, but it could be better. The PalmPlug's hand tracking is, of course, exceptional – but it's the haptic and visual feedback that really makes this sing. It's not just for VR, either: it's a cool tool whether you're getting fitter, learning a new finger-based skill, or just want to affect a cyberpunk look.
$400 (around ₹33,000), palmplug.com

#48
BELKIN AUTO TRACKING STAND PRO

Social media's pervasive influence is everywhere. If you're the next Insta superstar but don't want to leave a broken cameraperson in your wake, Belkin has your back. Stick your iPhone on the stand, let its app recognise you, and it'll train the camera on your image and never let it go.
₹18,000, belkin.com

#47
BMW AR RIDE

Since 2008, BMW has been fiddling with incorporating augmented reality tech into its driving platform, but it's been impossible until now. Xreal's Air 2 glasses, which incorporate tiny micro-OLED image overlays, might just be able to pull off the reaction times required to make the German car giant's vision of computer-aided driving a (mixed) reality.
₹TBC, bmwgroup.com

#46
SERAFIM S3

For the phone to truly reach Apple's goal of becoming the leading gaming platform, it needs solid controls. Serafim's S3 phone joystick has said solid controls. And they'll stay that way, since the sticks employ hall effect sensors, which measure the position of magnets rather than utilising gunky potentiometers. That means no drift whatsoever. Nice.
₹TBC, serafim-tech.com

#45
NVIDIA ACE

Nvidia is on something of a mission to add, well, character to non-player characters. Avatar Cloud Engine allows developers to build their personalities from AI models, hemmed in by appropriate guardrails to ensure that computer bartender doesn't suddenly start getting all inappropriate. Weirdly, we love the idea – give us a world full of interesting AI folks.
nvidia.com

#44
WACOM CINTIQ PRO 27

As much as Xencelabs et al might be nipping at Wacom's heels, the latest Cintiq Pro demonstrates why Wacom has stayed so long at the top of the tree. It's gorgeous, huge and well suited to digital artists, with a colour-calibrated 4K display, which means you'll be able to draw with the finest resolution possible. State-of-the-art.
₹3,38,000, wacom.com

#43
REENCLE GRAVITY

The Gravity itself isn't the main event here. Yes, it's a clever food bin that accepts waste and turns it, odour-free, into garden-ready compost – but it's the so-called ReencleMicrobe that does the hard work. Rather than cooking and desiccating food waste like some rival products do, the microbe digests it – and can do so within a day.
$449 (around ₹37,000), reencle.co

#42
SIGHTFUL SPACETOP AR LAPTOP

Fancy a 100-inch screen? That's the conceit behind the Spacetop, which swaps out the usual flat panel for a set of AR glasses. Bang them on your face, and the half-laptop comes into its own, popping up a desktop full of translucent windows into the air above – almost like a slightly more practical Apple Vision Pro.
$2,150 (around ₹1,78,000), sightful.com

#41

WEBER SPIRIT SPX-335

Barbecuing is an essential human act that must be performed when conditions are right. Weber's Spirit SPX-335 (and, coming soon, its larger Summit range) is the perfect way to take your sausage-scorching to the next level. It features smart, connected temperature and timing control that feeds back to your phone, so you'll never destroy a steak again.

₹1,25,000, weber.com

TREND

#40 CARGO E-BIKES

As the internal combustion engine moves ever closer to pariah status, the world seeks new solutions – and *T3* fully expects cargo ebikes to fill the streets over the next couple of years. Vehicles like the Trek Fetch+ 2 (₹4,80,000) offer carrying capacity, tremendous hill-devouring torque, and the range to match whatever that last mile delivery brings.

#39 NUANCE GLASSES

Hearing aids are expensive and, wrongly, many people won't wear them because they consider them uncool. Nuance's solution is far more subtle, employing an array of beam-forming microphones to pick out a 20-degree arc of noise-suppressed sound in front of the wearer, and amplifying it to the ears with four invisible temple-mounted speakers.
₹TBC, essilorluxottica.com

#38 FUSE AUDIO WRAP

The vinyl re-revolution is not just about enjoying the warmth of analogue sound, it's about the physical, tactile and beautiful nature of physical media. Make the most of displaying your limited edition picture discs and lurid-coloured LPs with Fuse's well-appointed vertical spinner, which works standalone, cabled, or via a Bluetooth output.
$210 (around ₹17,000), fuseaudio.net

#37 SEGWAY GOKART PRO 2

The Pro 2 is pure fun, whether you're scooting around on four wheels or sitting static in front of the TV. 4mph faster than the original GoKart, now hitting 26.7mph in race mode, this is great to take out in the sun – and it converts to a console-compatible force feedback racing controller when you're stuck inside.
₹TBC, segway.com

#36 ALIENWARE 32 4K QD-OLED

The advanced colour of quantum dots and the true blacks of OLED go rather well together. This is the first time we've seen a manufacturer able to drive them quite this hard: Alienware says this 240Hz screen is the world's first QD-OLED monitor that manages to hit 4K resolution. It also includes Dolby Vision driven to a peak luminance of 1000 nits.
₹1,03,000, dell.com

#35 CLICKS FOR IPHONE

We don't think too many people deeply miss the Blackberry form factor, but there are plenty of social addicts and work-anywhere types that'd appreciate the tactile response of a proper QWERTY keyboard. Thus the Clicks, perhaps the most practical add-on typing surface we've seen for the iPhone, and one pulled off with a serious amount of style.
From ₹14,500, clicks.tech

#34 VIVE FULL FACE TRACKER

The metaverse needs a little expression, and HTC has the answer. Clip this on to your Vive XR Elite headset, plug in via USB-C, and you can realise your Andy Serkis dreams. Your eye and mouth movements get captured and translated onto the mug of your digital avatar – and it's also used for automatic IPD adjustments, which is a nice touch.
₹18,000, vive.com

#33 UNISTELLAR ODYSSEY

With over 5,000 celestial points of interest and 37 million stars in its database, the Odyssey already knows what you want to look at – and its smart app-driven motorised mount means you can seek out the best of the universe with no effort. There's too much maths and not enough looking at the sky in astronomy – this is a true upgrade.
₹2,29,000, unistellar.com

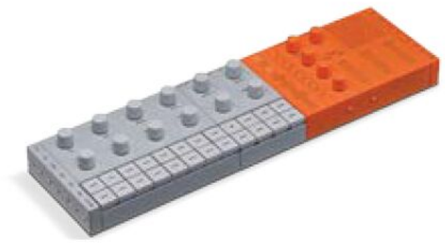
#32
JBL L42MS

Looking every bit like part of a professional PA system but squeezing in all the audio mod cons you're looking for, JBL might just have engineered itself a new streaming speaker icon with the curved L42ms. Just as comfortable below your TV as it is filling your kitchen with tunes, it uses twin angled woofers and tweeters create a massive sound field.

₹1,04,000, jbl.com

#31 PHILIPS TAB6309

TV manufacturers have been shaving off the inches – not on screens, which are getting far larger, but on their increasingly stubby stands. That's great for aesthetics, but terrible for soundbars – unless they're Philips' new 2.1 Dolby Atmos flagship, which is only 37mm tall and will therefore not block even a micron of your 4K panel.
₹TBC, philips.com



#30 YAMAHA SEQTRAK

If Yamaha's music experimentation station gives you OP-1 vibes, you wouldn't be alone – the design is redolent of Teenage Engineering's style, and the SEQTRAK is, similarly, capable of drums, synths, sequencing and some serious sound design. It's a different workflow, however – and if you love tweaking knobs, this is a winner.
₹36,000, yamaha.com

#29 ASUS ROG NUC

Intel recently announced that it was done with its NUC line, seemingly consigning the compact computer range to the bin of history – but thankfully Asus was happy to dive into that dumpster and keep the NUC flag flying. Tool-less for easy customisation, packed with a 4060 or 4070 GPU, and utilising Intel's latest Core Ultra platform, these will fly.
₹TBC, rog.asus.com

#28 HYPERKIN MEGA 95

If you missed out on the Sega Nomad – and, let's face it, most did, given it was released in 1995, in limited numbers – then Hyperkin's portable Megadrive will scratch a long untended itch. It appears to use hardware emulation for accuracy, takes actual cartridges and won't swallow six AA batteries in an hour.
₹TBC, hyperkin.com

#27 KIA PBV

PBV stands for 'Platform Beyond Vehicle' – it's Kia's really rather clever idea for a series of modular four-wheelers. They can be specced to match precisely what you want to do with them, from the number of seats in the passenger vehicles to the specific storage configuration in the commercial vans. We'll take the ultimate electric camper, please.
₹TBC, kia.com

#26 SAMSUNG THE PREMIERE 8K

Samsung is, on one hand, making ludicrous TVs. And on the other, it's arguing that you really don't need a TV at all. This isn't just an ultra-short throw projector, meaning it can sit by the wall, and neither is it only capable of projecting 130 inches of 8K. It's also wireless; its OneConnect box no longer needs a wire.
₹TBC, samsung.com

#25 BREWING

Microbrews be damned. The era of the picobrew is here, with gear like the ExoBrew Craft Gen 3 and iGulu F1. They move homebrew from mad scientist experimentation in a collection of dusty garage-bound plastic jugs to an almost foolproof process contained in equipment handsome enough to live on your kitchen counter. No more paint stripper – just a nice pint.

#24 VERGE TS ULTRA

We fully expect electricity to take hold of the motorbike market, from a practical standpoint as much as anything else. Yes, the Verge TS Ultra doesn't make the same kind of noise that an ICE bike might, but it's super-clean, super cheap to run, fast, and that back wheel makes it look like something out of *Tron*.
From $44,900 (around ₹37,00,000), vergemotorcycles.com

#23 3D MONITORS

Glasses-free 3D is the natural next step for machines with too much graphics power and not enough to do with it – but don't think it'll stop with stunning and remarkably affordable laptops like the Acer Aspire 3D 15 SpatialLabs Edition (no UK price yet, but it's $1,399 in the States). This is going to be everywhere – perhaps not right now, but in the not too distant future.

#22 FOCAL ARIA EVO X

The latest speaker series from Focal – which, as is its way, runs a five-model gamut from floorstanders to bookshelves to satellites and beyond – impresses with more than just its glossy colour schemes: this is precise and perfect engineering, with flax cones pumping out an immersive sound.
From ₹73,000, focal.com

TREND

#21
PORTABLE TAPE PLAYERS

Vinyl has hogged the attention for far too long – it's time for the tape comeback. With cool pocket players like the FiiO CP13 (₹13,500) and We Are Rewind Casette Player (pictured, ₹12,000) leading the charge with modern conveniences like USB-C charging and Bluetooth output, you can enjoy those strips of rust without the classic bother.

#20
SAMSUNG THE LINK

Samsung's vague messaging around this new monitor-connecting tech has us slightly unclear on the way it actually works. What we know is that it'll make multi-monitor setups neater than ever, linking together super-thin screens without the need for extra wires – something every cable-covered desk needs.

₹TBC, samsung.com

#19
LG DUKEBOX

The Dukebox is a smart speaker with 360-degree audio, which sums up the present day; on the front, a very futuristic transparent display draws the eye through to the vintage sight of glowing vacuum tubes behind. Somehow the whole lot really works as one – here's hoping LG takes it beyond the concept stage.

₹TBC, lg.com

#18
BLUETOOTH AURACAST

The *T3* team rarely exposes its ears. They're always safely swaddled in Bluetooth cans or plugged by Bluetooth buds. This means we miss just about everything – but Auracast might change that. It's basically a Bluetooth broadcast PA, allowing us to safely connect to public devices like tannoys, or just tune in to the cup final in the pub. Neat.

#17
ACER ASPIRE VERO 16

Are these the laptops that everyone should be using? Maybe, as far as sustainability goes. Acer's notebook crams in pro-environment features – its plastic is 60% PCR and free from mica, its packaging is 100% recyclable – but the presence of Intel's Core Ultra platform proves the insides have pep beyond the message.

From ₹1,10,000, acer.com

#16
SENNHEISER MOMENTUM TRUE WIRELESS 4

Sennheiser's newest in-ears feel like the next step for true wireless. Their new battery plus Bluetooth's low-energy Audio tech helps them last 30 hours, the ANC is as sharp as expected, and the refined TrueResponse transducers offer extra-crispy sound.

₹27,000, sennheiser-hearing.com

#15
SAMSUNG FLEX IN&OUT

A bit of showing off from Samsung here, demonstrating the kind of thing its next-level folding displays can actually do. Where the Galaxy Z Flip folds only in on itself, the Flex In&Out concept goes either way – acting as an expansive, outwardly rounded cover screen when it needs to, or completely closing up when it's in your pocket.

₹TBC, samsung.com

#14
IKEA VINDS TYRKA

With typical Ikea minimalist aplomb, a small case, but just enough technological style to pull off its role, this is a relatively basic but incredibly affordable air quality monitor that deserves a place in everyone's home. And if you want to take it further, it hooks up to Ikea's other smart home gear, like the Starkvind air purifier, to correct issues fast.

₹3,700, ikea.com

#13
AI LAWSUITS

Generative AI can make some seriously impressive things. But whatever the engine, its smarts are universally generated from a digital brain full of content scraped from the internet. Funnily enough, copyright holders find this fact somewhat troublesome, thus the rise of AI engines is likely to be counterpointed by some serious legal backlash. Expect to see sparks fly.

#12
WI-FI 7

You might not even have upgraded to Wi-Fi 6 yet. No need to worry: Wi-Fi 7 might use the same 2.4GHz, 5GHz and 6GHz bands as it predecessor, but its connections can span channels in the shorter wavelengths to allow them to send a whole heap more data, and even tie together multiple frequencies from different bands. What does this mean? Speed, lots of speed.

#11

KORG MICROKORG CRYSTAL

While we eagerly anticipate the mid-year release of the microKorg 2, the absolutely stunning Crystal has our music-fiddling needs covered. Pulling together the translucent plastic aesthetic that's now looped around from the '90s with a stainless steel faceplate, it's a delightfully sized centrepiece of any desktop music-making enterprise.

₹63,000, korg.com

#10
PHILIPS OLED+959

Time for Philips to claim a spot at the top of the TV tower? Its flagship OLED might well be enough to get it there. It sports an 8th-gen P5 AI Dual Engine processor, the upgraded Ambilight Plus to give your wall a colourful treat, and a new integrated 102W 5.1.2 sound system from Bowers & Wilkins. Watching anything on this will be an experience.
₹TBC, philips.com

#09
HISENSE 8K SONIC SCREEN LASER TV

Samsung's newest Premiere, later in the Hot 100, has a looser take on short throw projection which doesn't go nearly this far: Hisense's awesome setup builds in its own projection screen, utilises laser projection for consistent and super-bright images, and – as its name suggests – turns its screen into a big speaker for unparalleled sound.
₹TBC, hisense.com

#08
SAMSUNG HW-990D

For a soundbar to land this high up the Hot 100, it'd have to be special – and Samsung's 11.1.4 Dolby Atmos setup fits the bill. The successor to the HW-990C adds 120Hz 4K HDMI 2.1 passthrough, finally removing the bottleneck for next-gen gamers, and inserts a very neat private listening mode that uses the rear speakers for less wall-shaking sound.
₹TBC, samsung.com

#07
NAIM UNITI NOVA PE

Hi-res steamers are big news in 2024, and none gives us more confidence in its ability than Naim's incredible unit. That 'PE' stands for Power Edition, making it clear that not only is this the best looking way to put your hi-res audio front and centre, it's also packed with a 150W class D amplifier that means you need run no other hardware bar speakers.

₹8,95,000, naimaudio.com

TREND

#06

TRANSPARENT SCREENS

LG unveils the OLED T series (pictured); Samsung goes one better with the Transparent micro-LED display. The time has come for see-through screens to hit the mainstream, at least in some small and very niche way. As incredible as they are to witness, they might not suit every living room. Shop windows, on the other hand? They're going to be full of 'em.

#05

NVIDIA GEFORCE RTX 40 SUPER SERIES

Ironing out the teething troubles of the original 40-series line, the Super is the powerhouse behind today's finest gaming experiences. Sony says the PS5 is reaching the latter stages of its lifespan, but Nvidia is just getting started on the PC side – this is an upgrade that every desktop box simply needs to make.

From ₹55,000, nvidia.com

TREND

#04

HIGH-REFRESH RATE MONITORS

While the human eye might top out well below the 240Hz and ludicrous 360Hz speeds of many modern monitors, it can definitely notice the grey-to-grey difference as one colour transitions to another. Faster monitors mean a clearer, smoother and far more impressive experience. 144Hz is no longer enough, particularly if you're a Twitch gaming pro.

TREND

#03
SMART RINGS

Is there a company that isn't working on some kind of smart ring prototype? The industry seems pretty convinced that we're going to want to move health tracking away from the wrist and onto the finger; others are also testing out the potential of putting things like remote controls onto our digits. Once they're slimmer and last longer, we're in business.

#02
GAMING HANDHELDS

Turns out that integrated graphics sneakily got very good in the past few years, just as the chips they're attached to started running cooler. That means handheld gaming devices are just getting better and better – from the ROG Ally to whatever Valve does with the Steam Deck next, super-powered handhelds will demand our bag space for decades to come.

#01
APPLE VISION PRO

Whatever labels you might put on it, this isn't AR or VR. It's something new, Apple's vision for the future of computing made real, and immersing oneself in the Vision Pro is to experience something completely fresh yet familiar at the same time. There's nothing quite like it – and we're incredibly excited for where it'll take us tomorrow.

From $3,499 (around ₹2,88,000), apple.com

Guide to care for your PET CAT and DOG

Words: Anisha Ahuja

Bringing a pet into your home is a joyous occasion that comes with great responsibility. Whether you select a breed of your choice or adopt a pet in need, it's important for you to be prepared. In this guide, we'll explore the essentials you need to ensure a smooth transition for your new companion, covering everything from nutrition to playtime and comfort.

FOOD

1 NUTRITIOUS MEALS: A RECIPE FOR PET HEALTH

One of the most crucial aspects of pet care is providing a well-balanced and nutritious diet. Research the dietary needs of your specific breed, age, and size – using more than just the internet - a consultation with your veterinarian and a pet nutritionist is the right way to get started. Remember to be mindful of any allergies your pet might have.

There are various options available, each catering to different dietary needs for the pet and preferences and time spent by the pet parents.

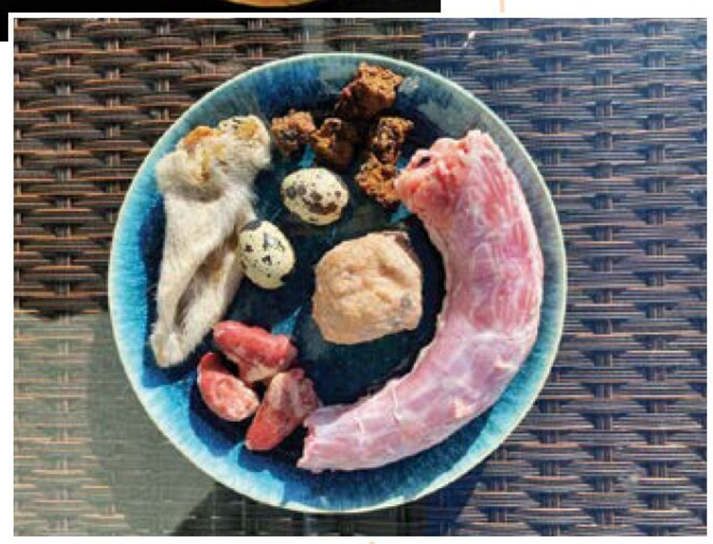
FOOD

A PROCESSED PET FOOD

petsy.online or supertails.com

The convenience of commercial pet food cannot be overstated. Dry kibble and canned food are readily available, offering a balanced blend of proteins, carbohydrates, and essential nutrients. Look for options with real meat as the primary ingredient and minimal fillers. Remember to choose formulations tailored to your pet's age, size, and breed to address their specific nutritional requirements.

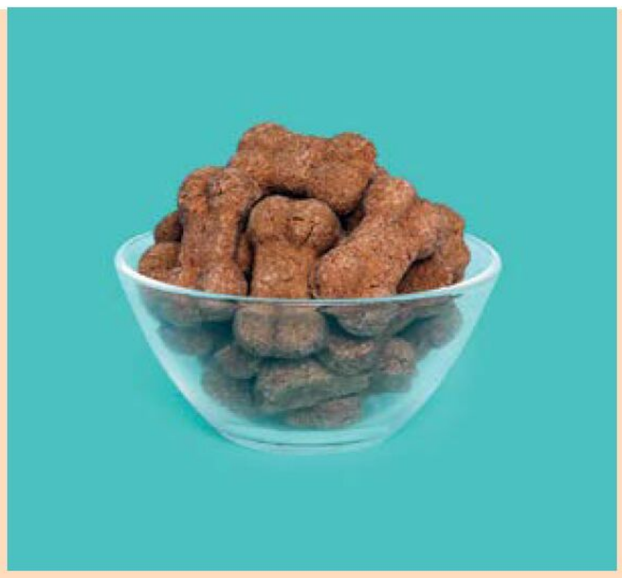
FOOD



B FRESH FOOD DIET

Mumbai - barkersdozen.dog
Bangalore - georginaskitchen.com
Delhi - doggiedabbas.com

For those seeking to serve fresh food – cooked or raw – a first step needs to be to get your vet's approval and consult a nutritionist for appropriate guidance. If one doesn't have the time to prepare these meals themselves, there are many services that provide freshly prepared, human-grade meals delivered right to your doorstep. Depending on your budget you can use a customised service tailored to your pet's unique needs or opt for ready subscription models based on your pet's age and size. These meals often boast high-quality ingredients and can be an excellent option for pets with allergies or dietary sensitivities.



C TREATS AND SNACKS

canineindia.com or
caninecraving.com

For those seeking to serve fresh food – cooked or raw – a first step needs to be to get your vet's approval and consult a nutritionist for appropriate guidance. If one doesn't have the time to prepare these meals themselves, there are many services that provide freshly prepared, human-grade meals delivered right to your doorstep. Depending on your budget you can use a customised service tailored to your pet's unique needs or opt for ready subscription models based on your pet's age and size. These meals often boast high-quality ingredients and can be an excellent option for pets with allergies or dietary sensitivities.

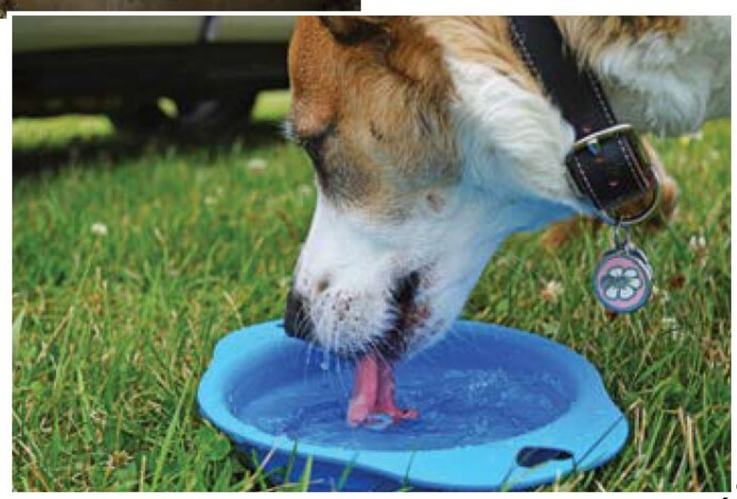
Treats are not just a delightful indulgence; they can also serve as valuable training tools. Opt for treats that are both tasty and nutritious. Check for ingredients that will add to your pet's nutritional and medical requirements – like treats formulated to address specific health concerns, such as joint support. However, be mindful of portion control, as excessive treats can contribute to weight issues. Some pet owners even choose to make homemade treats using pet-friendly recipes to have more control over ingredients. Or buy from bakers across the country preparing these in small batches without using preservatives or artificial ingredients.

FOOD

D DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS

happypuppyorganics.com or cbdstore.in

Depending on your pet's health requirements, your veterinarian might recommend dietary supplements. Omega-3 fatty acids, glucosamine, and vitamins are common supplements that can support your pet's overall well-being. However, it's crucial to consult with a veterinary professional before incorporating supplements into your pet's diet, as excessive amounts can have adverse effects. allergies or dietary sensitivities.



E HYDRATION

Just like humans, pets need access to clean, fresh water at all times. Ensure your pet's water bowl is filled regularly to prevent dehydration. If your pet is on a dry packaged food diet, you could also consider incorporating wet food into their diet to increase water intake. This can be particularly beneficial for cats, who may be less inclined to drink water.

F FEEDING EQUIPMENT

headsupfortails.com or muttofcourse.com

In today's day we are spoilt for choice when it comes to bowls for our pets. For cats, it's suggested to use flat plates and licky-mats for feeding, as they prefer this over bowls where their whiskers could touch the surface. And for dogs – there's a wide range from height adjustable feeds for large dogs to slow feeders for the fast eaters. There are also licky and snuffle mats for enrichment and play along with meal times.

ACCESSORIES AND MORE

❷ COMFORTABLE BEDDING

pawffles.com or poochmate.com

Create a cozy and comfortable space for your pet to rest. Cats and dogs both appreciate having a designated area where they can retreat and relax. Invest in a comfortable bed or blanket, ensuring it is washable for easy maintenance. Do avoid beds with waterproof liners as these can be made using very noisy material and can be warmer than required. You could also choose to get an orthopedic bed for large breed dogs that are prone to joint issues as they grow older. Remember to choose the location carefully, as per your pets personality, whether they enjoy quiet corners or spaces near family activity.

❸ TOYS FOR ENRICHMENT

fortheloveofdog.co.in or pawsindia.com

Keep your pet mentally stimulated with a variety of toys. Cats enjoy interactive toys like feather wands and scratching posts, while dogs might love chew toys or puzzle feeders, and do not forget the balls for fetch and rope toys for tug! Providing mental and physical stimulation through play is essential for preventing boredom and promoting a healthy, happy pet. An active dog's energy utilised well will deter them from being destructive indoors.

❹ COLLARS, LEASHES, AND IDENTIFICATION

petwale.com or instagram.com/tag.youareit

For cats that are always indoors – a collar with a tag is good incase they escape. And if it's a cat that you'd like to travel with, you should get them used to a harness and leash early on. For outdoor cats, collars can be avoided as they could get stuck during their adventures on trees, etc.

For dogs, a well-fitted collar and leash are must-haves for walks and outdoor activities. Some dogs may also walk better with a harness. There are multiple options of walking tools in the market today – from various types of collars and harnesses, to different types of leashes. Choosing this in consultation with a canine behaviourist is the best way forward.

5 TRAINING NEEDS

shirinmerchant.com

Especially if you're a first time pet parent, do consult a behaviourist before getting a pet home. They can advise you on how to get ready for the pet, to give it the most comfortable welcome, to set the house rules from day one and to set up for the behavioural training as per your family and lifestyle needs. You can train with the behaviourist from toilet training and leash walking in the early days and through life changes as they grow – like adding a new family member – human or canine – to advance skill training as a therapy animal.

6 GROOMING SUPPLIES

papapawsome.com and abkgrooming.com

Regular grooming is essential for your pet's well-being. Purchase grooming tools appropriate for your cat or dog's coat type, including brushes, nail clippers, and toothbrushes. Regular brushing of the coat and teeth at home are essential. And other cleaning services like nail cutting and fur cutting can be done at a professional pet salon. Establish a grooming routine early on to ensure your pet remains clean, healthy, and comfortable.

7 SAFETY ESSENTIALS

amazon.in

Pet-proof your home by removing potential hazards and providing a secure environment. This includes securing loose cords, removing toxic plants, and ensuring that cleaning products and other harmful substances are out of reach. Consider installing baby gates or creating designated pet-friendly spaces to keep your furry friend safe.

8 COMFORTABLE CLOTHING (FOR DOGS)

petwale.com and getvetco.com

Depending on the breed and climate, your dog may benefit from protective clothing, especially during monsoons and colder seasons. Invest in a well-fitting raincoat or sweater to keep your dog warm during walks. Ensure it doesn't restrict movement and is easy to put on and take off. Train your pet to get used to putting these on, even if it's off season, for hassle-free wearing during the time of need.

Bringing a pet into your home is a significant commitment, and being well-prepared ensures a positive and happy experience for both you and your new furry friend. From nutritious meals to comfortable bedding and safety essentials, providing a loving and supportive environment is key to building a strong bond with your pet. By investing time and effort in understanding and meeting their needs, you'll be well on your way to creating a harmonious and fulfilling relationship with your beloved cat or dog.

Author Bio: Anisha Ahuja is the founder of petwale.com, an online pet products and accessories store.

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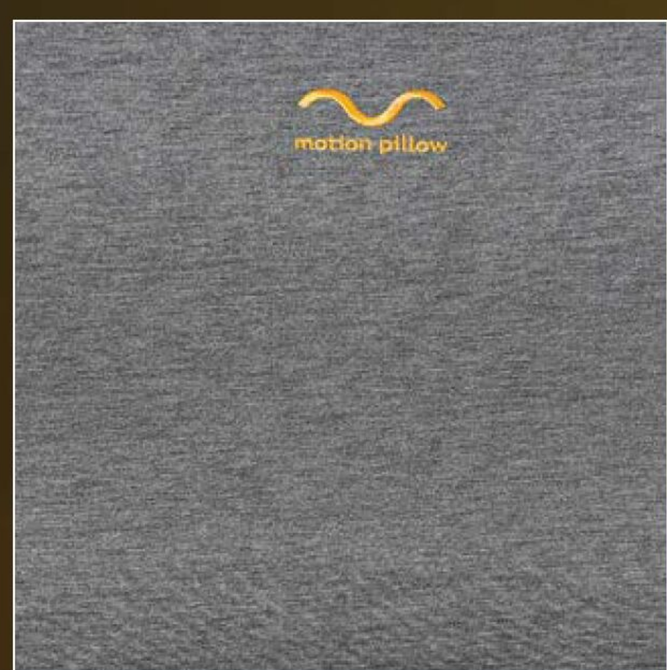
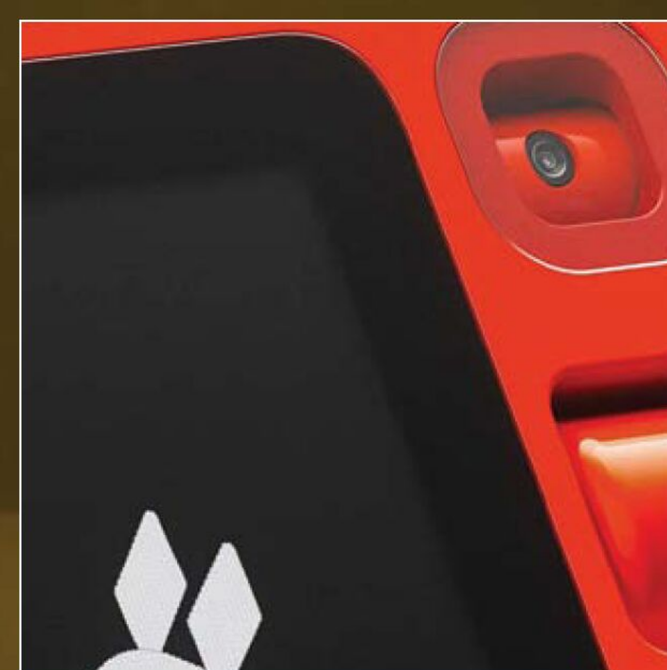
TRAILBLAZING AI TECH

Artificial intelligence is rapidly being embedded in our gadgets – and bringing you features you actually need

Words: David Nield Photography: Olly Curtis





While sci-fi books and movies have been exploring the idea of artificial intelligence for many decades, in the last year AI has been thrust front and centre into the tech that we make use of every day. We're now in a brave new world of AI, and there's no going back.

The biggest catalysts for the way AI has exploded into the public consciousness have no doubt been ChatGPT and Dall-E, both developed by OpenAI: AI engines trained on vast volumes of writings and imagery, able to produce text and art that at times are almost indistinguishable from what a human being would come up with.

The ease with which these tools can be used, and the huge scope of their abilities, has made them two of the hottest properties in tech. They've also brought controversy along with the potential: worries that AI will steal jobs, choke the web with computer-generated content, and make our misinformation problem many times worse.

With those grey areas in mind, the AI we're seeing embedded in hardware devices is easier to embrace and get behind. These are AI innovations that are genuinely useful, able to add extra powers and features to the gadgets we all rely on.

THE GADGETS

Amazon Echo Show 8

The Echo Show 8 isn't a brand new product, but we're including it here because Amazon has announced plans to add generative AI to Alexa at some point in the near future – think Alexa, but with ChatGPT-esque features as well. You can already chat to Alexa as if it's a real person of course, but the upcoming update will make that virtual person more natural sounding, better informed and able to help with more tasks – as well as being better at learning your tastes and preferences and responding with them in mind.

₹15,600, amazon.com

1 Google Pixel 8 Pro

Amid the latest wave of AI tech, Google is keen to remind everyone that it's been busy on this stuff for a long time – Gmail has offered machine-written replies since 2017, for example. In the Pixel 8 Pro, there's plenty of AI to talk about, such as instant language translations and call screening. But it's the video and image creation tools that really stand out: AI is able to remove objects from photos, cut out distracting sounds on videos, boost images taken in low light, combine multiple images together and plenty more.

From ₹1,04,000, google.com

2 Rabbit R1

The compact, bright orange Rabbit R1 more or less stole the show at CES 2024, and it shows the potential of AI to create something completely new. It works a little bit like a phone, but rather than using apps to take photos, queue up music, search the web or book a holiday, you train AI to do it all instead. That makes for an interface that's much simpler and more straightforward, and it's another step along the way towards the sort of personal digital assistants we've seen in many a science fiction movie.

$199 (about ₹17,000), rabbit.tech

3 LG AI Agent

AI promises to make household bots smarter than ever before, and the LG AI Agent is a good example. It can hold a conversation with you (and express emotion), it can answer questions and queries, and it can help you manage all of the connected gear in your home too, from smart lights to smart locks. Essentially, it's a bit like a smart speaker on wheels. There's a speaker, a camera and various sensors on board the bot, enabling it to interact with its environment and keep an eye on your home while you're away.

₹TBC, lg.com

4 Swarovski AX Visio binoculars

The Swarovski AX Visio are not your average pair of binoculars: they come with AI smarts built in, enabling them to identify birds and animals you might be peering at, so they're perfect for keen wildlife spotters (or maybe beginner wildlife spotters). According to Swarovski, more than 9,000 different types of birds and animals can be identified, and there's even an integrated camera for taking snaps as you go. It's a genuinely useful implementation of AI, making a great gadget even better still.

₹3,98,000, swarovskioptik.com

Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra

The newly launched Galaxy S24 Ultra is absolutely packed with AI: from the Circle to Search feature that can identify anything circled on screen, to the way that your notes can be summarised and organised in an instant. AI is ready and willing to help with almost everything you do on the Galaxy S24 Ultra, including composing your texts, enhancing your photos and reading the web. Perhaps the most impressive feature of the lot is the live translation option, which can act as a real time interpreter on phone calls.

From ₹1,30,000, samsung.com

Motion Pillow

Many AI products rely on collecting a lot of data and then analysing it in a clever way, and that's exactly how the Motion Pillow works. The first part of its job is to detect when you're snoring. Then the second part is gently and carefully adjusting the shape and position of the pillow under your head to open up your airways – thus minimising your snoring and helping you get the best night's sleep possible. As you would expect, there's an accompanying app too, reporting back on your sleep quality.

$489 (about ₹40,000), motionpillow.com

THE FUTURE OF AI IN GADGETS

It's already getting increasingly difficult to pick up a gadget that doesn't have some kind of artificial intelligence built into it, but actually we're only just getting started with this technology. In the years ahead there's going to be a lot more of it – most probably along the same lines as what we've got today, but taken further and further.

Take smartwatches and fitness trackers, for example: they already use trained algorithms to count steps, monitor sleep, take heart rate readings and then make recommendations based on the patterns in those data sets. As time goes on, AI will be able to measure more variables, and offer more insight into them.

Imagine your smartwatch telling you each morning the optimum amount of exercise you need that day, down to the specific stretches and activities you need to do. At the same time, you would get detailed advice on nutrition too, if you want to make your meal choices as healthy as possible.

Or consider the smartphone – they already have AI-powered assistants on board, but those assistants are set to get more capable, more personalised and more accurate. You can already ask Siri for travel times, but what if it could also book flights and hotel reservations, just like a real personal assistant would?

It's not hard to think of similar ways that AI can be useful. Gmail already uses AI to prioritise your emails, but what if it could sort through and deal with them in exactly the same way you would – maybe pinging your phone with a daily summary of the most important ones? Many of us spend a big chunk of the day sifting through phone notifications to find the ones that actually matter, but imagine if AI could do that for you, without ever missing anything that you need to see.

The digital AI assistants of the future may be a lot like the Samantha assistant from the movie *Her*, voiced by Scarlett Johansson: able to interact with us much like a real person would, and carry out just about any task we don't want to do ourselves. It's likely that AI gadgets will gradually get more agency in the real world, making them more capable of taking action, as well as a greater insight into the different aspects of our lives.

There's likely to be some push back against giving AI control though, as well as a better recognition of the limits of the technology: while AI is constantly improving in how well it can analyse and regurgitate text, images and video, it remains unable to have original or creative thoughts.

Many of the big names in tech are already involved – Google, Microsoft and Samsung – and others are rushing to join in. Generative AI is expected to feature heavily in iOS 18, due for release later on in 2024, and it's going to be interesting to see how Apple balances the huge promise of AI with the potential drawbacks – privacy concerns, for example, and AI inaccuracies and hallucinations.

Given the use cases we're already seeing, and the noises being made by the experts, it seems AI is much more than a tech fad. Rather, it's likely to be an increasingly important part of all of the hardware that we rely on in the future.

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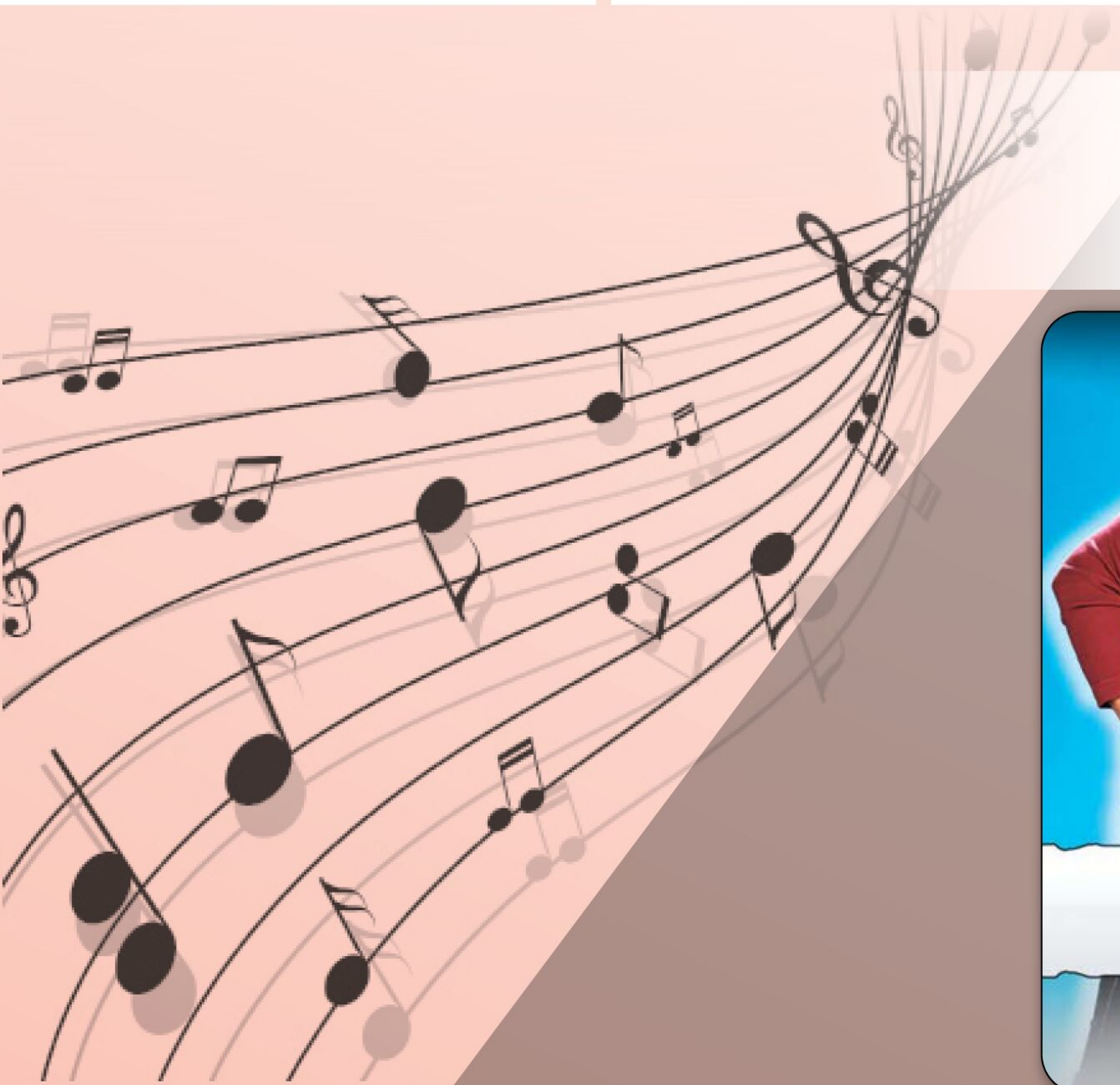
ISSUE 106
MAY 2024

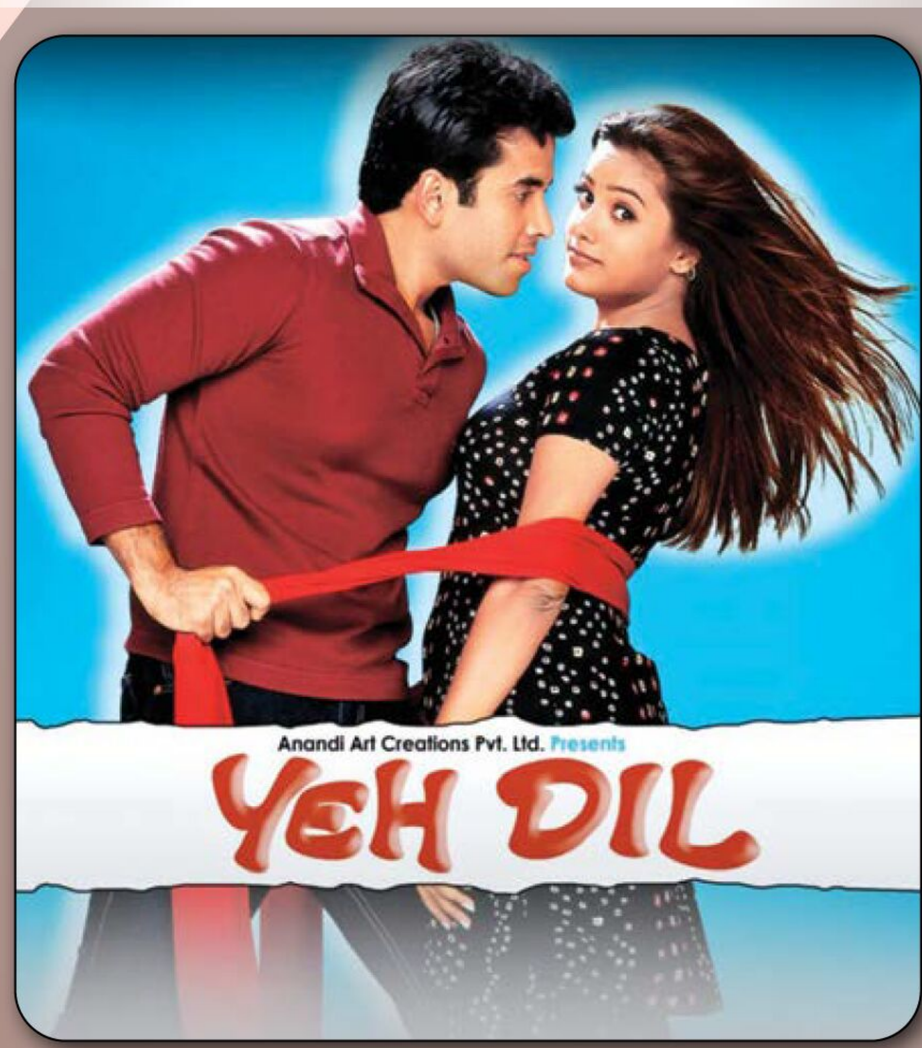
T3 Retro

T3 India as a magazine/ezine rightly focuses on products that are new and under development. This, of course, does not suggest or imply that everything old is bad and outdated. The pace at which technology moves, demands that we cover all product developments for our readers. In few cases, this means going back to the past. Look at the worldwide revival of turntables. Only 20 years ago, the turntable was consigned to the dustbin. Today, pressing plants are hard pressed to meet the demand. The area where retro is most in demand is music – both Western and Indian, and *T3* India seeks to address this gap. We hope you enjoy this section.

Inside

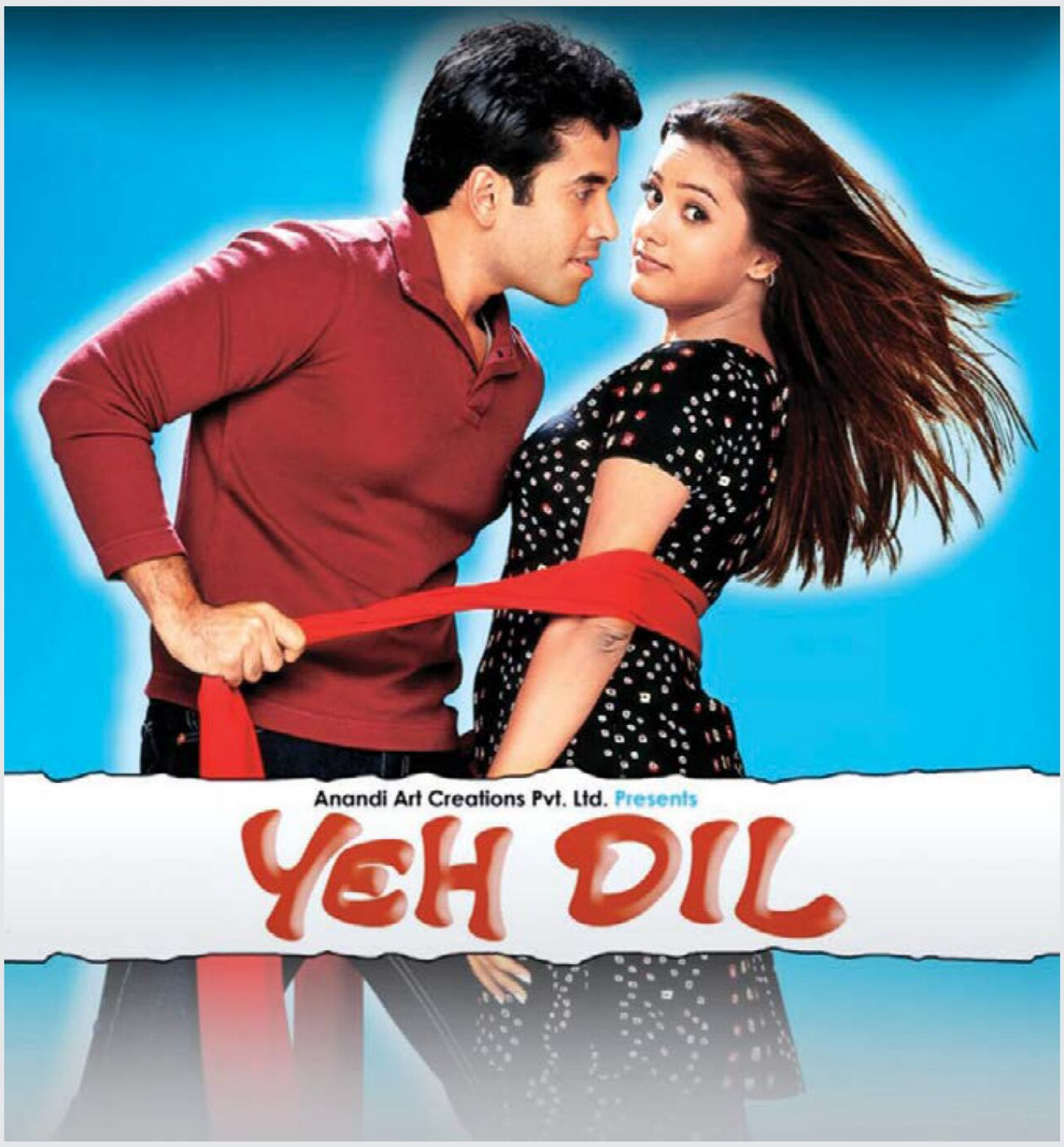
68 Classic Artistes - Indian



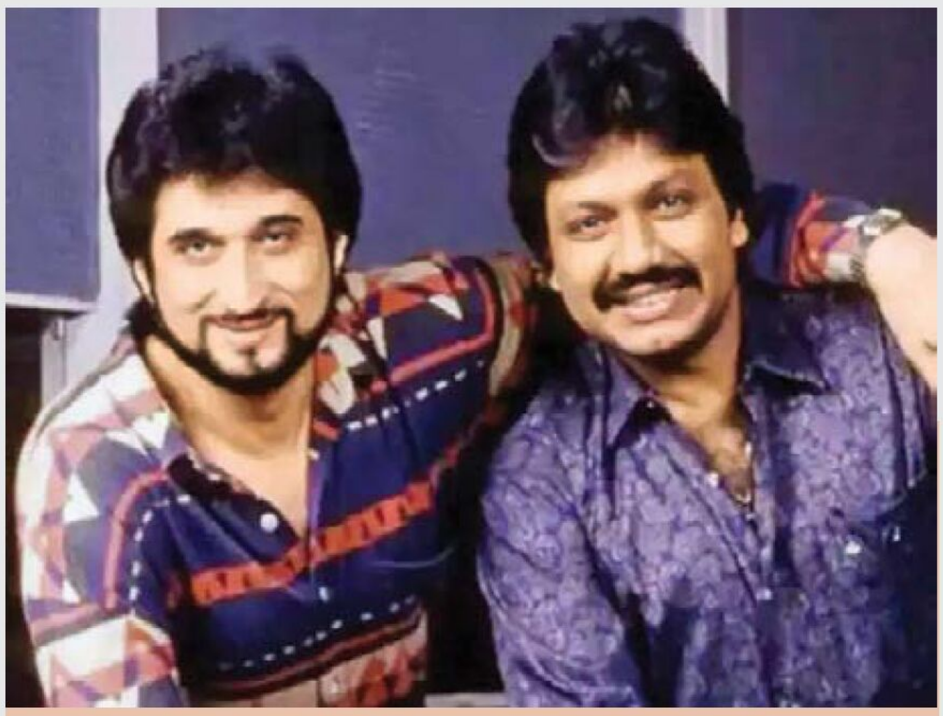


THE MUSIC OF YEH DIL (2003)

Words: H. S. Billimoria



The history of Bollywood films has been littered with badly made films sinking at the box office in spite of excellent music. The most to suffer in such cases is the music composer who has put his heart and soul into the music only to find that the failure of the film has also erased the music from getting a hearing. One such film was ' Yeh Dil' starring Tushar Kapoor opposite Anita Hassandani. The film had no draw and therefore tanked badly on release. Even otherwise, the film was poorly executed and deserved no sympathy. The only thing that continued to be remembered from the film is the super music provided by composers Nadeem Shravan.



Every song is exquisitely tuned and remains etched in your memory. Sadly, two songs on the album did not make it to the film and they were both very good songs. In the CD released by Tips, there are nine numbers.
The first number is the title song sung rendered by Nadeem Saifi. Nadeem renders this melodious, tuneful number with aplomb. In the film, the song appears along with the opening credits.
The second number, ' Hey kya ladki' rendered by Kavita Krishnamurthy and Abhijeet is a fast, foot tapping number but is missing from the film.
Next comes a duet by Alka Yagnik and Sonu Nigam, 'Tera Dilbar'. Picturised on the lead players, this duet is a typical Nadeem Shravan number and a hit number.
Tauseef Akhtar renders the fourth song, ' Kyon dil bichde', a background number where the lover laments the loss of his beloved. A plaintive number rendered well by Tauseef.
Abhijeet and Nirja Pandit render the next number, Ek main, ek tu', a racy number with melodious interludes.
Alka Yagnik and Abhijeet sing perhaps the most innovative number, ' Telephone, telephone'. Nadeem Shravan have tuned this number beautifully. Sadly, this romantic number does not appear in the film.
The eighth number on the album is a repeat of the third song, ' Tera dilbar'.
Finally, Tauseef Akhtar renders the theme song of 'Yeh Dil'.
A fine musical album, then, with Nadeem Shravan at their melodious best. If you haven't heard it, give it a listen. Ignore the film, though.

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May 2024*

TESTED

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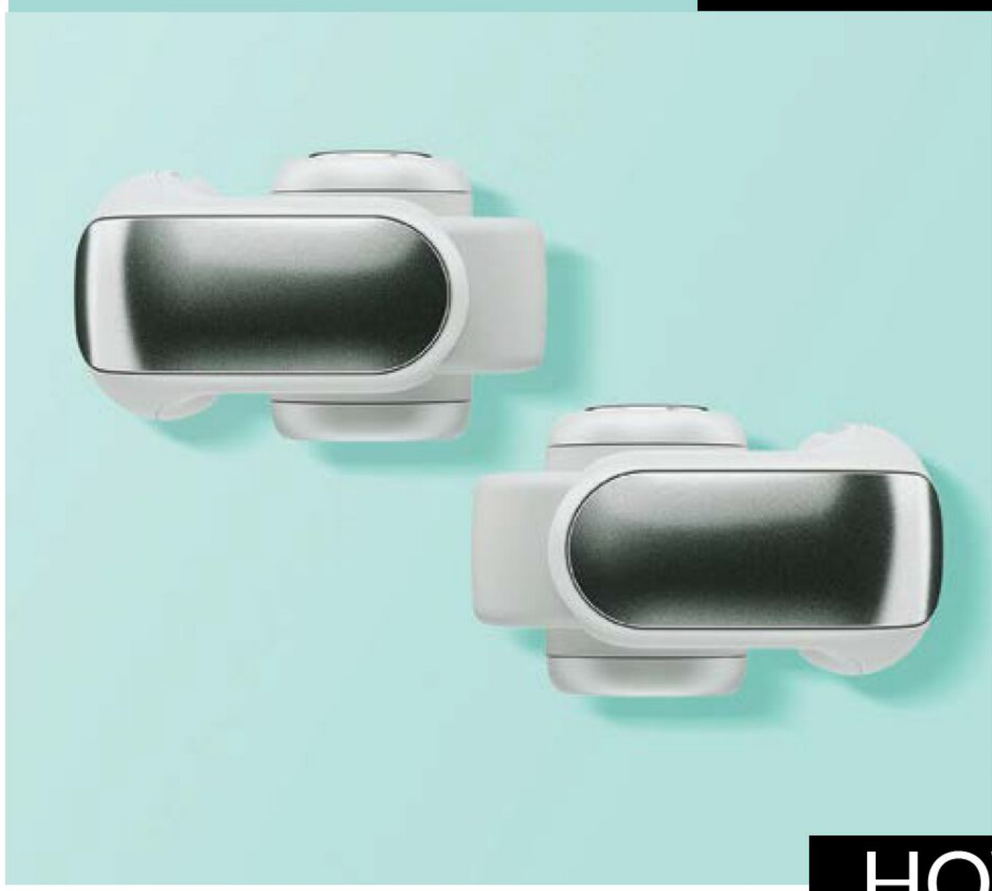

72 BOSE ULTRA OPEN EARBUDS

74 MICROSOFT SURFACE LAPTOP STUDIO 2

76 ONEPLUS NORD CE4

77 FUJIFILM INSTAX PAL CAMERA

78 HONOR X9B 5G

79 ONEPLUS BUDS 3 & HONEYWELL TRUENO U5100 WIRELESS HEADPHONES

80 CMF BUDS & QUBO DASHCAM PRO 3K

81 GAME FINAL FANTASY VII REBIRTH

HOW WE TEST

In *T3*, we feature only the finest gadgets out there, and we believe that you – our loyal reader – deserve only the best tech in your life. We don't want you to waste time, and money, on inferior products, and that's exactly why our Tested section exists.

In here you'll find only the latest and hottest tech. Each product has been handpicked and tested by *T3*'s experts.

We only choose people with special knowledge for each test, so you know you're going to get an outcome based on many years of experience in their respective field.

As well as our traditional five-star rating system (right), we also give out awards to particularly exceptional gadgets, using the line-up below - so when you spot one of these, you'll know you're onto a good thing.

THE SCORES EXPLAINED

★☆☆☆☆ Forget it

★★☆☆☆ Below average

★★★☆☆ Good for the price

★★★★☆ Very good all round

★★★★★ An exceptional, best-in-class product

OUR AWARDS

T3 ★★★★★ PLATINUM AWARD — Only the best products – those that score five stars – receive our Platinum Award

T3 BEST ON TEST — This is given to winners of our group tests, so you can see which is the best at a glance

T3 BEST FOR BATTERY LIFE — This accolade, and others like it, show you which gear is best for specific features

T3 THE DESIGN AWARD — For kit with exceptional industrial design and refinement, in addition to being a great buy

SPECIFICATIONS

Audio features immersive audio **Connectivity** USB-C, Bluetooth 5.3 **Microphones** 2 per bud **Weatherproofing** IPX4 **Battery life** 7.5 hours buds; 27 hours total **Dimensions** 19x17x27mm bud; 42x65x26mm case

₹31,000
bose.com

OPEN QUESTION

Bose Ultra Open Earbuds

Bose's Ultra Open Earbuds don't go into your ears and always allow ambient sound in – but are they good full-time earbuds?

The Bose Ultra Open Earbuds are earbuds that don't actually go into one's ears at all. They're also earbuds that don't isolate – quite the opposite, in fact, as environmental sound is purposefully allowed to pass through at all times. But are they the best all-time earbuds for those of a niche audio persuasion?

The Bose Ultra Open Earbuds aren't exactly awash with features that you'll often find in pricey competitor headphones. But that's because many features, such as ANC, would simply unravel the whole point of a product such as this.

For us it's the Ultra Open Earbuds' design that truly sells them. If you dislike earbuds probing your ear canals, the way Bose has designed these 'buds is a true accomplishment. There's no aggressive hook or clip to concern yourself with here, as the earbuds simply wrap around the outer edge of your ears using the flexible section between the earbud itself and the battery 'barrel' at the other end.

And their comfort factor is off the charts. We've genuinely forgotten at times when we're wearing them, as the mere 6.35g per earbud mass is more-or-less unnoticeable. You can wear from morning to mid-afternoon or from noon to night with no bother.

To get the most out of the Ultra Open Earbuds you'll want to download the Bose Music app for Android/iOS first. The Bose Music app shows you how to wear the earbuds as, frankly, we could see how easy it'd be to make a dog's dinner out of that the first couple of times. Fortunately, a couple of tries later it's easy as pie though.

Load of app

The Bose Music app is also the place where you get to tweak other settings. Adjust the equalisation (EQ), which we've found handy to get the sound to give that little extra, and toggle between usual stereo and static/motion Immersive Audio. This spatial audio 'soundstage' adds a real widening of the audio – although it's less impactful in these passthrough earbuds compared to full-on ANC over-ears in our opinion.

Which brings us to the sound. Generally speaking the audio from the Ultra Open Earbuds is solid, but as the earbuds don't fit in your ear, instead hovering nearby, you're not going to get the very biggest audio profile that you've ever heard. The Bose are absolutely not bone conduction earbuds though. Each earbud uses Bose's OpenAudio Acoustic di-pole proprietary technology to funnel the audio into your ears whilst assisting with blotting out excessive sound leak to the outside world, so the Ultra Open Earbuds deliver a chunkier sound delivery overall.

There is still some sound leak, though, which is unavoidable when the volume is raised. And when that volume is turned up it can be tricky to hear some surrounding sounds as clearly as you may wish – we tested these in an office environment and you can't always hear colleagues when you need to.

On the flip side of that, certain surrounding sounds are far too overwhelming to leave the Ultra Open Earbuds with much chance. Getting on the London Underground was a write-off for hearing what was supposed to be reaching our ears.

It's when listening to chilled music in the office but needing to be able to hear your colleagues that they're most capable. Just set your expectation limits accordingly for other scenarios.

Battery wise, Bose claims longevity per charge up to 7.5 hours, which is certainly ample for earbuds that are ultimately designed to be worn non-stop all day long. But if you leave Immersive Audio active that's cut right down to 4.5 hours. We've also found the battery drain between left and right earbuds to not be equal.

We really love the Bose Ultra Open Earbuds for their comfort factor and in delivering a best-in-class solution in this expanding yet niche audio category. That said, despite having worn the earbuds all day long, in certain scenarios they just can't deliver everything we want – isolation from excess environmental noise, say, or sufficient volume/engagement to hear a phone call – and that's when we pine for established relationships with other headphones instead.

You'd think these might be uncomfortable – they're so not

The Bose Ultra Open Earbuds are fantastic at what they do – and for anyone who dislikes in-ear headphones they are in some ways an ideal solution. Just be sure your use-case for such earbuds will perfectly suit you and then, no doubt, you'll fall in love with these niche yet nifty earbuds.

T3

VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED So comfortable you'll forget they're there; good enough sound (when in isolation); great control app.

WE'D IMPROVE Sound lacks punch of in/over-ears; can't always hear surroundings clearly; battery life not great.

THE LAST WORD There's no doubt that these earbuds are the best in their category. However, they aren't going to be ideal for everyone all of the time.

★★★★☆

SPECIFICATIONS

Display 14.4-inch, 2400 x 1600, 120Hz LCD **CPU** 13th-gen Intel Core i7-13700H **GPU** NVIDIA GeForce RTX 4050 / RTX 4060 / RTX 2000 Ada Generation / Intel Iris Xe **Storage** 512GB / 1TB **Memory** 16GB / 32GB / 64GB **OS** Windows 11 **Battery life** up to 18 hours (NVIDIA) / 19 hours (Intel Iris Xe) **Connectivity** 2x Thunderbolt 4, USB 3.1, MicroSDXC, Surface Connect port, 3.5mm jack, Wi-Fi 6E, Bluetooth 5.3 **Dimensions** 323x230x22mm **Weight** 1.98kg (NVIDIA) / 1.89kg (Intel Iris Xe)

From ₹1,98,000
microsoft.com

SURFACE TIME

Microsoft Surface Laptop Studio 2

The second-gen Surface Laptop Studio shows Microsoft is still willing to experiment with unique kit – and it sure is special

The Surface Laptop Studio 2 is Microsoft's latest laptop for designers and content creators. What makes it so designer-y? Like the original, the sequel has a hinge that folds forwards, letting you position it like a drawing board, or a 16-inch graphics tablet.

At first glance the Surface Laptop Studio 2 appears a dead ringer for a MacBook Pro. There are endless fields of anodised aluminium, a pleasantly minimal look when you sit back with the laptop out in front of you.

But start playing around and you realise the Surface Laptop Studio 2 is nothing like a MacBook. A light prod at the top of the screen lets you tilt the lower part forwards to rest with its bottom sitting just above the touchpad. Or you can go further and make the display rest flat, above the keyboard. Just like the original, this is a hybrid of a different kind.

The screen looks great, and is better than the displays of 90% of the laptops we review. Like other Surface models, it's a tall 3:2 aspect display that feels larger than its 14.4 inches. It has 2400 x 1600 pixels to its name, enough to look smooth, but the pixel density could arguably be a touch higher than its 200ppi. Especially at this price.

Unfortunately, it uses a fairly conventional IPS-style LCD panel. It's not an OLED, seen in loads of Windows

laptops these days, and it doesn't use mini-LED like the top-tier MacBooks.

Mini-LED screens in laptops have many clusters of backlight LEDs to improve contrast. Not so here, which leaves the contrast pretty low. The best we recorded was 1619:1, which does mean you can expect its blacks to look pretty grey in a darkened room. And the highest brightness we saw was 518 nits. Again, while this is excellent for general purpose laptop use, it's far off the MacBook Pro 16's 1600-nit peak.

Just like Huawei and Dell, Microsoft has spent the last couple of years fiddling around with haptic touchpads. Apple pulled this off pretty well from day one. Everyone else? Not so much. But the Studio 2 is at the level we're not left wishing we were back in the land of the mechanical pad.

The keyboard is strong too. Key travel is a little more substantial than that of Apple's MacBook keyboard.

At its core

In classic Microsoft tardy fashion, this laptop arrived just before Intel announced its newer Core Ultra 7 155H CPU. It has a standard 13th-gen performance series processor instead. And, also classic Microsoft, the price can quickly head off into the stratosphere when you upgrade some of the specs.

Our review unit was the top-end model, with an Nvidia RTX 4060 graphics card, 1TB SSD and absolutely loads of RAM: 64GB of the stuff. While it's hard to find a mainstream laptop with that much RAM, you can get roundly comparable raw performance from a Lenovo LOQ 16 or HP Omen 16... both of which are far cheaper.

Microsoft's machine can handle gaming too. Thanks to the frame generation feature of the Nvidia RTX 4060, we were able to play *Cyberpunk 2077* using a taxing Ray Tracing mode without it becoming a judder-fest. However, buying the Surface Laptop Studio 2 as a stylish gaming PC is a very silly thing to do. Its RTX 4060 graphics card is only able to draw 80W of power, despite the fact the series is rated for up to 115W.

On the more positive side, it's remarkably quiet. While the fan tone is a higher pitch than that of a hulking great big gaming PC, it can be drowned out by the slightest bit of ambient noise.

However, we have more of an issue with the battery life. The Studio 2 lasts 7 hours and 45 minutes when streaming video off YouTube, or 7 hours and 18 minutes when doing light work. This is miles off the 19 hours Microsoft claims.

The Studio 2 is a bit of a one-off. Or at least a two-off, considering how similar it is to the original Surface Laptop Studio. Touchscreen and stylus support, and the highly unusual hybrid hinge, mark it out as an obvious pick for creatives. However, cost is the main potential stumbling block here. Lovely at it is, the Surface Laptop Studio 2 is very expensive for a laptop not quite at the bleeding edge of performance.

The cooling system relies on pulling air in and firing it out of the sides

VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED Unusual hinge design; quality keyboard and touchpad; clever cooling.
WE'D IMPROVE Screen could have better resolution and contrast; uses 13th-gen CPUs, not the latest Intel Ultra; no all-day battery life; highly expensive.
THE LAST WORD A lovely laptop not quite like anything else. But it isn't half pricey and its processor and display tech aren't quite cutting-edge.

FAST, SMOOTH & POWERFUL

OnePlus Nord CE4

Robust mid range phone with great battery life

₹24,999 onwards, oneplus.in

While most of the populace are impressed and yearn for phones which are in the higher cost bracket because of the features, they would prefer the price range to be lower and more affordable. As the competition is stiff many have to let go of some features.

We got to check out an affordable phone, the OnePlus Nord CE4 in Celadon Marble colourways. OnePlus has captured on providing the most primordial requirements of any phone lover i.e. a good display, multi functional camera and a loud speaker. While saying this let's dive into the real deal to see if it's really worth it.

The two colourways Dark Chrome and Celadon Marble are decently appealing and comes with a good strong case. So, if you drop the phone with the case on, chances are that your light weight 186 grams phone will not get damaged.

With a display size of 6.7inches (17.02cm) in 120Hz Fluid AMOLED, watching videos and working on emails, whatsapp is comfortable and doesn't strain the eyes. Although there is a drawback that the display gets really dark in the sunlight. Even when you are indoors it tends to get darker prompting you to manually adjust the display. So, the display adjustment should have been better in different light environments.

The dual speakers are really loud on par with phones which are priced above Rs. 50,000. Also, in higher volumes the noise is crisp and not jarring your ears.

The CE4 with 5,500 mAh battery doesn't die out quickly, if one uses the phone for calls and videos moderately the battery can last more than 4 days. If you are stranded in any situation and use the phone sparingly it can be a life saviour. Two most common situations where it can help is flooding and camping. Also, the charging is quick, within 30 minutes you can charge and be good to go.

OnePlus Nord CE4 comes equipped with the octacore Qualcomm Snapdragon 7 Gen 3 chip with 8GB of LPDDR4x RAM which can be increased by up to a further 8GB by using virtual RAM from your phone's storage. You can use multiple apps and toggle seamlessly.

It comes with 256GB storage which is expandable up to 1TB. Most phone users love clicking photos and hate deleting them. The inbuilt storage is quite sufficient.

SPECIFICATIONS

Chipset Snapdragon 7 Gen 3
RAM (GB) 8
Storage (GB) 128, 256
Display 6.7-inch, 1080 x 2412 pixels
Front Camera 16MP
Primary Camera 50MP + 8MP
Battery 5500mAh
Operating System Android 14

Talking about clicking photos, the CE4 comes with a 50MP Sony LYT-600 Main camera. It also has an Ultra-wide 8 MP Camera Sony IMX355, 16 MP Front Camera. Video recording is 4K video at 30fps,1080P video at 60/30fps, 720P video at 60/30fps, Super Slow Motion: 1080P video at 120fps, 720P video at 240fps, Time-Lapse: 1080P video at 30fps The pictures in different environments come out pretty decent and if you activate Potrait Mode 2.0 for facial clarity and brightness the images are clearer.

Along with OxygenOS 14.0 OnePlus assures two major Android software updates and a third year of security updates. So, OnePlus Nord CE4 will still be as fast and smooth and safe in three years as it is when you first turn it on. Probably last for five years if you are a careful phone user.

T3

VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED
Top class camera and loud speakers
WE'D IMPROVE
Display should adjust automatically to different light environments.
THE LAST WORD
In this price segment it comes with essential features to carry it through

★★★½☆

YOUR POCKET-SIZED MEMORY MAKER

Fujifilm Instax Pal Camera

Instant but customisable pictures

₹13,999, Instax.in

WORDS ANNIKA KAMATH

The Instax Pal digital camera, a compact marvel designed for capturing and sharing memories on the fly. With customizable pre-shutter sounds and seamless connectivity to the Instax Pal App, this camera elevates your photography experience while preserving the spontaneity of every moment.

The customizable pre-shutter sounds, the seemingly small feature, helps personalize your shooting experience with built-in speaker options, adding a touch of flair to every click.

With Seamless app integration, it connects to the Instant Pal App for enhanced features, including selective printing, photo editing, resizing, and the ability to add emojis and text for a personalized touch.

Ability to do remote photography, is something that is a much desired feature. It helps take control from a distance with remote photography capabilities, letting you capture the perfect shot with ease.

It's highly portable, you travel light and capture memories on the go with its compact design, ideal for those who value mobility without sacrificing quality.

The Instax Pal Camera excels in short-range photography, delivering sharp and clear images perfect for capturing close-up moments. Its aesthetic appeal and beginner-friendly interface make it an attractive option for those familiar with Instax products or polaroid cameras. While the camera performs admirably for short-range shots, long-distance photography may result in hazier images, requiring careful positioning for optimal focus. Additionally, the need to download multiple apps and charge both the camera and printer separately may deter some users.

The Fujifilm Instax Pal Camera offers a convenient and stylish solution for capturing memories on the go. While it may require some investment compared to previous models, its portability and user-friendly features make it a worthy companion for travel and everyday adventures. Ideal for enthusiasts who appreciate the art of instant photography and desire a seamless blend of technology and nostalgia.

T3

VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED

Compact size
Looks very cool
Won't become obsolete

WE'D IMPROVE

Lower price
Improve image quality of distant subjects

THE LAST WORD

A fun camera to capture permanent memories, if one is not price sensitive

★★★★☆

THE PHONE DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND DAILY CHALLENGES

Honor X9b 5G

A budget workhorse

₹24,999, honor.com/mea/phones/honor-x9b

Honor X9b boasts a sturdy design with a luxury-inspired circular camera module, certified five-star overall drop resistance for protection utilizing shock-absorbing cushioning technology against drops up to 1.5 meters. The unit we reviewed was Midnight Black with a plastic rear panel. Despite its hefty 5,800mAh battery, it remains sleek and lightweight at just 185 grams and 7.98mm thickness. The 6.78-inch AMOLED display delivers vibrant colors and a 120Hz refresh rate for an immersive viewing experience, complemented by wired earphones included in the box for audio.

Honor X9b is equipped with a triple camera setup with primary camera comprising a 108 megapixel sensor, a 5 megapixel ultra-wide lens, and a 2 megapixel macro sensor which is its centrepiece. While the 108 megapixel camera delivers acceptable images in good lighting, they may exhibit slight oversaturation and lack dynamic range, with portraits suffering from excessive smoothing and high-contrast skin tones. The 5 megapixel ultra-wide camera disappoints with faded colors, visible distortion and a limited field-of-view. , while the 2 megapixel macro sensor struggles with close-up shots, resulting in hazy images due to light blockage. Selfies from the 16MP front camera are satisfactory in daylight but may lack accurate skin tones, and low-light performance falls short compared to competitors.

Honor X9b is powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon 6 Gen 1 SoC with 8 GB of RAM and 256 GB of storage. While benchmark scores lag slightly behind competitors, real-world performance is satisfactory for daily tasks and gaming. Running Android 13-based Magic OS 7.2, it promises two years of major software upgrades and three years of security updates, offering intuitive navigation and an AI suggestions widget for efficient app recommendations.

The Honor X9b features a 5800 mAh battery promising up to three days of usage, but heavy users may need to charge it every two days. With approximately 10 -12 hours of screen-on-time, endurance is impressive. Charging is supported with 35W fast charging, but it takes approximately two hours to fully charge from 0-100 percent.

The Honor X9b impresses with its durability, stylish design, robust 5,800 mAh battery, high-refresh-rate AMOLED display, and sharp 108 megapixel primary camera. Honor X 9b excels in durability, battery life, and viewing experience.

VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED
The marathon battery
Durability and build quality
Premium appearance

WE'D IMPROVE
No fast charging option

THE LAST WORD
A well rounded workhorse for a power user in the mid range segment

★★★★☆

BUDS WITH ALL ROUND PERFORMANCE

OnePlus Buds 3

Wireless freedom, delivering exceptional sound and seamless connectivity in a sleek package

₹5499 OnePlus.in

WORDS HARISH KRISHNAN

The OnePlus Buds 3 elevates your audio experience. Designed to deliver stunning sound quality, unmatched comfort, and seamless connectivity, these wireless earbuds redefine what it means to listen on the go. Whether you're diving into your favorite playlist, taking calls on the move, or immersing yourself in podcasts, the OnePlus Buds 3 promise to enhance every moment with their sleek design and impressive performance. Let's dive into what makes these earbuds a must-have accessory for music lovers and tech enthusiasts alike.

The OnePlus Buds 3 offers an impressive combination of style, sound quality, and seamless connectivity, making it a compelling choice for anyone in the market for wireless earbuds. The sleek form factor not only looks great but also ensures a comfortable fit, allowing users to enjoy their music for extended periods without discomfort.

When it comes to sound performance, the OnePlus Buds 3 delivers a rich and immersive audio experience, with clear highs and deep bass that bring music to life. The ease of connectivity is another standout feature, as these earbuds effortlessly pair with devices, allowing users to enjoy their favorite tunes without any hassle.

While the OnePlus Buds 3 excels in many areas, there are a couple of areas for improvement. The absence of a dedicated app for sound controls limits customization options, which may be a drawback for some users who prefer to fine-tune their audio experience. Additionally, offering more color options would allow users to personalize their earbuds to better suit their style and preferences.

Overall, the OnePlus Buds 3 offers excellent value for money, with its impressive sound quality, sleek design, and ease of use. Whether you're a music enthusiast or simply looking for reliable wireless earbuds, the OnePlus Buds 3 comes highly recommended and is definitely worth considering for your next purchase.

T3

VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED

The Form factor, The Sound, The price

WE'D IMPROVE

The app experience for sound control More colour options

THE LAST WORD

These buds deliver on all counts and are great value for money

★★★★½

GOOD ANC HEADPHONES ON A BUDGET

Honeywell Trueno U5100 Wireless Headphones

Good audio quality and unparalleled comfort

₹4,149 honeywellconnection.com

WORDS HARISH KRISHNAN

Step into a world of immersive audio with the Honeywell Trueno U5100 Wireless Headphones. Engineered to deliver good sound quality and unparalleled comfort, these headphones are the perfect companion for your on-the-go lifestyle. Whether you're tuning in to your favorite music, enjoying podcasts, or taking calls, the Trueno U5100 ensures a seamless and enjoyable listening experience every time. With its sleek design and advanced features, it's time to elevate your audio game with the Honeywell Trueno U5100.

The Honeywell Trueno U5100 offers an attractive option for those seeking wireless headphones, boasting a sleek form factor and impressive battery life. With up to 400 minutes of playtime, even with active noise cancellation (ANC) enabled, users can enjoy extended listening sessions without interruption. The inclusion of hybrid ANC further enhances the listening experience by reducing ambient noise, while the 10-meter Bluetooth range provides flexibility and freedom of movement.

However, despite its strengths, the Honeywell Trueno U5100 falls short in certain areas. The sound quality, particularly in the mid-range frequencies, leaves room for improvement. At times, the audio may sound flat, detracting from the overall enjoyment of music or other media. Additionally, the design of the headphones, with its hard plastic construction, may not appeal to all users, as it can feel somewhat cheap and less premium compared to other options on the market.

In conclusion, the Honeywell Trueno U5100 serves as a decent entry point into the Honeywell headphone lineup, offering competitive features such as long battery life and effective ANC. However, it faces tough competition in a crowded market segment, and its shortcomings in sound quality and design may deter some potential buyers. Nevertheless, for those prioritizing range and playback time, the Honeywell Trueno U5100 presents a compelling option to consider.

T3

VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED

Up to 400 minutes of playtime with ANC on Hybrid ANC

WE'D IMPROVE

The Sound Quality, sometimes it sounded flat

The design - Too hard plasticy

THE LAST WORD

Good entry point for Honeywell but has a lot of tough competition.

The Range and Playback time is the USP

★★★½☆

FUNKY BUDS WITH GREAT FEATURES

CMF Buds

Budget price for buds with ANC

₹2499, in.cmf.tech

The thing that strikes you about these buds is the strikingly attract color, which makes it truly stand out. The square box is functional and easy to use, and combines well with the aluminum alloy rotating dailer, to string a lanyard which comes with the phone, making it easy to attach to your bag or purse.

The next feature which impressed us was the 42db active noise cancellation with transparency mode, the ANC quality is quite basic & functional but it combines seamlessly with the Nothing X app to control ANC levels (in addition to bass levels, customising touch controls and turning on low lag mode).

Buds packs in 12.4 mm Bio-fibre drivers that sound good with EQ controls which are available. They offer an impressive 8 hours of listening time on a single charge, which is impressive. There will be a further 27 hours in the charging case, for a total listening time of over 35 hours (with ANC disabled) before a recharge is needed. Fast charging when they're kept back into the case brings in 6.5 hours of listening from just a 10-minute charge.

CMF has integrated support for dual-device connection, making it easy to pair the Buds with two devices, especially useful for power users who use two phones. An in-ear detection sensor automatically pauses playback when removing an earbud.

Overall it's a feature packed budget buds with the powerful design sensibility of Nothing.

IN THE BOX

Drivers : 12.4mm
Active Noise Cancellation Yes
Battery life
Up to 35.5 hours via charging case
Weight : 4g each
Connectivity : Bluetooth 5.3 Waterproofing :IP54

T3

VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED
Exceptional VFM
ANC at this price
Dual device connection
WE'D IMPROVE
Audio quality for music
THE LAST WORD
These buds might not deliver exceptional audio quality but for this price it's an absolute bargain.
★★★★☆

A DASHCAM THAT PACKS A LOT

Qubo Dashcam PRO 3K

Made for Indian road conditions

₹7999 onwards, www.quboworld.com

WORDS SRINI SWAMINATHAN

With more vehicles on the road, comes more instances of problems and having a video record of it greatly helps in insurance claims, avoiding issues with law enforcement and so on. On the positive side, a Dashcam also helps in recording memories, logging your trips and also important evidence.

The Qubo Dashcam Pro 3K box comes with everything you'd need to get started right away (except the micro SD card for recording long videos and storing). The camera operates with the provided 12v power plug (to plug into car cigarette lighter socket) and an extra long cable. There is also a base plate to slide the cam into.

Setting up the QUBO dashcam in the car was easy. We also managed to connect it to the QUBOPRO app for viewing and downloading images and video clips. The 5 MP front camera records in QHD resolution (2592x1944) and produces crisp videos and images with a 140 degree field of view. They are sharp and good in the day time and at night, the resolution does drop but good enough to read number plates and signboards when the lighting is better with street lights and high beams. The inbuilt 3.2" lcd is enough to see a live view while driving. With the QuboPro app, we could easily record, and download files to the phone. This made it easy to share it with others or on social media. The videos are only downloaded as 1 minute clips and this gets very annoying when you want to download much longer clips.

Another important feature of the QUBO Dashcam pro 3K is its built-in GPS. We saw our driving route, speed etc on the map after coming back from the drive using the App. Do note that you cannot track the car using this GPS feature.

The G sensor in the Dashcam automatically detects sudden shakes, collisions etc in the event of an accident and locks the footage into an event file so that it is protected.

T3

VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED
A value for money Dashcam that has the essential features one would expect.
WE'D IMPROVE
More user friendly app, Better low light resolution
Include SD card
THE LAST WORD
The QUBO Dashcam Pro 3K is a good entry level device for those who are looking for the best value for money dashcam.
★★★★☆

Final Fantasy VII Rebirth

The second game of the planned trilogy blends nostalgia with epic gameplay

₹ 4,799; PlayStation 5

Reimagining an original like the Final Fantasy VII is a tall order but Square Enix's Final Fantasy VII Remake (or Remake Intergrade) proved they can do justice to the masterpiece. Continuing the remake project is Final Fantasy VII Rebirth which continues the story and adds a splash of originality with fleshed out narrative and Midgar.

We'll advise you to play the first game of the remake project trilogy to get a better context but as the developer points out, it's perfectly fine if you are picking Rebirth as the first FF7 game. It's a standalone game that fills you in with past events or can watch a quick recap giving a background of what has transpired so far.

The story continues after Cloud and his pals escape Midgar and chase to neutralise Sephiroth while delivering fulfilling character arcs and a detailed world to explore that looks impressive with its beautiful vistas.

The combat is one of the highlights of FF7 Rebirth. It allows players to choose difficulty levels and battle styles between classic and active modes. You can form a combination of parties with different characters for different combat styles and abilities and use them to your advantage during battles. Beyond the usual hack-and-slash, the game features a tactical mode that slows down the time to execute an impactful attack or a counterattack. Moreover, you can use abilities, magic or synergy attacks to gain an upper hand.

The game also offers a ton of things to do like well-etched side quests, mini-games and Chocobo races.

Final Fantasy VII Rebirth is a fitting second game to the successful Remake, and it has only set the expectations higher for the finale. It's a must-play for any Final Fantasy fan with its impressive narrative, engaging combat and breathtaking visuals.

T3

VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED Story, combat
WE'D IMPROVE Can be overwhelming for a first-time player
THE LAST WORD Final Fantasy VII Rebirth does justice to the source material with amazing combat complemented by a great story.

★★★★★

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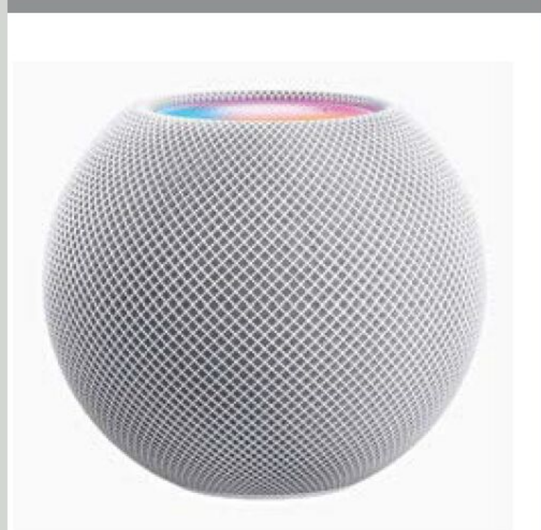
BEST OF THE BEST

The world's best tech, all in one place



If you're looking for the very best tech available today, you've definitely come to the right place.

Best of the Best is the most useful gadget-buying guide you will ever encounter. To create it, we've extensively tested the best tech the world has to offer, to bring you rock-solid recommendations for your home life, daily commute and the tech you use all the time.

In 21 different categories, we've chosen the top three products, so you can choose one that's just the right mix of features and budget for what you need. These rankings come from real testing by our team of experts – they're the products we'd choose for ourselves, and we can't recommend any higher than that.

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DSLR Cameras 90
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Compact Cameras 90

PREMIUM PHONES

APPLE IPHONE 15 PRO MAX

₹159,900, apple.com/in

This flagship phone, now available with the titanium enclosure making the phone lighter, and top notch features, including an improved camera with 5x zoom. No improvement in battery life.

SAMSUNG GALAXY S23 ULTRA

₹1,24,999, samsung.com/in

Symmetrical design returns with recycled and eco-conscious material. Metal frame and glass finish are now available with new colors. The built-in S Pen keeps the legacy of Note alive.

GOOGLE PIXEL 8 PRO

₹106,999, flipkart.com

6.7" Super Actua display delivers bright display. With Google AI and the Pixel camera, the performance has been bettered. Four cameras - 50MP main camera, 48 MP ultrawide camera for Macro Focus, 48 MP telephoto for zoom and 10.5 MP front camera.

APPLE IPHONE 15

₹79,900, apple.com/in

The 'dynamic island' makes an entry to all 15 models. It looks great and has solid build and is well made. Performance impresses. Phone lacks always on display and has slow USB 2 transfer.

MID-RANGE PHONES

ONEPLUS 11R 5G

₹39,999 oneplus.in

The 11R provieee 120Hz super fluid display, using Snapdragon 8+ Gen1, with option for 18gb RAM. It comes with 100w Supervooc fast charger and has a 50MP triple camera system.

NOTHING PHONE 2

₹39,999, in.nothing.tech

Uniquely designed Nothing 2 comes with an updated Glyph interface. It has a 50MP rear camera + 32MP front camera, combined with a 6.7" flexible LTPO Amoled display with Snapdragon 8+ Gen 1

APPLE IPHONE SE (2022)

₹49,900, apple.com/in

A feature rich phone which continues to stay relevant. The SE with its compact size and superb camera continues to deliver for two years in a row. We hope Apple continues upgrading this 'budget' iPhone every other year.

SAMSUNG GALAXY S23 FE 5G

₹.59,999, Samsung.com/in

This budget S23 is a good phone to consider with flagship-like performance at a fraction of the price. It has a 4500mAh battery with fast charging support, with strong camera and 120Hz amoled display.

BUDGET PHONES

ONEPLUS NORD CE 3

₹26,999, oneplus.in

The Nord series continues to attach the budget category with flagship looking and feature rich products. The CE 3 continues the Nord legacy with a compelling package of 80W fast charger in the package.

REDMI NOTE 12 PRO 5G

₹20,999, mi.com/in

It comes with a 50MP Sony main camera in a triple camera setup, with 120Hz Pro Amoled display, combined with a 67W turbo charger. It's ultra slim at ~8mm with 6.7" display. The camera system is the hero here.

MOTOROLA G73 5G

₹16,999, motorola.in

This is a 6.5" 129Hz display power house with strong camera setup and a 5000mAh battery. It's refreshingly fast and audibly impressive with Dolby Atmos setup.

REALME 11 PRO+

₹23,999, realme.com/in

120Hz curved display with 100MP OIS ProLight Camera and Dolby Atmos Dual Speakers. It comes with a 5000mAh battery and 87W SUPERVOOC Charger to keep you juiced up quick.

FOLD/FLIP PHONES

ONEPLUS OPEN

₹1,39,999, oneplus.in

The best full fold phone so far, this phone packs the best hardware combination with the best in fold technology. It has the best in camera technology, with a full spec triple camera setup without compromises.

OPPO FIND N3 FLIP

₹94,999, oppo.com

Very compelling flip phone which beats the Samsung flip experience, with compelling, almost creese free fold phone experience. A nifty compact phone, perfect for single hand us

MOTO RYZR 40 ULTRA

₹.79,999 motorola.in

By far the most attractive looking flip phone currently in the market, and yes the Ryzr legacy of flip phones does play a part in this. The Viva magenta colour is an absolute stunner, with aggressive pricing.

SAMSUNG GALAXY Z FLIP 5

₹99,999 Samsung.com/in

Samsung continues to invest heavily in fold technology, with continuous upgrades every year. Their early mover advantage and great buyback plans will ensure that their loyal consumers continue with the brand.

PROJECTORS

OPTOMA CINEMAX P2

₹4,29,999, optoma.com/in

This second-gen ultra-short throw projector delivers a fantastic 4K viewing experience overall. Image quality is superb, and you can get a 120-inch picture with the projector placed around a metre from the wall.

LG CINEBEAM HU915QE

₹5,90,000, lg.com/in

CineBeam HU915QE is a solid ultra-short throw projector that delivers an amazing home cinema experience with excellent projection and audio quality and smart functionality.

VIEWSONIC M2

₹79,999, viewsonic.com/in

The perfect 1080p option for big-screen fun and games. It requires next to no warm-up, runs cool and is maintenance-free. Images are sharp and detailed, and colour performance is similarly outstanding.

BENQ GS50

₹89,990, benq.co.in

A full HD projector that loves outdoors with its splash and drop-proof (up to 2.3m) design. Included USB stick makes the projector TV support a variety of OTT apps and an internal battery that can easily last a 2.5-hour movie.

ACTION CAMERAS

GOPRO HERO8 BLACK

₹30,150 gopro.com

GoPro's latest sees updates everywhere. Four virtual lenses get you the ideal field of view for what you're shooting, and next-gen video stabilisation keeps it stable and crisp.

INSTA 360 ONE X2

₹49,990, insta360.com

This 360-degree camera offers dual lens 5.7K capture with Flow State Stabilisation and Steady Cam mode for stable footages. It offers 360-degree audio and is waterproof up to 10 metres.

DJI OSMO ACTION

₹22,850, amazon.in

With a cool front display but missing SuperView mode and live streaming, DJI's cam is ideal for extreme sports types and vloggers. Image stabilisation is excellent, and it's easy to use.

GOPRO MAX

₹42,999, gopro.com

Addresses the issues that marred GoPro's original 360-camera – the Fusion – and boasts some of the Hero8 Black's excellent video capture facilities and intuitive user interface.

DRONES

DJI MAVIC MINI

approx. ₹36,000, dji.com

Arguably the first high-quality camera-carrying drone for the masses, the Mini is surprisingly fast, nimble and stable in flight, and weighs 1g shy of the CAA's 250g registration regulation.

DJI MAVIC AIR 2

approx. ₹75,000, dji.com

Everything about this drone shouts BUY ME. The camera is a cracker capable of shooting 4K footage at 60fps, while a completely redesigned controller is another major improvement.

RYZE TELLO

₹12,990, amazon.in

This is a bargain – it uses DJI tech inside for flight stability, has a camera that takes HD video or 5MP snaps, and hovers still for selfies. It can fly indoors or out, though is too light for windy days.

DJI MAVIC 2 PRO

₹1,10,000, dji.com

This pro-spec drone is almost impossible to crash, and has a stunning three-axis gimbal-mounted Hasselblad camera. As rock solid and confidence-inspiring as we've come to expect.

PREMIUM 4K TVS

SAMSUNG QN95B

₹1,94,990, samsung.com/in

A Quantum Dot mini-LED TV with Shape Adaptive Light Control makes for particularly punchy HDR content. It boasts the best Neo QLED performance we've seen in a stylish, slim design.

LG G2

₹2,54,990, lg.com/in

Offering exceptional image processing, incredibly bright HDR and superb visual accuracy, the G2 is LG's very best OLED TV. The audio processing is standout too. It is pricey though.

SONY BRAVIA A95K

₹4,79,000, sony.co.in

The best OLED TV from Sony delivers excellent picture quality, thanks to the various optimisations underneath and is complemented with Acoustic Surface Audio+ that turns the display into a speaker.

SAMSUNG QN900B

₹12,54,990, samsung.com/in

The QN900B is a stunning 8K TV with an incredible picture and great connectivity. It's big, bright and colourful. The 85-inch boasts high HDR performance and convincing 4K upscaling.

VALUE 4K TVS

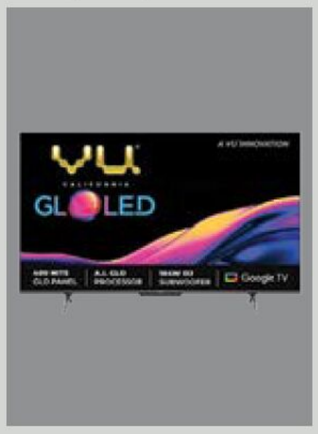
SAMSUNG CRYSTAL UHD

₹45,999, samsung.com/in

A 4K LED TV with impressive specs and picture quality will have you thinking it costs a lot more than it does. With its Crystal 4K processing technology, your content is going to look super-sharp.

VU GLOLED TV

₹42,999, vutvs.com



It comes with a 'Glo Panel' that boasts 400 nits of brightness and a colour gamut of 94% for improved colour reproduction. It also comes with an integrated 104W soundbar to complement the visuals.

XIAOMI SMART TV X55

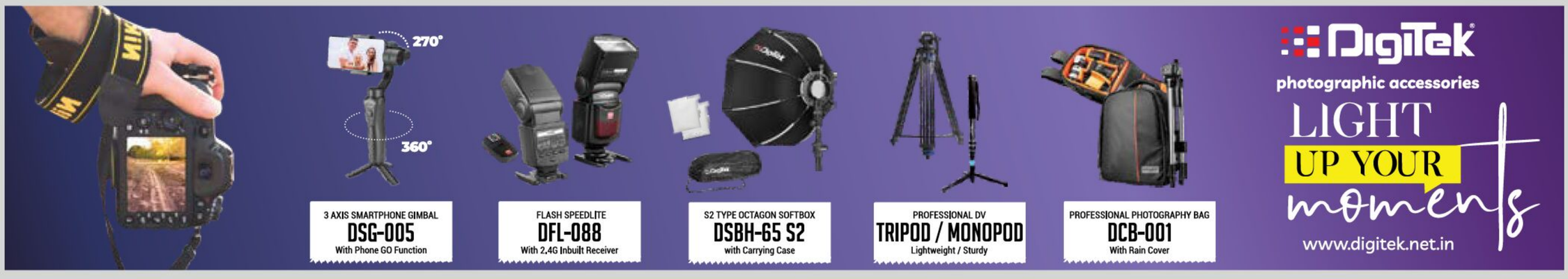
₹39,999, mi.com/in

Affordable 4K TV that brings the best HDR experience with Dolby Vision, HDR10 and HLG support. Paired with a pair of 30W speakers, the TV's smartness is courtesy of Android TV running under the PatchWall interface.

ONEPLUS Y1S PRO

₹39,999, oneplus.in

The 4K TV focuses on its smart features and an integrated ecosystem that enables content consumption easy and efficient. The AI-powered Gamma Engine also helps to optimize the picture.



RUNNING WATCH

GARMIN FORERUNNER 245 MUSIC

₹32,490, garmin.com

The ultimate phone-free GPS running watch for the price-conscious runner. The battery can last up to seven days in smartwatch mode and six hours in GPS mode with music.

GARMIN FORERUNNER 945

₹59,925, garmin.com

The Forerunner 945 has retained the look and feel of the 935, but inside it has been completely revamped. There are new GPS chips and heart-rate sensors, plus on-board maps.

POLAR VANTAGE V

approx. ₹45,000, polar.com

A peculiar flagship smartwatch, this has some unique features that might arouse the runners out there, especially the running power metric, measured on the wrist.

GARMIN FORERUNNER 45

₹17,490, garmin.com

This lower mid-range watch from Garmin gets the basics right: it has an optical heart rate sensor, built-in GPS, supports smart notifications and the Garmin Coach feature too.

SMART SPEAKERS

APPLE HOMEPOD MINI

₹9,900, apple.com/in

It delivers unexpectedly big sound for a speaker of its size. It works seamlessly with iPhone to control your smart home.

AMAZON ECHO DOT

₹4,499, amazon.in

It's a voice-activated smart speaker - even from a distance. Alexa can speak both English & Hindi, and new features are added automatically

BOSE HOME SPEAKER 500

₹39,000, bose.co.in

This Bose speakers offer the widest soundstage available in a smart speaker with a wall-to-wall stereo sound. It supports Amazon Alexa, which means you can ask questions to Alexa or control the device via voice.

MARSHALL UXBRIDGE VOICE

₹24,999 marshallheadphones.com/in

It combines the legendary sound of Marshall with the helpfulness of Alexa. This speaker delivers a clean and precise audio experience.

SMART BULBS

PHILIPS HUE

From ₹2,900, meethue.com

Hue dominates the smart lighting sector for good reason: it's a superb system with the widest range of bulbs and a simple, useful app. Rivals may be cheaper but they can't compete with Hue's variety.

TP-LINK LB130

₹1,999, tp-link.in

Known for its routers but TP-Link offers decent smart bulb solutions and LB130 is their latest solution that does not require a hub to operate, It can be controlled over Wi-Fi and supports multi-colour, circadian mode, voice control.

MI LED SMART BULB

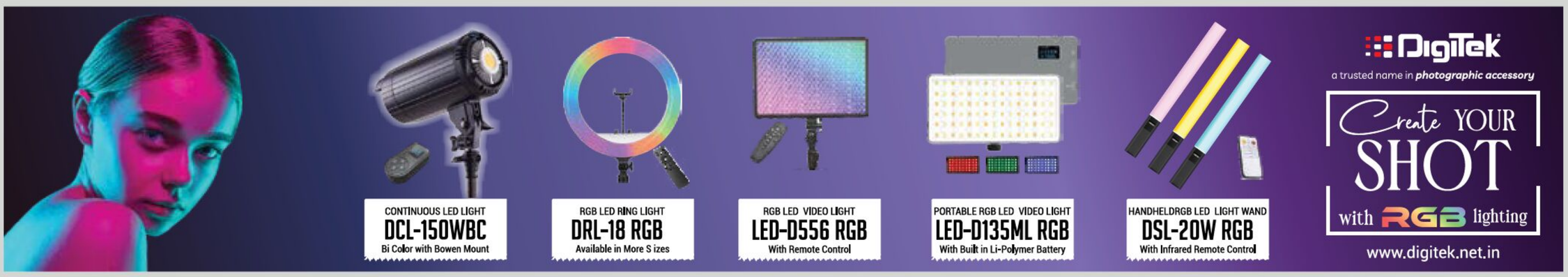
₹1,299, mi.com/in

The Mi LED Smart Bulb is the newest entrant in the smart bulb segment that works with both Alexa and Google Assistant without the need of a bridge and offers a colour space of up to 16 million colours.

SYSKA SMART LIGHT

From ₹1,799, syska.com

Syska's main USP is that it uses a normal B22 cap and doesn't require a hub to operate. After connecting, the bulb can be connected and modified from anywhere with the help of the app.



LAPTOPS

APPLE MACBOOK AIR (M2, 2022)

₹1,19,900, apple.com/in

Apple's cheapest laptop is a revolution. Think thin and light laptops have to sacrifice power? Not anymore. This is the best of all worlds, with an M2 CPU as powerful as those in gaming PCs.

DELL XPS 13 PLUS

₹1,65,990, dell.co.in

Powerful, with a 12th-gen Intel CPU and up to 16GB of RAM, well built, and compact thanks to a 13.4-inch 4K display. It's just about everything you could want in your search for the best laptop.

ACER SWIFT 3

₹63,999, acer.co.in

An affordable machine, but with plenty of oomph, the Swift 3 packs 12th-gen Intel CPUs, HD screens, and up to 512GB of SSD storage, with a spare slot for upgrades. It's a lot for your money.

LG GRAM 16 (2022)

₹1,28,000 , lg.com/in

One of the best combinations of a large screen and lightweight chassis – it's almost perfect as a Windows laptop. It's a relatively good value for the specification on offer, too.

2-IN-1 LAPTOPS

DELL XPS 13 2-IN-1

₹1,39,990, dell.co.in

Very appealing looks, superb specs... what's not to like? As usual with Dell devices, a variety of configurations is available. All of them are very capable, very versatile, and very well-designed.

ASUS ZENBOOK 17 FOLD OLED

₹4,499, a₹3,29,990, asus.com/inmazon.in

Asus gives a glimpse into the future of 2-in-1 laptops with a large 17.3-inch display or a 12.5-inch size when used with the Bluetooth keyboard. It also comes with good hardware to be your daily driver.

MICROSOFT SURFACE PRO 9

₹1,05,999, microsoft.com

Microsoft continues expanding its 2-in-1s and the Surface Pro 9 improves the overall experience with better performance and battery life.

ASUS ZENBOOK FLIP 13

₹85,900, asus.com/in

The Zenbook Flip 13 might be the best laptop Asus has ever released. Tooled up with an 11th-gen Intel Core processor, the tablet mode feels great to use, thanks to a responsive touchscreen.

GAMING LAPTOPS

ASUS ROG ZEPHYRUS G14 (2022)

₹1,91,990, asus.com/in

A game-changer that delivers buckets of performance despite being compact and light. It does this thanks to its use of AMD's hot new Ryzen CPUs and Radeon RX 6000 series GPUs.

HP OMEN 16

₹1,63,499, hp.com

This particular SKU is loaded with the AMD CPU+GPU duo to give the best of gaming in a portable form factor. It's just under 2.5kg and packs in amazing hardware for prolonged gaming sessions.

ACER NITRO 5

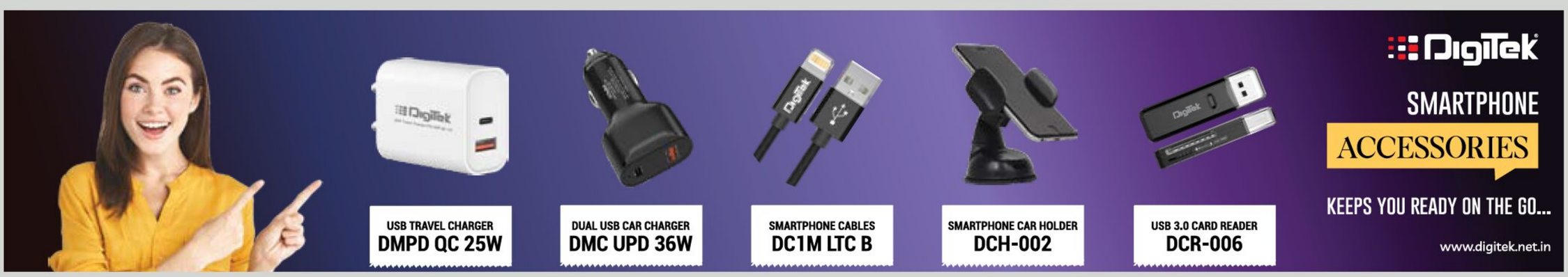
₹1,10,393, acer.co.in

A gaming laptop that just breaches the 1L price barrier. With a Core i7, 16GB of RAM, 512GB hybrid storage, and an Nvidia GeForce RTX 3050 Ti, it's still a potent performer.

MSI GS66 STEALTH

₹3,00,000, in.msi.com

An astonishingly powerful gaming laptop with a 12th-generation Intel Core i9 and Nvidia GeForce RTX 3070 Ti GPU. This is not a cheap laptop, but it delivers incredible performance.



STREAMERS

CHROMECAST

₹3,499, store.google.com/in

The Chromecast is a receiver for phones and laptops and depends on them for control and content – but it's simple, versatile and compatible with iOS, Android, Windows and Mac.

AMAZON FIRE TV STICK 4K

₹5,999, amazon.in

4K HDR for under ₹6,000 isn't to be sniffed at. It's best suited to Prime subscribers and Google apps are absent, but it's a very capable and affordable streamer for TV and movies.

APPLE TV 4K

₹15,900, apple.com/in

iTunes has the biggest source of 4K HDR and Dolby Atmos movies, and lots of other services have apps here too. You can also easily stream to it from Macs and iOS devices.

XIAOMI MI BOX 4K

From ₹3,499, mi.com/in

The Mi Box supports 4K and operates on Android TV OS 9.0. It also has a built-in Google Assistant and Chromecast, making life easier for users, in addition to Chromecast-enabled apps and USB 2.0 and a Cortex-A53 Quad-core CPU.

GAMING

SONY PS5

₹49.990, sony.co.in

The latest edition of Playstation offers ultra fast SSD along with adaptive triggers and 3D Audio. The all-new DualSense controller and the stylishly curvy design are other reasons to fall in love with this device.

MICROSOFT XBOX SERIES X

₹49,990, xbox.com

This is the most powerful XBOX ever with 12 teraflops of processing power and realistic imagery. It also offers frame rates of up to 120fps and 4K rendition.

MICROSOFT XBOX SERIES S

₹34,990, xbox.com

The smallest Xbox ever. This all-digital console lets you build your game library and keep it backed up safely inthe cloud. Xbox Velocity architecture and 120fps refresh rate enhance the experience.

ASUS TUF VG279QM

₹37,999, asus.com/in

A full HD monitor that's comes with an ultra-fast 280Hz refresh rate. Designed for professional gamers, it has a 1ms of response time, motion blur sync, G-SYNC for tear-free gaming, HDR and more.

TRUE WIRELESS HEADPHONES

JABRA ELITE ACTIVE 75T

₹12,999, jabra.in

If the Beats are just too bulbous for your tastes, you can't find finer than these Jabra buds. Sound quality could be described as a little artificial, but it's also pleasingly pumping.

RHA TRUECONNECT

₹14,999, headphonezone.in

Even more comfy, though perhaps slightly less secure, than the Jabras, these also offer best-in-class audio. Aside from a slightly odd carry case, these are textbook true wireless buds.

APPLE AIRPODS

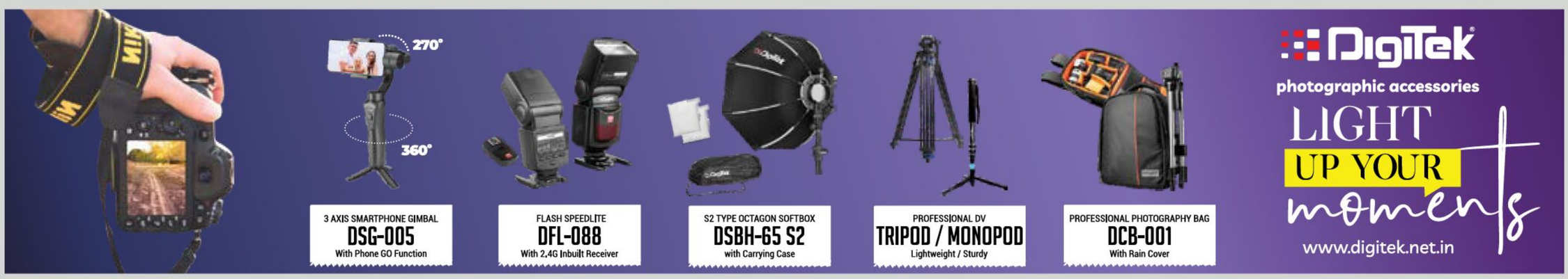
₹12,900, apple.com/in

Apple's wireless 'phones may not sound as good as some of the newer rivals, but they still beat them all for battery life, ease of use and often comfort. They work best with iOS, of course.

SAMSUNG GALAXY BUDS+

₹8,990, samsung.com

These buds boast AKG-tuned sound with an adaptive 3-mic system along with up to 11 hours of non-stop music on a single charge. The system offers wireless charging with a compatible Qi standard charger.



DSLR CAMERAS

NIKON D780

₹1,95,995 , nikon.co.in

The successor to the D750, this 24.5 megapixel DSLR boasts a back-illuminated full frame sensor and EXPEED 6 image-processing engine. It offers 4K video recording and 12 fps silent shooting.

NIKON D6

₹5,19,995, nikon.co.in

This 20.8-megapixel full frame flagship features a 105-point cross-type AF system and 14 fps burst with AF/AE tracking. Powered by EXPEED 6 image-processing engine, it offers sensitivities up to ISO 102,400.

NIKON D5600

From ₹66,750, nikon.co.in

Designed for beginners and mid-level photographers, Nikon's light-weight (465 g body with battery) APS-C sensor 24.78 megapixel D-SLR is a good choice to carry along the whole day.

CANON 5D MARK IV

From ₹2,90,995, canon.co.in

The 30.4 megapixel D-SLR from Canon is one of its most sought-after models. Using a full frame sensor and Dual-Pixel CMOS AF for video, the 5D IV is the bread-and-butter camera for most photographers today.

MIRRORLESS CAMERAS

NIKON Z6II

₹1,64,995, nikon.co.in

The second generation of the popular Z6 cameras feature dual EXPEED 6 processing engines. Combine tyhis with the optical precision of Z-mount lenses and you have an incredibly powerful imaging device in your hand.

CANON EOS R6

₹2,15,995, canon.co.in

This is Canon's true Still and Video camera with a 20.1-megapixel full-frame CMOS sensor. It features In-Body Image Stabilisation with up to 8 stops advantage along with up to 20 fps burst .

SONY ALPHA 7C

₹1,67,990, sony.co.in

The most compact Alpha-series full frame camera, the Alpha 7C offers superior image quality in both stills and videos. A fast AF, vari-angle LCD and a high-capacity battery enhance the experience.

FUJIFILM X-T4

₹1,54,999, fujifilm.com

The X-T4 uses a 26.1 megapixel APS-C sensor and offers up to 15 fps burst shooting capability. The in-body image stabilisation provides 6.5-stop advantage in shutter speed and the body is weather-sealed.

COMPACT CAMERAS

SONY RX100 VII

₹1,02,990, sony.co.in

For the best image quality in a pocket-friendly body, look here. The RX100 VII continues to build on Sony's reputation for high-quality premium compacts, and does so without breaking the bank.

SONY VLOG CAMERA ZV-1

₹67,990, sony.co.in

This camera is designed for Vloggers, and provides excellent still and video capabilities. With a 1.0-inch Type CMOS sensor, the camera produces excellent bokeh and offers a Product Showcase setting.

FUJIFILM X100V

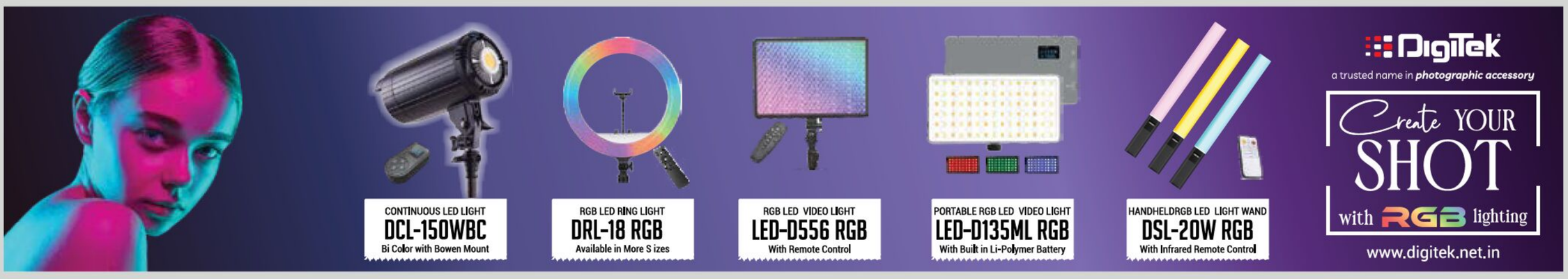
₹1,17,999, fujifilm.com

For those who like retro looks, this camera offers a range finder-type body. An APS-C sensor, a weather-sealed body and superior optics make this cam,era stand out in the crowd.

CANON POWERSHOT G7X MARK III

₹52,995, canon.co.in

Successor to the popular PowerShot G7 X Mark II, this camera features a DIGIC 8 processor and f/1.8-2.8 lens. The camera is capable of 4K video recording without crop and allows live streaming of videos.



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PORTABLE HARD DRIVES

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EXTERNAL HARD DRIVES

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ADVANCED ★★ TOSHIBA

STANDARD ★ TOSHIBA

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