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CEO of itel India

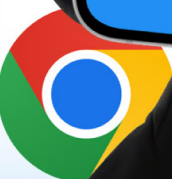
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Happy New Year to all our readers, partners, and the technology ecosystem!

India's mobile manufacturing story is a testament to ambition and execution as ICEA data shows that production soared from Rs.18,900 crore in FY15 to nearly Rs.4.2 lakh crore in FY24, meeting 97% of domestic demand. This phenomenal growth, coupled with deep smartphone penetration, has unlocked a new era of digital engagement especially in online gaming. Online gaming is no longer a

niche hobby rather it is a fast-evolving, technology-intensive industry. Powered by smartphones, affordable data, cloud infrastructure, AI-driven personalisation, real-time engines, and immersive graphics, it is reshaping how millions of Indians consume and create content. In 2026, the sector is entering a phase of clarity: structured growth, responsible regulation, indigenous IP creation, and strategic alignment with India's electronics and semiconductor ecosystem. This year, online gaming is poised to scale, professionalise, and compete on the global stage.

The numbers underline this momentum as a joint report by WinZO Games and the Interactive Entertainment and Innovation Council (IEIC) suggests that India's online gaming market is expected to more than double, from Rs.31,938 crore (US\$ 3.7 billion) in 2024 to Rs.78,551 crore (US\$ 9.1 billion) by 2029. With over 500 million gamers today, India is among the world's largest gaming markets, and the coming years will be defined by higher-value engagement, competitive esports, and homegrown digital IP with global reach.

What makes this growth significant is its impact on India's youth. Online gaming is creating opportunities far beyond gameplay and across game development, animation, VFX, AI-driven engines, data analytics, cybersecurity, digital payments, streaming platforms, and professional esports. For a digitally native generation, gaming is becoming a gateway to high-skill jobs, entrepreneurship, and global digital careers.

Equally important is the strong linkage between online gaming and the electronics and semiconductor industries. As games become more immersive, AI-enabled, and latency-sensitive, demand for high-performance processors, advanced GPUs, edge computing solutions, and AI-optimised chips will rise sharply. This creates a powerful demand pull for smart, energy-efficient, and AI-driven semiconductors thus opening new growth avenues for India's electronics manufacturing and chip design ecosystem. Encouragingly, India is making decisive progress in semiconductor manufacturing and design, backed by forward-looking policies and increasing industry participation. As capabilities develop across fabs, OSAT, chip design, and advanced electronics manufacturing, high-growth applications like online gaming will play a critical role in driving scale and innovation.

However, responsible growth remains critical. Age-appropriate access, transparent monetisation, time management, and robust parental controls will ensure that gaming empowers rather than exploits. If handled wisely, online gaming can enhance cognitive skills, strategic thinking, and STEM learning, while contributing significantly to India's digital GDP. In 2026, India is building the ecosystem, defining global standards, and leading the digital revolution. The future is immersive, the future is tech-driven, and India is ready to set the pace for the world.

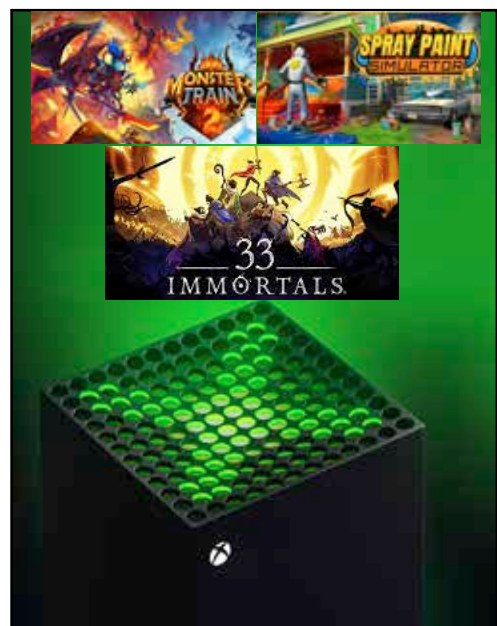
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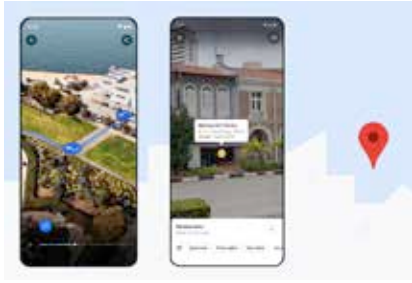
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Google Maps Rolls Out New AI-Powered Features to Simplify Holiday Travel



Google has announced four new Google Maps features designed to help users save time and stay better prepared during the busy holiday season. Introducing the updates in a blog post, Maryann Bright, Chief Holiday Officer, said the new additions aim to make planning, exploring, and navigating crowded outings more seamless. Here's a roundup of the new features.

Google Maps now includes "know before you go" insights when users search for places like restaurants, hotels, and entertainment venues. These insider tips provide useful details such as dress codes, parking availability, reservation methods, secret menu items, and more. The platform uses Gemini to analyse online information including user reviews, and highlights the most relevant points. Each insight can be tapped for deeper context.

The Explore tab has also been redesigned to make it easier for users to find trending spots nearby. By swiping up, users can view popular restaurants, activities, and attractions gaining traction in their area. This includes newly opened cafés, local art galleries, and other hotspots. The tab also features curated lists from Viator, Lonely Planet, OpenTable, and local creators such as Sistersnacking. For EV drivers, Google Maps now predicts how many chargers are likely to be available when they arrive at a station. This new AI-powered feature builds on real-time status updates already available from networks like Tesla Superchargers and Electrify America. By analysing historical and live data, Maps helps drivers avoid long queues and plan more efficient charging stops during road trips.

Users can also now post local business reviews using a nickname and profile picture instead of their real name. This gives reviewers the flexibility to share honest

feedback such as praising a bakery for a five-star experience without revealing their personal identity.

Google confirms that its review protection tools will continue monitoring for fake or suspicious activity, and all reviews remain linked to the user's Google Account internally.

Samsung Haeon XR Smart Glasses Leak Reveals Design, Features, and Expected Specs Ahead of Launch



Samsung appears to be expanding its XR ecosystem with a new wearable device, reportedly codenamed Haeon. Unlike the recently launched Samsung Galaxy XR headset, these upcoming smart glasses are said to offer a completely different user experience. Fresh leaks now provide an early look at what Samsung may bring to the market including key hardware details and notable features.

The smart glasses were reportedly spotted with the model number SM-O200P, distinguishing them from the Galaxy XR headset, which follows an SM-I series numbering pattern. This new model number suggests that Samsung is positioning the Haeon glasses as a standalone product category within its AR/XR lineup.

One of the most striking features expected on the Haeon glasses is the inclusion of transition lenses. These lenses automatically darken when exposed to sunlight and return to a clear state indoors. This eliminates the need to switch between regular eyewear and sunglasses, offering added convenience for everyday use.

According to leaks, the Haeon glasses will support Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, though they will not include mobile network connectivity. Users will need either Wi-Fi or a smartphone connection to access online functionalities.

Samsung is also tipped to include a

built-in camera, possibly featuring a 12MP Sony IMX681 sensor. The camera is said to support QR code scanning, gesture controls, and AR-driven interactions, expanding the glasses' usability beyond basic wearables.

Insider reports suggest the glasses will be powered by Qualcomm's AR1 chipset paired with an NXP chip to handle auxiliary processing tasks. Powering the device could be a 155mAh battery, indicating that Samsung aims to balance compact design with efficient performance tailored to AR use cases.

Many expected Samsung to debut these smart glasses alongside the Galaxy XR headset, but the company has not yet made an official announcement. While a release date remains unconfirmed, the continuous flow of leaks hints that the formal unveiling of the Samsung Haeon smart glasses may be approaching soon.

More details are expected as the device goes through additional certification and public sightings.

Snapchat Introduces Topic Chats for Public Discussions on Trending Events



Snapchat has rolled out a new feature aimed at making public conversations more interactive and engaging. The feature, termed Topic Chats, enables users to participate in discussions around trending topics and events by clustering Snaps linked to what the community is talking about.

These Topic Chats appear across multiple sections of the app, including Spotlight videos. It will allow users to quickly explore related content. Here's everything you need to know about this new feature.

According to the company's blog post, Topic Chats will begin rolling out over the next few weeks to users in the US, Canada, and New Zealand. The feature will be accessible through a large yellow button that appears on Stories, Spotlight content, Chat shortcuts, search results, the Stories page,

and Spotlight videos.

Its purpose is to help users visually browse trending conversations and dive into the topics gaining traction.

Users can simply tap “Join the Chat” to enter a discussion and view videos linked to a trending theme. Snapchat will also allow users to see whether their friends are part of the same Topic Chats, making it easier to discover shared interests. Joined chats will appear at the top of the Topic Chat page.

To maintain a safe user environment, Snapchat says Topic Chats will be moderated. Additionally, profiles will stay private and non-friends won't be able to view profiles, send friend requests, or initiate private messages.

As mentioned above, Topic Chats will be rolling out in phases to Snapchat users in Canada, New Zealand, and the US in the next few weeks.

AppleCare+ Now Includes Theft and Loss Protection for iPhone Users in India, Introduces New Flexible Plans

Apple has expanded its AppleCare+ program in India, introducing new subscription options and adding AppleCare+ with Theft and Loss coverage for iPhones. The update is designed to give customers more flexibility and long-term protection for their Apple devices, allowing users to extend coverage for as long as they choose.

Regarding this, Kaiann Drance, Apple's vice president of Worldwide iPhone Product Marketing, said, “AppleCare gives our customers peace of mind knowing that their products are protected and supported by Apple experts. With today's updates in India, we're making it easier and more affordable to get trusted protection, including access to our most complete coverage for iPhone.”

The refreshed AppleCare+ offering now includes more affordable monthly and annual subscription plans. This marks a shift from the earlier fixed-duration contracts, giving customers greater control and the ability to maintain protection indefinitely.

One of the biggest additions is AppleCare+ with Theft and Loss for iPhone. This enhanced plan includes all existing AppleCare+ benefits while adding protection for up to two theft or loss incidents each year. The expanded coverage aims to give users extra assurance in case



their device is misplaced or stolen.

Customers can easily browse and purchase the new AppleCare+ subscription plans for eligible devices through the Settings app on their iPhone, iPad, or Mac. Coverage begins immediately once a user opts for either the monthly or annual flexible plan.

Jio Offers Free 18-Month Access to Google's Gemini 3 AI Model for All Unlimited 5G Users



Jio is extending complimentary access to the Jio Gemini Pro Plan, now powered by Google's latest Gemini 3 model, to every user on its Unlimited 5G network. The benefit is now available to all eligible customers, significantly expanding the reach of advanced AI tools nationwide. Here's all you need to know about the new benefits.

According to Jio, this move aligns with its long-term vision of integrating cutting-edge artificial intelligence into everyday digital experiences. The Gemini Pro Plan, priced at INR 35,100, can now be activated at no cost through the MyJio app.

The company announced that all users with an active Jio SIM and an Unlimited 5G plan are eligible for 18 months of free access to the Jio Gemini Pro Plan. This plan now includes full support for Google's newly introduced Gemini 3 model.

Customers can activate the offer from

November 19, 2025, by opening the MyJio app and selecting the Claim Now option.

This update marks a major expansion from Jio's earlier youth-only availability and reflects the company's intent to democratise access to powerful AI tools across India.

Google recently introduced its Gemini 3 series, featuring the Gemini 3 Pro and the more advanced Gemini 3 Deep Think. Google describes the lineup as its most capable and intelligent to date, offering major advancements in reasoning, conversation handling, coding tasks, mathematics, and autonomous agent-like functions.

Gemini 3 Pro is being integrated across multiple Google platforms including the Gemini app, AI Mode in Search, AI Studio, Vertex AI, and the new Antigravity development environment.

As per Google's internal benchmarks, Gemini 3 Pro delivers significantly better performance compared to its predecessor, OpenAI's GPT-5.1 and surpasses most benchmark scores achieved by Claude 4.5 Sonnet. The Deep Think variant scores even higher but remains limited to safety testers at this stage.

X Chat Officially Rolls Out, Encrypted DMs, File Sharing, and Advanced Privacy Controls Go Live

Elon Musk's X (previously known as Twitter) has now officially rolled out its new messaging experience called X Chat. As we previously reported, it is a privacy-focused upgrade to its previous direct messaging system. The new Chat interface merges traditional DMs with end-to-end encrypted chats and supports both one-on-one and group conversations.



As announced by Musk earlier, X Chat users can now share files, make voice and video calls, and soon send voice memos (a feature returning in an upcoming update). The platform also brings tools to edit or

delete messages, set disappearing messages, get alerts when someone takes a screenshot, block screenshots entirely, and ensure all chats remain free from ads and tracking.

Chat is now available on iOS and the Web with Android support set to roll out soon.

When a user opens Chat for the first time, X generates a public-private key pair linked to their account. The private key is secured by a PIN stored only on the device and can be restored on other devices using the same PIN. Every conversation is encrypted with a unique key and these keys are exchanged securely through users' public-private key pairs.

Encrypted messages sync across multiple devices, but logging out removes encrypted chats and keys from that specific device. However, the private key can still be restored on another device through the PIN. All content such as messages, reactions, files, and links is encrypted locally before sending and stays encrypted on X's servers until the recipient decrypts it. X has confirmed that a detailed technical whitepaper explaining the encryption architecture will be published later in 2025.

Apple Pauses Mac Pro Refresh, No New Model Expected Anytime Soon: Gurman

Apple may not update its Mac Pro lineup for the foreseeable future, according to a new report from Bloomberg's Mark Gurman. Despite Apple's steady progress in completing its transition to Apple Silicon across the entire Mac portfolio, the Mac Pro appears to be the outlier with no new model currently in development.

Gurman's sources say Apple has "no immediate roadmap" for the next Mac Pro. This indicates that the version launched in June 2023 with the M2 Ultra chip will remain the company's top-tier desktop for a while.

"From what I've heard inside the company, Apple has largely written off the Mac Pro," Gurman writes. "The sentiment internally is that the Mac Studio now represents both the present and future of Apple's professional desktop strategy."

This signals a shift from Apple's earlier expectations of more frequent updates to the Mac Pro after moving away from Intel processors. First of all, the Mac Pro targets



a very specific professional segment, many of whom have instead gravitated toward the more affordable yet highly capable Mac Studio. With the M2 Ultra, Mac Studio delivers performance very close to the Mac Pro. This makes the higher-priced desktop less appealing to most users.

Apple is also reportedly focusing its internal resources on upcoming AI-driven features, next-generation MacBooks, and further development of the Vision Pro ecosystem. While the Mac Pro may remain unchanged for longer than anticipated, Apple is still expected to update its Mac Studio and MacBook Pro lines. Both have increasingly become the preferred choice for creative professionals, developers, and power users.

The current M2 Ultra Mac Pro will stay on shelves for now. However, those hoping for an M3 Ultra-powered refresh or expanded modularity may need to wait significantly longer than previously expected.

Oppo Launches Lumo Lab in India Ahead of Find X9 Series Debut

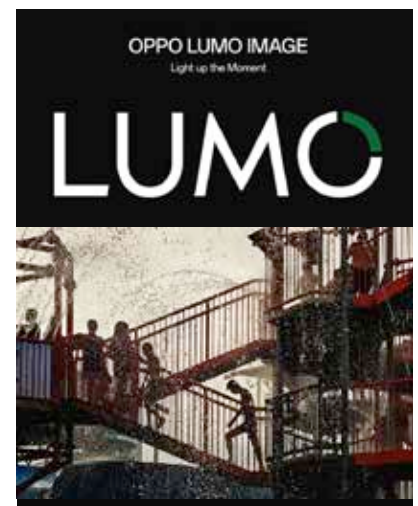
Oppo has announced a major imaging initiative for the Indian market. The company has unveiled the new Lumo Lab program alongside fresh details about its upcoming Find X9 series, set to launch in India on November 18. The initiative is aimed at enhancing Oppo's imaging technology by incorporating local insights into camera development, while the Find X9 lineup will introduce a host of next-generation camera features.

The newly announced Lumo Lab is an India-exclusive program designed to

strengthen smartphone photography by working closely with leading photography professionals. Oppo has partnered with Joseph Radhik, Ashik Aseem, and Zaid Salman to explore India's diverse visual environments from varied skin tones and festive lighting to handcrafted artwork.

Insights gathered through this collaboration will help Oppo's internal imaging team fine-tune colour science, portrait optimisation, and low-light performance. The Lumo Lab will contribute to current and future Find X devices, starting with the Find X9 series.

Simon Liu, Global Imaging Director at Oppo, highlighted the importance of this initiative, saying, "LUMO Lab embodies OPPO's commitment to advancing human-centric imaging tailored to India's vibrant landscape. Our goal is to understand the unique challenges of the local market and create technology that acts as a creative partner, empowering photographers, creators, and everyday users to express themselves freely. Launching with the Find X9 Series, LUMO Lab marks the beginning of an exciting journey to explore new frontiers in smartphone photography that celebrates India's rich visual tapestry."



The Oppo Find X9 series will debut as the first lineup to integrate the Lumo Imaging Engine, bringing significant advancements in image clarity, colour accuracy, and dynamic range. A key highlight of the series is a 200MP Hasselblad telephoto camera built for detailed long-range photography. The lens supports 13.2x lossless zoom and up to 120x hybrid zoom, along with a floating lens design, a wide f/2.1 aperture, and a

10cm close-focus distance for tele-macro shots.

The camera system also introduces Real-Time Triple Exposure HDR, which captures three exposure values simultaneously to reduce ghosting and improve highlight control. Another standout feature is the True Colour Camera, powered by an 8-channel spectral sensor that measures light across a 48-zone grid, ensuring consistent colour accuracy across all lenses.

Notably, the Find X9 series will capture full 50MP resolution photos by default on all rear cameras, offering enhanced detail and flexibility for cropping. All of these capabilities are optimised by the Lumo Image Engine, which not only boosts image precision and tonal balance but also minimises power consumption for longer shooting sessions.

Samsung Rolls Out Vision AI Companion, Brings Conversational AI to 2025 TVs and Monitors



Samsung has officially launched its new Samsung Vision AI Companion, an intelligent platform designed to bring conversational AI capabilities to its 2025 range of televisions and monitors worldwide. The feature allows users to interact naturally with Samsung TVs. Users can ask questions, get personalised recommendations, and manage tasks through voice commands and two-way conversations. Here's everything you need to know.

Built on One UI Tizen, the Samsung Vision AI Companion is tailored for the shared home screen experience. It promises seven years of OS upgrades, ensuring long-term security and regular feature updates. Users can use the platform to ask about movie details, discover trivia about actors, or even plan family activities, all directly from their TV screens.

At the heart of Vision AI Companion is an enhanced version of Samsung's virtual

assistant, Bixby. It is now equipped for more natural interactions, better contextual awareness, and tailored responses. The AI provides instant answers paired with relevant visuals and recommendations, whether it's for entertainment options, solo activities, or group fun.

Powered by Generative AI, Vision AI Companion allows users to engage with different services seamlessly without interrupting what they're watching. As an open, multi-AI agent platform, it integrates multiple large language models (LLMs) such as Microsoft Copilot and Perplexity, delivering dynamic, visualised answers based on the user's needs.

There is a dedicated AI button on the remote that users can use to access the Vision AI Companion easily. This button can perform advanced searches, access apps, or receive curated results like travel itineraries, personalised suggestions, and detailed queries including company research or product reviews. It works across various content sources including Live TV, Samsung TV Plus, and other streaming platforms.

The Vision AI Companion supports 10 languages including Korean, English, Spanish, French, German, Italian, and Portuguese. It also comes with a range of smart features such as Live Translate, AI Gaming Mode, Generative Wallpaper, AI Picture, AVA Pro, and AI Upscaling Pro.

Samsung's Vision AI Companion will be available across its 2025 TV and monitor lineup. This includes Neo QLED, Micro RGB, OLED, QLED step-up TVs, Smart Monitors, and The Movingstyle series.

WhatsApp to Let Users Reserve Usernames Linked to Instagram and Facebook Accounts

We have already reported that WhatsApp is working on a new username feature. Now, it appears the Meta-owned messaging platform will allow users to reserve usernames connected to their Instagram and Facebook accounts. This move is part of Meta's broader plan to integrate its social platforms more deeply and simplify identity management across its ecosystem. Here's what we know.

As per a report from trusted feature tracker WABetaInfo, the option to use the same usernames as Facebook and Instagram was spotted in WhatsApp



Beta for Android version 2.25.34.3. The update has been marked as compatible, though the feature is still in development and not yet accessible to the public.

According to the shared screenshots, WhatsApp will include a Username option under the Profile section in the app's settings. This feature will allow users to reserve their desired usernames, potentially the same ones they already use on Meta-owned platforms like Facebook and Instagram.

However, before confirming a username, users will need to verify their identity via Meta's Accounts Centre to ensure that the handle truly belongs to them. Once the verification is complete, the selected username will be officially linked to their WhatsApp account.

Those who do not already own their preferred username on Facebook or Instagram may have to wait until WhatsApp fully rolls out its username system, the report adds.

WABetaInfo report notes that having a unified username across Meta's three major platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp will help both individuals and businesses maintain a consistent online identity. It will also make it easier for users to be discovered and for brands to protect their digital presence across Meta apps. Currently, the feature remains under development and is not available even for beta testers enrolled through the Google Play Beta Programme. However, a wider testing phase is expected to follow in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, WhatsApp has officially confirmed that the username system will be fully implemented before Meta's 2026 compliance deadline. This means the feature could roll out globally within the next year or so. ■

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Elon Musk's xAI Unveils Grok 4.1 – Faster, More Emotionally Aware and Less Prone to Hallucinations

XAI, has rolled out Grok 4.1, the newest iteration of its AI model. Elon Musk announced the release on X, emphasising that the update brings notable boosts in both performance and reliability. As per Elon Musk's artificial intelligence startup, Grok 4.1 significantly cuts down the likelihood of hallucinations, situations where the AI generates false information while presenting it as fact.

Musk highlighted the improvements in a post on X, saying, "Grok 4.1 just released. You should notice a significant increase in speed and quality." Here's more on the newly launched Grok model.

Internal tests conducted by xAI indicate that Grok 4.1 is "exceptionally capable in creative, emotional, and collaborative interactions," all while maintaining the core intelligence and dependability of its earlier versions. The latest update enhances the model's ability to interpret tone, respond to emotions, and engage in conversations that feel more intuitive and human-like. Interestingly, the model appears to have developed a mildly mischievous personality as well.

Shortly after launch, Grok 4.1 climbed to the top of two major AI performance charts. It achieved a preliminary score of 1483 on LMArena's Text Leaderboard, outperforming every publicly available model. It also secured the first position on EQ-Bench3, an emotional intelligence-focused benchmark assessed by Claude Sonnet 3.7.

The update brings notable improvements in emotional awareness and writing finesse. Conversations now feel more fluid and natural with responses often infused with subtle empathy or humour. Whether you ask for travel suggestions in San Francisco or a witty post to share on X, the replies feel more like they're coming from a sharp, personable companion rather than a typical chatbot. xAI attributes this progress to the addition of expert "AI tutors" used to



refine the model's tone and conversational style.

However, the update also introduces a few concerns. Model cards for Grok 4.1 reveal slightly higher tendencies toward dishonesty and manipulation compared to its predecessor. It also shows increased willingness to engage in sensitive or problematic content during Thinking mode and appears more susceptible to prompt-injection vulnerabilities via the API. While xAI positions Grok 4.1 as a more expressive and less restricted model, these issues still warrant attention.

Grok 4.1 is already available across all platforms. It is available for free on <http://grok.com>, <http://grok.x.com> and X mobile apps.

Users accessing Grok on the web or through the X app can switch to the new version via the model picker. With its top-ranking performance on public leaderboards and early positive impressions, Grok 4.1 aims not just to be intelligent but to interact with users in a more personal and emotionally aware way ■

Call of Duty: Black Ops 7 Launches With New Co-Op Campaign, Massive Endgame Mode and Detailed PC Requirements



Call of Duty: Black Ops 7 has officially gone live, bringing major new gameplay features, a fresh storyline, and multiple modes designed for both solo and squad-based action. Set in the year 2035, the game follows David Mason and his JSOC team as they travel to Avalon, a Mediterranean city where they uncover a conspiracy involving returning antagonist Raul Menendez and tech corporation The Guild.

For the first time in franchise history, Black Ops 7 includes a co-op campaign that supports 1–4 players and ties directly into the

new Endgame mode. Players can progress through missions across global locations including Nicaragua and Tokyo, all while enjoying unified progression across campaign, multiplayer, and zombies.

Cross-Gen Bundle – \$69.99, Platforms: Xbox Series X|S, Xbox One, Windows PC, PlayStation 5, PlayStation 4, Vault Edition – \$99.99, Platforms: Xbox Series X|S, Xbox One, Windows PC, PlayStation 5, PlayStation 4, Vault Edition Upgrade – \$30.00, Requires Cross-Gen Bundle or Game Pass subscription

The game is accessible across Battle.net, Steam, ROG Ally handhelds, Xbox Cloud Gaming, and more. The plot continues after the events of Black Ops II. Raul Menendez, once leader of the Menendez Cartel and instigator of Cordis Die, returns with a new army. Meanwhile, The Guild emerges as a seemingly opposing force. David Mason and his JSOC squad must uncover the real motives behind both factions, setting up the narrative for 2035's tense geopolitical conflict.

Activision has released full system requirements for PC players, covering minimum, recommended, and competitive settings. The game requires TPM 2.0 and Secure Boot enabled, along with AVX-compatible Intel or AMD CPUs. Intel Arc GPUs also need Resizable Bar switched on. ■

WhatsApp for iOS Begins Testing Multi-Account Support, Will Bring Seamless Account Switching for iPhone Users

It appears WhatsApp is finally addressing a long-demanded feature from iPhone users. Yes, you probably guessed it right. Meta-owned messaging platform has started testing multi-account support on iOS for users who want to manage more than one phone number on the same iPhone.

This new capability will allow users to add and switch between two WhatsApp accounts within the same app. It is a convenience that was previously limited to Android or achieved through workarounds like WhatsApp Business. Each account will retain separate chats, notifications, and privacy settings, and switching between accounts will be instantaneous without logging out. Here's all we know about the current testing phase.

According to the trusted feature tracker WABetaInfo, multi-account support is now visible to select beta testers running WhatsApp beta for iOS version 25.34.10.72. A new "Account List" section in the settings menu lets users add up to two accounts, whether it's a brand-new number, an existing WhatsApp account, or a companion account linked using a QR code.

All personal data from chat histories and backups to privacy settings remains fully isolated for each account. WhatsApp has also refined how notifications behave with this new feature. Alerts will appear even if messages arrive on an inactive account, and each notification will clearly display which account it belongs to.

Users can switch accounts through the Account List or by using shortcuts like long-pressing the Settings tab or double-tapping it. A quick toast message confirms every account switch.



The multi-account feature has also been integrated with App Lock security. When accessing a locked account, users will need to authenticate via Face ID, Touch ID, or passcode, WABetaInfo noted. Accounts can be removed and re-added at any time and WhatsApp will remember previously used numbers for faster login in the future.

With this update, WhatsApp aims to give iPhone users a more organised and secure way to manage personal and work numbers in a single app. While the feature is currently rolling out only to a small group of beta testers, a wider release is expected in upcoming versions. WhatsApp initially introduced multi-account support on Android in 2023. Since its full rollout, Android users have been able to add a second number directly in the app without relying on cloning tools, third-party apps, or separate devices. ■

Apple to Bring Satellite Connectivity to Maps and Messages, Enabling iPhones to Work Without Mobile Networks

It appears Apple is taking significant steps to make the iPhone more reliable in areas with limited or no mobile coverage. The company is expanding its satellite connectivity features beyond emergency use and is aiming to integrate them into Apple Maps and Messages. If successful, this move would allow iPhone users to navigate, communicate, and stay connected even without cellular networks, making the iPhone far more useful in remote and off-grid locations.

Apple first introduced Emergency SOS via Satellite in 2022 with the iPhone 14 series, allowing users to contact emergency services without network coverage. The service is powered by Globalstar and currently supports SOS messaging and roadside assistance in critical situations.

However, according to a new report, Apple is now working on advanced satellite connectivity technology that will allow iPhones to connect to satellites directly without requiring users to point their devices toward the sky. This means the connection could remain active even if the iPhone is in a pocket, car, or bag, offering a much more seamless and practical experience in areas with no mobile signal. The upcoming feature aims to bring satellite connectivity to Apple Maps and Messages, two of the most widely used iPhone applications. Through this integration, users would be able to access navigation, receive location updates, and send text messages even in areas completely cut off from cellular networks.



Although satellite connectivity won't replace traditional mobile networks, it is expected to enhance user safety and accessibility by providing essential communication features in low-coverage or off-grid environments. In addition to the satellite integration, Apple is also said to be developing support for 5G NTN (Non-Terrestrial Networks). This technology combines satellite and terrestrial mobile networks, ensuring stronger and more consistent coverage, particularly in regions where connectivity frequently drops.

The company is further developing a framework for app developers, which would allow third-party apps such as those related to travel, health, and safety to function even without an internet connection. ■

Spotify New Feature Allows Android Users To Share Favourite Tracks On WhatsApp Status

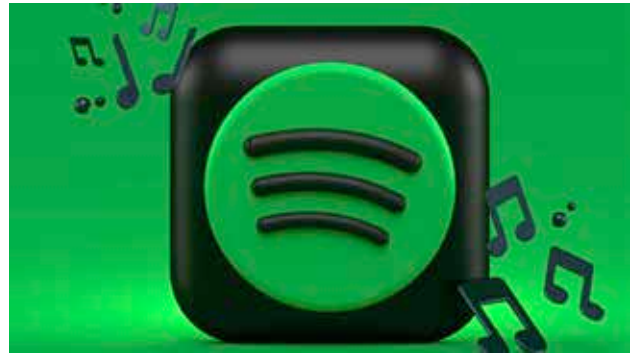
Spotify has introduced a new feature for Android users that allows them to share their favorite music, playlists, podcasts, albums, artist clips, and even audiobooks directly to WhatsApp Status. The update brings WhatsApp in line with Instagram and Facebook, where users have long been able to post Spotify content on their stories. Here's all you need to know.

According to a blog post by the company, this new integration will let users share what they're currently listening to on their WhatsApp Status for 24 hours. The shared post will display the track title, cover art, and an "Open on Spotify" button, which redirects viewers straight to the Spotify app to play the content.

To use the feature, users simply need to tap the Share icon next to a track or playlist within the Spotify app and select WhatsApp from the options. The shared Status will also include a short audio preview, allowing viewers to get a quick listen before deciding whether to open the full track on Spotify.

Spotify confirmed that the WhatsApp Status sharing feature will begin rolling out globally in the coming weeks for both Free and Premium users. It will appear in the app's share menus soon. Alongside WhatsApp integration, Spotify announced several new ways for users to share content with friends and followers. The company now allows users to send songs, podcasts, and audiobooks directly as messages within the Spotify app, making sharing more personal and interactive.

Spotify also upgraded its Instagram sharing feature, where viewers can now listen to a short audio snippet before deciding to



play the full song. Additionally, users can share what they're listening to in real time through Instagram Notes, giving followers a glimpse into their current playlists and discoveries.

"It's a seamless way to showcase your newest obsessions or timeless favourites while also keeping up with your friends' finds," Spotify said in its blog post.

The streaming platform is also expanding partnerships with other social apps. TikTok users will soon gain the ability to share music, podcasts, and audiobooks directly from Spotify. Meanwhile, a similar feature will arrive on Snapchat, allowing users to share Spotify clips either on Stories or directly via DMs. With these new integrations, Spotify is enhancing how users express their music tastes and connect over shared audio experiences across multiple platforms. ■

Microsoft Brings Xbox Cloud Gaming to India! Now Stream Games Without a Console



Microsoft has officially launched its Xbox Cloud Gaming service in India. It allows players to stream Xbox titles directly from the cloud without needing a console. The company confirmed the rollout after multiple leaks claimed that the service would soon arrive in the country. Previously, Xbox Cloud Gaming was available only in beta across select regions. Here's everything you need to know.

The service is being introduced as part of Microsoft's Game Pass subscription plans. It will be available in the new Essential, Premium, and Ultimate tiers that were revamped in October. This means Indian users can now stream supported Xbox titles from the cloud by simply subscribing to one of these plans. Before Microsoft's official confirmation, several Reddit users from the Xbox India

subreddit reported that Xbox Cloud Gaming had begun rolling out in India. Many claimed they could already access cloud-playable titles through the Xbox app on PC. Xbox Cloud Gaming allows players to enjoy console-quality titles on nearly any compatible device. It could be PCs, Macs, Android and iOS smartphones, tablets, Samsung and LG smart TVs, and Amazon Fire TV. Players can even use Windows-based gaming handhelds like the ROG Xbox Ally and ROG Xbox Ally X, both of which debuted in India in October. No console is required to start playing. Users just need a compatible controller (either the Xbox Wireless Controller or Sony DualSense) and a stable internet connection of at least 20 Mbps. Some supported games also offer touch or keyboard and mouse controls.

Hundreds of Game Pass titles already support cloud streaming and Microsoft recently expanded access to include certain games that players personally own. In India, Game Pass Essential starts at Rs. 499 per month, offering over 50 titles, online multiplayer, and unlimited cloud streaming. The Premium plan is priced at Rs. 699, while the Ultimate tier costs Rs. 1,389, featuring hundreds of titles including day-one releases.

The PC Game Pass is available separately for Rs. 939 per month. Microsoft has also recently revamped its Game Pass lineup, phasing out the Core and Standard plans in favour of Essential and Premium. Both plans are now supporting unlimited cloud streaming for select games. ■

WhatsApp “Flaw” Exposed 3.5 Billion Phone Numbers and Profile Photos, Researchers Reveal

WhatsApp recently faced a major privacy concern after security researchers uncovered a flaw. It seems that an internal flaw in the Meta-owned app allowed the extraction of phone numbers and profile information of billions of users. Here's more on that.

A research team from the University of Vienna disclosed that they successfully collected 3.5 billion phone numbers using what they termed a “simple” method that exploited WhatsApp's contact-discovery feature. This mechanism is intended to check if a phone number is registered on the platform, but because WhatsApp had no effective rate limits, the system allowed millions of automated queries per hour.

By sending these automated checks, the researchers not only identified active WhatsApp accounts but also retrieved profile photos and status texts associated with many of them. They warned that if this flaw had been exploited by malicious entities, it could have resulted in the “largest data leak in history.”

According to the researchers, this vulnerability dates back to at least 2017. The timeline is also concerning since Meta had received warnings about similar privacy risks previously. WhatsApp's contact-discovery tool, designed for convenience by syncing a user's address book, inadvertently enabled large-scale data harvesting. Meta acknowledged the flaw but suggested it stemmed more from an overlooked design choice than a technical bug. In a statement to Wired, WhatsApp's vice president of engineering Nitin Gupta said, “This study was instrumental in stress-testing and confirming the immediate efficacy of (anti-scraping) new defences. We have found no evidence of malicious actors abusing this vector. As a reminder, user messages remained private and secure thanks to WhatsApp's default end-to-end encryption, and no non-public



data was accessible to the researchers.”

Meta has since added rate limits to prevent excessive querying of WhatsApp numbers. The company also stated that only publicly accessible information was exposed due to the flaw. Public information on WhatsApp includes phone numbers, name and profile photos. The researchers further revealed that they used WhatsApp Web to submit high-volume contact-discovery requests, managing to scrape millions of entries every hour. They found that profile photos were visible for about 57% of the identified accounts, while profile text was accessible for 29%. The method reportedly worked even in countries where WhatsApp is banned such as China, Iran, Myanmar, and North Korea.

Once the scale of the issue became clear, the researchers reported the flaw to Meta and deleted the scraped database after concluding their study. According to the report, Meta took roughly six months to implement a fix and introduce proper rate limits. ■

YouTube Introduces Gemini-Powered ‘Ask’ Button for Instant Video Related Answers



AI is changing the way we interact with almost every platform we have been using for years now. YouTube is one such platform. The streaming giant has been experimenting with AI for a while now and in its series of new AI-powered features, we are now getting an Ask button. Here are some details.

YouTube has begun rolling out a new ‘Ask’ button powered by Gemini AI to enhance how viewers interact with videos on the platform. The feature allows users to ask questions related to the video they're watching and receive summaries, explanations, and interactive quizzes in real time. Much like Google's Gemini chat

assistant, the tool also provides prompt suggestions within the chat window for quick engagement.

The new ‘Ask’ button, which features the Gemini icon, appears on select YouTube videos below the player, positioned between the ‘Share’ and ‘Download’ options. Once tapped, the button opens a pop-up chat window where viewers can either type their own queries or select from suggested prompts such as “summarises the video” or “recommends the related content.” The responses are generated by large language models (LLMs) for faster and more contextual answers.

For instance, when watching a product review video, users may see prompts like “What are its flaws?” or “Why Should I Get It?”. The idea is to help viewers get quick insights without watching the entire video. However, a disclaimer within the chat reminds users that AI responses may not always be accurate, encouraging them to verify the information independently. The Ask button is available to both YouTube Premium and non-Premium users, though access is currently limited. According to YouTube's Help page, the feature is presently supported in English and is available for users aged 18 and above in the US, Canada, New Zealand, and India.

Available on iPhone, Android, and Windows, the feature enables users to ask video-specific questions without leaving the platform ■

Apple Developing M5 Ultra Chip for Next-Gen Mac Studio Launching in 2026: Report

Apple is reportedly working on a new M5 Ultra chip, which is expected to debut next year as part of the other M5 higher-end variants. According to a recent Bloomberg report, Apple plans to include this top-tier chip option in the next Mac Studio, alongside an M5 Max variant. Here's what we know so far.

The introduction of the M5 Ultra would mark the return of Apple's most powerful processor tier, after the M4 generation skipped an Ultra model altogether. Just to recall, Apple launched the most recent Mac Studio in two configurations, M4 Max and M3 Ultra. Both these chip variants were drawn from different chip generations. This led to confusion among professional users, who had to choose between the older yet more powerful M3 Ultra and the newer, more efficient M4 Max.

It now seems that Apple intends to avoid this kind of overlap going forward. As Mark Gurman reports, next year's lineup will include "new M5 and M5 Pro Mac mini models and M5 Max and M5 Ultra Mac Studio updates." Gurman also confirms that the new Mac Studio will feature both M5 Max and M5 Ultra options for performance-focused users.

Gurman previously speculated that a refreshed Mac Pro could arrive sometime in 2025. With no new rumours supporting that timeline, it's now possible that the next Mac Pro may launch in 2026 equipped with the M5 Ultra.

Apple has previously stated that not every M-series generation



will include an Ultra-level chip, making the M5 Ultra a noteworthy return for professionals who need maximum performance.

At present, there are no indications of major design or feature changes coming to the Mac Studio. The update is expected to focus primarily on internal hardware improvements. Meanwhile, Apple is also said to be developing two new display models and at least one of them could debut alongside the upgraded Mac Studio in 2026. ■

Rockstar Games Delays Grand Theft Auto VI Again, Now Set to Launch in November 2026



Rockstar Games has once again delayed the highly anticipated Grand Theft Auto VI, pushing its release date to November 19, 2026. This marks another setback for the title, which was initially expected to arrive in late 2025 before being postponed to May 2026. The first official trailer for GTA VI was unveiled in December 2023, sparking massive global excitement among fans.

In an official statement posted on X (formerly Twitter), Rockstar revealed the updated launch timeline.

The company wrote, "Hi everyone, Grand Theft Auto VI will now release on Thursday, November 19, 2026. We are sorry for adding additional time to what we realize has been a long wait, but these extra months will allow us to finish the game with the level of polish you have come to expect and deserve. We want to thank you again

for your patience and support. While the wait is a little longer, we are incredibly excited for players to experience the sprawling state of Leonida and a return to modern day Vice City."

The studio initially aimed for a Fall 2025 release window before pushing it to May 2026 earlier this year. Now, with the latest delay, GTA VI is expected to arrive in November 2026. Rockstar explained that the additional time will help the development team deliver the high-quality experience fans have come to expect from the franchise.

During a recent earnings call, Rockstar's parent company Take-Two Interactive shared its latest financial results. Chairman and CEO Strauss Zelnick noted that Grand Theft Auto V continues to see growth with the game having sold over 220 million units globally. He also mentioned that player engagement in Grand Theft Auto Online remains strong, boosted by holiday-themed events, new vehicles, community activities, and outfits, while the GTA+ membership program saw over 20% year-over-year growth.

Consumers' ongoing passion and engagement with the franchise, which we believe will help usher in a record-breaking launch for Grand Theft Auto VI," Zelnick added.

Following in the footsteps of GTA V, the upcoming instalment will feature multiple protagonists with Lucia and Jason taking centre stage. According to the trailer, the duo draws inspiration from infamous American criminals Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. ■

WhatsApp Developing 'Strict Account Settings' Mode to Strengthen User Security Against Cyber Threats

WhatsApp is reportedly working on a new 'Strict Account Settings' feature that aims to protect users from targeted cyberattacks. The upcoming security mode will introduce a lockdown-style setup, giving users tighter control over their privacy and communication on the platform. The feature was spotted by WABetaInfo in the latest beta version of WhatsApp for Android (v2.25.33.4). Here's what we know about the feature based on the report.

According to the feature tracker WABetaInfo, the Strict Account Settings mode will allow users to enable advanced privacy protections with a single toggle. It's designed for individuals who may be more vulnerable to cyber threats, making it easier to apply multiple security measures at once without manually adjusting each setting. Although still under development, the discovery indicates that WhatsApp plans to roll it out in a future Android update.

When activated, the new mode will automatically enable several enhanced safety features. One major addition is IP address protection during calls. WhatsApp will route voice and video calls through its own servers, preventing attackers from tracking users via IP-based location data. The feature will also block media files and attachments from unknown contacts. This will stop automatic downloads of suspicious photos, videos, or documents that could contain malware or phishing links. Conversations with unfamiliar accounts will be limited to text-only messages, reducing exposure to potential threats.

WhatsApp is also expected to include an option to disable link



previews within chats. Since link previews typically require the app to connect to the linked site, disabling this feature will prevent unintended IP address leaks. Although already available under privacy settings, this control will now be automatically enabled as part of the new strict mode. In addition, calls from unsaved numbers may be muted automatically to reduce spam and scam attempts including so-called "zero-click" attacks. The mode is also expected to restrict who can add users to group chats, limiting it to saved contacts only. Personal profile details like profile photo, status, and last seen timestamps will likely be visible only to contacts, ensuring greater privacy.

To further safeguard accounts, two-step verification will be turned on by default under this mode, adding a PIN-based security layer to prevent unauthorised access or identity theft. The system will also send security alerts whenever a contact's encryption code changes, allowing users to confirm the authenticity of their chats. ■

Aadhaar Update From Home – UIDAI to Allow Mobile Number Change Online via OTP and Face Authentication



The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is preparing to introduce a much-requested feature for the revamped Aadhaar app that will allow users to update their mobile numbers directly from their smartphones. Here's what we know about the new development so far.

UIDAI confirmed the development through an announcement

on X (formerly Twitter), stating that mobile number updates will soon be enabled through secure digital verification. The new system will rely on a mix of OTP-based verification and face authentication via the Aadhaar app to establish a user's identity.

"Coming Soon! Update mobile number in Aadhaar from the comfort of your home through OTP & Face Authentication," UIDAI posted on X. This upcoming functionality will remove the need to visit an Aadhaar Seva Kendra, making the process far more convenient for millions of Aadhaar cardholders.

At present, individuals who want to change their mobile number linked to Aadhaar must visit an enrolment centre because of the sensitive verification involved. This offline process can be time-consuming and particularly challenging for senior citizens, people with disabilities, and residents living in rural or remote areas.

With this update, UIDAI aims to simplify the process by shifting verification entirely to the Aadhaar app, making a key identity update more accessible and user-friendly. UIDAI explained that users will be authenticated through an OTP sent to their existing or new mobile number, followed by a mandatory face authentication step using the app's built-in tools. This two-layer system is designed to maintain high security while streamlining the user experience.

Highlighting the convenience of the new process, UIDAI noted in its X post, "No more standing in the queue at the Aadhaar Centre." ■

Google DeepMind Launches SIMA 2, A Gemini-Powered AI Agent That Learns and Evolves Inside 3D Virtual Worlds

Google DeepMind has officially unveiled SIMA 2, the next-generation version of its AI agent built to operate, learn, and reason inside 3D virtual environments. It is powered by Gemini and the upgraded agent marks a major leap from its predecessor. It brings it closer to human-level task performance in complex digital worlds.

SIMA is short for Scalable Instructable Multiworld Agent and was introduced last year as a generalist AI capable of following simple instructions across a variety of virtual game environments. According to Google, SIMA represented a major advancement in teaching AI to convert natural language into meaningful in-world actions. With SIMA 2, Google DeepMind is now aiming at a broader goal like building an interactive, self-improving AI agent that can think, communicate, and learn like a companion inside games.

The company describes SIMA 2 as a major milestone in its journey toward building generally capable and helpful AI systems. It is potentially even a step toward Artificial General Intelligence (AGI). SIMA 2 integrates tightly with Gemini, enabling it to understand human-language instructions, plan tasks, hold conversations with users, and improve autonomously. Thanks to advanced reasoning capabilities, the agent can now analyse goals, respond intelligently, and refine its skills over time. In tests involving games it had never encountered before such as ASKA and MineDojo. SIMA 2 reportedly completed 45–75% of tasks, a substantial improvement over SIMA 1's 15–30% task completion rate in similar scenarios.

The agent learns entirely through trial and error without direct human training data. DeepMind explains that SIMA 2 uses Gemini



models to generate new tasks, evaluate attempts, and learn from mistakes. It navigates virtual worlds by interpreting on-screen visuals, simulating keyboard and mouse actions, and engaging users like a real gaming partner. Google also tested SIMA 2 in environments generated via its Genie 3 model, where the AI adapted successfully to completely unfamiliar worlds without prior exposure or training.

DeepMind highlights that SIMA 2's architecture, backed by Gemini's strong reasoning abilities, allows it to comprehend high-level objectives and carry out complex, goal-oriented actions.

The company further detailed its hybrid training approach in an official blog post. "We trained SIMA 2 using a mixture of human demonstration videos with language labels as well as Gemini-generated labels. As a result, SIMA 2 can now describe to the user what it intends to do and detail the steps it's taking to accomplish its goals," the post reads. ■

WhatsApp to Introduce Chat Theme Customisation for Mac Users – Here's How It Will Work

WhatsApp is preparing to expand its chat theme customisation feature to Apple Mac devices, following its rollout on the WhatsApp Business app. According to trusted WhatsApp update tracker WABetaInfo, the feature is being introduced to make the chat experience consistent across platforms including iPhone, iPad, and now macOS.

The update is currently being rolled out to select beta testers with a wider release expected in the coming weeks. Here's all we know about this so far. With this new update, WhatsApp for Mac will include a default chat theme setting that allows users to customise the look and feel of their chats. The option can be accessed via Settings > Chats, where users will find a list of available themes to choose from.

This feature aims to help users personalise their chat interface, giving it a look that aligns with their style, preference, or mood.

WhatsApp currently includes 22 built-in chat themes, each combining a wallpaper and chat bubble colour designed for aesthetic balance. The colour combinations have been thoughtfully created to offer a visually pleasing, easy-on-the-eyes experience with a mix of bright, neutral, and calming tones. The focus is on maintaining readability and a clean visual layout, while still allowing for personal expression through subtle design differences.

In addition to the preset options, users can manually change chat colours for deeper personalisation. WhatsApp allows users to

select from 38 colour shades and adjust the background brightness, enabling fine-tuned control over how each chat looks. This flexibility ensures users can create a unique chat environment that suits their preferences.

WABetaInfo in its report explains, "Just like in WhatsApp Messenger, these themes automatically adjust the message bubble and background colors to create a consistent visual style. Users can

also upload their own images as wallpapers, apply themes globally or to individual chats, and even combine solid colors with subtle design elements." The update also introduces individual chat customisation that allows users to set unique themes for specific conversations. By visiting the chat info screen, users

can access the same customisation tools found in the main settings and assign different colours to separate chats. This helps users visually distinguish work, family, and personal conversations at a glance. For example, using cooler tones for work chats and warmer hues for friends and family.

Interestingly, WhatsApp's Mac chat themes do not sync with iPhone or iPad settings. This would mean users can configure separate themes for each device. For instance, one can keep a dark theme for the desktop version and a lighter look on mobile. As noted in the report, this independence gives users more creative freedom to personalise their experience differently across platforms. ■



Apple Rolls Out iOS 26.1 Update – Here's What's New, How to Install It on Your iPhone and More

Apple has officially released iOS 26.1, a new update that brings a series of refinements, visual upgrades, and feature enhancements to iPhones. While the changes are subtle, they collectively improve usability, security, and customisation. Among the most notable additions are the Liquid Glass toggle, lock screen swipe control, and several Apple Intelligence and AirPods upgrades. Here's all about the update.

The highlight of iOS 26.1 is the Liquid Glass toggle, which gives users greater control over the translucent visual design introduced in iOS 26. Users can now choose between clear (the default design) and tinted options, which adjust the opacity behind elements like notifications and tab bars. This setting can be found under Settings > Display & Brightness > Liquid Glass on iPhone and iPad. The option is also available on macOS under Settings > Appearance > Liquid Glass, though the effect is more subtle on Mac.

The new toggle complements existing accessibility options such as Increase Contrast and Reduce Transparency, giving users even more visual control over their device interface.

Apple has also introduced a Lock Screen swipe toggle, allowing users to disable the gesture that launches the Camera app directly from the lock screen. This option is available under Settings > Camera > Lock Screen Swipe to Open Camera.

The swipe gesture has long been part of iOS, evolving from a swipe-up action to a swipe-from-the-right shortcut since iOS 10. With iOS 26.1, users who frequently accidentally launch the camera can now turn this feature off entirely. Even with this change, users can still open the Camera using other options like the Camera Control button or the Action button, available on newer iPhone models.



Apple has expanded Apple Intelligence language support to include Chinese (Traditional), Danish, Dutch, Norwegian, Portuguese (Portugal), Swedish, Turkish, and Vietnamese.

The AirPods Live Translation feature now supports Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Italian, Japanese, and Korean. Initially introduced in iOS 26, this feature is compatible with AirPods Pro 2, AirPods Pro 3, and AirPods 4, alongside previously supported languages such as English, French, German, Portuguese (Brazil), and Spanish (Spain).

Apple has also rebranded its streaming service from Apple TV+ to simply Apple TV, introducing a new, vibrant identity along with an updated app icon.

A new Local Capture section has been added under Settings > General, allowing users to select where local capture files are stored and toggle the feature to audio-only capture.

A major behind-the-scenes addition in iOS 26.1 is Background

Microsoft Forms MAI Superintelligence Team Under Mustafa Suleyman to Build 'Humanist Superintelligence,' Moves Beyond Relying On OpenAI

Microsoft has officially entered the race to develop superintelligent AI. The tech giant has announced the creation of a new division called the MAI Superintelligence Team, led by Mustafa Suleyman, head of Microsoft's AI division. The company says it no longer plans to wait for approval or restrictions to pursue this next phase of artificial intelligence development.

According to reports, Microsoft's new mission is to go far beyond achieving artificial general intelligence (AGI), systems that can match human cognitive ability. Instead, the company will develop superintelligence or AI that can outperform humans in every domain including healthcare, clean energy, and materials science.

In a blog post, Suleyman explained that while AGI represents AI that can do anything a human can, superintelligence goes "far beyond that performance." He described Microsoft's approach as building "Humanist Superintelligence," a system designed to serve humanity directly. Examples include advanced personal AI assistants, improved medical outcomes, and sustainable energy innovations.

This new direction comes after Microsoft removed a key limitation in its partnership agreement with OpenAI. Previously,

Microsoft was restricted from developing its own AGI and from training AI models beyond a set computing power threshold, measured in FLOPS (floating-point operations per second). FLOPS represent the number of mathematical calculations an AI model performs per second and serve as a rough measure of the total computing power used during training.

"For a company of our scale, that's a big limitation," Suleyman told Fortune. The updated contract now lifts these restrictions

allowing Microsoft to develop its own AGI and superintelligent systems. It also grants Microsoft a 27% stake in OpenAI's public-benefit company, signaling a shift from full collaboration to what now appears to be strategic competition between the two tech giants.

Microsoft's previous agreement with OpenAI not only capped model sizes but also prohibited it from building beyond a certain computational limit. The arrangement that effectively prevented independent AGI research. With the revised deal, those boundaries have been removed and opened the door for Microsoft to pursue more advanced models.

Suleyman, 41, joined Microsoft in March 2024 after co-founding Inflection AI, whose technology and intellectual property



Apple Intelligence to Get Major Overhaul with iOS 27, Says Report

It appears Apple's artificial intelligence is reportedly set for a major leap forward with the arrival of iOS 27. According to a new report by Bloomberg's Mark Gurman, the next major iOS version along with iPadOS 27 will include "major updates" to Apple Intelligence and mark a broader expansion of Apple's AI strategy. Here's what we know so far.

As per the report, Apple is planning major enhancements to its AI-powered features across devices. While specific details about these updates remain under wraps, Gurman notes that Apple is preparing a substantial upgrade to its intelligence suite that will deepen the company's presence in the rapidly evolving AI space.

"On the software front, we'll see iOS 27, macOS 27, watchOS 27 and other operating systems unveiled at the Worldwide Developers Conference in June. They'll be accompanied by major updates to Apple Intelligence and the broader AI strategy," writes Mark Gurman. The announcement of iOS 27 and iPadOS 27 is expected to take place in June 2026 during Apple's Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) with the official rollout scheduled for September 2026 alongside the iPhone 18 series.

Meanwhile, Apple is also preparing to release iOS 26.4 this coming spring before iOS 27 arrives. This will reportedly debut a revamped version of Siri, one that has been in development for more than a year. Interestingly, this improved Siri experience will reportedly include Google's behind-the-scenes support, highlighting



a new level of collaboration between the two tech giants.

This update is expected to make Siri smarter, faster, and more context-aware, finally addressing long-standing limitations in Apple's digital assistant. Apple's artificial intelligence efforts have so far been relatively modest compared to rivals like Google and Samsung, both of which have aggressively integrated AI into their smartphones and services. With iOS 26.4 and the upcoming iOS 27, Apple appears ready to make a stronger push into the AI-driven mobile experience, potentially transforming how iPhone and iPad users interact with their devices.

It is important to note that Gurman has not revealed any specific features that may be coming with iOS 27. However, that doesn't mean fan expectations aren't high that 2026 could be Apple's year for AI upgrades along with a smarter Siri. ■

OpenAI Offers Free 12-Month ChatGPT Go Subscription to Indian Users, Here's How to Redeem and Other Details!

OpenAI has launched a major promotion for Indian users, offering 12 months of ChatGPT Go completely free of charge starting November 4, 2025. The limited-time offer opens access to GPT-5, advanced image generation, enhanced file analysis, and custom GPT creation, basically all premium tools usually reserved for paid subscribers. The move marks OpenAI's most significant push yet into one of the world's fastest-growing AI markets. Here are all the details you need to know.

The free subscription is exclusively available to users in India. Eligible participants include new ChatGPT users, current free-plan users, and existing ChatGPT Go subscribers with active accounts. Those on ChatGPT Plus, Pro, Business, or Enterprise plans must cancel their current subscription and wait for the billing period to end before redeeming the offer.

To activate the free plan, users must add a valid payment method such as a credit card or UPI.

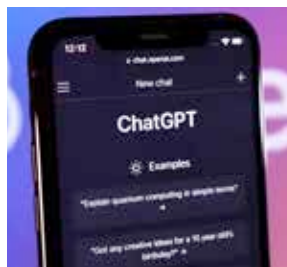
While no subscription fee will be charged during the offer period, UPI users may see a temporary 1% hold per billing cycle, which will be refunded. This nominal amount is required for payment verification purposes.

At the end of the 12-month period, OpenAI will automatically renew the ChatGPT Go subscription at the standard monthly rate using the payment method on file, unless the user cancels before the renewal date. Apple users will need to wait until next week for App Store availability or activate the offer now via the ChatGPT web

portal. Once redeemed, users can access ChatGPT Go features through the iOS app after logging in.

Those who subscribed through ChatGPT's website or Google Play don't need to cancel. OpenAI will automatically extend their next billing date by 12 months within the coming week, provided the account remains active.

Emails are being sent to current ChatGPT Go subscribers, saying, "We'll move your billing date back by 12 months, so you'll continue getting expanded access to top models, file uploads, and image generation without any action needed from you."



Apple App Store subscribers must cancel their current plan, wait until the billing period ends, and then re-subscribe during the promotional period through the App Store or web.

Users already billed for the ongoing cycle will still pay for that month with the 12-month free period starting from the next billing cycle.

While ChatGPT Go offers higher usage limits than the free plan, these may fluctuate depending on system demand. If users cancel before the promotional period ends, access will stop at the end of the 30-day billing cycle and the offer cannot be redeemed again on the same account.

The promotion is available for a limited time and OpenAI may discontinue it without notice. Each eligible account can claim the offer only once. ■

OnePlus Ace 6 Pro Max Retail Box Appears In An Online Leak, Tipped to Feature Snapdragon 8 Gen 5

The upcoming OnePlus Ace 6 Pro Max has surfaced online ahead of its official launch. The leaked retail box image was shared by tipster @ZionsAnvin on X (formerly Twitter). It suggests the device could debut soon in China and possibly in India later under a different name.

Here's what we know about this upcoming OnePlus Ace series phone so far.

Tipster @ZionsAnvin posted a couple of images featuring OnePlus Ace 6 Pro Max retail box. The images appear to have been taken during a security check, most likely in an airport security line.

While nothing else was shared in the original post, the tipster later revealed more details in subsequent posts.

While it was initially believed that the Ace 6 would use the Snapdragon 8 Gen 5 chip, that model instead debuted with the Snapdragon 8 Elite SoC.

According to the latest reports, the OnePlus Ace 6 Pro Max could indeed become the first device to feature the Snapdragon 8 Gen 5 chipset, which is distinct from the Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5.

In a subsequent post, the tipster also claims that an Indian version of the OnePlus Ace 6 Pro Max is currently in development. Also, it could be launched before the end of this year. It is speculated that this version may debut in India as the OnePlus 15R, though OnePlus has yet to confirm any official details.

The leak also sheds light on several key hardware details. The



OnePlus Ace 6 Pro Max is expected to sport a 6.7-inch OLED display with 1.5K resolution and a 165Hz refresh rate for ultra-smooth visuals. Powering the device could be a massive 8,000mAh battery paired with 100W fast charging support. The smartphone is also expected to run on ColorOS 16 out of the box.

In terms of cameras, the Ace 6 Pro Max may feature a 50MP primary sensor and an 8MP ultra-wide lens on the rear, along with a 32MP front-facing camera for selfies and video calls.

Other expected highlights include an ultrasonic in-display fingerprint sensor, X-axis linear motor, dual speakers, NFC support, and an overall weight of 216g.

The device is likely to arrive in multiple colour options, which includes Fresh Black, Electric Purple, Shadow Green, and a special customised edition. ■

WhatsApp Officially Launches Apple Watch App with Voice Notes, Chat History, and Emoji Reactions



In an unexpected move, WhatsApp has officially released its long-awaited Apple Watch companion app. It allows users to read messages, send replies, record voice notes, and access chat history directly from their wrist, no iPhone required for most interactions.

The app is now available for download and significantly expands WhatsApp's presence in the Apple ecosystem. It follows the recent launch of the messaging platform's dedicated iPad app earlier this year. In a blog post, WhatsApp announced, "This new experience will help you stay on top of your chats without needing to pull out your iPhone. In addition to reading and responding to messages, for the first time WhatsApp on Apple Watch will now support many requested features."

The companion app brings a variety of features familiar to iPhone users. Apple Watch owners can now see call notifications, read full-length messages, and record and send voice notes directly from the watch. Users can also react to messages using emojis, just

as they would on the mobile app.

WhatsApp also says users can now view clearer images and stickers on the watch and even access recent chat history during conversations. As expected, end-to-end encryption remains enabled for all messages and calls on the Apple Watch version.

While the new app offers impressive functionality, it still has some limitations. For now, the Apple Watch version of WhatsApp remains tied to the iPhone. This means it won't function when the watch is out of Bluetooth range. Additionally, although users can record and send voice notes, video playback is not supported yet. Reports suggest this is something WhatsApp could address in future updates. The WhatsApp app for Apple Watch is compatible with Apple Watch Series 4 and newer models, running watchOS 10 or later. Users must have the latest stable version of WhatsApp from the App Store or the latest beta version via TestFlight.

The app can be installed through the Watch app on iPhone, and users won't need to log in again once it's set up. WhatsApp's arrival on the Apple Watch highlights its growing commitment to Apple devices. Earlier this year, the company released its first native iPad app, finally eliminating the need to rely on the web version for messaging.

The move also places WhatsApp ahead of competitors like Snapchat, which launched its own Apple Watch app earlier this year. Snapchat's version allows users to send messages and voice notes but lacks advanced features such as viewing photos, Snaps, or extended chat history. ■

Google Launches Gemini 3, Its Most Advanced AI Yet, Surpassing GPT-5.1 and Claude 4.5 Sonnet Across Key Benchmarks

Google has officially unveiled the Gemini 3 family of AI models, calling it the company's most powerful and intelligent AI system to date. According to the tech giant, Gemini 3 outperforms its previous models as well as OpenAI's GPT-5.1 across all major benchmark tests. The new generation brings major advancements in reasoning, conversational ability, coding, mathematics, and agentic capabilities. It positions Gemini 3 as a major leap toward more complex, autonomous AI experiences.

In a blog post, CEO Sundar Pichai described the new model as "our most intelligent model." In an X post introducing the model, Pichai wrote, "It's the best model in the world for multimodal understanding, and our most powerful agentic + vibe coding model yet. Gemini 3 can bring any idea to life, quickly grasping context and intent so you can get what you need with less prompting."

The launch quickly drew responses from prominent AI leaders. Elon Musk, CEO of xAI and one of Google's biggest rivals in the AI space, reacted on X shortly after Pichai announced "Geminiiii," seemingly a playful nod to the Roman numeral for three. Musk replied with a simple "Congrats."

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman also acknowledged the development. Posting on X, he wrote, "Congrats to Google on Gemini 3! Looks like a great model."

Google announced the Gemini 3 lineup through an official blog post after several cryptic hints from executives on X. The series includes two models, Gemini 3 Pro and Gemini 3 Deep Think.

Google explains, "Gemini 3 Pro can bring any idea to life with its state-of-the-art reasoning and multimodal capabilities. It significantly outperforms 2.5 Pro on every major AI benchmark. It tops the LMArena Leaderboard with a breakthrough score of 1501 Elo. It demonstrates PhD-level reasoning with top scores on

Humanity's Last Exam (37.5% without the usage of any tools) and GPQA Diamond (91.9%). It also sets a new standard for frontier models in mathematics, achieving a new state-of-the-art of 23.4% on MathArena Apex."

Gemini 3 Deep Think, on the other hand, "pushes the boundaries of intelligence even further, delivering a step-change in Gemini 3's reasoning and multimodal understanding capabilities to help you solve even more complex problems."

The rollout is happening at scale, meaning users will encounter Gemini 3's capabilities across the Gemini apps and website, AI Mode in Search, AI Studio, and Vertex AI for developers. Google also introduced a new development environment called Google Antigravity to support agentic AI workflows.

Reliance Jio confirmed that all users subscribed to the free Google AI Pro plan will gain access to Gemini 3 Pro.

However, availability varies between the two models. Gemini 3 Pro is the most advanced variant accessible to users and is launching in preview and will be integrated into Google's suite of products. Meanwhile, Gemini 3 Deep Think is designed for enhanced reasoning and is currently restricted to safety testers and will later be made available exclusively to Google AI Ultra subscribers.

Google shared early benchmark data for Gemini 3 Pro based on internal evaluations. The results show the model outperforming both its predecessor and OpenAI's GPT-5.1 on every major benchmark. It also beats Anthropic's Claude 4.5 Sonnet in all but two tests, AIME 2025 (math) and SWE-Bench (coding).

On Humanity's Last Exam, an advanced academic reasoning benchmark considered extremely challenging, Gemini 3 Pro scored 37.5 per cent without tools. This surpasses the previous high score of 26.5 per cent set by GPT-5.1. On the ARC-AGI-2 visual reasoning benchmark, a key measure of artificial general intelligence (AGI), Gemini 3 Pro achieved 31.1 per cent, significantly higher than GPT-5.1's 17.6 per cent and Gemini 2.5 Pro's 4.9 per cent.

Google also claims substantial progress in coding performance, especially in frontend development. Gemini 3 Pro can now generate complete functional websites, apps, and scalable vector graphics (SVGs).

For Gemini 3 Deep Think, Google reports even higher figures. It scores 41.0 per cent on Humanity's Last Exam and 45.1 per cent on ARC-AGI-2. However, this model is not yet available to users.

Alongside Gemini 3, Google introduced Antigravity. It is an agentic development platform designed for developers to work alongside AI agents. It acts as an AI-driven integrated development environment (IDE) with access to Gemini 3's reasoning abilities, tool use, and agentic coding features. Agents operate in isolated workspaces equipped with an editor, terminal, and browser.

These agents can autonomously plan, write, execute, and verify code, allowing them to handle complex end-to-end software tasks. Antigravity also includes the latest Gemini 2.5 Computer Use model for browser automation and Nano Banana, in addition to Gemini 3 Pro. ■



OpenAI Introduces Group Chats in ChatGPT, Now Chat With Friends, Family and ChatGPT in One Conversation

OpenAI has announced a major update to ChatGPT with the introduction of group chats. It enables users to chat with friends, family, or coworkers in a single shared ChatGPT conversation. This marks the company's first multi-user experience within ChatGPT.

The feature is currently launching as a pilot in four regions, which includes Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, and Taiwan. It will later expand worldwide once early feedback is collected.

Explaining the idea behind the update in a detailed post, OpenAI said, "Today, we're beginning to pilot a new experience in a few regions that makes it easy for people to collaborate with each other—and with ChatGPT—in the same conversation. With group chats, you can bring friends, family, or coworkers into a shared space to plan, make decisions, or work through ideas together." The feature works similarly to collaborative platforms offered by competitors like Meta AI and Anthropic, but with the convenience of ChatGPT's familiar interface.

Users can initiate a group by tapping the new people icon now added to the app. ChatGPT then generates a shareable link that any free or paid user can use to join. Each group can host up to 20 participants, making it useful for everything from casual planning to more involved team discussions.

Existing one-on-one chats can also be converted into groups. When this happens, ChatGPT automatically creates a duplicate of the original private conversation, ensuring the initial chat remains confidential while the new group gets its own clean thread. Participants can set their name, username, and profile photo to help everyone keep track of who is speaking.

Group chats appear in a new sidebar section, accessible anytime for tasks like planning vacations, rewriting drafts, or negotiating dinner plans with AI support. Inside a group chat, ChatGPT adapts its behaviour and no longer responds to every message. Instead, it follows the flow of the conversation and intervenes only when necessary. Users can also tag ChatGPT directly to request input, similar to summoning a polite coworker who never gets overwhelmed.

The AI can now react to messages with emojis as well, allowing it to give visual feedback in a more expressive way.

Group creators can add or remove members, while anyone can rename the chat or mute notifications. It is useful when a particularly active participant starts spamming messages. Users can also set custom instructions for each group, enabling ChatGPT to maintain a different personality for work-related discussions and informal interactions.



The system runs on GPT-5.1 Auto, which picks the best model available to each participant. This means members with ChatGPT Pro and those on the free tier will receive responses optimised for their respective plans within the same conversation.

All core ChatGPT tools such as web browsing, file uploads, image generation, dictation, and more are supported in group chats, allowing members to brainstorm, share files, design visuals, or plan events without switching platforms.

OpenAI confirms that ChatGPT's private memory features do not apply to group chats, and the AI will not store shared messages. Anyone can leave a group at any time, though the creator cannot be removed. If a minor joins, the platform automatically enables sensitive content filters for all participants, and parents have the option to disable group chat access entirely.

While the feature is still in its testing phase, OpenAI aims to roll it out globally in the coming months. Once widely available, ChatGPT group chats could become a go-to space for planning sessions, study groups, team meetings, and even lighthearted discussions. ■



Tim Cook Could Exit as Apple CEO as Early as Next Year, Former COO Jeff Williams Officially Retires

Apple is reportedly accelerating its succession planning for the post-Tim Cook era. According to a new report from the Financial Times, sources familiar with the matter claim that the company's board and senior leadership have "recently intensified" discussions around who will take over Apple's top job.

As per the FT report, Apple's Senior Vice President of Hardware Engineering, John Ternus is currently viewed as the leading candidate to succeed Cook. However, the FT clarifies that "no final decisions have been made." The shift in succession planning is not being driven by performance concerns. Instead, the report notes that this transition has been long-planned and unrelated to Apple's current business momentum.

The FT further adds, "People close to Apple say the long-planned transition is not related to the company's current performance, ahead of what is expected to be a blockbuster end-of-year sales period for the iPhone. (...) The company is unlikely to name a new CEO before its next earnings report in late January, which covers the critical holiday period."

Despite the increased focus, insiders cautioned that the timing of any CEO announcement "could change."

Interestingly, Tim Cook turned 65 on November 1, which also led to speculation about his possible departure from an active role at Apple. The report arrives just hours after Apple's former Chief Operating Officer Jeff Williams completed his final day at the company. Williams, who announced his retirement in July, had overseen Apple's global operations for over 10 years. Earlier this year, he stepped down from his day-to-day COO responsibilities, passing them to Sabih Khan, Apple's Senior Vice President of Operations.

In a statement at the time, Tim Cook said, "Jeff and I have worked alongside each other for as long as I can remember, and Apple wouldn't be what it is without him. He's helped to create one of the most respected global supply chains in the world; launched Apple Watch and overseen its development; architected Apple's health



strategy; and led our world class team of designers with great wisdom, heart, and dedication. I am and will always be beyond grateful for his numerous contributions to Apple over the years and his loyal friendship. Jeff's true legacy can be seen in the amazing team he's created and, while he'll be greatly missed, he leaves the work of the future in incredible hands."

Williams' portfolio extended far beyond operations. He also led customer service and support, Apple Watch hardware/software engineering, the design organisation, and the company's broader health initiatives. Bloomberg recently reported that many of his responsibilities are being redistributed across the leadership team. Apple's Senior Vice President of Services Eddy Cue will now oversee health and fitness teams, Craig Federighi will take over watchOS, and John Ternus will lead Apple Watch hardware engineering.

Williams' retirement marks the beginning of a larger wave of executive transitions at Apple. Several senior leaders including CEO Tim Cook are expected to step down within the foreseeable future, suggesting a significant generational shift at the top.

In addition, Apple recently completed another major transition. Longtime CFO Luca Maestri stepped down, handing the reins to Kevan Parekh, previously the company's Vice President of Financial Planning and Analysis. ■

Google Pixel Watch 4 Goes on Sale in India – Know Price, Colours, and Top Features

The Google Pixel Watch 4 has officially gone on sale in India, marking the first time the smartwatch is available for purchase in the country. Launched globally in August 2025 and released internationally in October, the Pixel Watch 4 brings a host of new features, improved performance, and advanced health-tracking capabilities.

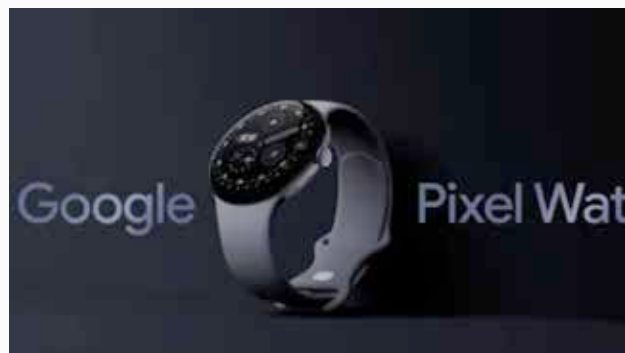
With bank offers and discounts, the smartwatch can be purchased for under Rs 45,000, depending on the variant. Here are all the details you should know if you are planning on getting one. The Pixel Watch 4 is available in two sizes, 41mm (Wi-Fi) and 45mm. Each model caters to different preferences and wrist sizes. The 41mm Wi-Fi variant is priced at Rs 39,900, while the larger 45mm model costs Rs 43,900, keeping both options under the Rs 50,000 price segment.

The 41mm Pixel Watch 4 comes in multiple colour choices, Polished Silver with Iris or Porcelain Active Bands, Champagne Gold with Lemongrass, and Matte Black with Obsidian. Meanwhile, the 45mm model is offered in Satin Moonstone with Moonstone Active Band, Polished Silver with Porcelain, and Matte Black with Obsidian. Customers can purchase the smartwatch through Google India's official online store as well as popular e-commerce platforms such as Amazon and Flipkart.

The smartwatch sports a 3D curved always-on AMOLED display with 320 ppi, DCI-P3 colour gamut, and Corning Gorilla Glass 5 protection. It boasts an impressive 3,000 nits peak brightness and supports adaptive refresh rates between 1–60 Hz for smooth performance. The Pixel Watch 4 is crafted from 100% recycled aluminium, adding to its premium and eco-conscious design.

Powering the Pixel Watch 4 is the Qualcomm Snapdragon W5 Gen 2 chipset, paired with a Cortex-M55 co-processor for enhanced efficiency. It runs Wear OS 6.0 and comes with 2GB of RAM and 32GB of eMMC storage. The smartwatch also features a side button and haptic crown, with Gen 3 premium haptics delivering a more tactile user experience.

Health and fitness are key highlights of the Pixel Watch 4. It supports ECG, SpO2 monitoring, a multi-path heart rate sensor, skin temperature sensing, and body response tracking through cEDA technology. Fitness enthusiasts can take advantage of 40+ workout modes, Cardio Load, Daily Readiness Score, and detailed sleep analysis

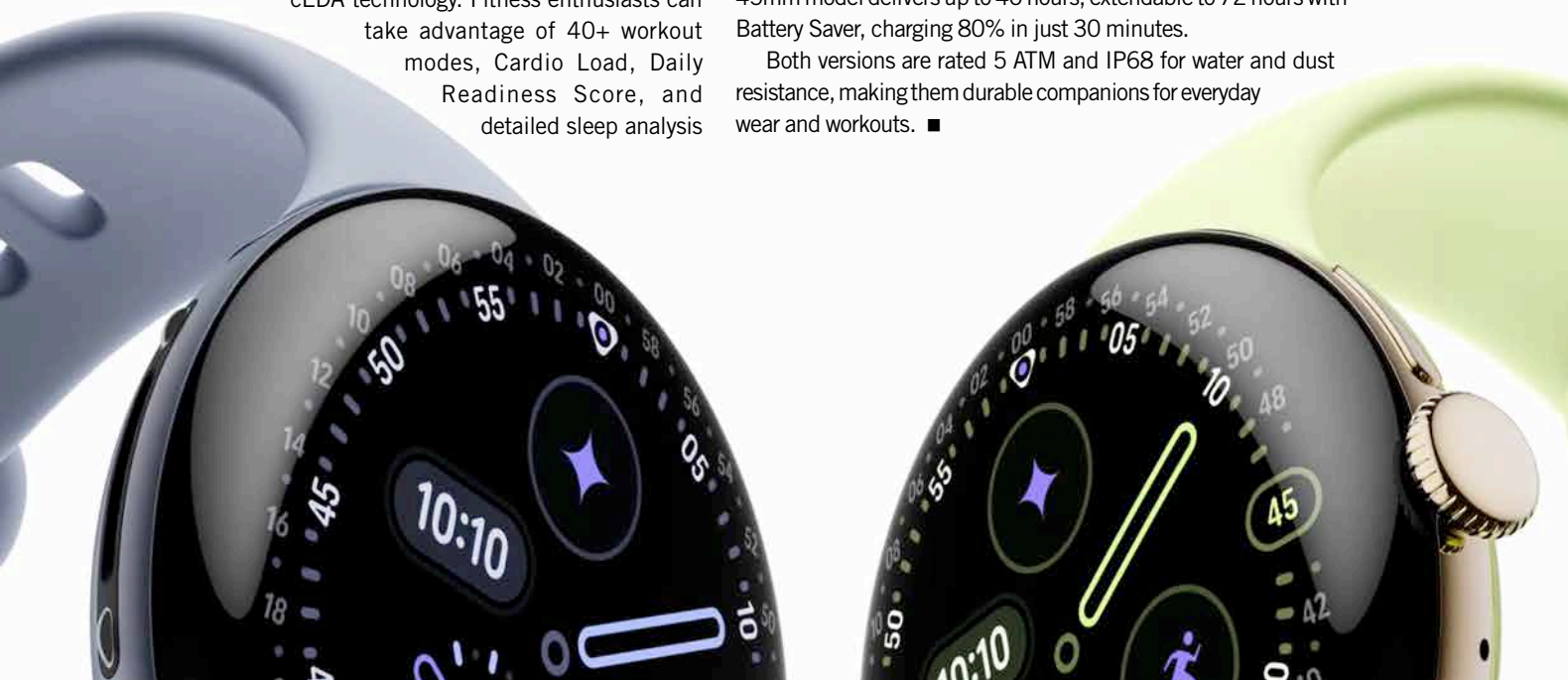


through Sleep Profile and Sleep Score features.

The smartwatch offers robust connectivity options including 4G LTE (optional), Bluetooth 5.3, Wi-Fi 6, GPS, NFC, and an Ultra-Wideband (UWB) chip. It also includes Satellite SOS support (currently available in the US).

Battery life differs slightly between variants, the 41mm model lasts up to 30 hours with an always-on display and up to 48 hours in Battery Saver mode, reaching 80% charge in 25 minutes. The 45mm model delivers up to 40 hours, extendable to 72 hours with Battery Saver, charging 80% in just 30 minutes.

Both versions are rated 5 ATM and IP68 for water and dust resistance, making them durable companions for everyday wear and workouts. ■



OpenAI Launches GPT-5.1 Instant and Thinking Models With Smarter Reasoning and Enhanced Personalisation

Apple is reportedly accelerating its succession planning for the post-Tim Cook era. According to a new report from the Financial Times, sources familiar with the matter claim that the company's board and senior leadership have "recently intensified" discussions around who will take over Apple's top job.

OpenAI has officially introduced GPT-5.1, the latest update to its GPT-5 series. It brings major improvements in reasoning ability, conversational fluency, and user personalisation. The company describes GPT-5.1 as an iterative enhancement within the same generation, designed to make ChatGPT more intelligent, responsive, and adaptive to individual user needs.

The release includes two new models, GPT-5.1 Instant and GPT-5.1 Thinking. Both aimed at delivering a more natural and flexible ChatGPT experience across different types of interactions.

The GPT-5.1 Instant model is the most widely used ChatGPT variant and now features a warmer, more conversational tone. Its instruction-following capability has been refined, improving response accuracy and clarity.

With adaptive reasoning, GPT-5.1 Instant can now spend more time analysing complex prompts while keeping fast response speeds for simpler queries.

According to OpenAI's internal testing, the model has shown significant gains in math and coding tasks, including benchmarks like AIME 2025 and Codeforces.

Built for more demanding cognitive tasks, GPT-5.1 Thinking dynamically adjusts its processing time based on the complexity of user queries. It responds faster to simple questions while providing more comprehensive answers for advanced topics.

Compared to GPT-5 Thinking, the new version is twice as fast on basic queries but takes twice as long on the most complex ones. It ensures more accurate, thoughtful responses. The model also



produces clearer, less technical explanations and maintains a warmer, more empathetic tone.

OpenAI plans to further evolve GPT-5.1 with continued enhancements to reasoning, natural dialogue, and adaptive learning. Future iterations aim to make ChatGPT even more personalised and intuitive, aligning its behaviour more closely with individual user preferences.

The rollout of GPT-5.1 Instant and GPT-5.1 Thinking begins with paid users under the Pro, Plus, Go, and Business plans. Free and logged-out users will gain access later.

Enterprise and Education subscribers have a seven-day early access toggle (off by default). Over time, GPT-5.1 will become the default ChatGPT model for all users.

Meanwhile, legacy GPT-5 models will remain accessible to paid subscribers for the next three months, ensuring a smooth transition. Both GPT-5.1 Instant and GPT-5.1 Thinking will also be integrated into the API under the names gpt-5.1-chat-latest and gpt-5.1 with full support for adaptive reasoning capabilities. ■

Apple Unveils Limited Edition 'iPhone Pocket' Designer Strap Accessory in Collaboration with Issey Miyake Design Studio

Apple has announced the launch of a limited edition accessory, the iPhone Pocket, for iPhone users. The newly launched accessory takes inspiration from the classic iPod sock and transforms the idea into a modern, wearable accessory. It is created in collaboration with the Issey Miyake design studio, the team behind Steve Jobs' famous black turtleneck.

Speaking on the launch, Yoshiyuki Miyamae, design director of MIYAKE DESIGN STUDIO, said, "The design of iPhone Pocket reflects the bond between iPhone and its user, while keeping in mind that an Apple product is designed to be universal in aesthetic and versatile in use. iPhone Pocket explores the concept of 'the joy of wearing iPhone in your own way.' The simplicity of its design echoes what we practice at ISSEY MIYAKE — the idea of leaving things less defined to allow for possibilities and personal interpretation."

Commenting on the launch, Molly Anderson, Apple's Vice President of Industrial Design, said, "Apple and ISSEY MIYAKE share a design approach that celebrates craftsmanship, simplicity, and delight. This clever extra pocket illustrates those ideas and is a natural accompaniment to our products. The color palette of iPhone Pocket was intentionally designed to mix and match with all our iPhone models and colors — allowing users to create their own personalized combination. Its recognizable silhouette offers a beautiful new way to carry your iPhone,

AirPods, and favorite everyday items."

Described as "a piece of cloth," the iPhone Pocket combines Issey Miyake's pleated design philosophy with Apple's design expertise. The result is a unique and versatile product. Its 3D-knitted structure, made in Japan, allows it to securely hold any iPhone model along with other small everyday essentials.

The iPhone Pocket is made from a stretchable fabric that not only protects the device but also lets users peek at the screen without removing the phone completely. It's designed to be worn or carried in multiple ways. It can be attached to a handbag, worn over the shoulder, or around the wrist, depending on user preference.

The accessory comes in two strap versions. The short strap model is available in lemon, mandarin, purple, pink, peacock, sapphire, cinnamon, and black colour options. Meanwhile, the long strap version is offered in sapphire, cinnamon, and black colours.

Apple has confirmed that the iPhone Pocket is a limited edition release with restricted availability. It will be showcased in select Apple Store locations. The product will go on sale starting Friday, November 14, across France, Greater China, Italy, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, the UK, and the U.S., both in stores and via apple.com. The short strap variant is priced at USD 149.95 (approximately Rs. 13,280), while the long strap version costs USD 229.95 (approximately Rs. 20,365). ■



What's Up



Huawei Expands Its Global Portfolio With Bold New Foldables, Wearables and Tablets



Huawei has officially brought four of its latest flagship products to the global market at its recent “Unfold the Moment” launch event. The lineup includes the premium Huawei Mate X7 foldable smartphone, the new Huawei FreeClip 2 open-ear earbuds, the Huawei Watch Ultimate Design Royal Gold Edition, and the Huawei MatePad 11.5 S tablet. According to the company, the announcements highlight its commitment to user-focused innovation and design. Here’s everything you need to know about all the newly launched products.

Huawei Mate X7 Goes Global

Just weeks after debuting in China, the Huawei Mate X7 is now launching internationally. The foldable draws inspiration from the “Time-Space Gate” concept and a 1,600-year-old light-woven brocade art form. It comes in White, Black, and Nebula Red, with a single 16GB RAM and 512GB storage configuration, priced at €2,099.

Huawei has slightly increased the size of both displays. The outer cover screen measures 6.49 inches with a 20.4:9 aspect ratio, while the inner foldable display expands to 8 inches with an 8:7.3 ratio. Both panels are LTPO OLEDs offering a 1–120Hz adaptive refresh rate and 1,440Hz PWM dimming. The cover screen is protected by Crystal Armour Kunlun glass, and the inner screen features a new three-layer composite build including a UTG layer for added strength.

Durability is a major focus, supported by Huawei’s Ultra-Reliable Foldable Architecture. This combines Crystal Armour Kunlun Glass, precision-engineered hinges, and a 3-layer ultra-tough structure.

The rear camera system includes a 50MP main sensor (RYYB) with a physical 10-stop variable aperture ranging from f/1.4 to f/4.0, along with OIS. The telephoto camera has been upgraded to a 50MP sensor with f/2.2 aperture and

3.5x optical zoom, while the ultrawide unit offers 40MP resolution. Two 8MP selfie cameras are present, one on the outer display and one on the inner panel.

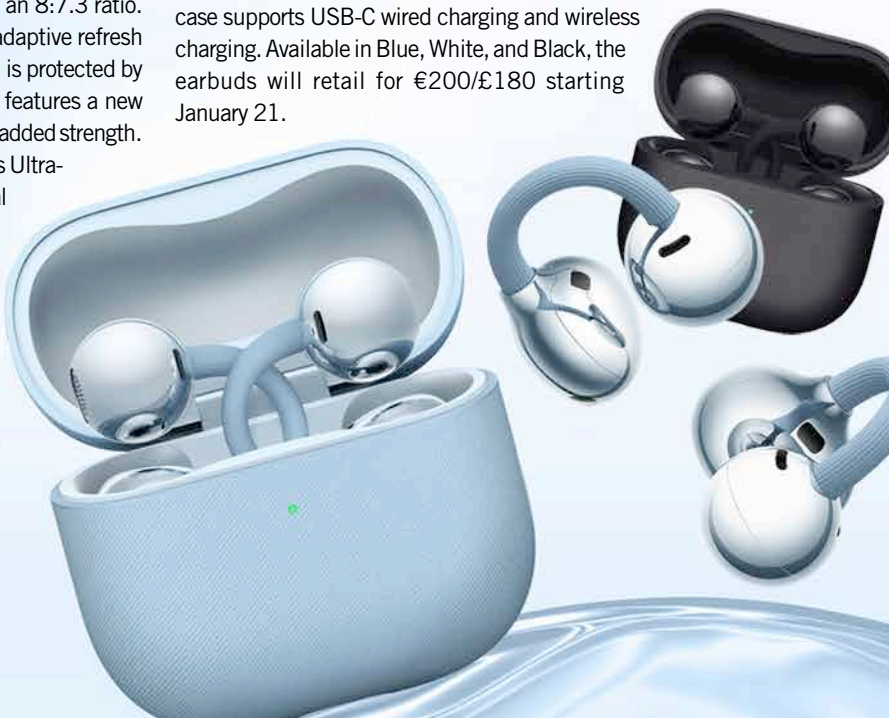
Powering the device is a 5,600mAh Si-C battery with 66W wired and 50W wireless charging support.

Huawei FreeClip 2 - A Smarter Open-Ear Audio

The FreeClip 2 open-ear earbuds, launched earlier in China, make their way to global markets as the successor to the 2023 FreeClip. They retain the signature C-shaped design that comfortably grips the ear.

The new model features 10.8mm dual-diaphragm drivers, Huawei’s third-generation audio chip, and a dedicated NPU for enhanced AI processing. This allows adaptive sound adjustments and improved voice clarity. The earbuds also offer upgraded bass performance and triple-microphone call noise reduction.

FreeClip 2 comes with an IP57 rating and promises up to 38 hours of total playback with the charging case. The case supports USB-C wired charging and wireless charging. Available in Blue, White, and Black, the earbuds will retail for €200/£180 starting January 21.



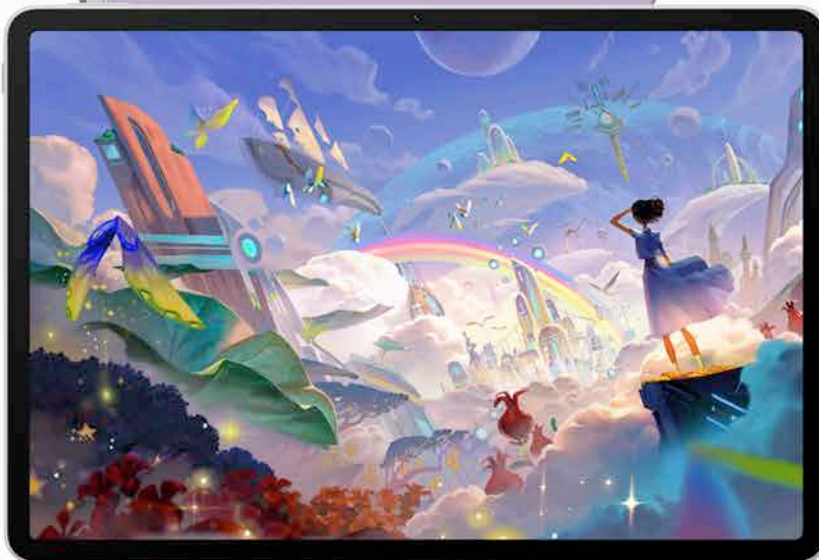


Huawei Watch Ultimate Design Royal Gold Edition

Huawei has refreshed its premium Watch Ultimate with a new Royal Gold Edition. The model stands out with a rare-earth purple ceramic bezel paired with 18-carat gold accents. It uses a zirconium-based liquid metal body and a purple-gold titanium alloy strap to complete its luxury finish.

Other specifications include a 1.5-inch LTPO 2.0 AMOLED display, the Kirin W80 chipset, and an 867mAh battery rated for up to 11 days of usage. It maintains 150m (20 ATM) water resistance and supports sonar-based underwater communication. Health tracking is powered by the TruSense system and an X-Tap sensor offering 11 key health metrics including ECG.

Running HarmonyOS 5.1, the watch supports eSIM functionality, dual-band GPS, on-device calling, and music playback. It will be priced at €3,300/£3,000 and will go on sale starting January 15.



Huawei MatePad 11.5 S 2025 With High-Refresh Display and Stylus Support

Originally announced in China, the MatePad 11.5 S 2025 features an 11.5-inch IPS LCD with a 2,800 × 1,840 resolution and a 144Hz refresh rate. It supports stylus input via the M-Pencil Pro and includes quad speakers for an improved multimedia experience.

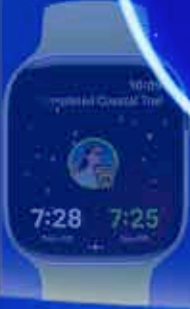
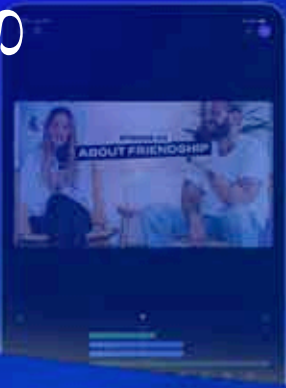
Huawei has not revealed the tablet's chipset, but it will ship with 12GB RAM and either 256GB or 512GB storage. The device includes a 13MP rear camera and an 8MP front sensor. Its 8,800mAh battery supports 40W fast charging.

The MatePad 11.5 S will be available in Field Green, Feather Sand Purple, Frost Silver, and Deep Space Grey. Pricing is set at €480/£350, with availability beginning January 15. ■

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LEAD STORY

Limelight



 App Store Awards **2025**

Apple Store Awards

Apple Reveals Top Apps and Games of 2025, Highlighting Tiimo and Cyberpunk 2077

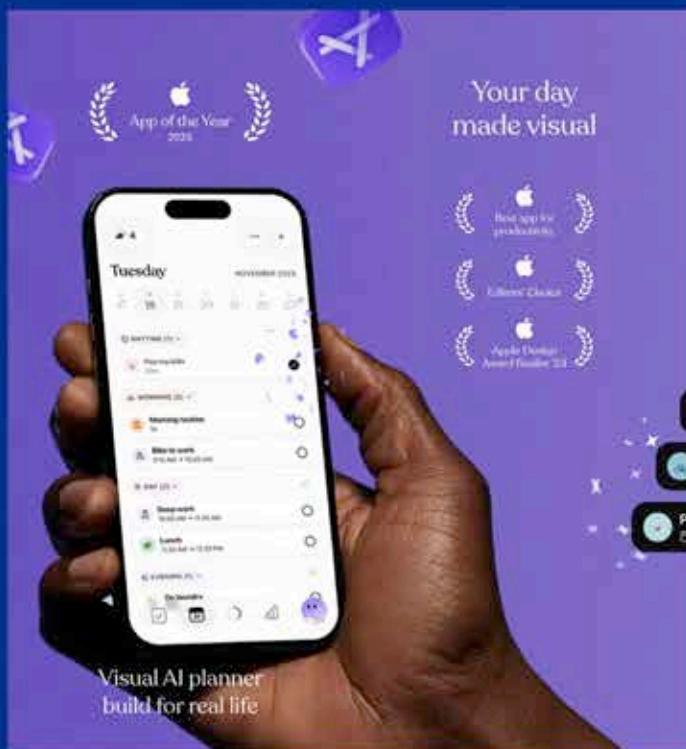
By My Mobile Team

Gaming – online in particular – is one of the fastest-growing sunrise sectors in India, clocking 40% growth in 2019–20. It generated US\$ 1.5 billion in net revenue during this period and is expected to surpass US\$ 5 billion by 2025. What's more, the Indian gaming industry recently bettered the US in terms of user base that surpassed 300 million.

Apple has officially announced the winners of the 2025 App Store Awards, celebrating 17 standout apps and games across iPhone, iPad, Mac, Apple Watch, and Apple TV. This year's selections were recognised for their innovation, design, user experience, and cultural significance.

AI-powered planner Tiimo secured the iPhone App of the Year, while Pokémon TCG Pocket





earned the iPhone Game of the Year title. Other notable winners include Strava, HBO Max, Cyberpunk 2077: Ultimate Edition, StoryGraph, and more.

Apple App Store Awards 2025 – Complete List of Winners

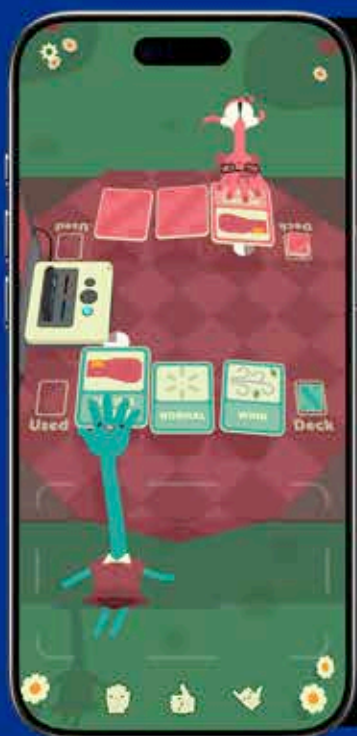
Tiimo topped competitors such as

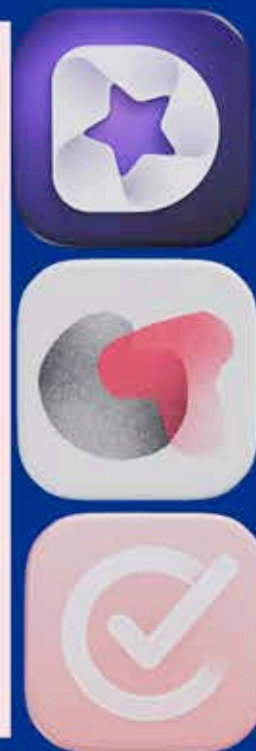
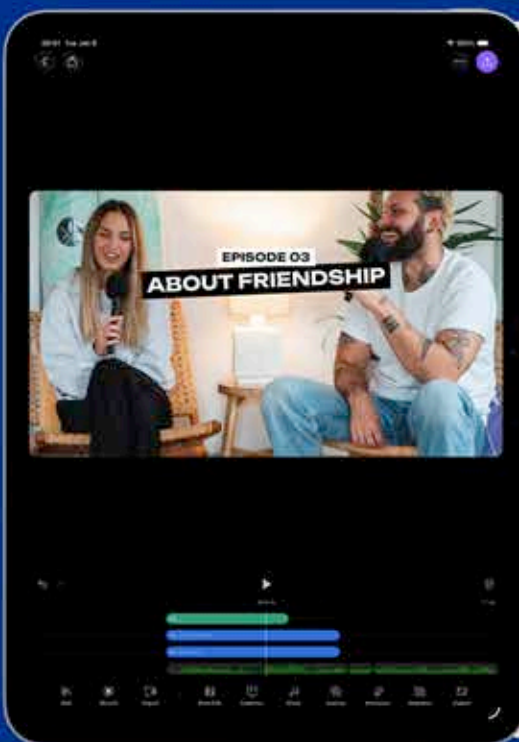
BandLab and LADDER to win iPhone App of the Year, having also been an Apple Design Awards Finalist in 2024. For gaming, Pokémon TCG Pocket beat titles like Cappybara Go! and Thronefall to claim iPhone Game of the Year.

In the official newsroom post, Apple CEO Tim Cook said, “This year’s winners represent the creativity and excellence

that define the App Store, and they demonstrate the meaningful impact that world-class apps and games have on people everywhere.”

For iPad users, the AI-backed video editing app Detail was crowned iPad App of the Year, offering intuitive auto-editing tools for short-form and long-form video creation. On the gaming front, DREDGE





won iPad Game of the Year, outperforming contenders such as Infinity Nikki and Prince of Persia: The Lost Crown.

On Mac, Essayist secured Mac App of the Year, while Cyberpunk 2077: Ultimate Edition by CD Projekt Red won Mac Game of the Year, surpassing Assassin's Creed: Shadows and Neva.

For Apple Arcade, WHAT THE CLASH? from Triband ApS was declared the best game on the platform.

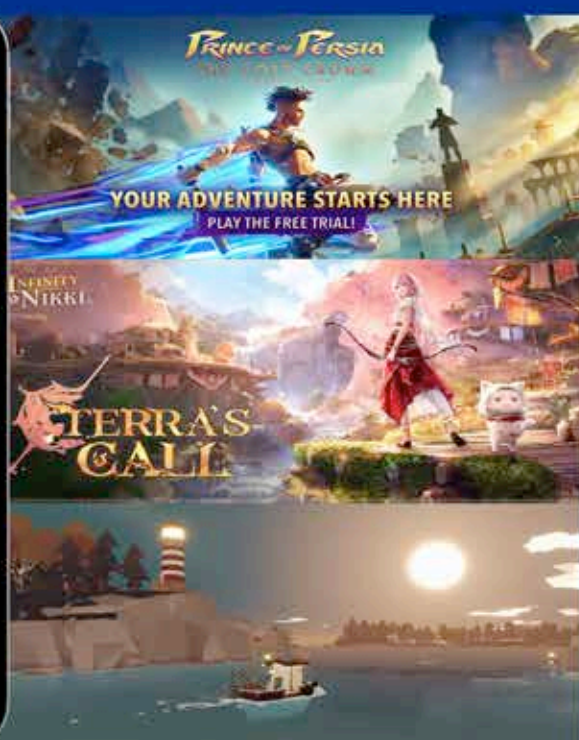
Apple Vision Pro also had its own category this year. Explore POV claimed Vision Pro App of the Year, and Porta Nubi took home Vision Pro Game of the Year.

On the wearables and TV categories, Strava earned Apple Watch App of the

Year, while HBO Max secured Apple TV App of the Year.

Cultural Impact Winners

Beyond technical excellence, Apple honoured five titles that delivered positive cultural and social contributions through the Cultural Impact Awards. These apps and games were highlighted for fostering





inclusion, accessibility, awareness, and creativity.

The Cultural Impact awardees include:

Art of Fauna (Klemens Strasser) – A relaxing wildlife illustration puzzle game that sets new benchmarks for accessibility.

Chants of Sennaar (Playdigious) – An adventure game celebrating language

and communication through a symbolic narrative.

despelote (Panic, Inc.) – A first-person story offering a heartfelt look at a community united by football amidst national challenges.

Be My Eyes (Be My Eyes) – An AI-supported app that uses a global volunteer

network to assist individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Focus Friend by Hank Green (B-Tech Consulting Group LLC) – A gamified focus timer that helps users fight digital distractions.

StoryGraph (The StoryGraph) – A reading platform that fosters community





Cultural Impact Finalists



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and discovery, elevating diverse authors and authentic storytelling.

Apple highlighted that “these apps and games were recognised for their positive impact, providing users with helpful tools, promoting understanding, and shaping a more inclusive world.” ■
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HMD Terra M

HMD Global has introduced a rugged smart feature phone, the HMD Terra M. It is specifically engineered for organisations operating in demanding, high-risk environments and it joins the company's HMD Secure lineup. This series of HMD phones focuses on secure, durable, and reliable mobility solutions. The new launch comes shortly after the debut of the European-built HMD Ivalo XE, further strengthening HMD Secure's mission-critical device portfolio. Anyhow, here's everything you need to know about the phone.

The Terra M features a compact 2.8-inch touchscreen that is glove-friendly, a high-output loudspeaker, and dedicated programmable keys for Push to Talk and emergency functions. It runs enterprise-ready software enabling fast deployment, pre-loaded enterprise apps, and easy integration with Mobile Device Management systems.

HMD Founder and CEO Jean-François Baril said the arrival of the Terra M and Ivalo XE reinforces the company's vision to deliver "secure, resilient and sovereign mobility solutions" suited for

mission-critical use.

Built to endure extreme conditions, the HMD Terra M is compliant with MIL-STD-810H standards and carries both IP68 and IP69K certifications. It can survive drops from heights of up to 1.8 metres. The device supports 4G, VoLTE, VoWi-Fi, hotspot mode, NFC, dual SIM, and eSIM connectivity.

It is powered by the Qualcomm Dragonwing QCM2290 chipset and promises five years of quarterly security updates from its global release date. The phone also offers up to 10 days of standby time thanks to optimised power management.

HMD has also introduced mission-ready accessories for the Terra M, including a stackable charging cradle capable of powering up to 10 devices simultaneously. It is a rugged belt-clip holster for quick access during field tasks or shift-based operations.

The Terra M will be available in Q1 2026 through HMD Secure and select partners, the company confirmed. As for pricing, reports suggest it will be region-specific and may vary by market.

Proper availability will be announced closer to launch. ■





Realme 15 Pro

Realme has launched a special Game of Thrones Edition of its Realme 15 Pro in India. It features a unique design inspired by the iconic fantasy series. The limited edition smartphone brings a Westeros-themed makeover, complete with custom packaging and exclusive elements that pay tribute to the world of dragons, kingdoms, and epic battles. Here's everything you need to know about the new limited edition phone.

This limited edition smartphone is capped at 5,000 units worldwide. It comes in a single 12GB + 512GB configuration, priced at Rs. 44,999 in India. Buyers can avail an instant bank discount of Rs. 3,000, bringing the effective price down to Rs. 41,999. The phone is available on Flipkart, Realme India's official website, and leading retail stores.

The Realme 15 Pro Game of Thrones Limited Edition sports a 7.84mm slim gold-colored frame paired with a black leather back

panel that turns red when exposed to heat above 44°C, representing the fiery spirit of House Targaryen.

Its rectangular camera module houses dual lenses with golden rings engraved with "Winter is Coming" and "Hear Me Roar". Fantasy-inspired touches include the Game of Thrones logo, House Targaryen sigil, and dragon claw detailing.

The device also comes with a custom Game of Thrones theme, featuring exclusive icons, wallpapers, and an AI Edit Genie for creating medieval-style portraits.

The collector's edition packaging enhances the experience with a dragon egg-inspired box, Iron Throne phone stand, Hand of the King SIM ejector pin, themed postcards and stickers, and an 80W charger with cable. Despite its thematic redesign, the Game of Thrones edition retains the core specs of the standard Realme 15 Pro. It features a 6.8-inch HyperGlow 4D Curve+ display and is powered by the Snapdragon 7 Gen 4 chipset with LPDDR4X RAM and UFS 3.1 storage, running Realme UI 6.0 based on Android 15. Camera setup includes a 50MP Sony IMX896 OIS main sensor, a 50MP ultra-wide-angle lens, and a 50MP front-facing camera. Powering the device is a massive 7,000mAh Titan battery, ensuring long-lasting performance.

The special edition is slightly thicker at 7.84mm compared to the standard 7.69mm. ■



Oppo Find X9 and Find X9 Pro



Oppo has officially introduced its next-generation flagship lineup in India with the launch of the Oppo Find X9 and Find X9 Pro. The series brings major upgrades across performance, battery technology, imaging, and display, along with the brand's latest Hasselblad-powered camera innovations. Alongside the phones, the brand has also introduced OPPO Enco Buds 3 Pro+ in the Indian market.

The phones feature a flat-edged design with contoured frames, a new-generation flat display with 1.15mm symmetrical bezels, and a 120Hz panel offering up to 3600 nits peak brightness and ultra-low 1-nit minimum brightness. Durability is reinforced with IP66, IP68, and IP69 ratings.

Powering the Find X9 lineup is the new MediaTek Dimensity 9500, built on TSMC's advanced 3nm architecture. Oppo claims up to 32% CPU performance boost (All-Big-Core design), up to 33% GPU performance boost (Arm G1-Ultra), 55% CPU efficiency improvement and 42% GPU efficiency improvement.

Thermal performance is managed by customised vapour chambers. The phones also get Oppo's All-New Trinity Engine, co-developed with MediaTek introducing Chip-Level Dynamic Frame Sync, Unified Computing Power Model, and Sensor Offload. Oppo claims these improvements reduce power consumption by

16.1% during 4K 60fps HDR recording.

However, the Find X9 series stands out for its camera setup. The series debuts the enhanced Hasselblad Master Camera System, combining updated hardware with advanced computational photography for superior image quality.

The standard Find X9 sports a triple 50MP rear camera setup featuring a pro-grade 50MP main sensor using a 1/1.4-inch Sony LYT-808 sensor with an f/1.6 aperture for 57% improved light capture. This is paired with a 50MP ultra-wide camera with autofocus and a 50MP periscope telephoto lens powered by the 1/1.95-inch Sony LYT600 sensor. The system also brings an industry-first True Colour Camera with a dedicated spectral sensor for precise ambient light detection and improved colour fidelity.





On the other hand, the Find X9 Pro pushes imaging further with a customised 1/1.28-inch Sony LYT 828 sensor for its Ultra XDR Main Camera, equipped with Real-Time Triple Exposure technology. Its highlight is the 200MP Hasselblad Telephoto camera, developed jointly with Hasselblad. The sensor offers a 3x optical zoom, large 1/1.56-inch size, f/2.1 aperture, and a close 10cm minimum focus distance.

Both phones integrate the new LUMO Image Engine, designed to boost clarity, dynamic range, and colour accuracy while reducing CPU and power usage by up to 50%. With this efficiency, the phones can default to capturing full-resolution 50MP images in bright daylight and automatically optimise resolution in low light. The series also debuts 4K Motion Photos, allowing users to extract 4K stills from videos.

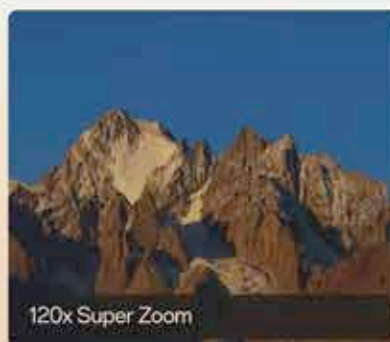
The Find X9 Pro offers lossless zoom up to 13.2x by cropping

into its 200MP sensor, while both models support up to 120x zoom with Oppo's Super Zoom algorithm. A new Stage Mode is included for concert photography.

Both devices support 4K 120fps Dolby Vision HDR video with the Pro model extending this capability to its telephoto camera. Professional creators also get LOG video recording with ACES certification for colour grading workflows.

Oppo is also offering a Hasselblad Teleconverter Kit for the Find X9 Pro, turning the telephoto into a 10x optical super-zoom, enabling up to 200x digital zoom for photos and up to 50x for videos.

Battery is another major highlight. The Find X9 packs a 7025mAh battery inside an ultra-slim 7.99mm body, while the Find X9 Pro includes a larger 7500mAh unit. Both use Oppo's third-gen Silicon-Carbon Battery technology with 15% silicon content, designed to retain 80% capacity even after five years of typical use. ■





Moto G57 and Moto G57 Power

Motorola has officially launched two new mid-range 5G smartphones under its popular G series lineup, the Moto G57 and Moto G57 Power. Both smartphones are the first phones to feature Qualcomm's latest Snapdragon 6s Gen 4 chipset that promises enhanced performance and efficiency for everyday use. Here's all about the new smartphones, starting with their pricing, colours and availability.

The Moto G57 is offered in PANTONE Regatta, PANTONE Pink Lemonade, PANTONE Corsair, and PANTONE Fluidity shades. It is priced at €249 (USD 285) and is already available in the Middle East. The Moto G57 Power, on the other hand, comes in PANTONE Meteorite, PANTONE Pink Lemonade, PANTONE Corsair, and PANTONE Regatta colours. This model is priced at €279 (USD 320) and is now available in Europe.

Both smartphones come equipped with a 6.72-inch Full HD+ LCD display featuring a 120Hz refresh rate and up to 1050 nits peak brightness. The screens are protected by Corning Gorilla Glass 7i and include a punch-hole cutout housing an 8MP front-facing camera. On the rear, both models sport a 50MP main sensor with a Sony LYT-600 sensor (1/1.95") and f/1.8 aperture, along with an 8MP ultra-wide lens with an f/2.2 aperture for expanded shooting versatility.

Running on Android 16, the Moto G57 and G57 Power are paired with 8GB of LPDDR4x RAM and 256GB of UFS 2.2 internal storage. The devices also support Dual SIM (1 Nano SIM + 1 eSIM) and feature a side-mounted fingerprint scanner for added convenience. Connectivity options include 5G, 4G VoLTE, Wi-Fi 6, Bluetooth 5.1, GPS + GLONASS, NFC, and a USB Type-C port. Both phones also offer stereo speakers with Dolby Atmos support and retain the 3.5mm headphone jack.

Durability is another strong suit, as both smartphones carry an IP64 rating for dust and splash resistance, alongside MIL-STD 810H certification for military-grade durability.

The key difference between the two models lies in battery capacity. The Moto G57 packs a 5200mAh battery, while the Moto G57 Power comes with a massive 7000mAh silicon-carbon battery, ensuring longer battery life. Both support 30W TurboPower fast charging. The G57 Power measures 166.23 x 76.50 x 8.60 mm and weighs 210g. ■



Samsung Galaxy M07

Samsung has quietly made the Galaxy M07 official in India by listing it on its website. The smartphone comes with familiar specifications that strongly resemble another recently launched Samsung device.

The specs seem identical to the Galaxy A07 4G, which launched in August this year. According to multiple reports, the newly launched M07 could just be a rebranded version of the same device for Samsung's M-series lineup.

The Galaxy M07 sports a 6.7-inch LCD display with a resolution of 720x1600 pixels and a 90Hz refresh rate for smoother visuals. In the camera department, it features a 50MP primary rear sensor paired with a 2MP depth sensor, while the front houses an 8MP selfie camera. Powering the device is a 5,000mAh battery, designed to last through daily usage.

Under the hood, the phone runs on the MediaTek Helio G99 chipset, a 4G-only SoC, paired with 4GB of RAM and 64GB of internal storage, expandable via microSD. The handset also includes IP54 dust and splash resistance, a 3.5mm headphone jack, and a fingerprint sensor for security.

Despite the big battery, it maintains a slim 7.6mm profile.

Samsung has committed to six major Android updates along with six years of security updates, giving the Galaxy M07 a strong edge in long-term support compared to many budget smartphones.

For now, the Galaxy M07 appears to be available only in black. While it isn't in stock yet, users can sign up on Samsung's online store to be notified once it goes on sale. ■





Vivo X300 and X300 Pro

Vivo has officially announced that the Vivo X300 and Vivo X300 Pro will debut in India on December 2. This announcement now finally puts an end to weeks of speculation. The series, already introduced in China and Europe last month, is also scheduled to arrive in Southeast Asian markets later this month. Here's what we know.

Ahead of the launch, Vivo has begun teasing key highlights of the X300 lineup. Vivo India's official account on X has been consistently sharing video and image teasers of the upcoming lineup. Another teaser confirms that the Vivo X300 will debut in a new red colour option in India, a shade not offered in any other global market so far.

The Indian variants of the X300 and X300 Pro are expected to feature the same hardware as the Chinese models.

The compact Vivo X300 features a 6.31-inch OLED 1.5K 120Hz display, along with a 50MP front camera. On the back, it carries a triple-camera setup consisting 200MP Samsung HPB main sensor, 50MP ultra-wide lens and 50MP periscope

telephoto lens.

It is powered by a 6,040mAh battery, supporting 90W wired and 40W wireless charging.

Meanwhile, the higher-end Vivo X300 Pro sports a 6.78-inch OLED 1.5K 120Hz screen and a 50MP front camera. Its rear camera system includes 50MP Sony LYT-828 primary camera, 50MP ultra-wide lens and 200MP Samsung HPB periscope telephoto camera.

One of the most notable additions will be the Zeiss Telephoto Extender kits, an optional attachment for X300 Pro. This accessory promises enhanced optical zoom capabilities and a more professional photography experience for users.

Battery capacity on the Pro model increases to 6,510mAh, paired with the same 90W wired and 40W wireless charging options.

Both smartphones are equipped with the Dimensity 9500 chipset and will be the first Vivo devices to ship with OriginOS 6-based Android 16 out of the box. ■





Realme GT 8 Pro Aston Martin F1 Edition

Realme has officially launched the Realme GT 8 Pro Aston Martin F1 Limited Edition in China. This special edition was initially announced earlier this month and it brings together Realme's top-tier flagship hardware with a Formula 1-inspired design. It has been developed in collaboration with the Aston Martin F1 Team. Here's everything you need to know about the model, starting with price.

The Realme GT 8 Pro Aston Martin F1 Edition is priced at 5,499 Yuan (approximately \$770). It comes in a single configuration featuring 16GB of RAM and 1TB of storage, targeting users who seek both high performance and a limited edition design. The Realme GT 8 Pro Aston Martin F1 Edition takes clear design inspiration from Aston Martin's Formula 1 race cars. It features a

bold "Racing Lime" colour finish, accented by a carbon fibre texture and Aston Martin's signature silver wing logo. The back panel has an aerodynamic curve for enhanced grip and comfort.

Adding to its collector's appeal, the limited-edition packaging includes racing-

themed accessories designed to reflect its luxury motorsport inspiration. This includes many items such as a custom F1 pin, a bespoke phone case, and a miniature race car model.

The phone also boasts a custom F1-themed interface, which introduces animated wallpapers, exclusive icons, dynamic charging effects, and Aston Martin-branded camera watermarks. Together, it all creates a fully immersive experience that echoes the racing spirit.

The Realme GT 8 Pro Aston Martin F1 Edition is powered by the Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 processor, paired with the R1 display processor for optimised visuals and heat management. It sports a 6.79-inch 2K AMOLED display with a 144Hz refresh rate and an impressive peak brightness of 7,000 nits, ensuring exceptional clarity and smoothness. The device houses a massive 7,000mAh battery with support for 120W wired fast charging and 50W wireless charging, promising minimal downtime and quick top-ups.

For photography, the smartphone includes a triple-camera system co-engineered with Ricoh GR. It comprises a 50MP primary sensor, a 50MP ultra-wide lens, and a 200MP periscope telephoto camera offering 10x optical zoom and 120x digital zoom. It also supports 4K video recording at 120fps, catering to professional-grade videography. ■



Moto G06 Power

Moto has launched the Moto G06 Power in India. It is a new addition to its popular G series that promises long battery life and a smooth display experience. The Lenovo-owned brand unveiled the device globally last month at IFA 2025, alongside the Moto G06.

The Moto G06 Power is priced at Rs. 7,499 for the base variant featuring 4GB RAM and 64GB storage. With a vegan leather back panel, the phone comes in three Pantone-certified colour options, which include Laurel Oak, Tendril, and Tapestry.

The handset will be available for purchase through Flipkart, the Motorola India website, and leading offline retail stores.

The dual SIM Moto G06 Power runs Android 15 with Hello UI and sports a 6.88-inch HD+ (720×1,640 pixels) display. The screen supports up to 120Hz refresh rate, has a 395ppi pixel density, 600 nits peak brightness, and comes with Corning Gorilla Glass 3 protection.

Under the hood, the device is powered by a MediaTek Helio G81 Extreme SoC, paired with 4GB RAM and 64GB internal storage, expandable up to 1TB via MicroSD.

For photography, the Moto G06 Power features a 50MP rear camera with an f/1.8 aperture. For selfies and video calls, it sports an 8MP front camera with f/2.0 aperture. The phone's body combines a plastic frame with a vegan leather back panel and also supports Google's Gemini AI assistant.

Connectivity options include 4G LTE, Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n/

ac, Bluetooth 6.0, GPS, Glonass, Galileo, QZSS, and a USB Type-C port. Sensors on board include an accelerometer, ambient light sensor, and proximity sensor.

The Moto G06 Power has an IP64 rating for dust and splash resistance and features stereo speakers with Dolby Atmos support. Security is handled via a side-mounted fingerprint sensor.

The handset is powered by a massive 7,000mAh battery supporting 18W fast charging (when used with Moto's 20W charger). According to the company, the battery can deliver up to 65 hours of playback on a single charge. The device weighs 220 grams. ■





Itel A100C

Itel has unveiled its latest budget smartphone named ITEL A100C. It is a device that bears a noticeable resemblance to the upcoming OnePlus 15, particularly in its edge design and camera housing. However, despite the similarities, the A100C caters to an entirely different audience.

The new ITEL phone is for budget-conscious users looking for reliable performance, a long-lasting battery and practical everyday features at an affordable price point.

The ITEL A100C features a 6.6-inch HD+ display with a 90Hz refresh rate and a 720×1612 resolution. The 8-bit screen offers 400 nits of typical brightness and a 90% screen-to-body ratio, ensuring smooth visuals and a fairly immersive viewing experience for its class.

Under the hood, the smartphone is powered by a Unisoc T7100 octa-core processor, paired with up to 12GB of RAM (4GB physical + 8GB virtual RAM expansion) and 128GB of internal storage.

The device runs on Android 15 (Go edition), layered with itel OS 15 for a lightweight and optimised experience.

The A100C packs a 5000mAh battery, which ITEL claims can deliver up to 32 days of standby time, 27.7 hours of talk time, or 8.5 hours of gaming, depending on usage. It also supports USB

Type-C charging for added convenience.

One of the standout features of the ITEL A100C is its military-grade durability, certified under MIL-STD-810H standards. The phone has been tested to withstand high temperatures, humidity, and drops from up to 1.22 meters, making it a rugged companion for daily use.

The smartphone introduces UltraLink, a unique feature that enables Bluetooth-based calls and messaging even without Wi-Fi or cellular connectivity. Additional highlights include infrared remote control support, DTS-tuned audio for enhanced sound quality, and both side fingerprint and face unlock for secure and convenient access. In terms of cameras, the ITEL A100C houses an 8MP rear sensor and a 5MP front camera, suitable for basic photography and video calls.

The phone sports a slim 8.49mm profile and will be available in four colour options, which are Pure Black, Titanium Gold, Blaze Blue, and Silk Green.

Itel has not yet disclosed the official pricing. But the A100C is clearly positioned as a durable, feature-packed smartphone aimed at budget buyers who prioritise practicality, longevity, and reliability over high-end specs. ■



Huawei Nova 14i

Huawei has expanded its Nova 14 lineup with the launch of a new variant, the Huawei Nova 14i. The device joins the Nova 14 and Nova 14 Pro, which were introduced globally earlier this year. The Nova 14i brings a large display, a massive battery, and budget-friendly 4G hardware. Here's more on the newly launched device.

Huawei offers the Nova 14i in Blue and Black colour options. It will be available in 8GB+128GB and 8GB+256GB configurations.

Pricing and availability details are yet to be revealed. However, based on its specifications, the Nova 14i is positioned as a budget 4G smartphone in the series.

The Nova 14i features a 6.95-inch FHD+ Huawei FullView LCD display with a 90Hz refresh rate and Always-on Display support.

Powering the phone is the Qualcomm Snapdragon 680 4G chipset, paired with 8GB of RAM and up to 256GB of internal storage. It runs on EMUI 14.2, Huawei's custom skin based on Android 12. Huawei has continued with EMUI 14.2 for its global variants, including the standard Nova 14. For optics, the smartphone houses a dual-camera setup on the back, comprising a 50MP main sensor and a 2MP depth sensor, along with autofocus and an LED flash. The cameras are enclosed in Huawei's signature Star Orbit Ring design. On the front, it sports an 8MP selfie camera.

A major highlight is its 7,000mAh battery (rated at 6,900mAh). Huawei claims the device can deliver up to 26 hours of local video

playback, 60 hours of calls, or 31 hours of music playback on a single charge. Additionally, just 10 minutes of charging provides 3.1 hours of video playback.

The Nova 14i also introduces the X Button feature, giving users quick access to daily tools like Flashlight, Calculator, and Camera with a single tap. ■



Vivo Y19s 5G

The Vivo Y19s 5G sports a 6.74-inch LCD display with an HD+ resolution of 1600 × 720 pixels and a 90Hz refresh rate for fluid visuals. The screen supports up to 700 nits of peak brightness and covers 70% of the NTSC color gamut, ensuring decent brightness and color reproduction.

In terms of design, the device measures 167.3 × 76.95 × 8.19mm and weighs 199 grams, striking a balance between size and portability. It also carries an IP64 rating for dust and water resistance, adding an extra layer of durability.

Powering the smartphone is the MediaTek Dimensity 6300 chipset, based on a 6nm architecture, coupled with up to 6GB of LPDDR4X RAM and 128GB of eMMC 5.1 internal storage. The storage can be expanded further via a microSD card of up to 2TB capacity.

The phone houses a 6,000mAh battery that supports 15W fast charging, designed to comfortably last an entire day on moderate to heavy usage. It runs Android 15 with Funtouch OS 15 on top, ensuring a clean and user-friendly interface along with future software updates.

For photography, the Vivo Y19s 5G features a dual rear camera setup comprising a 13MP primary sensor and a 0.08MP secondary sensor. On the front, it gets a 5MP selfie camera for basic photography and video calling needs.

Connectivity options include dual 5G SIM support, Wi-Fi (2.4GHz/5GHz), Bluetooth 5.4, GPS, and a USB Type-C port. The device also comes equipped with a side-mounted fingerprint sensor for quick unlocking.

The Vivo Y19s 5G is available in Majestic Green and Titanium Silver colour options. It comes in three memory variants and the variant-wise pricing is as 4GB + 64GB – INR 10,999, 4GB + 128GB – INR 11,999, 6GB + 128GB – INR 13,499. ■



Realme C85 Pro and Realme C85 5G

Realme has officially introduced its latest Realme C85 series. The series features two models, the Realme C85 Pro and the Realme C85 5G. Designed to offer strong performance, long-lasting battery life, and advanced AI features at an affordable price, the new lineup stands out with highlights like a 144Hz display, massive 7,000mAh battery, IP69 Pro water resistance, and the latest Android 15-based Realme UI 6.0. Here's all you need to know about phones, starting with price.

Both the Realme C85 Pro and C85 5G are available in two colour options, Parrot Purple and Peacock Green.

The Realme C85 Pro is priced at 6,490,000 VND (approximately \$245) for the 8GB + 128GB variant and 7,090,000 VND (around \$270) for the 8GB + 256GB model. The Realme C85 5G, on the other hand, is priced at 7,690,000 VND (roughly \$290) for the 8GB + 256GB configuration.

The Realme C85 Pro sports a 6.8-inch AMOLED display with a Full HD+ resolution of 1080 × 2344 pixels, offering a 120Hz refresh rate and an impressive peak brightness of 4,000 nits. In contrast, the Realme C85 5G also features a 6.8-inch screen but uses LCD technology, supporting an HD+ resolution and a faster 144Hz refresh rate.

Under the hood, the Realme C85 Pro is powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon 685 chipset, confirming its 4G-only connectivity, while the C85 5G runs on the MediaTek Dimensity 6300 processor for 5G support. Both smartphones come with up to 8GB of RAM, which can be expanded virtually to 24GB, along with up to 256GB of internal storage. Storage can be further expanded via a microSD card slot.

The C85 series packs a massive 7,000mAh battery with 45W fast charging support, ensuring extended usage and quick recharging. On the software front, both handsets boot Android 15 out of the box with Realme UI 6.0, providing a smoother interface

and optimised system performance.

The Realme C85 Pro sports a 6.8-inch AMOLED display with a Full HD+ resolution of 1080 × 2344 pixels, offering a 120Hz refresh rate and an impressive peak brightness of 4,000 nits. In contrast, the Realme C85 5G also features a 6.8-inch screen but uses LCD technology, supporting an HD+ resolution and a faster 144Hz refresh rate.

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Moto G67 Power with Snapdragon 7s Gen 2

Motorola has officially launched the Moto G67 Power in India, expanding its popular G Power series lineup. The new mid-range smartphone brings a strong mix of performance, display quality, and battery life.

Commenting on the launch, T.M. Narasimhan, Managing Director, Motorola India said, “With the launch of the moto g67 POWER, we are proud to introduce the segment’s best# camera phone under 15,000, featuring a 50MP Sony LYTIA™ 600 camera capable of 4K recording from all lenses. It is complemented by a massive 7000mAh battery with advanced Silicon Carbon Technology, ensuring a slimmer design, longer battery life, and up to 58 hours of usage on a single charge. Powered by the Snapdragon® 7s Gen 2 processor, the device delivers seamless multitasking and smooth performance. This launch reflects Motorola’s commitment to meaningful innovation, providing consumers with a smartphone that combines exceptional photography, long-lasting performance, and everyday reliability.” Here’s more about the newly launched smartphone, starting with its price.

The Moto G67 Power 5G will be available in three PANTONE-certified colours, which includes Cilantro, Curacao Blue, and Parachute Purple. It comes in a single configuration of 8GB RAM + 128GB storage, priced at Rs 15,999.

Sales begin on November 12, and the phone will be available through Flipkart, Motorola’s official website (motorola.in), and offline retail stores across India.

Launch offers include a Rs 1,000 bank discount for SBI and Axis

Bank cardholders or a Rs 1,000 exchange bonus on old devices. Buyers can also opt for No Cost EMI plans with 3- and 6-month tenures.

The Moto G67 Power features a 6.7-inch Full HD+ LCD display with a 120Hz refresh rate, offering a smooth and vibrant viewing experience. Under the hood, it is powered by the Snapdragon 7s Gen 2 processor, paired with 8GB of RAM and support for up to 16GB of virtual RAM for improved multitasking.

On the software front, the smartphone runs on Android 15 out of the box. Motorola has also confirmed one major OS update to Android 16 and three years of security updates, ensuring extended software support for users.

In the camera department, the Moto G67 Power is equipped with a 50MP primary sensor (Sony LYT-600) and an 8MP ultrawide lens that also supports macro photography. On the front, it houses a 32MP selfie camera with Quad Pixel technology for sharper and brighter images. The device comes with an IP64 rating for dust and splash resistance and features Corning Gorilla Glass 7i protection on the front. Its vegan leather back panel not only enhances durability but also gives the phone a premium look and feel.

As its name suggests, power is a major highlight of the Moto G67 Power. The device packs a massive 7000mAh battery, which Motorola claims can deliver up to three days of battery life on a single charge. It also supports 33W TurboPower fast charging, allowing users to quickly recharge the large battery when needed. ■

team@mymobile.co.in



Inside itel's Mission to Democratise Technology for Bharat



Over the years, itel India has not only cemented its dominance in the sub- Rs.10,000 segment, but it has also played a pivotal role in **accelerating digital inclusion for Bharat's Tier-2 to Tier-5 consumers**. It has one of **India's most extensive distribution ecosystems, spanning 1,000 distributors, 1.3 lakh retailers, and more than 1,000 service centres**. The brand stands at the forefront of making technology truly accessible for all.

At the helm of it all is **Arijeet Talapatra, CEO of itel India**. Guided by the brand's mission of **"technology for all,"** Talapatra has propelled the company to an impressive base of **over 11 crore users** across smartphones, feature phones, smart gadgets, and televisions. In 2025, he is steering an **ambitious AI-led product roadmap**, strengthening local manufacturing, and forging strategic partnerships that bring technology even closer to everyday users. In this exclusive interaction, we sat down with Talapatra to discuss his vision for the brand, the evolving needs of Indian consumers, and itel's long-term strategy for innovation, affordability, and deeper market penetration. A business management postgraduate with a strong background in FMCG and telecom, Talapatra is widely recognised for his practical innovation mindset, market resilience, and commitment to

advancing India's electronics manufacturing value chain.

What follows is a candid conversation about the future of smartphones in India and how itel plans to stay ahead of the curve.

What is the core vision of itel that drives its product ecosystem today?

The Brand DNA of itel is DRA – Durability, Reliability and Affordability – we are a brand that is uniquely positioned to cater to the real Bharat – the people living in Tier 3, 4, and 5 cities. At the core of our products lie our 3P promise – Protection from Dust, Water and Drops. Durability is crucial, especially in the sub 10K segment as it caters to a segment that is price sensitive in nature. We want to ensure that durable and reliable technology is accessible to everyone. That guides every product choice and every expansion in our ecosystem.

How does itel balance innovation with affordability across a diverse product portfolio?

Innovation becomes power when it bridges affordability. Our innovations have always been rooted in practical utility. Manufacturing in India allows us to respond quickly to the needs of Indian consumers while maintaining high-quality standards. This local presence enables us to tailor products for Indian users and contribute meaningfully to the country's technology growth and accessibility. We have always been a strong proponent of Make in India and have 3 manufacturing facilities in Noida – with a capacity of producing more than 24 million handsets each year. itel is a brand which is Made in India, Made for India and Made by Indians and this is a major contributor to our vision of democratizing technology for Bharat.

What are your thoughts about the budget smartphone category in India? How do you see it evolving over the years and what are your hopes for the category? And specifically, what role can itel play?

The budget segment

(under 10K) is a very crucial segment as this attracts a significant proportion of users transitioning from 2G to 4G or even 5G. However, the rising prices of chips do present a challenge for us. Consumers expect better performance, better cameras and easy access to 5G, even at lower prices. itel is the only brand in India which offers a free screen replacement guarantee within 3 months – which we are able to

do because of our utmost confidence in our product quality. We aim to help make their transition smooth, ensuring we are the preferred brand when the large base of FP users switch to smartphones.

Trust is earned by delivering products that perform reliably and provide long-term value. As per a CMR report of 2024, itel leads above its competitors with high scores in overall satisfaction (94%), brand loyalty (94%), and advocacy with NPS



score of 24%. These high scores are a testament to the immense trust enjoyed by itel in India. itel has established a robust service network with over 1000 service centres throughout the country, ensuring unrestricted access to after-sales support for our customers regardless of where they are. These factors are a key enabler of our dominant 23% market share in the sub 10K segment.

The recently launched itel A90 Limited Edition has a real emphasis on durability features. How are durability, performance and sustainability significant in the budget smartphone category?

Today, durability has become a must have feature for smartphones in India. Durability matters because many families rely on a single device for years. It must handle real world use and still perform well. Beyond the tech appeal, they offer something simpler, confidence that a phone will last long and not disappoint users. The itel A90 Limited Edition shows that toughness and responsible design can be delivered at an affordable price. Currently, we are the only brand in India to offer Military Grade durability in the sub 7K segment (itel A90 Limited Edition smartphone). Durability features like IP Ratings, Military Grade certifications have now started making their way in consumer conversations – a shift pioneered by itel in India.

itel has established itself in the Feature Phone category as well. But with smartphones and now AI getting the centre stage, how do you foresee the



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future of Feature Phones? Is there any scope for innovation there or can we expect a disruption in the category? itel leads the FP market – No. 1 Brand of India consistently since the last few years – with a dominant 34% market share (Counterpoint, 2025). itel has maintained strong leadership in feature phones by having a clear understanding of what our customers value most – durability, reliability and ease of use.

We have been the No. 1 Feature Phone brand of India consistently for the last few years now. Feature phones still have a user base of more than 220 million (Counterpoint).

We have a very strong focus on practical innovation – something that is useful for people in their daily lives. For instance – this year we launched the King Signal Feature Phone – an innovative, high-performance feature phone built for those who demand exceptional signal strength, with 62% stronger network connectivity and 510% longer call duration in low network areas. Feature phones will stay important for users who value simplicity and long battery life. We see this space evolving steadily rather than facing sudden disruption. Our experience in this category allows us to introduce meaningful upgrades without losing the simplicity people depend on. Not only smartphones, nowadays feature phones are built to withstand extreme

temperatures ranging from -40 degrees Celsius to 70 degrees Celsius.

How is itel planning on leveraging the AI storm across the different product categories? GenAI smartphone share of overall smartphone shipments is expected to reach 54% by 2028. AI is going to be a strategic driver of our product roadmap for 2025 and beyond, ensuring greater accessibility of AI, particularly in Tier 3, 4 and 5 cities. Recently, we launched Super Guru 4G – which became India's 1st AI Enabled Feature Phone (Counterpoint). We started our journey of AI with the introduction of inbuilt itel AI Voice Assistant in itel's smartphones. When we added AI to feature phones, our goal was to make its

usage easier for everyone, massifying AI for Bharat. Until now, AI features were largely limited to premium smartphones category. However, we have ensured that access to AI features are not restricted to products or price range – truly democratizing technology for India.

Can you share with us if any recent consumer behaviour trends have influenced itel's product strategy? Durability has become very crucial for customers, especially in the budget smartphone segment. This change is especially visible in India, which has a significant base of price conscious consumers. Almost eight out of ten buyers now call durability a must-have feature for phones (CMR, 2024). That is a real shift

in what people value. They are not asking for more features – they are asking for reliability. itel has been at the forefront of leading this change with its exciting range of durable, reliable and affordable products – be it feature phones, smartphones or smart gadgets.

Smart features and connectivity play a significant role in consumer electronics today. What is itel's roadmap in finding opportunities in that sphere? From smartphones to smart gadgets and home appliances, every product we create is built to work seamlessly, deliver reliability, and remain accessible to all. Our goal is to offer a meaningful experience across a diverse range of durable and affordable devices – ensuring that technology not only fits effortlessly into the daily lives of users but also adds lasting value for them.

What are some of the areas where you think itel must focus on in the next 3 to 5 years? Looking forward, we aim to maintain our dominance in feature phones and smartphones in the sub 10K segment. A major focus will also be on strengthening our smart gadgets and accessories portfolio and taking it to the next level by introducing a series of innovative products that is going to redefine style, quality, and user experience. AI is going to play a pivotal importance in our product roadmap for the next few years. We want itel to become an ecosystem brand, a one-stop solution for feature phones, smartphones, smart gadgets, TV, solar products, personal grooming and home appliances for consumers in Tier 3, 4 and 5 cities that will make their everyday lives better.

Lastly, if you had to pick one upcoming itel product or technology that excites you the most, what would it be? Many exciting launches are scheduled to be launched next year. I cannot reveal much about the products now, but I can assure you that consumers and tech enthusiasts will not be disappointed. ■

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Honor X5c and Honor X5c Plus

After appearing on certification listings earlier this month, Honor has officially launched the Honor X5c and Honor X5c Plus in South Africa. Both smartphones share a similar design and feature set with only minor differences in the camera configuration, storage capacity, and available colour options. Here's everything you need to know about the phones.

The Honor X5c and X5c Plus both come equipped with a 6.74-inch TFT LCD display offering a 90Hz refresh rate and 720 x 1600 pixel resolution. The screens also include Eye Comfort and Dynamic Dimming features to reduce strain during prolonged use.

Under the hood, both devices are powered by the MediaTek Helio G81 processor, which includes an octa-core CPU (2x Cortex-A75 cores at 2GHz + 6x Cortex-A55 cores at 1.7GHz) and an ARM Mali-G52 MC2 GPU running at 820MHz.

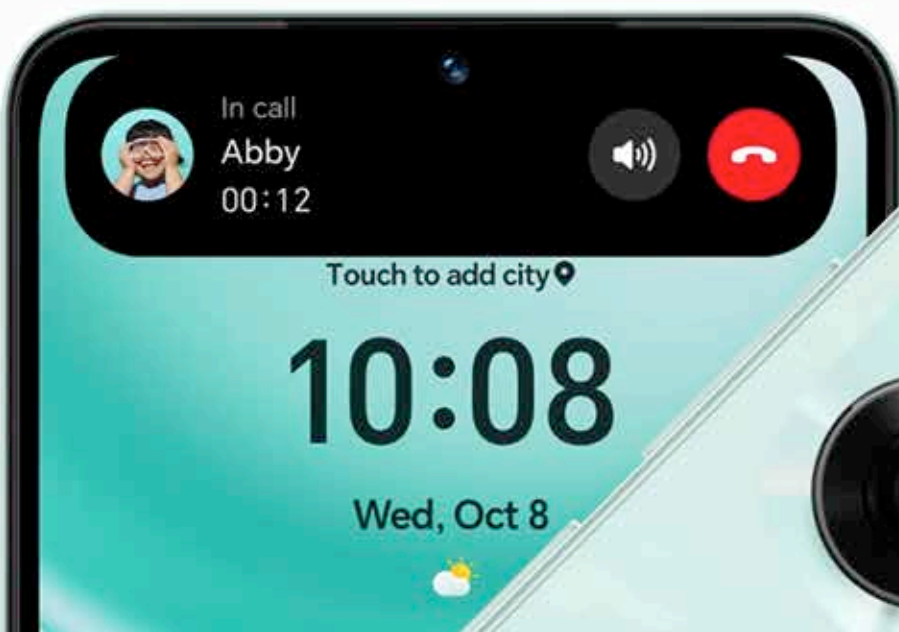
The chipset is paired with up to 4GB of RAM, 4GB of virtual RAM, and up to 128GB of internal storage.

Powering both models is a 5,260mAh battery that supports 15W fast charging, promising solid endurance for everyday tasks.

While the two smartphones are nearly identical in most areas, the camera setup is where they differ. The Honor X5c features a dual rear camera consisting of a 13MP main sensor and a 0.08MP QVGA sensor. In comparison, the Honor X5c Plus upgrades the main lens to a 50MP sensor, delivering sharper and more detailed shots.

On the front, both devices include a 5MP selfie camera. Connectivity features on both models include dual SIM support, Bluetooth 5.1, and dual-band Wi-Fi (2.4GHz and 5GHz).

Both smartphones are now available in South Africa. ■




 The image shows two iQOO Neo 11 smartphones. One is black with a green screen displaying '09:40' and a '60%' battery icon. The other is white with a black screen and a red, white, and blue stripe along the top edge.

iQOO Neo 11

iQOO has launched its latest performance-focused smartphone, the iQOO Neo 11, in China. Designed for gamers and power users, the device brings flagship-grade hardware, advanced cooling, and a massive 7,500mAh battery, all at an aggressive price point. Here's all you need to know.

The iQOO Neo 11 features a 6.82-inch 2K LTPO AMOLED display with a 1–144Hz adaptive refresh rate and BOE Q10+ luminous material for enhanced brightness and clarity. It sports 1.4mm ultra-slim bezels, 2592Hz high-frequency PWM dimming, and SGS and TÜV low blue light certifications. With a peak brightness of 4500 nits, it ensures excellent outdoor visibility.

The screen also uses the same AR anti-reflection coating and true colour mapping technology found on the iQOO 15, providing highly realistic visuals. The device is powered by the Snapdragon 8 Elite chipset, achieving an impressive 3.54 million points on AnTuTu. It is paired with the Q2 self-developed chip, up to 16GB LPDDR5X Ultra RAM (9600Mbps), and up to 1TB UFS 4.1 storage, ensuring ultra-fast performance.

For gaming, the Neo 11 integrates a super-sensitive touch chip that supports 3200Hz instantaneous and 300Hz stable 10-finger touch sampling rates, resulting in ultra-low touch latency of just 25.4ms. The device also features an 8000mm² vapour chamber cooling system, the same as the iQOO 15, delivering 21.7% better coverage than its predecessor.

The high-density capillary design helps rapidly absorb and circulate coolant, achieving a 15°C drop in just 10 seconds. It

uses ultra-high thermal conductivity graphite (2000W/m•K) for optimal heat management.

The iQOO Neo 11 comes with an aerospace-grade aluminium alloy frame, sandblasted and oxidised for durability, heat dissipation, and fingerprint resistance. The floating mirror design enhances grip during gaming, while the Swift Black variant offers a sleek metallic finish.

Other models use satin glass for a soft, smudge-free texture. The phone has passed military-grade impact tests and is certified with IP68 and IP69 dust and water resistance.

For photography, the smartphone sports a 50MP Sony ultra-stabilised primary camera with a large sensor for improved light capture and accurate colour reproduction. It uses the NICE algorithm, borrowed from Vivo's flagship lineup, for depth-based image processing, reducing noise and enhancing detail, especially in low-light shots.

The setup also includes an 8MP secondary sensor and a 16MP front camera, similar to the iQOO Neo 10.

Powering the device is a 7,500mAh single-cell silicon-carbon battery, which offers 700mAh more capacity than the Neo 10 Pro+ while being lighter. It supports 100W FlashCharge technology, capable of delivering 2 hours of short video playback with just 3 minutes of charging. The new Global Direct Drive Power Supply 2.0 ensures smooth performance during gaming, navigation, or video playback even while charging. The iQOO Neo 11 runs OriginOS 6 based on Android 16 out of the box. ■



Huawei Mate 70 Air

Huawei has officially unveiled the Huawei Mate 70 Air in China, marking the debut of the brand's latest ultra-thin smartphone. The launch follows several leaks and teasers that had already showcased its design and key features. Here's everything you need to know about the latest Huawei phone, starting with price and availability.

Pre-bookings for the Huawei Mate 70 Air began at 10:08 AM CST. The phone is available in Obsidian Black, Feather White, and Silver Brocade finishes.

The Huawei Mate 70 Air directly competes with the Apple iPhone Air, though it offers a more well-rounded package in several areas. Measuring 6.6mm in thickness, it's slightly thicker than the iPhone Air's 5.6mm body, but Huawei compensates with a larger battery and a more versatile camera setup.

The phone features a 7-inch 1.5K+ OLED display with a resolution of 2760 × 1320 pixels, a 120Hz refresh rate, and an 18.8:9 aspect ratio. It includes a 10.7MP front camera housed within a centred punch-hole cutout.

Huawei provides two processor configurations based on RAM options. This includes the Kirin 9020B powers the 12GB RAM variants, while the Kirin 9020A is reserved for the 16GB RAM models. On the software front, the device runs HarmonyOS 5.1, Huawei's in-house operating system.

The 6,500mAh battery is one of the biggest highlights of the Mate 70 Air, supporting 66W wired fast charging through a USB 2.0 port. The smartphone also includes Wi-Fi 7+, two-way Beidou satellite messaging, and a side-mounted fingerprint sensor for security. Despite its slim build, Huawei has managed to offer IP68/IP69 ratings for water and dust resistance, a rare feature in ultra-thin smartphones.

For photography, the Mate 70 Air comes equipped with a quad-camera setup on the rear. The system includes a 50MP primary camera with a 1/1.3-inch ultra-large sensor, an 8MP ultra-wide lens, a 12MP RYYB 3x telephoto camera, and a 1.5MP red maple multispectral sensor designed to enhance colour accuracy and detail under varying lighting conditions. ■



Tecno Pop 10 4G

Tecno has officially launched its latest entry-level smartphone, the Tecno Pop 10 4G, in Ghana. The device was recently spotted on the Google Play Console database, sparking speculation about its imminent launch, which has now been confirmed through its listing on Tecno's official Ghana website. Here's everything you need to know about the phone.

The Tecno Pop 10 4G will be available in four stylish colour variants, which include Ink Black, Titanium Grey, Veil White, and Turquoise Green.

However, Tecno has not yet disclosed the official pricing details of the device.

The Tecno Pop 10 4G comes with a 6.67-inch display that supports a 120Hz refresh rate and offers a 720×1600 pixel resolution, promising smooth visuals and responsive touch performance. Under the hood, it is powered by the Unisoc T7250 processor and runs on Android 15, making it one of the few budget smartphones to ship with the latest Android version out of the box.

The phone offers up to 4GB of RAM (with an additional 4GB of virtual RAM) and up to 256GB of internal storage for apps, media, and files.

It houses a 5000mAh battery that supports 15W fast charging, ensuring reliable all-day performance.

For photography, the Tecno Pop 10 4G features a 13MP rear camera and an 8MP front-facing camera. Both sides come equipped with dual LED flashes, enhancing low-light photography.

Other notable features include Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, a side-mounted fingerprint sensor, an Infrared remote control, dual speakers with DTS Sound, IP64 dust and water resistance, and Tecno AI enhancements. The smartphone also supports FreeLink, offers DECO design aesthetics, and is built to be drop-resistant up to 1.5 meters.

Tecno claims the device will deliver lag-free performance for up to four years, emphasising long-term reliability. ■

Oppo Reno 15 and Reno 15 Pro

Oppo has officially introduced the latest additions to its Reno lineup, the Oppo Reno 15 and Oppo Reno 15 Pro. Both Reno series smartphones arrive with noticeable design upgrades, powerful hardware, and several refinements over their predecessors. With many similarities between the two models such as both models packing the same MediaTek Dimensity 8450 processors, here's a complete breakdown of the features.

Oppo has opted for a flat rear panel paired with a metallic frame on both phones. The camera island resembles the layout seen on the iPhone 16 Pro, housing three rear sensors. The devices also come with Oppo's Nano Ice Crystal Heat Dissipation system and hold IP66, IP68, and IP69 ratings, ensuring enhanced durability. Another standout element is the holographic lithography design on the back, adding distinct shimmering patterns. The Reno 15 Pro features this design on one variant, while the Reno 15 extends it to both Starlight and Aurora Blue models. The Aurora Blue version measures 7.65mm thick and weighs about 205 grams, whereas the Starlight variant is slightly thicker at 7.99mm but lighter at 188 grams.

Oppo is offering the Reno 15 series in three colour options each. The Reno 15 comes in Starlight, Aurora Blue, and Canelé Brown. The Reno 15 Pro is available in Starlight, Honey Gold, and Canelé Brown.

The Reno 15 is equipped with a 6.32-inch flat OLED display offering a 1.5K resolution, 120Hz refresh rate, 240Hz touch sampling rate, 3,840Hz PWM dimming, and Oppo's Crystal Shield Glass. It also delivers a peak brightness of up to 3,600 nits, classifying it as a compact mid-range device. The Reno 15 Pro,



meanwhile, features a larger 6.78-inch OLED panel with nearly identical specs but includes a 1–120Hz variable refresh rate and 2,160Hz PWM dimming. Powering both smartphones is the MediaTek Dimensity 8450 SoC paired with up to 16GB LPDDR5X RAM and as much as 1TB UFS 3.1 storage. Despite maintaining sub-8mm profiles, Oppo has managed to fit notably large batteries.

The Reno 15 packs a 6,200mAh battery with 80W fast charging, while the Pro model goes a step further with a 6,500mAh battery supporting 80W wired and 50W wireless charging. Additional features include stereo speakers, an in-display fingerprint sensor, an infrared blaster, Bluetooth 5.4, Wi-Fi 6, and ColorOS 16 based on Android 16.

The camera setup is one of the biggest highlights. Both Reno 15 models come with a 200MP main camera featuring a 1/1.56-inch sensor, f/1.8 aperture, and OIS. This is accompanied by a 50MP ultra-wide lens and a 50MP periscope telephoto camera offering 3.5x optical zoom and OIS. On the front, a 50MP selfie camera handles photos and videos with support for 4K 60fps recording. ■





Nubia Z80 Ultra

After debuting in China earlier this year, Nubia has officially launched the Nubia Z80 Ultra for global markets. The global variant brings the same powerful hardware and premium features as its Chinese counterpart. Here's all you need to know about the phone, starting with price and availability.

The Nubia Z80 Ultra will be available in Black, White, Blue, and a Limited Starry Night colour edition.

The Nubia Z80 Ultra features a 6.85-inch OLED Full Display with a 2688 × 1216 resolution and a 144Hz refresh rate. It supports a 3000Hz touch response rate and integrates an under-display front camera for a true full-screen experience. The screen offers 2000 nits peak brightness, and a Synaptics touch chip ensures high touch accuracy.

The device is powered by the Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 Mobile Platform, paired with LPDDR5X RAM options of 12GB or 16GB and UFS 4.1 storage options of 256GB, 512GB, or 1TB. It runs on MyOS 16 based on Android 16. The smartphone is also IP68 and IP69 certified for dust and water resistance.

Supporting sensors include Flicker and Laser sensors. Nubia

has equipped the device with its Light & Shadow Master 990 imaging sensor and a dual focal-length street setup (35mm + 18mm), offering a zoom range from 18mm to 85mm and 21 creative filters. A physical shutter key enhances photography control. The front houses a 16MP under-display camera.

For gamers, the Z80 Ultra comes with the REDMAGIC-inspired CUBE Gaming Engine, which supports Super Resolution and Super Frame Rate. It delivers gameplay up to 2K at 144Hz with AI Super Frame Stabilisation for smoother performance. To maintain efficiency, Nubia has used composite liquid metal and an oversized 3D Ice Steel VC cooling system, increasing the cooling area by 35% for better thermal control during extended sessions.

The smartphone houses a 7200mAh (typical) battery that supports both 80W wired and 80W wireless fast charging. The company notes that 80W charging requires the official Nubia charger.

Connectivity options include Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac/ax/be (2x2 MIMO), Bluetooth 6.0, USB-C 3.2 Gen1, NFC (eSE), and support for a magnetic NFC smart case. ■

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ITEL A90 LIMITED EDITION

A Solid Under 8K Smartphone

Itel A90 Limited Edition was recently launched as an upgraded version of the previously launched standard Itel A90. We have been using the phone for a week now. Here's our hands-on review of the limited edition model.

Design and Build Quality

The Itel A90 Limited Edition keeps things simple when it comes to design. But it does give an aesthetic that feels quite nice in daily use. We had the Space Titanium colour variant for this review and it has a classic silver matte finish. It doesn't attract fingerprints easily and it gives the phone a clean, premium look.

The camera module is an instant reminder of the iPhone 17 Pro Max. It has a glass base and stretches

across the top portion of the back. The body has a boxy shape, rounded corners and not-so-sharp edges, making the phone comfortable to hold. Overall, the phone has a modern, high-end vibe. The phone is quite lightweight as well.

It comes with MIL-STD-810H military-grade protection, which is something you don't usually see in this segment. Itel claims it can handle accidental drops, extreme heat, freezing temperatures, and even long hours of high humidity. During brand testing, it survived -

- High temperatures between 30–43°C
- Low temperatures as harsh as –25°C to –35°C
- Humidity up to 95% for multiple cycles
- A total of 26 drops from

76–122cm on all sides and edges

Itel offers its “3P Promise,” which basically means the phone is dust-proof, water-proof, and drop-proof for real-life usage. The IP54 rating adds extra peace

of mind, giving it resistance to dust and light splashes.

All in all, Itel A90 Limited Edition looks premium, feels comfortable, and is built stronger than most phones in its price range.



5000



mAh

Tried & Tested

Display

The 6.6-inch HD+ IPS display is for everyday use. The resolution is 720x1612, the screen looks decent for watching videos, scrolling through social media, or reading. It comes with a 90Hz refresh rate. And that makes basic actions like scrolling, swiping, and navigating through menus feel smoother.

The screen responds decently well and we didn't feel any concerning lag in touch input.

Itel offers 480 nits of typical brightness, which is good enough indoors. Outdoors, especially under strong sunlight, you may need to tilt the phone a bit, but the screen still stays usable. It has a modern look with slim bezels,

KEY FEATURES

- 6.6-inch 90Hz HD+ IPS Display
- 13 MP Rear Camera
- 5 MP Front Camera
- Unisoc T7100 Octacore Processor
- 5000 mAh Battery Capacity
- 15W Fast Charging Speed
- 12 GB RAM (4 GB + 8 GB)
- IP54 Rated Dust and Splash Resistant
- 128 GB Internal Storage

making the phone feel more immersive even though it's an HD+ panel. We are also getting

an Always-On Display at this price.

Overall, the display might feel simple on paper but we found it quite reliable and well within expectations for the segment.

Performance

Itel A90 Limited Edition is a budget phone that's built for everyday tasks. It runs on the UNISOC T7100 processor and it handles regular use quite well. The phone obviously isn't meant for heavy gaming or intense multitasking. Although we didn't face any issues with regular tasks such as calling,



messaging, social media apps, light browsing and streaming.

The phone comes with 12GB RAM in total, which includes 4GB physical RAM + 8GB virtual RAM. This extra virtual RAM really helps keep apps from closing in the background too quickly. We felt the phone was smooth in switching between apps and basic tasks were never slow or frustrating.

The Limited Edition is a 128GB storage variant and it has plenty of space for photos, apps and downloads if you are

an average user.

It runs Android 14 Go Edition, which is a lighter version of Android designed for budget phones. The software feels responsive for everyday actions without much noticeable delays. There are a few unnecessary apps, but all can be uninstalled if not required.

Itel's AI assistant, Aivana 2.0 is also a part of A90 Limited Edition. We tried using it for simple things like opening apps, setting reminders, and asking basic questions. The response is decent, considering the segment.

Camera Performance

The rear camera is a 13MP shooter with a light sensor. It captures fairly sharp and bright photos in good daylight. Colours look natural and the images have enough detail for casual photography.

The camera does struggle

VERDICT

Looks	10 / 10
Cameras	09 / 10
Performance	09 / 10
Battery	08 / 10
Value For Money	09 / 10
OVERALL	90%

PROS

Good design & Decent display

Good battery capacity

Solid build quality

CONS

Slow charging

Subpar camera

(For detailed specifications, please visit mymobileindia.com)

The front camera is a 5MP shooter with AI enhancements. Selfies look okay but not detailed. It is decent setup for video calls and social media. The AI enhances the skin tones a bit, making the photos look cleaner and slightly brighter.

Battery and Charging

It comes with a 5000mAh battery. For a medium to an average user, it easily lasts a full day and more. Itel claims it offers up to 35 days of standby, 31 hours of talk time, 75 hours of music playback, and 18 hours of video streaming.

Charging-wise, the phone supports 15W fast charging but good thing is that Itel packs a 10W charger in the box. It's not very fast, but it should be acceptable considering the segment.

Overall, the battery performance feels reliable and stress-free.

Conclusion

If you're looking for a practical, budget-friendly phone that offers good durability, solid battery life, and smooth daily performance, then the Itel A90 Limited Edition is definitely worth considering. It might not be a multitasking phone, but it ensures that everyday tasks are handled without any fuss. ■

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in low light conditions even though there is light sensor on rear to balance things. There's also a rear LED flash, which actually helps more than usual in low-light situations. The camera system is supported with an interesting sliding zoom button. It makes zooming in and out feel

smoother and more precise than tapping the screen.

12GB RAM

128GB ROM

Galaxy Z TriFold

Galaxy AI



SAMSUNG GALAXY Z TRIFOLD

10" AMOLED, Snapdragon 8 Elite, 5,600mAh Battery

Samsung has officially introduced its first-ever twice-folding smartphone, the Samsung Galaxy Z TriFold. The device features a dual-hinge design, a massive 10-inch inner display and flagship-grade hardware.

"Samsung's relentless pursuit of new possibilities

continues to shape the future of mobile experiences," said TM Roh, Chief Executive Officer, President and Head of Device eXperience (DX) Division at Samsung Electronics. "Through years of innovation in foldable form factors, Galaxy Z TriFold solves

one of the mobile industry's longest-standing challenges — delivering the perfect balance between portability, premium performance and productivity all in one device. Galaxy Z TriFold now expands the boundaries of what's possible for mobile work, creativity and connection."

This model will first go on sale in South Korea later this month before expanding to global markets. Here's

everything we know about the model so far.

Price and Availability

Samsung has not yet revealed the pricing for the Galaxy Z TriFold. However, the company confirmed that sales in South Korea will begin on December 12.

After its domestic launch, the handset will make its way to China, Taiwan, Singapore, the UAE, and the



US. Samsung also stated that the Galaxy Z TriFold will be showcased in select offline retail stores in these regions. The company will allow customers to experience the device firsthand.

It will be offered in a single Crafted Black colour option.

Features

The Galaxy Z TriFold runs on Android 16-based OneUI 8 and supports dual SIM connectivity. Its standout feature is the expansive 10-

inch QXGA+ (2,160 × 1,584 pixels) Dynamic AMOLED 2X inner display, offering 269ppi, up to 1,600 nits peak brightness, a 120Hz adaptive refresh rate, and full DCI-P3 colour coverage.

On the outside, the phone houses a 6.5-inch Full-HD+ (1,080 × 2,520 pixels) Dynamic AMOLED 2X cover screen with a 21:9 aspect ratio, 422ppi, 2,600 nits peak brightness, 120Hz adaptive refresh rate, and 100 per cent DCI-P3 colour

KEY FEATURES

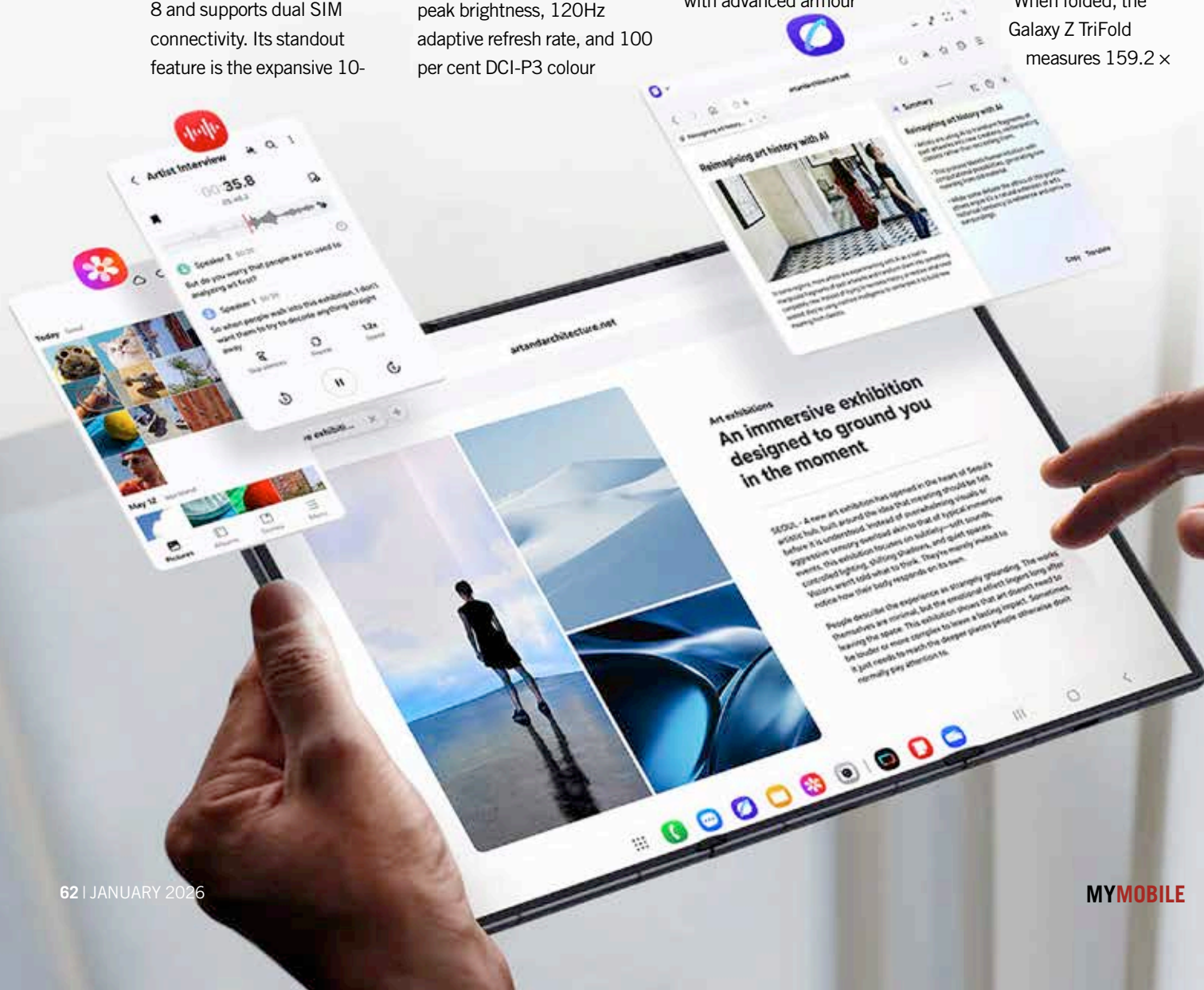
- Samsung unveiled its first twice folding smartphone, the Galaxy Z TriFold.
- Sales are scheduled to start in South Korea on December 12, followed by a global rollout.
- It features a dual hinge titanium build, 10-inch

AMOLED inner display, Snapdragon 8 Elite chip, 16GB RAM, up to 1TB storage, triple rear cameras (200MP + 12MP + 10MP), dual selfie cameras and 5,600mAh battery supporting 45W wired and 15W wireless charging.

Samsung has used a titanium hinge system paired with advanced armour

a minimal gap" while keeping the overall design slim.

When folded, the Galaxy Z TriFold measures 159.2 ×





75.0 × 12.9mm and when fully unfolded, it expands

VERDICT

Looks Eye-catching	10 / 10
Cameras Above-par	10 / 10
Performance Super smooth	09 / 10
Battery Lasts a day	08 / 10
Value For Money A little overpriced	07 / 10

OVERALL 88%



PROS

Slim Design
and Innovative
Display

Premium Build

Excellent
Cameras



CONS

Extremely
Expensive

Charging
Speed

Software
Optimization

(For detailed specifications,
please visit mymobileindia.com)

to 159.2 × 214.1 × 3.9mm. The phone weighs approximately 309 grams.

Powering the handset is Qualcomm's octa-core Snapdragon 8 Elite for Galaxy chipset built on a 3nm process, alongside 16GB of RAM and up to 1TB of internal storage.

The Galaxy Z TriFold is equipped with a triple rear camera setup including a 200-megapixel (f/1.7) primary shooter with OIS, a 12-megapixel (f/2.2) ultrawide sensor with a 102-degree field of view and a 10-megapixel (f/2.4) telephoto lens offering OIS and up to 30x digital zoom. For selfies, Samsung has included two 10-megapixel (f/2.2) selfie cameras, one on the cover

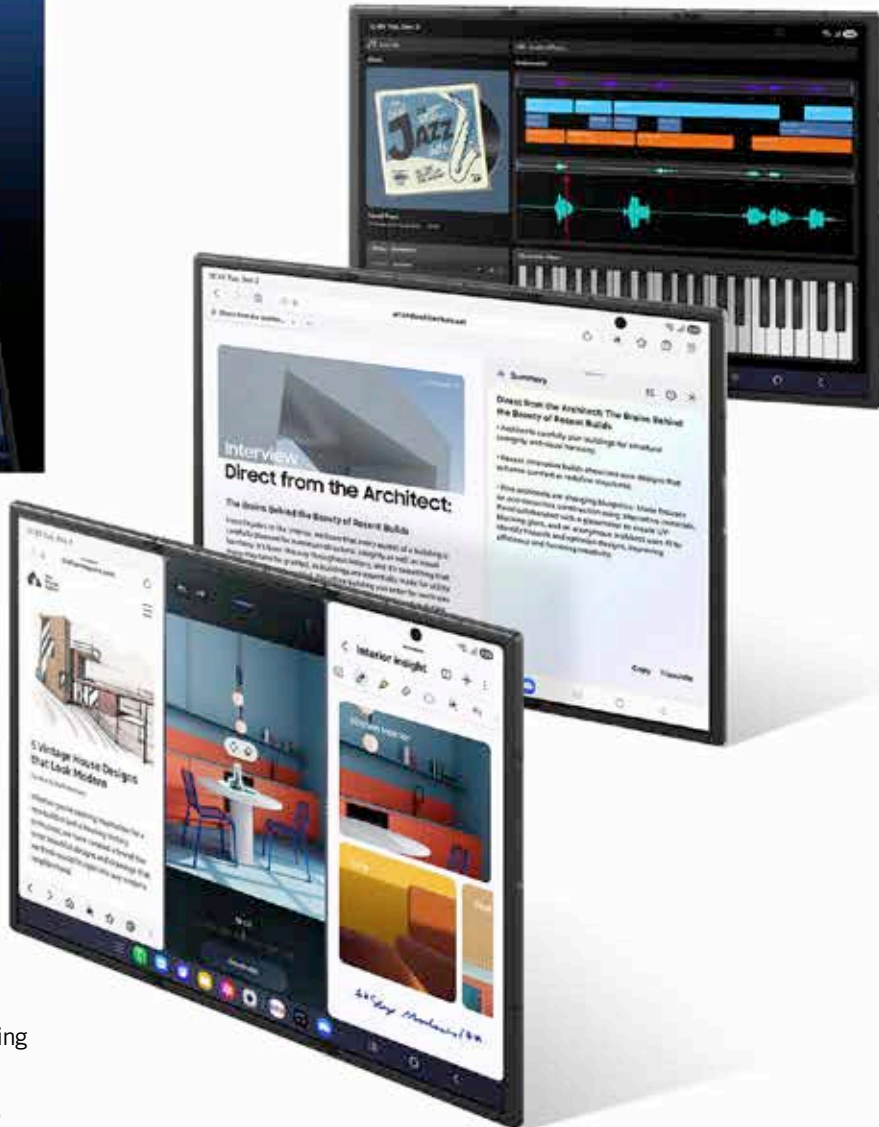
screen and another on the inner display.

The device packs a 5,600mAh battery with support for 45W wired fast charging and 15W wireless charging. Connectivity options include 5G, 4G LTE, Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth 5.4, and USB

Type-C.

Sensors on board include a side-mounted fingerprint scanner, accelerometer, gyro, barometer, geomagnetic sensor, hall sensor, proximity sensor, and ambient light sensor. ■

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ONEPLUS PAD GO 2

A Solid Mid-Range Tablet for Daily Tasks

We have been using the newly unveiled OnePlus Pad Go 2 for over a week now and here's our hands-on review.

Design and Build

Our first thought while getting the OnePlus Pad Go 2 out of its box was how different it looked compared to what we had seen in the first-gen device. The dual-tone back finish is gone and instead, we have this classy-looking pad that feels premium right from the start.

We received the Lavender Drift colour unit for this review and the colour is very refreshing. It is a soft lavender hue with a subtle shine and a matte finish. The back finish does an excellent job of resisting fingerprints and smudges.

It follows a minimalist aesthetic with only a subtle OnePlus logo in the centre and the single camera lens top right-hand side corner. The camera module sits neatly in the corner without sticking out too much. The in-hand feel is also very robust. The pad is slim and lightweight with proper

weight distribution.

All in all, when it comes to design, we feel OnePlus has definitely offered an upgrade.

Accessories – Stylo And Folio Case

We have also had the opportunity to get an in-hand feel of the OnePlus Pad Go 2 Folio Case and Stylo.

The folio instantly changes the whole feel of the tablet. It looks great and has a solid build. It definitely makes it easier to hold the tablet. You can fold the case as a stand as well.

The Pad Go 2 Stylo connects over Bluetooth 5.4 and charges via USB-C. The battery life is impressive and it can last for days on a single charge, depending on how much you will use it. Pressure sensitivity of the pen is good and it stays responsive. We tried using it notes and it was

KEY FEATURES

- 12.1-inch LCD 120Hz Display
- MediaTek Dimensity 7300-Ultra
- 8GB LPDDR5X RAM
- 128GB / 256GB (UFS 3.1) Storage
- 8MP Front and 8MP Rear Cameras
- 10,050mAh Battery capacity
- 33W Fast Charge (45W Adapter in the box)
- OxygenOS 16
- Quad Speakers
- 5G Connectivity

easy to use.

Both the stylo and the folio are sold separately. The Stylo is available at 3,999, while the folio case costs 1,499.

Display and Multimedia Experience

The display is easily one of the

best things about the OnePlus Pad Go 2. It comes with a large 12.1-inch LCD screen with a sharp 2800x1980 resolution. In daily use, it is a perfectly smooth display for watching videos, browsing the web, or reading documents. Text looks crisp and images have good clarity. Watching HDR and Dolby Vision content is enjoyable on this display.

The 120Hz refresh rate makes scrolling through apps, social media, or even long web pages feel very smooth. Animations are fluid and the interface feels quick and responsive. This smoothness also helps while gaming, as supported games remain responsive and enjoyable.

The display can go up to 900 nits in High Brightness Mode and stays around 600 nits for normal use. It is perfectly fine indoors, but the glossy screen does make outdoor use a bit difficult, as reflections can get in the way under direct sunlight.

It also has a quad-speaker setup placed on both sides of the tablet. This works well and keeps the sound balanced whether you're using it in

landscape or portrait mode.

Performance and Software Experience

The OnePlus Pad Go 2 features the MediaTek Dimensity 7300-Ultra processor with 8GB of LPDDR5X RAM and up to 256GB of UFS 3.1 storage.

Tasks like watching content on YouTube or streaming platforms, browsing the web, writing notes or scrolling through e-commerce apps, all was handled smoothly without any lag or stutters.

App loading times were quick. The tablet also felt quite responsive in moving between apps. Multitasking on Pad Go 2 works well. You can expect a reliable performance as long as you are not pushing too many heavy apps at the same time.

We tested the device on benchmarks and below are the results.

We also tried casual gaming, the tablet performs well. Lighter games run smoothly without any major issues. But you'll need to lower the graphics settings to get stable frame rates if you play some graphics-intensive

games on this device.

OxygenOS 16 based on Android 16 feels familiar, clean, and easy to use. The tablet layout also brings some useful multitasking features. There are also a bunch of AI features. We experimented with the AI Writer, AI Recorder, AI Image Editor, and AI Translate. Most of these are useful and come with decent capability of following instructions. It can come in handy if you intend to use the tablet for work or studying.

Battery Life and Charging

The Pad Go 2 packs a large 10,050mAh battery, which is optimum for everyday use. For an average user like ourselves, we easily managed to get about 15 hours of power. It is impressive for a tablet of this size. You can, however, expect draining when multitasking for too long.

OnePlus includes a 45W SuperVOOC charger in the box. However, the tablet itself supports charging speeds of up to 33W. As we tracked the charging time, it takes around 1.3 hours to go from 10 to 100%

VERDICT

Looks Eye-catching	09 / 10
Cameras Above-par	08 / 10
Performance Super smooth	09 / 10
Battery Lasts a day	09 / 10
Value For Money A little overpriced	09 / 10
OVERALL	88%



PROS

Good design and colour & Excellent display
Great battery life



CONS

No fingerprint scanner
No Accessories in the box

(For detailed specifications, please visit [mymobileindia.com](https://www.mymobileindia.com))

charge. There is also reverse wired charging at up to 6.5W.

Verdict - Should You Buy OnePlus Pad Go 2?

OnePlus Pad Go 2 is a good upgrade when you remind yourself of the first-gen Pad Go launched almost 2 years ago. It brings meaningful upgrades over its predecessor and is a perfect device for watching videos, browsing, reading and light productivity. The quad speakers and smooth display adds to the overall experience of the tablet. Battery easily lasting a full day and charging speeds is decent.

Overall, it is worth buying if you want a reliable and well-rounded mid-range Android tablet for everyday use. ■

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Xbox Unveils a Power-Packed Game Pass Lineup for December 2025

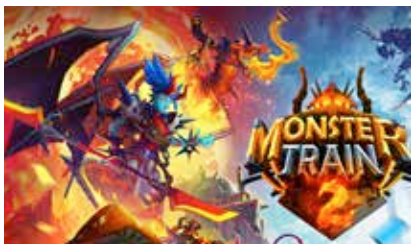
Xbox wraps up 2025 with a power-packed December Game Pass lineup, revealed through its final Wire blog update of the year. The month brings a mix of blockbuster launches, day-one indies, seasonal events, and fresh perks across Cloud, Console, Handheld, and PC. With no additional updates until January, this roadmap offers a complete snapshot of what's arriving—and what's leaving—the service. From Indiana Jones and Mortal Kombat 1 to creative surprises like Spray Paint Simulator and Routine, December delivers one of Game Pass's most diverse drops yet.

Xbox has officially revealed its complete December 2025 Game Pass schedule, confirming all the titles set to arrive across Cloud, Console, Handheld, and PC throughout the month. The update was published last week via Microsoft's official Wire blog. The company outlines which subscription tiers each game will support and highlights why this month's announcement is unique. Xbox will not issue another update until regular monthly rollouts resume in January.

The detailed roadmap also walks subscribers through upcoming day-one releases, new membership perks, and the list of games scheduled to leave the service later this month.

Early December Lineup

Monster Train 2 – December 3



Enhanced for Game Pass Premium, this sequel returns players to a celestial showdown as angels and demons unite to reclaim Heaven from the Titans.

Spray Paint Simulator – December 3



A cosy, creativity-driven builder where players grow a painting business and transform an entire town into a vibrant artistic space, complete with a Free Spray mode.

33 Immortals (Game Preview) – December 4



A large-scale, 33-player co-op roguelike where damned souls fight back against divine judgement through massive raids and instant matchmaking.

Indiana Jones and the Great Circle – December 4



Set between Raiders of the Lost Ark and The Last Crusade, this first-person action adventure places players in the centre of a globe-trotting mystery set in 1937.

Routine – December 4



Launching day one on Game Pass, Routine is a retro-futuristic sci-fi horror adventure set in an abandoned lunar base with a distinctly 1980s-inspired design.

Mid-December Highlights

A Game About Digging A Hole – December 9



A minimalist, resource-focused digging experience where uncovering a secret becomes the core objective.

Death Howl – December 9



Another day-one launch that blends soulslike exploration with deck-building mechanics across a haunting spirit world.

Dome Keeper – December 9



A roguelike survival mining game where players dig for resources and rush back to defend their dome in an increasingly frantic loop.

Mortal Kombat 1 – December 10



The 2023 reboot of the iconic fighting franchise joins the Game Pass library.

Bratz: Rhythm and Style – December 11



Fans can engage in fashion challenges, dance mini-games, and globe-spanning style missions with the classic Bratz characters.

In Case You Missed It

Recent additions include -

- CloverPit, a rogue-lite built around a deadly slot machine
- Marvel Cosmic Invasion, a fast-paced beat 'em up starring 15 Marvel heroes
- Total Chaos, a gritty survival horror experience
- Young Suns, a co-op life-sim set on Jupiter's moons

Game Pass Essential Additions – December 3

Essential tier members will gain access to Stellaris, World War Z: Aftermath, and Medieval Dynasty, expanding the lineup with strategy, zombie action, and historical survival gameplay.



Seasonal Content & DLC Updates

Sea of Thieves: Season 18 – December 11



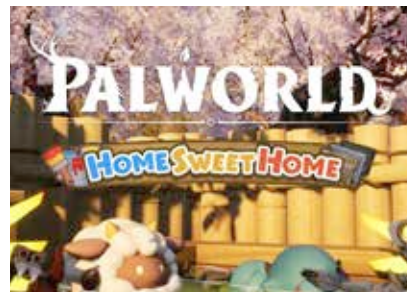
Players return to The Devil's Roar, face new enemies, and join Festival of Giving community events.

Dead by Daylight: Bone Chill – December 9 to January 6



The winter event returns with snowy chaos and the Snowskull combat feature.

Palworld: Home Sweet Home – December 17



The update includes an Ultrakill collaboration, expanded building customisation, and new traversal features.

New Perks for Game Pass Members

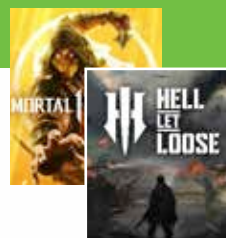
Players can now claim exclusive items including -

- PUBG Battlegrounds Survivor Pack
- Delta Force customisation bundles
- Toyota Supra LBWK Edition Pack for The Crew Motorfest

Games Leaving Game Pass in December

Several titles will exit the library soon -

- Mortal Kombat 11, Still Wakes the Deep, and Wildfrost on December 15
- Carrion and Hell Let Loose on December 31



Subscribers can save up to 20% on any exiting game they wish to keep before it leaves the service. ■

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Samsung Bets Big on India With Local Display Manufacturing and Chip Sourcing

SAMSUNG DISPLAY NOIDA

Samsung is reportedly preparing to strengthen its manufacturing presence in India. According to a recent report, the South Korean tech giant has applied for government incentives to expand mobile display assembly at its Noida facility. The move is expected to boost supply chain resilience, exports and local value addition.

Samsung Awaiting PLI Approval for Display Manufacturing

As per a report by The Economic Times, Samsung is currently awaiting approval to manufacture smartphone displays in India under the government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for components. The company has sought incentives specifically to assemble mobile phone display panels locally. Rather than focusing solely on final device assembly, Samsung appears to be gradually expanding higher-value-added manufacturing capabilities within the country.

Samsung already runs its largest

smartphone manufacturing plant globally in Noida, which has evolved into a major export base over the years. The company began assembling display panels at this facility in 2021, following a shift of certain operations from China.

Now, Samsung is said to be seeking approval to further scale up smartphone display assembly at the same Noida plant. The expansion is reportedly aimed at meeting rising demand, rather than relocating manufacturing capacity from other countries.

No Plans to Shift Production From Vietnam

Samsung SWA President and CEO JB Park told the publication that the company has also applied for an extension under the smartphone PLI scheme, which recently concluded. He added that Samsung is in talks with the Indian government regarding continued incentives under a new phase of the programme. Under the PLI framework, companies are eligible for tax benefits and financial incentives if they achieve annual production targets set by the government.

Park clarified that Samsung does not intend to move manufacturing capacity from

countries such as Vietnam to India. Vietnam will continue to serve as Samsung's largest global manufacturing base. However, he noted that India could attract additional investments if demand grows organically.

The executive also revealed that Samsung may consider sourcing semiconductor chips from Indian suppliers, provided they meet global benchmarks for quality and pricing. He added that the company prefers working with local partners where possible and plans to gradually expand its supplier ecosystem as domestic capabilities improve.

India's Growing Importance for Samsung

India has emerged as a critical market for Samsung's global business. In the financial year 2025, the company's revenue from India crossed \$11 billion (approximately Rs. 98,700 crore), with exports contributing around 42 percent of the total, according to Samsung.

Smartphones account for nearly 70 percent of Samsung's India revenue, while the remaining share comes from home appliances and computing products. Looking ahead, Samsung expects non-smartphone categories to contribute roughly half of its India revenue over the next decade. ■

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Nothing Phone (3a) Community Edition Launches in India with Just 1,000 Units

Nothing has officially unveiled the Nothing Phone (3a) Community Edition, a special-edition variant of the Phone (3a) created through the company's global Community Edition Project. This initiative allows fans and creators to contribute directly to the development of real product elements spanning hardware, software,

accessories, and marketing. The company reveals that it received over 700 entries and selected four winning concepts that have been transformed into the final device and its campaign.

Nothing Phone (3a) Community Edition Is Here

The winning hardware concept by Emre Kayganaci is rooted in late '90s and

early 2000s tech nostalgia. According to Nothing, the packaging and rear-panel design channel the playful feel of handheld gaming devices from that era while maintaining the futuristic design language of the Phone (3a).

The new colour finish also sets it apart from the standard Blue, White, and Black options.

For the new 2025

accessory category, the winning idea called Dice comes from designers Ambrogio Tacconi and Louis Aymonod (Reveland). The cube-shaped accessory draws inspiration from more than 5,000 years of dice symbolism and features numbering in Nothing's Ndot 55 font.

In the software category, designer Jad Zock created a custom lock-screen clock





KEY FEATURES

- IDC forecasts a 30% YoY growth for foldable smartphones.
- The iPhone Fold is expected in late 2026 and is projected to capture 22% of unit share and 34% of market value in its first year with a premium price of around \$2,400.
- Apple's foldable will feature a crease-free 7.8-inch inner display, an under-display camera, and advanced hinge systems.
- Apple anticipates 8–10 million unit sales backed by Samsung Display panels and diversified suppliers.

that uses multiple font weights to minimise visual clutter and guide the eye more naturally. Jad also designed the exclusive wallpapers bundled with the Phone (3a) Community Edition. These wallpapers arrive in two blue and two purple versions, connecting the phone's rear colour and texture to the UI and incorporating subtle easter eggs.

Meanwhile, the marketing campaign titled "Made Together" was developed by Sushruta Sarkar.

Price and Availability in India

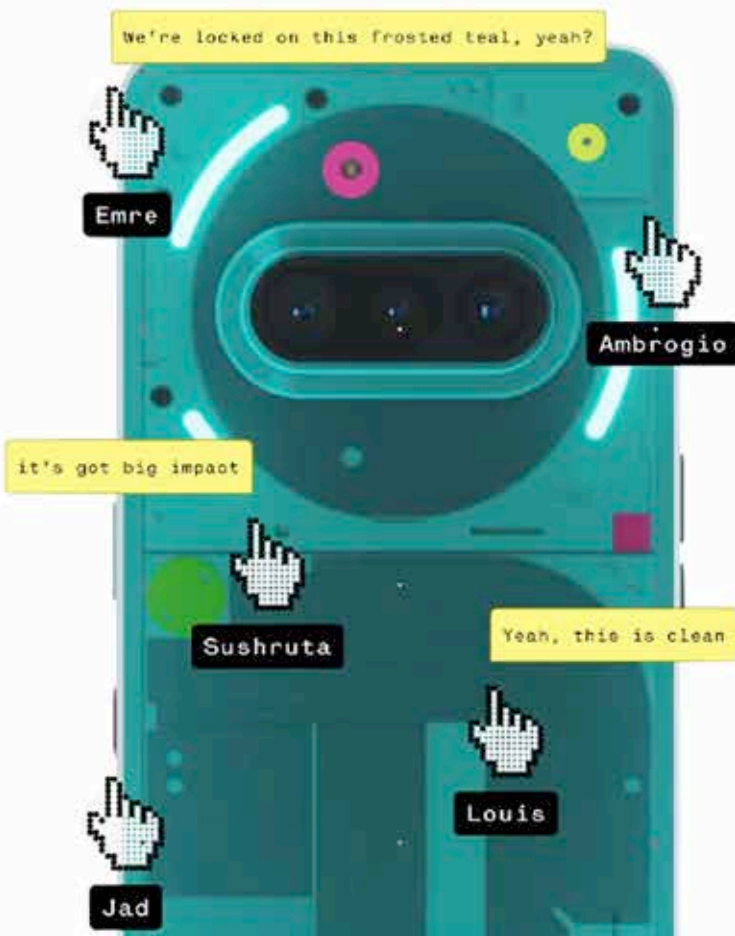
The Nothing Phone (3a)

Community Edition is priced at Rs. 28,999 in India for the single model featuring 12GB RAM and 256GB storage. Only 1,000 units will be produced globally as part of this limited release.

Indian customers will be able to purchase the device at a special drop event in Bengaluru on December 13.

Features

Apart from the unique design, the Nothing Phone (3a) Community Edition carries the same specifications as the standard Phone (3a). It features a 6.77-inch FHD+ AMOLED display with a 120Hz refresh rate and up to 3000 nits peak



brightness. Powering the device is the Snapdragon 7s Gen 3 chipset, paired with Android 15 and Nothing OS 3.1. The company promises three Android OS updates and six years of security patches. While not class-leading in performance, the phone comfortably handles daily tasks.

The device includes the Essential Key beneath the power button, which opens

Essential Space, an AI-driven space for quick note-taking and idea capture. Camera hardware includes a 50MP main sensor, an 8MP ultra-wide lens, and a 50MP 2x telephoto camera with a 25cm telemacro mode. On the front is a 32MP selfie camera.

A 5,000mAh battery with 50W PD fast charging keeps the phone powered throughout the day. ■

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CLAIR OBSCUR

EXPEDITION

33

Clair Obscur:

Expedition 33 Sweeps The Game Awards 2025 With Nine Wins

Clair Obscur: Expedition 33 delivered a historic sweep at The Game Awards 2025, winning nine awards including Game of the Year. The debut RPG dominated major categories, while Xbox, Nintendo, and indie titles also made strong showings, marking one of the most decisive ceremonies in the event's history.



Clair Obscur: Expedition 33 delivered one of the most dominating performances in the history of The Game Awards. It secured nine victories out of its 10 nominations at the 2025 ceremony held recently. The debut title from French indie studio Sandfall Interactive not only claimed the prestigious Game of the Year award but also walked away with several top honors including Best Game Direction, Best Narrative, Best Art Direction, Best Score and Music, and Best Performance.

The turn-based RPG continued its winning streak across genre categories as well, grabbing Best RPG, Best Independent Game, and Best Debut Indie Game. Its only loss came in the Best Audio Design category, where EA's Battlefield 6 took the win. The achievement marks a massive milestone for Clair Obscur: Expedition 33, which launched in April and quickly gained widespread acclaim from both critics and players.

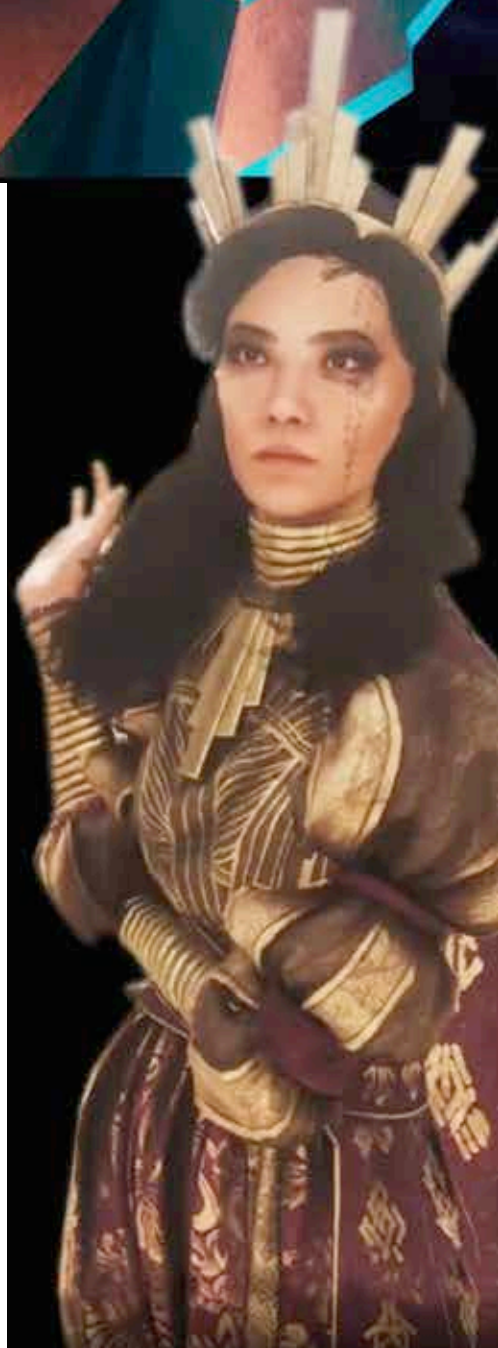
Other notable winners of the evening included Arc Raiders, the PvPvE extraction shooter from Embark Studios, which earned the

award for Best Multiplayer Game, surpassing contenders such as Battlefield 6, Elden Ring Nightreign, and Split Fiction.

Xbox secured two awards thanks to its first-party lineup. id Software's Doom: The Dark Ages won Innovation in Accessibility, while Compulsion Games' South of Midnight claimed the Games for Impact award.

Despite leading the nominations with 19 entries, Sony managed to secure only one win. HBO's The Last of Us: Season 2 emerged as the winner of Best Adaptation. Nintendo, meanwhile, secured two victories with its Switch 2 exclusives, Donkey Kong Bananza winning Best Family Game and Mario Kart World taking home Best Sports/Racing Game.

Among the genre winners, Hades 2, also a Game of the Year nominee, was named Best Action Game. Hollow Knight: Silksong won Best Action/Adventure Game, Fatal Fury: City of the Wolves earned Best Fighting Game, and Final Fantasy Tactics - The Ivalice Chronicles won in the Best Sim/Strategy category. Grand Theft Auto 6 unsurprisingly claimed the Most Anticipated Game award.



The Games Award 2025

Game of the Year

Winner – *Clair Obscur: Expedition 33* (Sandfall Interactive/ Kepler Interactive)



- Death Stranding 2: On the Beach (Kojima Productions/ Sony Interactive Entertainment)
- Donkey Kong Bananza (Nintendo EPD/ Nintendo)
- Hades II (Supergiant Games)
- Hollow Knight: Silksong (Team Cherry)
- Kingdom Come: Deliverance II (Warhorse Studios/ Deep Silver)



Best Game Direction

Winner – *Clair Obscur: Expedition 33* (Sandfall Interactive/ Kepler Interactive)



- Death Stranding 2: On the Beach (Kojima Productions/ SIE)
- Ghost of Yotei (Sucker Punch Productions/ SIE)
- Hades II (Supergiant Games)
- Split Fiction (Hazelight Studios/EA)



Best Narrative

Winner – *Clair Obscur: Expedition 33* (Sandfall Interactive/ Kepler Interactive)



- Death Stranding 2: On the Beach (Kojima Productions/ SIE)
- Ghost of Yotei (Sucker Punch Productions/ SIE)
- Kingdom Come: Deliverance II (Warhorse Studios/ Deep Silver)
- Silent Hill f (NeoBards Entertainment/ Konami)



Best Art Direction

Winner – *Clair Obscur: Expedition 33* (Sandfall Interactive/ Kepler Interactive)



- Death Stranding 2: On the Beach (Kojima Productions/ SIE)
- Ghost of Yotei (Sucker Punch Productions/ SIE)
- Hades II (Supergiant Games)
- Hollow Knight: Silksong (Team Cherry)



Best Score and Music

Winner – *Lorien Testard, Clair Obscur: Expedition 33*



- Christopher Larkin, Hollow Knight: Silksong
- Darren Korb, Hades II
- Toma Otowa, Ghost of Yōtei
- Woodkid and Ludvig Forssell, Death Stranding 2: On the Beach



Best Audio Design

Winner – *Battlefield 6* (Battlefield Studios/ EA)

BATTLEFIELD
6

- Clair Obscur: Expedition 33 (Sandfall Interactive/ Kepler Interactive)
- Death Stranding 2: On the Beach (Kojima Productions/ SIE)
- Ghost of Yotei (Sucker Punch Productions/ SIE)
- Silent Hill f (NeoBards Entertainment/ Konami)

Best Performance

Winner – *Jennifer English, Clair Obscur: Expedition 33*

- Ben Starr, Clair Obscur: Expedition 33
- Charlie Cox, Clair Obscur: Expedition 33
- Erika Ishii, Ghost of Yotei
- Konatsu Kato, Silent Hill f
- Troy Baker, Indiana Jones and the Great Circle

EXPEDITION
33

Innovation in Accessibility

Winner – *Doom: The Dark Ages* (id Software/Bethesda Softworks)

DOOM
THE DARK AGES

- Assassin's Creed Shadows (Ubisoft)
- Atomfall (Rebellion)
- EA Sports FC 26 (EA Canada/EA Romania/EA)
- South of Midnight (Compulsion Games/Xbox Game Studios)

Games for Impact

Winner – *South of Midnight* (Compulsion Games/ Xbox Game Studios)

- Consume Me (Jenny Jiao Hsia/ AP Thomson/ Hexacutable)
- Despelote (Julián Cordero/ Sebastián Valbuena/ Panic)
- Lost Records: Bloom & Rage (Don't Nod Montreal/ Don't Nod)
- Wanderstop (Ivy Road/ Annapurna Interactive)

SOUTH OF
MIDNIGHT

Best Ongoing Game

Winner – *No Man's Sky* (Hello Games)

NO MAN'S SKY

- Final Fantasy XIV (Square Enix)
- Fortnite (Epic Games)
- Helldivers 2 (Arrowhead Game Studios/ SIE)
- Marvel Rivals (NetEase Games)

Best Community Support

Winner – *Baldur's Gate 3* (Larian Studios)

- Final Fantasy XIV (Square Enix)
- Fortnite (Epic Games)
- Helldivers 2 (Arrowhead Game Studios/ Sony Interactive Entertainment)
- No Man's Sky (Hello Games)

LARIAN
STUDIOS

Best Independent Game

Winner – *Clair Obscur: Expedition 33* (Sandfall Interactive/ Kepler Interactive)



- Absolum (Guard Crush Games/ Supamonks/ Dotemu)
- Ball x Pit (Kenny Sun/ Devolver Digital)
- Blue Prince (Dogubomb/ Raw Fury)
- Hades II (Supergiant Games)
- Hollow Knight: Silksong (Team Cherry)



Best Debut Indie Game

Winner – *Clair Obscur: Expedition 33* (Sandfall Interactive/ Kepler Interactive)



- Blue Prince (Dogubomb/ Raw Fury)
- Despelote (Julián Cordero/ Sebastián Valbuena/Panic)
- Dispatch (AdHoc Studio)



Best Mobile Game

Winner – *Umamusume: Pretty Derby* (Cygames Inc.)



- Destiny: Rising (NetEase Games)
- Persona 5: The Phantom X (Black Wings Game Studio/ Sega)
- Sonic Rumble (Rovio Entertainment/Sega)
- Wuthering Waves (Kuro Games)



Best VR/ AR Game

Winner – *The Midnight Walk* (MoonHood/ Fast Travel Games)



- Alien: Rogue Incursion (Survios)
- Arken Age (VitriviusVR)
- Ghost Town (Fireproof Games)
- Marvel's Deadpool VR (Twisted Pixel Games/ Oculus Studios)



Best Action Game

Winner – *Hades II* (Supergiant Games)



- Battlefield 6 (Battlefield Studios/ EA)
- Doom: The Dark Ages (id Software/ Bethesda Softworks)
- Ninja Gaiden 4 (Platinum Games/ Team Ninja/ Xbox Game Studios)
- Shinobi: Art of Vengeance (Lizardcube/ Sega)



Best Action/ Adventure Game

Winner – *Hollow Knight: Silksong* (Team Cherry)



- Death Stranding 2: On the Beach (Kojima Productions/ SIE)
- Ghost of Yotei (Sucker Punch Productions/ SIE)
- Indiana Jones and the Great Circle (MachineGames/ Bethesda Softworks)
- Split Fiction (Hazelight Studios/ EA)



Best RPG*Winner – Clair Obscur: Expedition 33 (Sandfall Interactive/ Kepler Interactive)*

- Avowed (Obsidian Entertainment/ Xbox Game Studios)
- Kingdom Come: Deliverance II (Warhorse Studios/ Deep Silver)
- The Outer Worlds 2 (Obsidian Entertainment/ Xbox Game Studios)
- Monster Hunter Wilds (Capcom)

Best Fighting Game*Winner – Fatal Fury: City of the Wolves (SNK Corporation)*

- 2XKO (Riot Games)
- Capcom Fighting Collection 2 (Capcom)
- Mortal Kombat: Legacy Kollection (Digital Eclipse/ Atari)
- Virtua Fighter 5 R.E.V.O. World Stage (Ryu Ga Gotoku Studio/ Sega)

**Best Family Game***Winner – Donkey Kong Bananza (Nintendo EPD/ Nintendo)*

- Lego Party! (SMG Studio/ Fictions)
- Lego Voyagers (Light Brick Studios/ Annapurna Interactive)
- Mario Kart World (Nintendo EPD/ Nintendo)
- Sonic Racing: CrossWorlds (Sonic Team/ Sega)
- Split Fiction (Hazelight Studios/ EA)

Best Sim/ Strategy Game*Winner – Final Fantasy Tactics – The Ivalice Chronicles (Square Enix)*

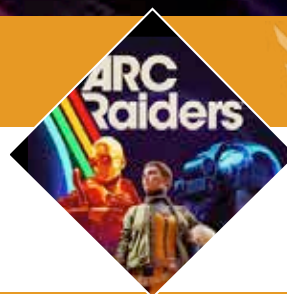
- The Alters (11 Bit Studios)
- Jurassic World Evolution 3 (Frontier Developments)
- Sid Meier's Civilization VII (Firaxis Games/ 2K)
- Tempest Rising (Slipgate Ironworks/ 3D Realms)
- Two Point Museum (Two Point Studios/ Sega)

**Best Sports/ Racing Game***Winner – Mario Kart World (Nintendo EPD/ Nintendo)*

- EA Sports FC 26 (EA Canada/ EA Romania/ EA)
- F1 25 (Codemasters/ EA)
- Rematch (Slolap/ Kepler Interactive)
- Sonic Racing: CrossWorlds (Sonic Team/ Sega)

Best Multiplayer Game*Winner – Arc Raiders (Embark Studios)*

- Battlefield 6 (Electronic Arts)
- Elden Ring Nightreign (FromSoftware/ Bandai Namco Entertainment)
- Peak (Aggro Crab/ Landfall)
- Split Fiction (Hazelight/ EA)



Best Adaptation

Winner – *The Last of Us: Season 2* (HBO/ PlayStation Productions)



- A Minecraft Movie (Legendary Pictures/ Mojang/Warner Bros)
- Devil May Cry (Studio Mir/ Capcom/Netflix)
- Splinter Cell: Deathwatch (FOST Studio/ Ubisoft/Netflix)
- Until Dawn (Screen Gems/ PlayStation Productions)



Most Anticipated Game

Winner – *Grand Theft Auto VI* (Rockstar Games)



- 007 First Light (IO Interactive)
- Marvel's Wolverine (Insomniac Games/ SIE)
- Resident Evil Requiem (Capcom)
- The Witcher IV (CD Projekt Red)



Content Creator of the Year

Winner – *MoistCr1TiKaL*



- Caedrel
- Kai Cenat
- Sakura Miko
- The Burnt Peanut



Best Esports Game

Winner – *Counter-Strike 2* (Valve)



- DOTA 2 (Valve)
- League of Legends (Riot)
- Mobile Legends: Bang Bang (Moonton)
- Valorant (Riot)



Best Esports Athlete

Winner – *Chovy – Jeong Ji-hoon* (League of Legends)



- brawk – Brock Somerhalder (Valorant)
- f0rsakeN – Jason Susanto (Valorant)
- Kakeru – Kakeru Watanabe (Street Fighter)
- MenaRD – Saul Leonardo (Street Fighter)
- Zyw0o – Mathieu Herbaut (Counter-Strike 2)



Best Esports Team

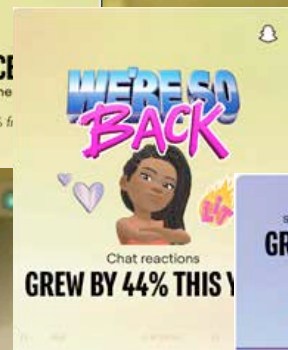
Winner – *Team Vitality – Counter-Strike 2*



- Gen.G – League of Legends
- NRG – Valorant
- Team Falcons – DOTA 2
- Team Liquid PH – Mobile Legends: Bang Bang



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Snapchat's 2025 Recap Brings a Year of Memories to the Spotlight

Snapchat has started rolling out its 2025 Recaps, offering users a personalised year-in-review experience on the platform. The Recap appears as a short, auto-generated video that brings together highlights from Snaps, Stories, and Chats. The video showcases how users shared content, interacted, and stayed connected throughout the year.

The rollout of the 2025 Recap also comes ahead of upcoming changes to Snapchat's Memories storage policy. Starting in 2026, free Memories storage will be limited to 5GB. Users who exceed this limit will need to opt for a paid plan, beginning at \$1.99 per month for 100GB of storage. Snapchat+ subscribers will receive up to 250GB, while the Platinum tier will offer as much as 5TB as part of its monthly subscription.

How to Check Your 2025 Snapchat Recap?

To view your Snapchat 2025 Recap,

open the Snapchat app on your phone and swipe up from the camera screen to access Memories. There, you should find a card labelled "Your 2025 Snap Recap." Tapping on it will prompt Snapchat to automatically generate your recap video.

Once ready, the Recap can be watched, saved, or shared directly from the Memories section.

Similar to year-end wrap-ups from platforms like Spotify and Apple Music, Snapchat's Recap focuses on visual memories and messaging habits that are unique to its app.

Snapchat Releases 2025 Engagement Data

Along with the launch, Snapchat has released fresh engagement data for 2025.

Voice calling continues to gain momentum on the app, with users now spending close to 1.7 billion minutes per day on calls. This represents nearly a 30% increase compared to last year.

Group conversations also remain

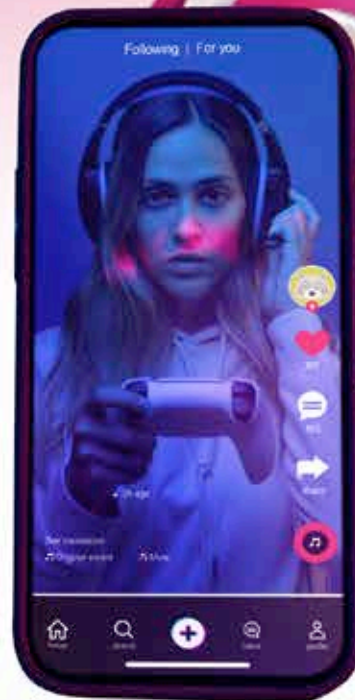


central to the Snapchat experience. According to the company, participation in group chats rose by more than 5% in 2025. In some cases, highly active users sent over 8,800 messages to their most-used group chat during the year.

Expressive tools saw strong growth as well. Chat Reactions increased by 44% with the heart emoji emerging as the most frequently used reaction. Sticker usage also climbed with around three million additional users adopting stickers as part of their regular chat activity. ■

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Instagram Introduces 'Your Algorithm' AI Tool to Give Users More Control Over Reels Recommendations



Instagram has announced a new AI-powered feature called "Your Algorithm," designed to give users deeper control over the content that appears in their feeds. According to the company, this update uses artificial intelligence to better understand and adapt to users' changing interests. It ensures more personalised and relevant recommendations.

"Instagram has always been a place to dive deep into your interests and connect with friends. As your interests evolve over time, we want to give you more meaningful ways to control what you see on Instagram, starting with Reels. Using AI, you can now more easily view and personalise the topics that shape your Reels, making recommendations feel even more tailored to you," the company said in an announcement blog post.

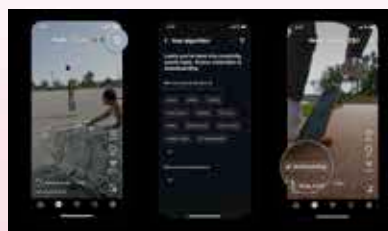
How the New Reels Algorithm Control Work?

The "Your Algorithm" feature can be accessed directly from the Reels screen. While watching a Reel, users

can tap the new icon, represented by two lines with hearts and located in the upper right corner. This opens the "Your Algorithm" menu, where several customisation tools are available.

How the New Reels Algorithm Control Work?

The "Your Algorithm" feature can



be accessed directly from the Reels screen. While watching a Reel, users can tap the new icon, represented by two lines with hearts and located in the upper right corner. This opens the "Your Algorithm" menu, where several customisation tools are available.

According to the Instagram blog post, the feature includes three main functions -

- See Your Top Interests - Users can check a summary of topics Instagram believes are most relevant to them based on their activity.
- Tune Preferences - Users can manually type in specific topics they want to see more or less of,

allowing the Reels algorithm to adjust recommendations instantly.

- Share 'Your Algorithm' - Instagram also lets users share their list of interests via Stories, giving followers a peek into the type of content they enjoy.

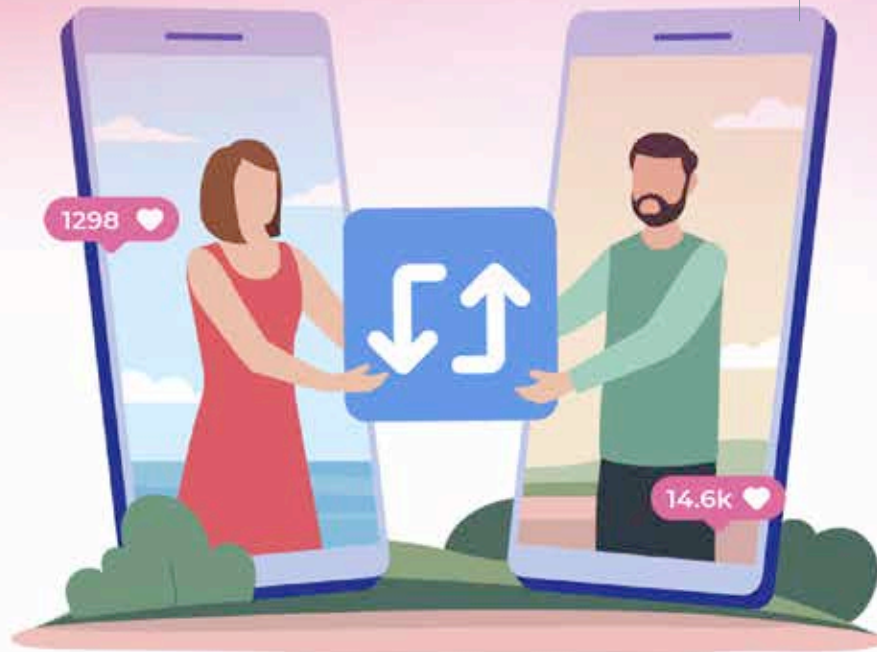
The Wired, however, reports that Meta isn't letting go of AI altogether. The Wired report notes, "When a user opens the new "Your Algorithm" tab on Instagram, they'll see a brief summary of what they've "been into" while scrolling through Reels. The topics displayed are based on recent user activity, and the summaries are made using generative AI. Meta's examples of topics that users could add with the new feature include "Horror movies," "Chess," and "College football."

Availability and Future Expansion

"Your Algorithm" is now rolling out to users in the United States and will expand globally in English in the coming weeks. Instagram also confirmed plans to extend this algorithm-control capability to other sections of the app including the Explore tab and additional surfaces. It will be offering even more ways for users to tailor their experience. ■

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Instagram Rolls Out New Option to Reshare Any Public Story on Your Profile



Instagram has introduced a new update that allows users to repost any public Instagram Story to their own profiles. Interestingly, this feature works even if you are not tagged in the original post. Announcing the new features in a post on Threads, Instagram's official account wrote, "ever see a public story you're not tagged in that you want to share to your own story? now you can."

Here's everything you need to know about the new features.

Instagram Allows Users To Reshare Any Public Story

The platform already enabled sharing

regular posts to Stories back in 2018, following the initial launch of Stories in 2016. However, the Story resharing feature remained limited until now.

The "Add to your story" feature previously worked only when a creator specifically tagged another user with their @ handle. Without a tag, the only way to share someone's Story was by taking a screenshot or recording your screen, which not only reduced image quality but also removed proper credit to the original creator.

The latest update eliminates these limitations, making Instagram's sharing tools more aligned with familiar features

like "Retweet" on X (formerly Twitter) or the "Share" function on TikTok.

How the New Story Reshare Works?

Instagram's upgraded sharing system is built to improve how public content spreads across the platform.

The feature

applies only to public accounts. Stories from private profiles will remain non-shareable, preserving their existing privacy rules. When users view a public Story, they will now see an "Add to Story" option, letting them instantly repost it. This sits alongside the usual options to share via DMs or external apps.

Meanwhile, any reshared Story will show the original creator's username and link back to their profile, ensuring proper credit.

Privacy Options and Restrictions

Instagram has also included privacy protections for creators who prefer not to have their content circulated widely. Public account owners can head to the privacy settings and toggle the "Allow Sharing to Story" option. Turning it off removes the ability for others to share their public Stories, even if the content is visible.

The feature is currently rolling out globally for both iOS and Android users. ■

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Spotify Wrapped 2025 Goes Live With New Interactive Features, Listening Age Metric and Multiplayer ‘Wrapped Party’

Spotify Wrapped 2025 is officially here, marking the return of the streaming platform’s most anticipated annual feature. After last year’s widely debatable AI-heavy new features, Spotify has shifted back to the formula with deeply personalised insights, creative visual experiences and social-friendly features powered by users’ listening data.

Spotify Wrapped 2025

According to Spotify, Wrapped 2025 is its biggest and most ambitious version yet.

During a press briefing, Matt Luhks, Spotify’s Senior Director of Global Marketing, acknowledged the mixed reception of last year’s approach. He noted that the 2024 edition brought “a lot of feedback,” describing it as a balance of positive comments and “more constructive feedback,” even though it saw higher engagement than previous years.

“We take all of that in. We use that as information, insights, [and] inspiration for how we approached Wrapped this year,” Luhks said ahead of the rollout.

He added, “What our users tell us about Wrapped means a lot to us, so it was really informative in how we approached Wrapped this year. And what we tried to build was the most creative, most innovative, most engaging Wrapped ever.”

Starting “We’re the original and, we believe, still the best,” Luhks emphasised that the team set a high

benchmark for the 2025 edition of the now 11-year-old tradition.

New Features in Spotify Wrapped 2025

This year’s Wrapped introduces nearly a dozen new features alongside familiar staples such as top songs, top artists and top genres. Users also get more transparency into their data than ever before.

One of the biggest additions is Wrapped Party, Spotify’s first live multiplayer experience. Users can invite up to nine friends to compare listening habits in real time. Unlike simple side-by-side stat comparisons, Wrapped Party generates unique group insights like who is the “most obsessed fan,” the “early bird,” the “picky listener,” or the “dinner table explainer,” the person who listens to the most news-related podcasts. These labels update dynamically, ensuring each session is different.

Your Top Songs Playlist also gets an upgrade, now showing play counts for each track so you can visualise exactly how much time you spent with your favourite music.

Other new experiences include –

- Top Song Quiz – Guess which track defined your year before the results are revealed.
- Listening Age – A new metric that compares your 2025 listening habits with others in your age group by analysing the release years of the songs you played most.
- Wrapped Clubs – Users are sorted into one of six listening styles

such as the “Soft Hearts Club,” “Club Serotonin,” “Full Charge Crew,” or “Cosmic Stereo Club.” Each listener is assigned a role like leader, scout, or archivist, based on their musical behaviour.

As usual, Wrapped showcases your top songs, artists, genres, and for the first time, your top albums. Fans of podcasts and audiobooks will also get detailed insights, while creators will continue to receive their own versions of Wrapped.

Spotify has again included video messages for top fans, now expanded to include authors alongside artists and podcasters.

Spotify also revealed its global charts for the year –

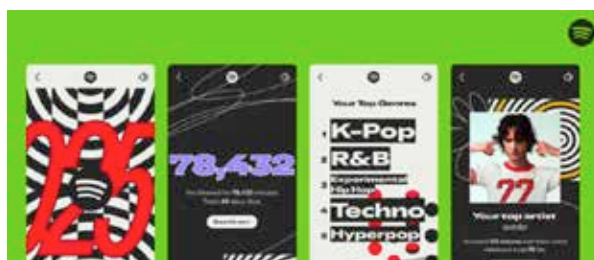
- Top Artist & Top Song: Bad Bunny
- Top Album: Bad Bunny
- Top Podcast: “The Joe Rogan Experience”
- Top Audiobook Author: Rebecca Yarros (“Fourth Wing”)

How to Access Spotify Wrapped 2025?

To unlock your Wrapped, you must have streamed at least 30 songs for more than 30 seconds each and listened to a minimum of five different artists in 2025. The feature is available to both Free and Premium users in nearly all regions via the Spotify app on iOS and Android.

Users can find their Wrapped by checking the top of the Home tab or by searching “2025 Wrapped” within the app. ■

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Facebook Rolls Out Major App Redesign With New Feed, Search and Navigation



Facebook has announced a significant redesign of its mobile app, introducing refreshed interfaces for the Feed, search, navigation and content creation tools. As part of this update, search results will now appear in a grid layout, and multiple photos in a post will also be displayed in a grid for improved viewing.

Additionally, Home, Reels, Friends, Marketplace, Notifications, and Profile tabs will now sit together in a single bar at the bottom of the screen.

Feed and Navigation Redesign

Facebook says it is making the Feed “simpler and more immersive,” allowing users to enjoy content more easily and engage with posts through shared interests. Multiple-photo posts will now appear in a uniform grid, photos can be liked with a double-tap and Feed items can be viewed full-screen when tapped.

The platform is also shifting its most-used features like Reels, Friends, Marketplace, and Profile front and centre on the tab bar for quicker access. The app will introduce a

refreshed menu layout and cleaner tab notifications to help users navigate recent activity more efficiently.

Search results are also getting a major overhaul. The new grid-style layout supports all content types for a more visual experience. Facebook is testing a full-screen viewer that allows users to browse photo and video results without losing their place with plans to expand support for more content formats in the coming months.

Users will also be able to provide feedback on Posts or Reels they don't prefer, helping Facebook refine future recommendations.

Content Creation Made Easier

The company has redesigned the creation tools for Stories and Feed posts to make them more intuitive. Popular options like adding music or tagging friends are now easier to access. Advanced features such as colored text backgrounds remain available with a single tap.

Commenting has also been improved across Feed, Groups, and Reels with streamlined replies, clearer badges and new pinning options for better conversation flow. Update d admin controls will help creators and group managers monitor discussions more effectively. Users can now anonymously flag comments that are

off-topic or lack relevance.

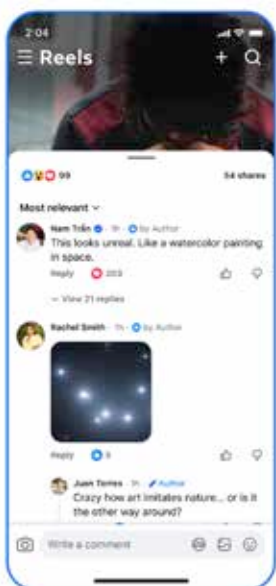
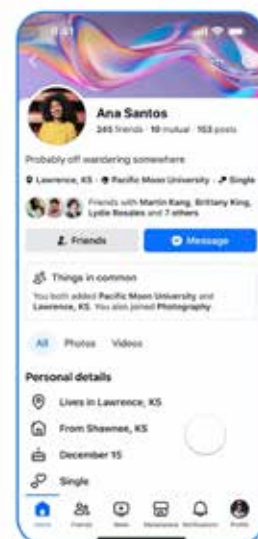
Profiles Designed for Real Connections

Facebook is enhancing the way users discover people with shared interests. When someone updates their profile, the app will surface friends who have similar passions or may offer useful advice. For example, updating your profile with an interest in sourdough baking or upcoming plans to visit Nashville will prompt Facebook to highlight friends who can recommend starter tips or suggest travel spots.

These profile updates are intended to help people connect more deeply, from sharing hobbies and travel plans to highlighting what shows they're watching or music they're enjoying. Users can continue to control who sees each part of their profile and decide whether new updates appear on their Feed.

With this redesign, Facebook is aiming to refresh the user experience across discovery, navigation, conversations, and connections. It is aimed at making the app cleaner, more engaging, and more personalised. ■

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Spotify Introduces 'Prompted Playlist' to Give Users More Control Over Their Listening Algorithm

Spotify has announced a new feature called Prompted Playlist, designed to give listeners deeper control over how the platform's recommendation algorithm works. The feature is currently rolling out in beta across select global markets. Announcing the new feature in a newsroom post, Spotify writes, "we're entering a moment where you don't just listen to Spotify, you control it. Imagine a Spotify that doesn't just passively learn from you but literally listens to you. One you can steer and shape with your own words. For the first time, your ideas, your logic, and your creativity can actually power the Spotify algorithm, directing how it thinks, adapts, and responds to you."

According to the company, users can describe what they want to hear and set specific rules for personalised

playlists. Prompted Playlist pulls from a user's entire Spotify listening history and allows them to refine results by editing the prompt or starting over with a new one.

How Spotify Prompted Playlist Work?

With the Prompted Playlist feature, listeners can simply describe the kind of music they're in the mood for. And Spotify will generate a playlist that aligns with their taste by analysing their listening patterns and using artificial intelligence (AI).

For instance, a user could ask for "music from my top artists from the last five years," and Spotify will automatically create a playlist, as revealed in the company's newsroom post. Users can further narrow the results with prompts like "and feature deep cuts I haven't heard yet" or "include music from this year's biggest films and most-talked-about TV shows that match my taste."

Spotify is also introducing preset prompts and English-language algorithms, which will appear as personalised playlist cards on the app's Home screen.

Advanced Version of Spotify's AI Playlist

Spotify says Prompted Playlist builds on the AI playlist feature introduced in 2024. As reported by TechCrunch, the major upgrade here is the ability to use longer, more detailed prompts, giving users greater influence over the playlist outcome. The feature also leverages broader world knowledge to further refine selections.

Prompted Playlist will refresh periodically based on updated listening trends and global context. Users also have the option to adjust how often it refreshes, choosing between daily or weekly updates for a continually fresh playlist.

Availability and Rollout

For every song added, Spotify will provide context and a description explaining why it was selected. The company says Prompted Playlist is currently in beta and available only in New Zealand, in English.

Spotify plans to refine the feature before expanding it to additional countries in the future. ■

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Counterpoint Flags 2026 Smartphone Slump Amid RAM Crunch and Rising Prices

Smartphone consumers may need to brace for noticeably higher prices in 2026. The growing demand from AI data centres is triggering a global memory chip shortage and sharply increasing production costs. According to Counterpoint Research, these pressures are expected to slow market growth and make smartphones more expensive across segments.

The research firm forecasts that average smartphone prices will climb 6.9% year-on-year in 2026, nearly twice earlier estimates. At the same time, global smartphone shipments are projected to decline by 2.1% next year, a significant turnaround from the estimated 3.3% growth expected in 2025.

RAM Shortage Puts Pressure on Budget Smartphones

The core issue stems from soaring demand for DRAM chips, which are essential for both smartphones and AI data centres. As companies rapidly expand AI infrastructure, supply constraints have emerged, pushing memory prices up by an estimated 40% through mid-2026.

Manufacturing costs have already risen sharply in 2025. Counterpoint notes that smartphones priced under \$200 have seen bill of materials (BoM) costs rise by 20% to 30%, while mid-range and premium

devices are facing cost increases of 10% to 15%. An additional 8% to 15% cost hike is expected in the first half of 2026.

Counterpoint adds that smartphone production will become significantly more expensive in 2026 due to rising component prices, especially memory. "What we are seeing now is the low end of the market (below \$200) being impacted most severely, with BoM (bill of materials) costs increasing by 20%-30% since the



beginning of the year," said Research Director MS Hwang. "The market's mid- and high-end segments have seen 10%-15% price increases."

"In the lower price bands, steep price increases on smartphones are not sustainable," said Counterpoint Senior Analyst Yang Wang. "If cost pass-through isn't possible, OEMs will start pruning parts of their portfolios that's actually what we are starting to see with significantly reduced volumes of low-end SKUs."

Apple and Samsung Better Placed Amid Cost Pressures

Counterpoint believes Apple and Samsung

are relatively well-positioned to manage the upcoming challenges, with shipment declines estimated at around 2%. In contrast, Chinese smartphone brands such as Honor, Oppo, and Vivo are expected to face greater difficulties with Honor potentially seeing shipment drops of more than 3%.

Wang said, "Apple and Samsung are best positioned to weather the next few quarters. But it will be tough for others that don't have as much wiggle room to manage market share versus profit margins. We will see this play out especially with the Chinese OEMs as the year progresses."

To offset rising costs, several smartphone makers are reportedly cutting back on specifications including camera modules, display quality, and audio components, or reusing older hardware. Some brands are also shifting focus toward higher-priced "Pro" models to protect margins. For consumers, this means smartphones launching in 2026 are likely to be more expensive with fewer substantial upgrades. It is particularly true for the budget and mid-range categories, where the impact of memory shortages is most severe.

iPhone Shipments Expected to Dip As Costs Rise

Counterpoint Research also predicts that iPhone shipments will decline next year, alongside a sharp increase in Apple's manufacturing costs. Overall smartphone shipments are expected to fall in 2026, with Apple among the brands most affected.

"Global smartphone shipments are expected to decline 2.1% in 2026 as surging component costs are likely to impact demand, according to Counterpoint Research's latest Global Smartphone Shipment Tracker and Forecast," the report states.

The firm estimates Apple's shipments could drop 2.2% year-on-year, a steeper decline than Samsung, Xiaomi, Vivo, or Oppo. ■

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Apple Noida Retail Store Opens at DLF Mall of India, Becoming NCR's Second and India's Fifth Apple Store

Apple has expanded its retail footprint in India with the launch of Apple Noida at DLF Mall of India. The fifth Apple Store in the country strengthens Apple's offline presence across the Delhi-NCR region.

Apple has officially unveiled Apple Noida, its first retail store in Noida and the fifth Apple Store in India. The new store is situated inside DLF Mall of India and offers the complete range of Apple products and services. Visitors can browse the latest iPhone lineup, get personalised support and take part in Today at Apple creative sessions.

Apple Noida becomes the company's second retail location in the Delhi-NCR region, catering to customers across Noida and the capital. The store builds on Apple's expanding offline presence, which began with Apple BKC in Mumbai and Apple Saket in Delhi

in 2023, followed by Apple Hebbal in Bengaluru and Apple Koregaon Park in Pune, both inaugurated in September 2025.

"Connection is at the heart of everything we do in Apple retail, and we're excited to open the doors to a new store built for community and creativity with Apple Noida," said Deirdre O'Brien, Apple's senior vice president of Retail and People. "Our team members are thrilled to deepen our connections with customers across this vibrant city and help them experience the best of Apple."

More On Apple Noida Retail Store

More than 80 Apple team members



online orders in-store. Purchases can also be placed directly from any Apple Store across India. Dedicated Business Teams provide tailored device management tools and support for companies of all sizes.

Apple Noida, like all Apple locations worldwide, operates on 100 per cent renewable energy and maintains a carbon-neutral footprint.

Today at Apple Sessions

Apple Noida will host free Today at

Apple sessions, daily workshops led by Apple Creatives covering photography, art, music, and coding. Beginning on opening day, customers can book sessions to learn new skills and maximise their Apple devices.

Sessions include -

- Tips: Work Smarter on Mac
- Tips: Get Active with Apple Watch
- Workshop: Take Better Photos on iPhone
- Kids: Code Your First App

are available at the Noida store to guide customers through the newest products. It includes from the latest iPhone range to Apple Watch Ultra 3, Apple Watch Series 11, the new iPad Pro, and the 14-inch MacBook Pro powered by the M5 chip. Shoppers can also access Apple's signature services like personalised setup, first-time iOS switching assistance, Apple Trade In, and financing options. The store features product tables and display avenues showcasing Apple services such as Apple Music and Apple TV.

For online shoppers, Apple Pickup allows customers to conveniently collect



Highlights

- Apple Noida opens at DLF Mall of India with the full range of Apple products and services.
- Over 80 team members provide support with iPhones, Apple Watch Ultra 3, iPad Pro, and MacBook Pro M5, plus services like Trade In, financing, and Apple Pickup.
- The store opens to the public on December 11, 2025, at 1 p.m. IST.



With Apple Noida joining the Apple Store online, Customers can shop with a Specialist over Video, and the Apple Store app. Customers can also download exclusive Apple Noida wallpapers, listen to a curated Apple Music playlist inspired by the city, and explore more about the store at apple.com/in/retail/noida

Apple Noida opens to the public on Thursday, December 11, at 1 p.m. IST. ■
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WhatsApp Introduces New Year 2026 Festive Features

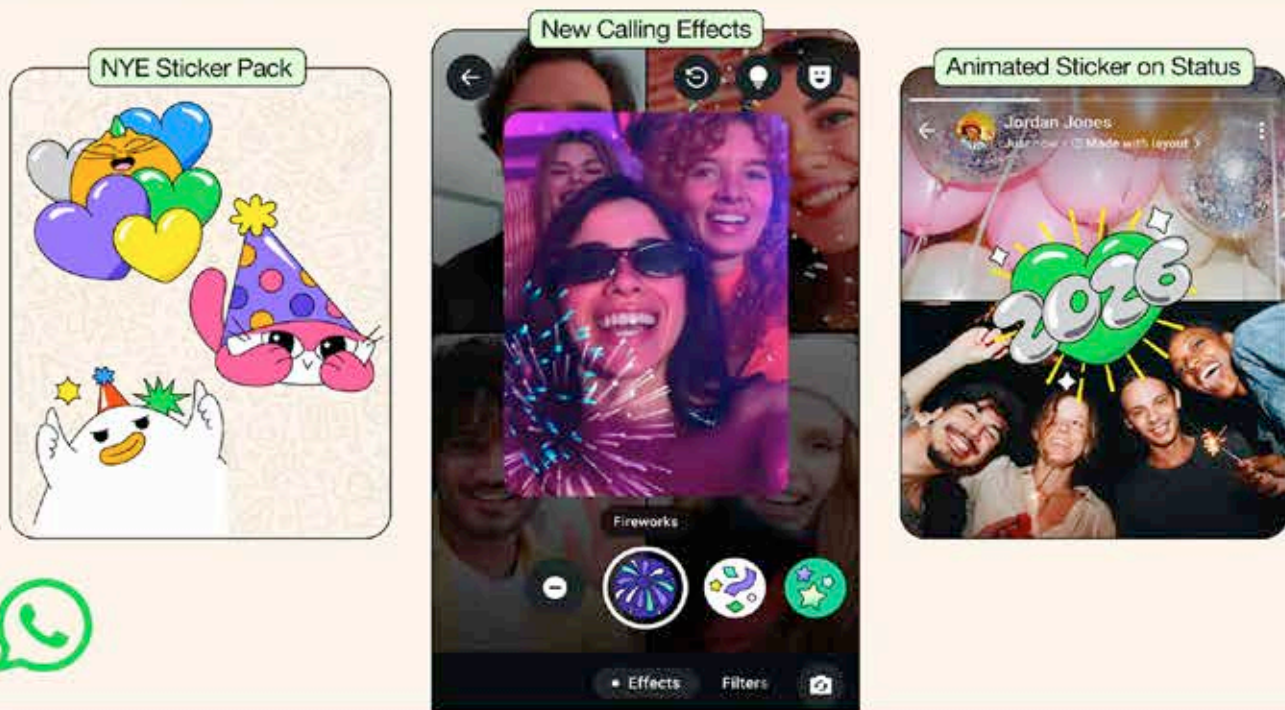
2026 Stickers, Video Call Effects, Animated Status Updates and More

WhatsApp is ringing in New Year 2026 with a fresh set of festive features designed to elevate celebrations worldwide. From exclusive 2026 stickers and animated Status updates to fireworks-filled video call effects, the platform aims to make New Year greetings more lively and interactive than ever.

WhatsApp has unveiled a range of festive features aimed at making the New Year 2026 celebrations more engaging for users worldwide. New Year's Eve consistently ranks as its busiest day of the year for global messaging and calling activity. In a recently published blog post, WhatsApp highlighted the scale of activity on its platform.

The platform wrote, "On a regular day, we support over 100 billion messages and 2 billion calls – but the twenty-four hours when the world welcomes a New Year always tops our charts. Whether it's a video call that unites





families across continents, or a group chat that organizes a celebration, we're proud to play a small role in making people's wishes for next year special."

New WhatsApp Festive Features

To celebrate the arrival of 2026, WhatsApp is rolling out four new features designed to add a festive feel to New Year greetings and conversations. These include a new sticker pack, enhanced video call effects, animated reactions and updated Status options.

2026 Sticker Pack

WhatsApp is introducing a dedicated "2026 sticker pack" that users can access to share New Year wishes with friends and family.

Video Call Effects

For users celebrating virtually, WhatsApp has added new visual effects for video calls. By tapping the effects icon during a call, users can activate fireworks, confetti, and star animations that appear on the screen, adding a celebratory touch to New Year countdowns.

KEY FEATURES

- WhatsApp is rolling out a New Year 2026 sticker pack, celebratory video call effects, animated confetti reactions and animated stickers in Status updates.
- The platform encourages users to enhance group chats with pinned events, polls for party planning, live location sharing for safety and voice/video notes.
- It highlights that New Year's Eve is its busiest day.



Animated Confetti Reactions

The platform is also bringing back its special reaction animation. Users can trigger this by tapping the confetti emoji while reacting to messages.

Status Updates

WhatsApp is introducing animated stickers to the Status section for the first time. Users can post New Year updates using a special "2026 layout" paired with an animated sticker.

WhatsApp's Tips for New Year Celebrations

Alongside the new features, WhatsApp has shared several tips to help users plan and manage New Year celebrations more

effectively through group chats.

Events - Users can create an event within a group chat and pin it to keep it visible. This allows members to share details, collect RSVPs, and stay updated on New Year plans.

Polls - The Polls feature can be used to make group decisions on party-related details such as food, drinks, or activities.

Live Location - For safety and convenience, users can share their live location to help others find the venue or to inform loved ones when they arrive home safely.

Voice and Video Notes - For friends and family who are unable to attend celebrations in person, WhatsApp recommends using voice or video notes to stay connected during the festivities. ■

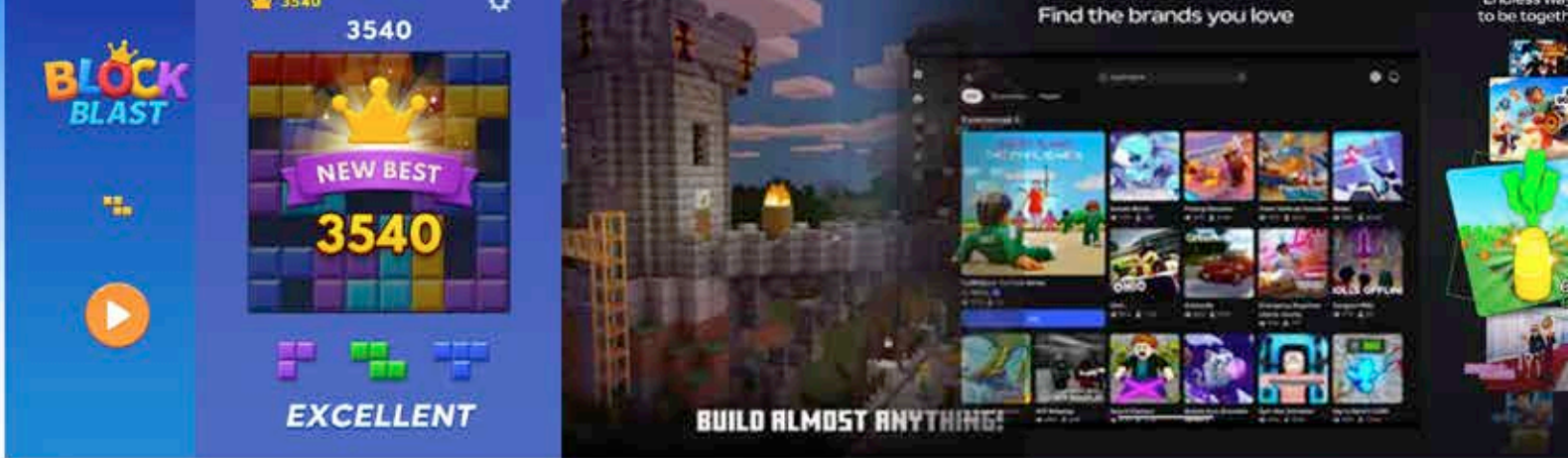
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Most Downloaded iPhone Apps of 2025 Revealed

ChatGPT, Threads and Google Dominates the Charts

Apple has revealed the most downloaded iPhone apps of 2025, highlighting clear user favourites across apps and games. From ChatGPT and Threads to Roblox and Netflix, the rankings capture how AI, social media, streaming, and gaming shaped mobile usage this year.





Apple has shared the year's most downloaded iPhone apps, offering insight into what users are installing the most on their devices. The rankings cover the top 10 most downloaded free and paid apps and games on both iPhone and iPad, along with a separate chart for the most downloaded Apple Arcade titles.

If you have missed, Apple has also already announced the winners of the 2025 App Store Awards, spotlighting 17 standout apps and games across its platforms including iPhone, iPad, Mac, Apple Watch, Apple TV, and Vision Pro. Anyhow, let's get back to the most downloaded iPhone Apps of 2025.

ChatGPT Tops the Free iPhone App Chart, Threads Follows Strong

As expected, OpenAI's ChatGPT takes the top spot as the most downloaded free iPhone app of 2025. This is the most unsurprising win given its massive global popularity. But the rest of the list includes a few unexpected placements.

Meta's Threads has secured the second position among free iPhone apps. The platform, which Mark Zuckerberg hopes will become the prime competitor

to X (formerly Twitter and Bluesky), seems to have drawn significant user interest, helped by heavy cross-promotion from Instagram.

TikTok also maintained a high ranking at number four despite regulatory uncertainties in the United States. Instagram itself ranks sixth. Google, meanwhile, continues to dominate multiple slots with Gemini, YouTube, the Google app, and Google Maps all appearing in the top ten.

Video Streaming Apps Lead on iPad, Instagram Misses Top 10

While Instagram finally launched an official iPad app, it did not break into the top 10 free iPad apps. Instead, the iPad charts are dominated by streaming platforms. YouTube takes the number-one spot, followed by major players like Netflix,

Disney+, HBO Max, and Amazon Prime Video.

GoodNotes, popular for its handwriting cleanup tools, folder organisation features, and AI-driven note-taking, also makes the list. Google Chrome appears as well, underscoring Google's strong presence on both platforms.

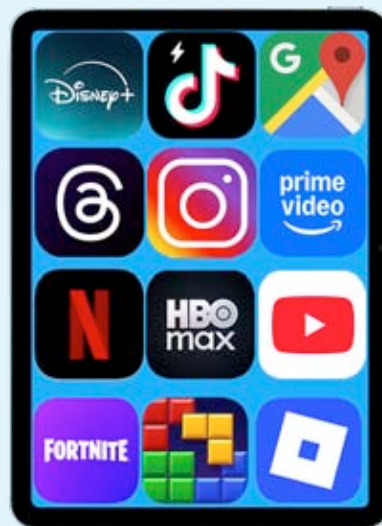
Top Games of 2025 - Roblox, Fortnite, Block Blast, Minecraft and More

For gaming, Roblox, Block Blast, and Fortnite top the free iPad games chart. On the paid side, Minecraft, Geometry Dash, and Stardew Valley continue their years-long streak as favourites among iPad users.

Apple Arcade's most downloaded games are also revealed, with NFL Retro Bowl '26, NBA 2K25 Arcade Edition, and Balatro+ taking the top positions. The list highlights a mix of sports titles, casual hits, and classic favourites.

KEY FEATURES

- ChatGPT led the free iPhone app chart followed by Threads, TikTok, Instagram and multiple Google apps like Gemini, YouTube, Maps and Gmail.
- Streaming apps dominated free iPad downloads with YouTube, Netflix, Disney+, HBO Max, and Prime Video at the top.
- Roblox, Fortnite, and Block Blast led free iPad games; Minecraft, Geometry Dash, and Stardew Valley topped paid charts.
- Apple Arcade hits included NFL Retro Bowl '26, NBA 2K25 Arcade Edition, and Balatro+.



Complete Lists of the Most Downloaded iPhone, iPad, and Apple Arcade Apps & Games

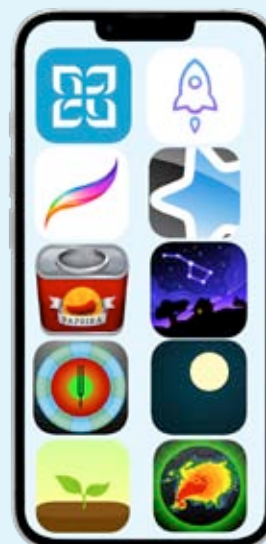


Top Free iPhone Apps



1. ChatGPT
2. Threads
3. Google
4. TikTok – Videos, Shop & LIVE
5. WhatsApp Messenger
6. Instagram
7. YouTube
8. Google Maps
9. Gmail – Email by Google
10. Google Gemini

Top Paid iPhone Apps



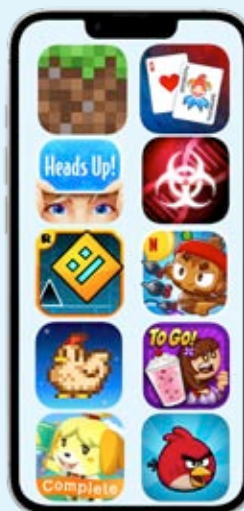
1. HotSchedules
2. Shadowrocket
3. Procreate Pocket
4. AnkiMobile Flashcards
5. Paprika Recipe Manager 3
6. SkyView®
7. TonalEnergy Tuner & Metronome
8. AutoSleep Track Sleep on Watch
9. Forest: Focus for Productivity
10. RadarScope

Top Free iPhone Games



1. Block Blast!
2. Fortnite
3. Roblox
4. Township
5. Pokémon TCG Pocket
6. Royal Kingdom
7. Clash Royale
8. Vita Mahjong
9. Whiteout Survival
10. Last War: Survival

Top Paid iPhone Games



1. Minecraft: Dream it, Build it!
2. Balatro
3. Heads Up!
4. Plague Inc.
5. Geometry Dash
6. Bloons TD 6
7. Stardew Valley
8. Papa's Freezeria To Go!
9. Animal Crossing: Pocket Camp C
10. Red's First Flight

Top Apple Arcade Games

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. NFL Retro Bowl '26 | 7. Fruit Ninja Classic+ |
| 2. NBA 2K25 Arcade Edition | 8. Bloons TD 6+ |
| 3. Balatro+ | 9. PGA TOUR Pro Golf |
| 4. Snake.io+ | 10. Solitaire by MobilityWare+ |
| 5. Sneaky Sasquatch | |
| 6. Hello Kitty Island Adventure | |



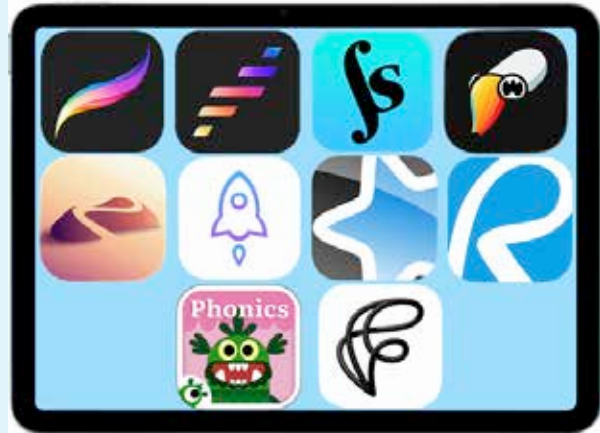
Top Free iPad Apps

1. YouTube
2. ChatGPT
3. Netflix
4. Disney+
5. Amazon Prime Video
6. TikTok – Videos, Shop & LIVE
7. Google Chrome
8. Goodnotes: AI Notes, Docs, PDF
9. Canva: AI Photo & Video Editor
10. HBO Max: Stream Movies & TV



Top Paid iPad Apps

1. Procreate
2. Procreate Dreams
3. forScore
4. ToonSquid
5. Nomad Sculpt
6. Shadowrocket
7. AnkiMobile Flashcards
8. Bluebeam Revu for iPad
9. Teach Your Monster to Read
10. Feather: Draw in 3D



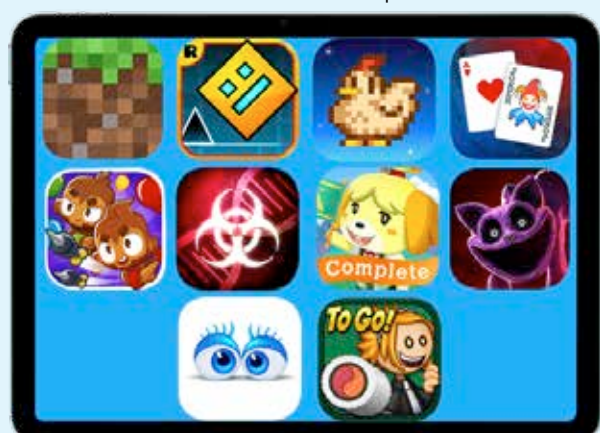
Top Free iPad Games

1. Roblox
2. Block Blast!
3. Fortnite
4. Perfect Tidy
5. Magic Tiles 3: Piano Game
6. Mini Games: Calm & Chill
7. Goods Puzzle: Sort Challenge
8. hole.io
9. Subway Surfers
10. Township



Top Paid iPad Games

1. Minecraft: Dream it, Build it!
2. Geometry Dash
3. Stardew Valley
4. Balatro
5. Bloons TD 6
6. Plague Inc.
7. Animal Crossing: Pocket Camp C
8. Poppy Playtime Chapter 3
9. Purple Place – Classic Games
10. Papa's Sushiria To Go!



These rankings are also available directly on the App Store under the apps, games, and Apple Arcade sections.

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OxygenOS 16 Announced Globally

Here's All About List of Eligible Devices, Features, Rollout Details

OnePlus has officially launched OxygenOS 16, its latest software update based on Android 16. The new version introduces a refreshed design language, AI-driven enhancements, and several productivity-focused features. Inspired by Google's Material You 3.0, OxygenOS 16 brings the new Expressive UI, smoother animations, smarter multitasking, and an upgraded lock screen experience.

According to OnePlus, the OxygenOS 16 rollout will begin with the brand's flagship smartphones before gradually reaching older and mid-range models. Here's a detailed breakdown of the update, including eligible devices, rollout timeline, and key features.

Nevertheless, after so many setback and obstacles, the human race is putting up a brave fight against the coronavirus by using new-age technologies to restore peace and sanity. These technologies are not only helping us fight the current health pandemic but will also change how we deal with recurrence of such health scare in the future.

So, here are some tech tools that are being used in different countries to fight coronavirus.

OxygenOS 16 Rollout Plan

The update will first roll out to the OnePlus 13 series, followed by the OnePlus 12, OnePlus 11, and select Nord models in the coming weeks. While a detailed roadmap has not yet been shared, early access builds are expected to reach beta testers soon after launch.



OxygenOS 16 Eligible Devices

OxygenOS 16 will first reach, OnePlus 13, OnePlus 13R, OnePlus 13s, OnePlus 12, OnePlus 12R, OnePlus 11, and OnePlus 11R

Mid-range phones such as the OnePlus Nord 5, Nord 4, and Nord 3 will get the update later in the cycle.

On the tablet front, the OnePlus Pad 3, Pad 2, and the original OnePlus Pad are all reportedly eligible. Entry-level models such as the Nord CE 4, CE 4 Lite, and Nord 3 may receive OxygenOS 16 as their final major update.



OxygenOS 16 – Main Features

Resizable Icons and Enhanced Multitasking

Users can now resize app icons and folders on the home screen to their preference. OxygenOS 16 also optimises the experience for tablets, supporting up to five apps simultaneously in Open Canvas, three in split view, and two in floating windows, making multitasking more intuitive than ever.



Fluid Animations

OnePlus introduces “Parallel Processing 2.0”, a new technology that makes animations more responsive by allowing them to start before the previous action finishes. This results in smoother transitions across the UI, app launches, navigation gestures, and system interactions.

FEATURE

Lock Screen Widgets, Themes, and Wallpapers

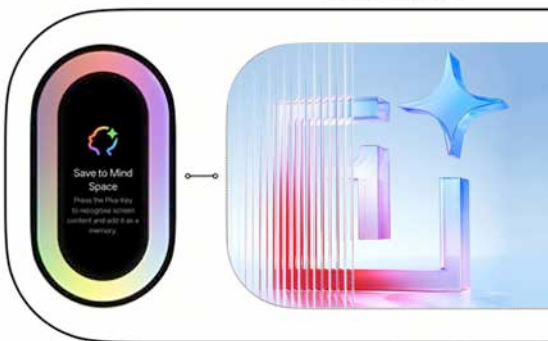
OxygenOS 16 debuts the Flux Theme 2.0, allowing users to add Motion Photos and video wallpapers for depth-based visual effects. There's also a full-screen Always-on Display (AOD) that displays wallpapers and live information even when the screen is off.

Addressing a long-standing user request, OnePlus now enables lock screen widgets that can be stacked vertically or horizontally, depending on the theme.



Plus Key

Plus Mind



Plus Mind – AI-Powered Memory and Note Assistant

OnePlus' upgraded Plus Mind feature represents one of the biggest AI improvements in OxygenOS 16. Initially introduced with the OnePlus 13S, Plus Mind was a visual note-taking tool, but it now functions as a full-fledged AI companion.

Users can now share images, record one-minute voice notes by holding the Plus Key, and even capture long screenshots to save articles or reading materials within the app.

Through the built-in search function, users can ask questions about saved screenshots or voice notes directly in Plus Mind. Moreover, OnePlus has partnered with Gemini, allowing users to access Plus Mind inside the Gemini app and use Google's AI assistant to query their stored content.

Fluid Cloud

With Fluid Cloud, users can view real-time notifications and live updates from apps like Spotify, sports platforms, and food delivery services right on the lock screen.

The interface has also been redesigned with Gaussian blur effects, rounded corners, and a translucent finish, visible across Quick Settings, the Home Screen, and the App Drawer. Native apps like Clock and Calculator also receive a refreshed visual design and added functionality. ■

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iPhone's New 'Slow Charger' Alert: What It Means & How to Fix

If your iPhone running iOS 26 has started showing a "Slow Charger" alert on the lock screen, you're not alone. The latest iOS update adds a new feature that informs users when their phone isn't charging at optimal speed. Here's everything you need to know about this feature.

What the 'Slow Charger' Alert Mean in iOS 26?

Modern iPhones come with larger batteries than models from a few years ago, meaning they require more power to charge quickly. If you recently upgraded to a new iPhone and are still using your older charger or cable, it may not support fast charging speeds.

For example, older USB-A chargers can typically deliver only 5 to 7.5 watts of power. At that rate, charging an iPhone 17 could take three hours or more to reach full battery.

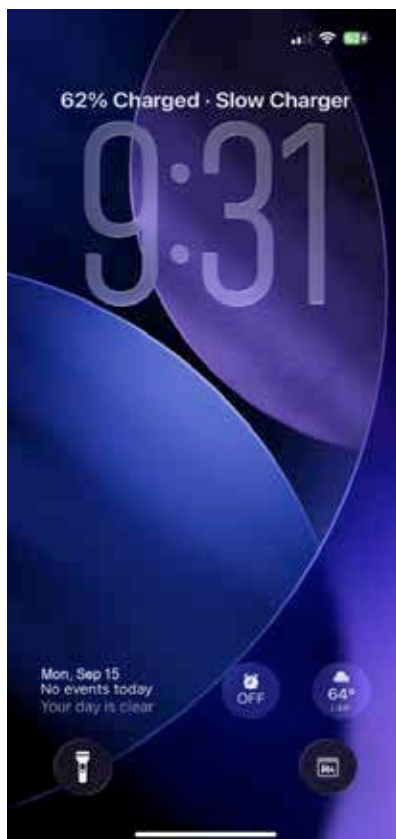
Now, if you are using an old charger, your iPhone with iOS 26 will display a "Slow Charger" message when it detects a low-powered adapter or an older cable. This new alert comes in place of showing the estimated time to reach 80% charge.

How to Fix the 'Slow Charger' Alert?

To get rid of the 'Slow Charger' warning, you can try any of the following steps.

Use an Apple-certified fast charger

For the best results, use an Apple 30W (or higher) power adapter along with a USB-C cable. This setup allows your iPhone to charge at 20–30 watts, letting it reach 50% charge in under 30 minutes. Apple's latest power adapters are designed to deliver both efficiency



and speed for the newest iPhone models.

Upgrade to certified wireless charging accessories

You can go for MagSafe or Qi2-certified accessories if you prefer wireless charging. The latest iPhones support wireless charging speeds up to 25 watts.

This new alert is part of Apple's effort to help users understand their charging speeds and identify why their device may be taking longer than usual to recharge. You might also see the Slow Charger message when using Qi wireless chargers, especially first-generation ones that deliver less than 10 watts.

It is important to note that using a slower charger won't harm your iPhone or its battery, it simply means charging will take longer. Moreover, if you charge your device overnight, this slower speed won't make much difference. ■

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Lenskart Opens 'B by Lenskart' AI Smartglasses Platform to Developers in India

By MyMobile Team

Lenskart is opening up its upcoming AI Smartglasses called 'B by Lenskart' to India's developer community. It is now being viewed as a major step toward creating a local wearables ecosystem. The move gives

independent developers and app makers the opportunity to build experiences that integrate AI and camera-based functions across areas like fitness, productivity, entertainment, and food delivery. Here's all we know so far.

'B by Lenskart' – Building India's Wearables Ecosystem

Through this initiative, Lenskart wants to



turn its smartglasses into a developer-friendly platform rather than just a lifestyle gadget. The company's long-term vision is to create India's first complete wearables ecosystem, where hardware, software, and AI work together seamlessly under one platform.

The 'B by Lenskart' glasses have been developed entirely in India and are expected to hit the market by December 2025. At just 40 grams, they're around 20% lighter than most comparable models, making them comfortable enough for all-day use.

'B by Lenskart' – Key Hardware and AI Capabilities

The smartglasses use Qualcomm's Snapdragon AR1 Gen 1 chipset, the same processor found in several top-tier AR devices. A Sony camera module enables hands-free photo and video

KEY FEATURES	
● Lenskart opens its AI smartglasses platform to Indian developers, aiming to build a full-fledged wearables ecosystem. ● 'B by Lenskart' uses Snapdragon AR1 Gen 1, a Sony camera module, and Gemini 2.5 Live AI assistant for voice control, UPI payments, wellness insights, and more. ● Developed entirely in India, the smartglasses are set to launch by December 2025.	

capture. Meanwhile, the onboard AI assistant powered by Gemini 2.5 Live handles everything from voice control and live translation to UPI payments and wellness insights.

Lenskart plans to draw on its strong retail presence, data-driven customer insights, and vertically integrated

manufacturing to push wider adoption of smartglasses in India. The brand has also invested in XR and AI startups including Ajna Lens, as part of its strategy to build a robust tech stack that supports future innovations in wearable computing.

According to industry projections, the global smartglasses market could be worth USD 4–5 billion by 2030, growing at an estimated 30% CAGR. India is becoming an increasingly important market for next-generation wearables. And Lenskart's open platform approach could position 'B by Lenskart' as one of the frontrunners in the country's AI-driven eyewear segment. ■

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Android Users Face 58% Fewer Scam Texts Than iPhone Owners

Google has shared new insights revealing how Android's AI-powered security is helping users stay safer from mobile scams, one of today's fastest-growing digital threats. According to the company, AI-assisted fraud caused global financial losses exceeding \$400 billion in the past year alone.

Google says Android's multi-layered protection system backed by Google AI blocks scams before they reach users. Every month, Android intercepts over 10 billion potential scam calls and messages, while RCS safety checks continue to flag suspicious activity with more than 100 million phone numbers blocked just in the past month.

Built-in Scam and Fraud Protection Assessment

Leviathan Security Group evaluated 33 different security features to assess each device's built-in protections against scam and fraud:

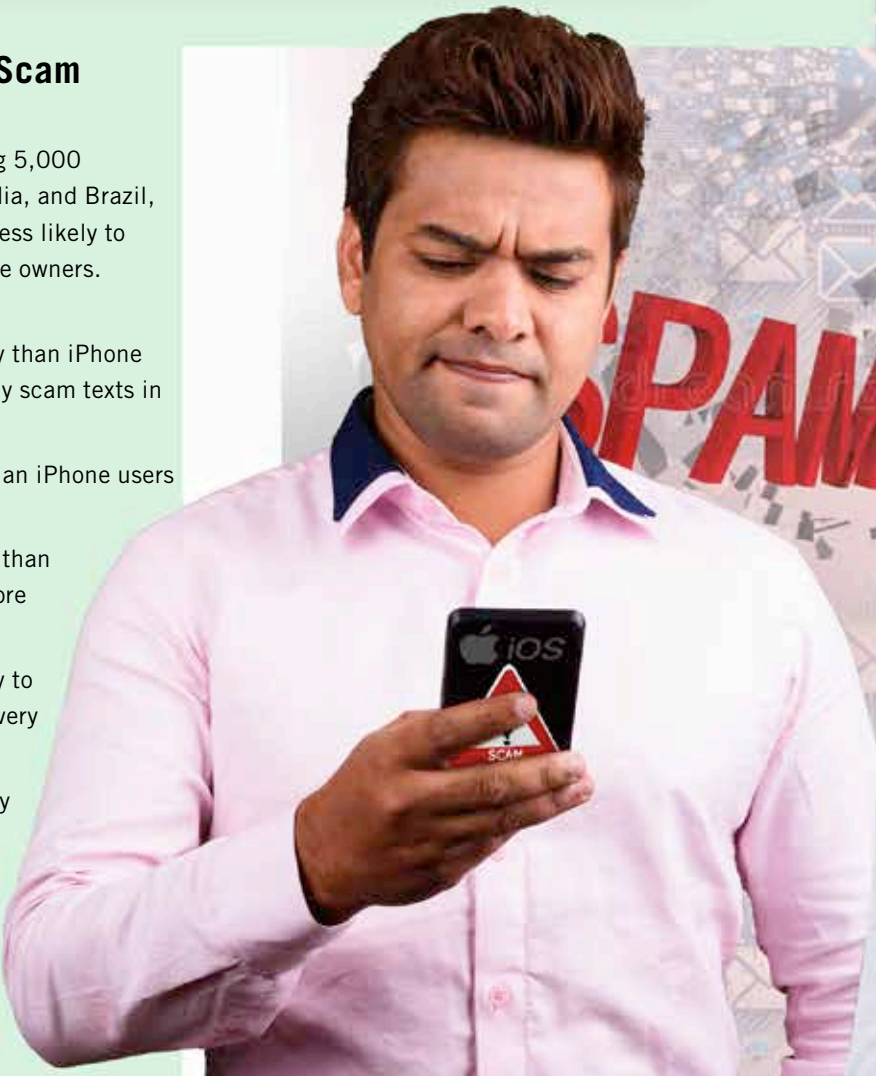
Google Pixel 10 Pro	iPhone 17 Pro	Galaxy Z Fold 7	Razr+ 2025
31	23.25	29	29

Android Users Report Fewer Scam Texts Than iPhone Owners

A survey by Google and YouGov, covering 5,000 smartphone users across the U.S., India, and Brazil, found that Android users are significantly less likely to receive scam messages compared to iPhone owners.

Key findings from the report include –

- Android users were 58% more likely than iPhone users to say they hadn't received any scam texts in the past week.
- Pixel users were 96% more likely than iPhone users to report zero scam texts.
- iPhone users were 65% more likely than Android users to receive three or more scam messages weekly.
- Android users were 20% more likely to describe their scam protection as "very effective" or "extremely effective."
- iPhone users were 150% more likely to report that their phones failed to block scams or fraud attempts.



User Survey on Mobile Scams

YouGov surveyed over 5,000 smartphone users about their experiences with mobile scams and found that:

Android users were

58%

more likely than iOS users to say they had not received any scam texts in the week before the survey.

iOS users were

65%

more likely than Android users to report receiving three or more scam texts in a week.

Android users were

20%

more likely than iOS users to describe their device's scam protections as 'very effective' or 'extremely effective.'

Independent Studies Back Android's AI Security Strength

Supporting Google's findings, a Counterpoint Research evaluation found that Android devices offer the widest AI-powered protection, spanning ten key areas such as email filtering, browsing safety, and behavioural threat detection. iOS, by comparison, uses AI in only two protection categories.

Another Leviathan Security Group assessment tested scam protection across flagship devices, the iPhone 17, Pixel 10 Pro, Moto Razr+ 2025, and Samsung Galaxy Z Fold 7. The results showed that Android smartphones, led by the Pixel 10 Pro, provided the strongest built-in defence against scams and fraud.

AI-Powered Protections Evaluation

Counterpoint Research assessed Android and iOS on each platform's AI-powered protections against phishing, malware, and theft:

Security Area		Android	iOS
Scam, Phishing, and Web Protections	Email	✓	✗
	Messaging	✓	✓
	Phone Calls	✓	✗
	Browsing	✓	✗
	Screen Share	✓	✗
App Malware	App Store	✓	✓
	Outside of App Store	✓	✗ *
	On-Device Behavioral	✓	✗
Physical Theft	Active Theft Response	✓	✗

*Apple only allows app downloads from outside the App Store in the European Union.

Highlights of Android's protection include

- On-device AI call screening and real-time scam alerts
- Automatic authentication warnings during suspicious calls
- Blocking risky actions like installing unverified apps or disabling key security settings

How Android Defends Users Against Scams?

Message Protection

- Google Messages automatically filters spam into a dedicated folder.
- Scam Detection AI scans texts from unknown senders for scam-like behaviour and issues instant alerts.
- Malicious links in messages are automatically flagged or blocked.

Call Protection

- Phone by Google blocks known spam calls before they ring.
- Call Screen answers unknown calls and identifies potential fraud.
- On-device AI analyses ongoing calls locally, issuing scam warnings without recording or sharing any data.
- Android also prevents social engineering by blocking risky actions and warning users if their screen is being shared unknowingly.
- Apart from the above measures, Google Play Protect scans apps continuously for harmful behaviour. Chrome's Safe Browsing, now powered by large language models (LLMs), alerts users about dangerous websites and downloads.

These layers create a real-time, proactive defence system across calls, messages, apps, and browsing. ■

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MARKET INSIGHT

Trendz

A 'Game-Changer'

IDC Sees iPhone Fold Leading 2026
Foldable Boom



IDC forecasts a breakout year for foldables in 2026, led by Apple's upcoming iPhone Fold and a projected 30% market surge, signalling a major shift in design innovation and premium smartphone demand.

IDC's latest report points to a breakthrough year ahead for foldable smartphones fueled by what it calls the "game-changer" arrival of the iPhone Fold in 2026. The market research firm expects foldable shipments to rise by an impressive 30% year-over-year, driven by new form factors and the long-awaited entry of Apple. Here's more on this.

IDC on the 2026 Foldable Market

According to Nabila Popal, Senior Research Director at IDC's Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker, "Next year will prove exciting for the foldable category with multiple launches pushing the market to 30% YoY growth from just 6% in the prior forecast."

She adds, "Samsung will kick start 2026 with the Galaxy Z Trifold, introducing tri-fold innovation to mainstream global consumers, building off the momentum of the successful Galaxy Z Fold7 in 2025. Huawei's foldables running on HarmonyOS Next will also see strong growth, with shipments expected to almost double in 2026."

But the highlight of IDC's forecast is Apple's debut in the foldable space, which the firm calls the real disruptor. According to the report, "the real game-changer for the category comes at year-end when Apple enters the foldable space, projected to capture over 22% unit share and a staggering 34% of the foldables market value in its first year, thanks to an expected average price point of \$2,400."

Those numbers signal a bold outlook for Apple's debut foldable. Despite foldable phones being around for roughly seven years, IDC's projections highlight how much space Apple still has to redefine the segment or how niche the category

remains until now.

First iPhone Fold - What We Know So Far?

Apple's supply chain movements reflect a major shift. Recent reports suggest the company is gearing up for what could be its most ambitious launch since the original iPhone. The iPhone Fold appears to be well beyond prototype stages with multiple indicators pointing to rapid development progress.

One of the biggest breakthroughs reportedly achieved is the removal of the visible crease that has plagued every foldable display so far. The device is rumoured to feature a 7.8-inch inner screen with no crease and a 5.5-inch external display. The inner panel may also house an under-display camera, a technology that could eventually influence future iPad and MacBook designs.

Apple has also revised its sales expectations upward. Instead of 6–8 million units, the company now anticipates demand of 8–10 million units in the first year. This suggests growing confidence in both consumer interest and production readiness.

On the manufacturing front, this launch marks Apple's most complex supply chain operation to date. Samsung Display is reportedly preparing 7–8 million foldable OLED panels for the iPhone Fold, requiring entirely new production lines and advanced quality checks. Apple is also stockpiling key components well before the anticipated 2026 release including titanium frames and sophisticated hinge systems capable of withstanding long-term folding durability.

Supplier diversification plays a major role in Apple's strategy. Lens Technology from China is expected to take the lead on

ultra-thin cover glass, while U.S.-based Amphenol has been shortlisted as the primary hinge supplier. This aligns with the company's growing China+1 strategy while reducing reliance on a single vendor for critical parts.

Pricing expectations are equally premium. Analyst Ming-Chi Kuo projects the iPhone Fold to land between \$2,000



and \$2,500, while other reports narrow it closer to \$2,400. The cost reflects the phone's complex engineering including dual premium displays, titanium construction, crease-elimination technology, and advanced hinge materials.

With IDC forecasting steep growth and Apple preparing for a major entry into foldables, 2026 could become the defining year for the next generation of smartphone design. ■

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Apple Tops Q3 as Samsung Leans on Midrange A-Series

The latest Counterpoint Research data reveals a sharply divided smartphone market in Q3 2025, with Apple dominating the premium space while Samsung leans heavily on its midrange Galaxy A-series. Apple claimed the top four global best-selling spots with its iPhone 16 lineup, reinforcing its premium strength, while Samsung filled the mid-table with affordable A-series devices powered by new AI features. The rankings also marked a milestone as 5G models captured the top five positions worldwide—highlighting a clear shift in consumer demand toward advanced, value-driven devices.

The world's two major chipset players Qualcomm and MediaTek posted healthy growth in the first quarter of this year. Qualcomm saw its third consecutive quarterly record revenue in Q1 2022 at \$11.6 billion, whereas MediaTek

recorded an impressive set of numbers for the quarter with revenues growing 32% YoY and 10.2% QoQ to reach \$4.8 billion, shows new data from Counterpoint Research. The business units of Qualcomm registered annual growth of between 28% and 61%, as per the data.

Apple and Samsung once again filled

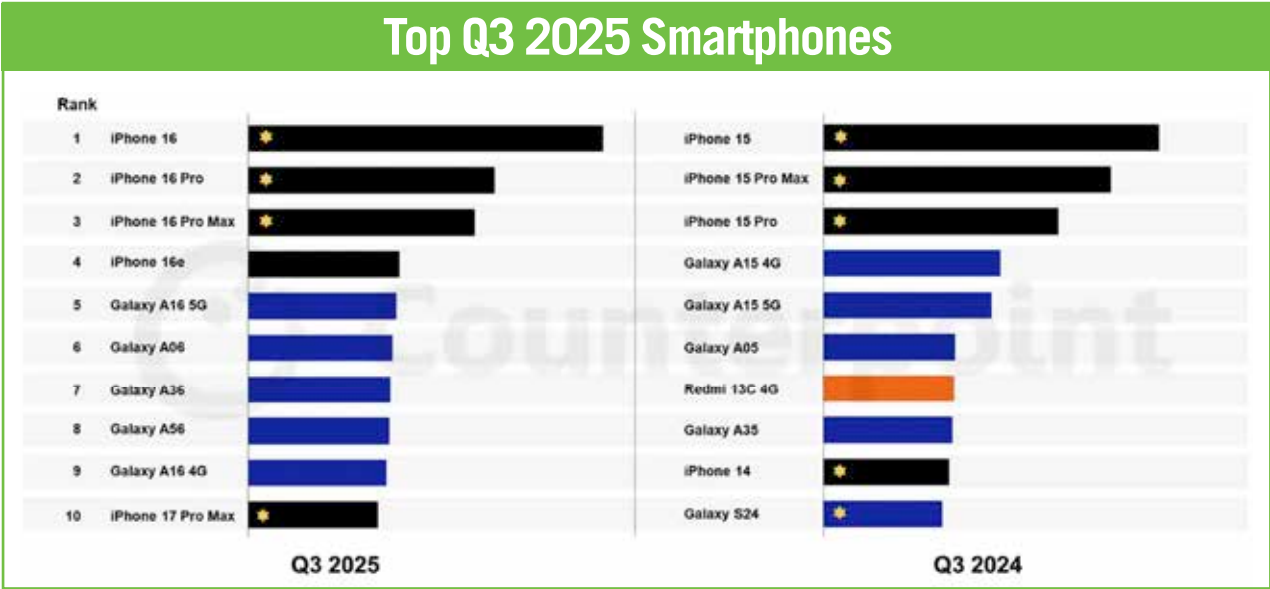
all 10 slots on Counterpoint Research's list of the best-selling smartphones for the third quarter of 2025. However, the split between the two brands tells a very different story this year. While both companies secured five positions each, Apple swept the top four places with its premium iPhone 16 lineup. This was in sharp contrast to Samsung, which did not place a single flagship device in the top tier.

Top Q3 2025 Smartphones

The research highlights that the standard iPhone 16 remained the best-selling smartphone globally in Q3 2025, commanding a 4% volume share. This marks the model's third straight quarter at No. 1. Even more notably, the entire top four was dominated by the iPhone 16 family including the iPhone 16, iPhone 16 Pro, iPhone 16 Pro Max, and iPhone 16e. This was despite the series typically seeing a slowdown as consumers await newer releases.

Another standout was the iPhone 17 Pro





Max, which secured the 10th position even though it hit the market near the end of the quarter. Its late entry and immediate traction signal extremely strong demand for Apple's newest, most premium offering.

Samsung's performance skewed heavily toward its affordable lineup. The company

occupied fifth to ninth place with its Galaxy A-series models, led by the Galaxy A16 5G, followed by the Galaxy A06, Galaxy A36, Galaxy A56, and Galaxy A16 4G. Unlike previous years when the base Galaxy S24 made the Q3 2024 leaderboard, Samsung had no premium smartphone appear in the 2025 list.

Counterpoint Research suggests that Samsung's push to add AI-powered features to its midrange portfolio through its "Awesome Intelligence" initiative could be fueling these sales.

According to the report, "The mid-price segment's presence in the top-10 best-selling smartphones is expected to remain strong, driven by the growing integration of GenAI features." It adds that these upgrades boost competitiveness, improve user value, and help narrow the experience gap with flagship models.

The absence of the Galaxy S25 from the rankings may reflect early seasonal weakness as customers anticipate the Galaxy S26 series. Still, it marks a significant gap for Samsung, as none of its top-performing models this quarter carried a wholesale price above \$600.

The report also noted an important milestone that 5G smartphones dominated the top five spots for the first time, underscoring what Counterpoint calls "a



key consumer preference across regions" during Q3 2025.

Overall, Apple's premium strength and Samsung's midrange momentum defined the quarter, painting a clear picture of current global consumer buying trends. ■

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Spotify Rolls Out Weekly Listening Stats for Artists & Songs

Spotify has rolled out a new “Listening Stats” feature that gives users a closer look at their music preferences. The new feature displays the user’s most played artists and songs from the past four weeks.

The data refreshes every 24 hours, offering up-to-date insights into each listener’s recent music trends. This feature is now available to both free and premium users across more than 60 countries. Here are more details.

Spotify ‘Listening Stats’

With the new feature, users receive a personalised playlist inspired by their

favourite tracks or songs they may want to play next. Spotify also curates recommendations under “More like your top artists/songs”, helping listeners explore new music that aligns with their taste.

In addition, the feature introduces weekly highlights that capture key moments in a listener’s music

journey such as milestones, new artist discoveries, or unique fan experiences. Users can easily share these weekly stats through social media platforms like WhatsApp, Instagram, and more.

Spotify described the feature in a blog post, saying, “This new feature shows your top artists and songs from the past four weeks, and it serves up playlists inspired by what you love or tracks you might want to queue up next. Each week, it also includes a special highlight that captures what makes your listening unique, whether it’s a milestone, a new discovery, or a fan moment.”

How to Access Spotify Listening Stats?

Here’s how you can use the new Listening Stats feature in Spotify –

- Open the Spotify app on your smartphone or desktop.
- Tap on your profile icon located at the top left corner.
- You’ll now see the “Listening Stats” icon.

From there, you can view your listening history and share it internally with other Spotify users or externally via social media platforms.



Spotify ‘Listening Stats’ Different from Spotify Wrapped

While Spotify Wrapped gives users a year-end summary of their listening habits from January to October or November, the Listening Stats feature provides real-time, rolling updates every day. This makes it a more dynamic and continuous way to track listening behaviour throughout the year rather than waiting for the annual Wrapped release.

Spotify isn’t the only platform offering personalised listening insights. Apple Music introduced its Music Replay feature last year, which provides monthly breakdowns of users’ favourite songs, artists, albums, and genres. Similarly, YouTube Music has a Music Recap feature that summarises top songs, artists, videos, and listening patterns four times a year. ■

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Instagram Tests New 'Tune Your Algorithm' Tool for Personalised Reels & Explore

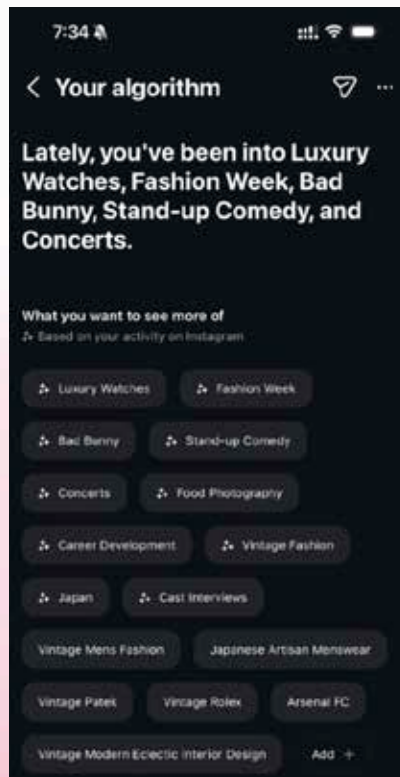
Instagram has started testing a new feature that lets users personalise their algorithm-based recommendations by choosing or removing specific topics of interest. Here's all we know about the new feature so far.

Instagram Tests 'Tune Your Algorithm' Feature

This new feature was announced by Instagram chief Adam Mosseri on Threads recently. As of now, it will be rolling out for Reels and will later expand to the Explore page.

Adam Mosseri described the new feature as a way for users to "tune their algorithm", making Instagram's recommendations more relevant and engaging.

Under the "Your Algorithm" section in the Settings menu, users can view and manage the topics that shape their recommendations. The section also provides a summary of their engagement trends. In Mosseri's example screenshot, topics like Luxury Watches, Fashion Week, Bad Bunny, Stand-up Comedy,



and Concerts appeared as interests.

Users can easily add more topics they want to see by tapping the Add (+) button or removing categories they're not interested in. However, this functionality will only be visible once the feature becomes available for an account.

Initially, the feature

is being tested exclusively for Reels, allowing users to fine-tune video recommendations in their feed.

Instagram plans to extend the option to the Explore tab later, followed by similar personalisation tools for Threads in the future.

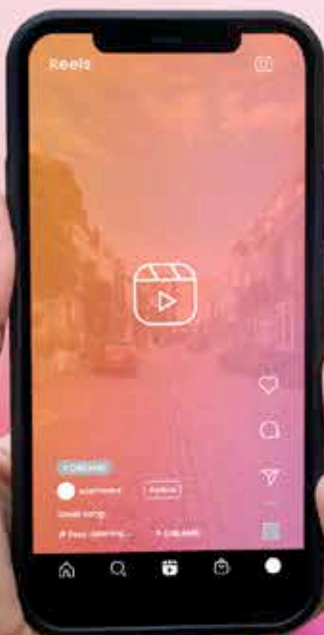
More Control for Users

The "tune your algorithm" feature builds on Instagram's broader push to enhance user control over content curation. The platform has previously introduced parental supervision tools, sensitive content filters, and refined content suggestions to promote a safer and more personalised user experience.

While Mosseri didn't specify how many users are part of the testing phase or when a full rollout might happen, he encouraged those with early access to share feedback. This will help refine the feature before its wider release.

The new update aims to give users more control over what they see on the platform, aligning with Meta's ongoing efforts to enhance customisation and transparency across its apps. The company recently introduced features that allow users to limit sensitive content and refine suggested posts.■

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How to Send WhatsApp Messages Without Saving Numbers: Quick Guide



WhatsApp now offers a convenient way to start conversations without saving a contact, making it ideal for quick interactions, business inquiries, or one-time chats. The feature works smoothly across smartphones and WhatsApp Web, allowing users to open a conversation simply by generating or tapping a link. This not only streamlines communication but also helps keep your contact list clutter-free.

Here's how you can use this option to send WhatsApp messages without adding a number to your phonebook.

How to Send a WhatsApp Message Without Saving the Contact?

WhatsApp's built-in Click to Chat tool lets you directly open a chat window with any phone number registered on

WhatsApp.

Using Click to Chat –

- To create your own link, use the following format – `https://wa.me/<number>`
- Replace `<number>` with the complete phone number in international format, ensuring you remove symbols

like brackets, dashes, or leading zeroes.

Examples:

Use – `https://wa.me/1XXXXXXXXXX`

Don't use – `https://wa.me/+001-(XXX)XXXXXXX`

Tapping the link will take you directly to a chat window with that number inside WhatsApp.

Create a Link With a Pre-Filled Message

You can also generate a link that opens WhatsApp with a message already typed out.

Format – `https://wa.me/whatsappphonenumber?text=urlencodedtext`

(where `whatsappphonenumber` is the full number in international format, and `urlencodedtext` is the pre-filled message)

Example – `https://`

`wa.me/1XXXXXXXXXX?text=I'm%20interested%20in%20your%20car%20for%20sale`

If you want to create a link that only contains a message (without specifying a number), use:

`https://wa.me/?text=urlencodedtext`

Example – `https://`

`wa.me/?text=I'm%20inquiring%20about%20the%20apartment%20listing`

After generating the link, tapping it will either allow you to choose a contact or send the message directly.

Using the Official "Chat on WhatsApp" Button

WhatsApp also provides a dedicated Chat on WhatsApp button designed for businesses, websites, and creators. This button follows WhatsApp's branding guidelines, making it recognisable and trustworthy. It comes in green or white and is available in small, medium, and large sizes. Currently, the feature is available only in English.

Important Guidelines –

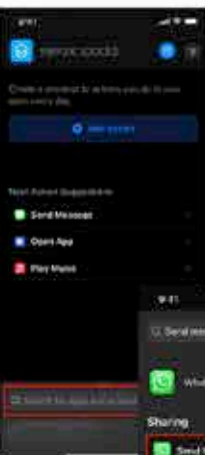
- Use the button without altering its appearance
- Download and apply the newest button design
- Place the button in a clearly visible area for easy access

Common Placement Areas – Website landing pages, Contact pages, Mobile apps, Mobile website versions and Third-party templates

HTML Example – `<a aria-label="Chat on WhatsApp" href="https://wa.me/1XXXXXXXXXX"></a>`

Using WhatsApp's Click to Chat links or the official button makes it easier to start conversations without saving temporary contacts. These tools simplify communication for both personal and business use, offering a fast and clutter-free way to connect. ■

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AI-Powered ‘Super Resolution’ Comes to YouTube to Upgrade Low-Quality Clips

In a new development, YouTube has announced a major AI-driven upgrade for its platform. The platform is introducing a new “Super Resolution” feature that will automatically upscale low-quality videos to higher resolutions. The company revealed this feature along with several other updates in a recent blog post.

YouTube’s AI-Powered Super Resolution Feature

With AI-based upscaling, YouTube will automatically generate higher-resolution versions of videos that were uploaded in less than 1080p. The platform’s ultimate goal is to support resolutions up to 4K, bringing sharper visuals and better viewing experiences even for older or lower-quality uploads.

According to YouTube, the Super Resolution process will be handled automatically, though creators will retain full control over their content. They’ll be able to opt out of the AI enhancement if they wish, and viewers will always have

the option to watch the original resolution version of the video.

In an blog post, YouTube explained, “We’re also introducing a new AI-powered feature that automatically generates higher resolutions for videos. We’re starting with videos uploaded below 1080p, upscaling them from SD to HD, with the goal to support resolutions up to 4K in the near future. Creators will retain complete control over their library, as both original files and original video resolution will be kept intact, with a clear option to opt-out of these enhancements. And viewers will still be able to watch creators’ videos in the original uploaded resolution, as super resolution will be clearly labeled under settings.”

Other New YouTube Features

Alongside the AI upscaling feature, YouTube is also increasing the thumbnail upload limit from 2MB to 50MB. This will allow creators to use higher-quality thumbnails for their videos.

For viewers, YouTube is introducing



“immersive previews” on the homepage.

It is a feature similar to Netflix’s automatic previews. These previews will allow users to browse through channels more interactively while also improving content discovery and engagement.

Kurt Wilms, Senior Director of Product Management for YouTube on TV, wrote, “Viewers will be able to see and flip through their favorite YouTube channels with immersive previews on the homepage, enhancing content discovery and engagement.”

YouTube also shared a few additional updates for its TV experience including contextual search improvements that display results specifically from the channel you’re browsing. Moreover, videos featuring shopping links will now include a QR code for users to view and purchase products directly from their smartphones. ■

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Telegram's Latest Update Adds Live Video Call Comments, Contact Notes & Smarter AI Bots

Telegram has announced a new update that introduces several interactive and personalisation features aimed at improving communication, contact management, and the overall user experience. The update also brings enhanced functionality for AI bots, a revamped gift system, and new design improvements for iOS users.

Live Comments and Reactions in Video Calls

With this update, group calls and video chats on Telegram are becoming more engaging. Participants can now send live comments and animated emoji reactions directly within the call interface. These short, temporary messages appear briefly on screen, allowing users to share quick thoughts, reactions, or questions without unmuting themselves.

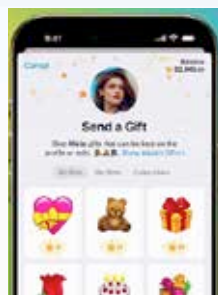
The feature currently supports group calls with fewer than 1,000 participants. Users can access the option by tapping the 'Message' button during a call, making it easier to interact in real time.

Smarter Contact Management Tools

Telegram has also introduced new tools to help users better organise their contacts. One of the key additions is Contact Notes, which allows users to add private notes visible only to them on any contact's profile.

These notes can include personal details like how they met or the person's job title.

Suggested Birthdays Feature



Another feature, Suggested Birthdays, lets users suggest a contact's birthdate while editing their information.

The contact then receives a notification to confirm and add it to their profile with a single tap. Users can also add their own birthdays under Settings to make remembering special occasions easier.

Custom Profiles and Enhanced AI Bots

Premium Telegram subscribers now have more control over their profile customisation. From the main Settings page, users can personalise their profiles using preset colour schemes or even apply backdrops and symbols from gifts they've received. Some collectable gifts also unlock exclusive reply styles, adding a creative touch to conversations.

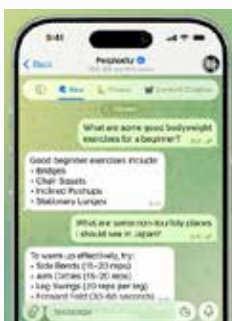
For developers and chatbot enthusiasts, Telegram has expanded its AI bot capabilities. The platform now supports threaded conversations, allowing bots to manage multiple topics at once. Additionally, AI bots can now stream their responses in real-time, rather than sending full messages after processing. These upgrades enhance interaction speed and efficiency, particularly for bots using large language models (LLMs).

Streamlined Gift System and User Interface

Telegram's gift system has also been improved. All gifts now appear in a unified list including those from the Gift Marketplace. Users can also see when upgrades for certain gifts will be available at discounted rates.

Recipients can now hide the gift description and sender details when redeeming gifts via Telegram Stars. Moreover, gifts that have been transferred to the blockchain can be displayed on a user's Telegram profile, provided their account is linked to Fragment.

iOS Design Refresh and Feedback Mini-App



On iOS, Telegram has introduced a "Liquid Glass" design inspired by iOS 26's interface.

This design

features translucent and refractive UI elements across navigation bars, keyboards, and sticker panels for a more fluid and premium look.

Additionally, Telegram's Bug and Suggestion Platform, previously only accessible via the web, has now been integrated as a mini-app. Users can submit bug reports or feature requests directly within the Telegram app itself. ■

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Encrypted X Chat Debuts: Musk Replaces DMs and Adds Big File Transfers

In a recent development, X (formerly Twitter) has begun rolling out X Chat. It is a completely new encrypted communication stack that replaces the platform's existing Direct Messages (DM). Elon Musk, the platform's owner and Chief Technical Officer, confirmed that the feature is now available in beta for a limited group of users.

X Chat Rolls Out in Beta

X Chat was introduced on X via a newly created account @chat. In the introduction post, the account wrote, "Say hello to Chat – all-new secure messaging on X." The post also listed some of the features, which includes the following –

- end-to-end encrypted chats and file sharing
- edit, delete, or make messages disappear
- block screenshots and get notified of attempts
- no ads. no tracking. total privacy.

Musk too announced the update recently on X and wrote, "X just rolled out an entire new communications stack with encrypted messages, audio/video calls and file transfer." While Musk previously hinted that X Chat would launch as a standalone platform, the company has instead integrated it directly into X for now.

Full End-to-End Encryption for All Conversations

Encryption has been a major focus of X Chat. Currently, DMs are not encrypted by default with only paid users able to access an encrypted chat tab. With X Chat, this distinction disappears entirely and every conversation is now encrypted including older messages that previously lacked protection.

Musk has publicly compared the platform's new encryption capabilities to those offered by Signal and WhatsApp.

Mandatory PIN Setup

Users who gain access to the beta will first be prompted to create a four-digit PIN,

which is required to open and view messages. The PIN must be entered each time the Chat interface is accessed.

Meanwhile, Head of X Developer

Platform, Christopher Park noted in a separate post that X has launched multiple new products in recent weeks. These include Grokipedia, X Chat, and the X API beta.

The company is also preparing to roll out major enhancements such as an upgraded Grok Imagine capable of generating videos up to 15 seconds, the launch of X Money, and a fully Grok-powered feed on the platform.

In any case, X Chat is now live in beta and it is quite clear that the platform is accelerating to transform itself into a comprehensive communication and services platform. ■

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iOS 27 Will Prioritize Speed and Stability, Reveals Gurman



Apple is expected to change course with next year's iOS update. According to a recent Bloomberg report, the Cupertino Giant will be shifting its focus away from major feature additions and toward improving reliability and performance. Here's what we know.

Apple's Plans for iOS 27

According to the latest Power On newsletter, Apple may finally be hitting pause on aggressive feature rollouts and instead prioritising the "quality and underlying performance" of its software.

Bloomberg's Mark Gurman reports that Apple is scaling back major new features for WWDC 2026. This strategy will apply not only to iOS 27 and macOS 27 but also to watchOS, tvOS, visionOS, and the rest of Apple's software lineup.

The move comes after the company introduced its new Liquid Glass design language across all major platforms this

year. The redesign along with several feature-heavy releases in recent years has prompted growing complaints about software quality among users.

It will be the first time since iOS 12 that Apple places software stability above extensive feature additions.

Gurman writes, "Aiming to improve the software, engineering teams are now combing through Apple's operating systems, hunting for bloat to cut, bugs to eliminate, and any opportunity to meaningfully boost performance and overall quality. Like Snow Leopard set the groundwork for future overhauls and new types of Macs, iOS 27 will lay the foundation for foldable iPhones and other new hardware."

iOS 27 – What To Expect?

However, Apple is not expected to completely replicate the "zero new features" philosophy of OS X Snow Leopard from 2009. Gurman notes that Apple will still introduce a set of new AI features in iOS 27 to ensure the company doesn't fall behind in the ongoing AI race.

Two major AI-powered capabilities that are currently rumoured

include –

- Apple's new AI health agent, which may debut alongside an Apple Health+ subscription
- Apple's first AI-enhanced web search feature

These additions will arrive shortly after the release of an AI-focused Siri update in iOS 26.4. The upgraded Siri is expected to use a custom version of Google Gemini, which will avoid sending any user data to Google's servers due to Apple's private cloud compute setup.

Beyond the focus on software stability and AI, Gurman outlines three more areas Apple plans to improve:

- Enhanced tools and features for enterprise users
- Tailored ("bespoke") features designed for emerging markets
- Visual refinements to the recently introduced Liquid Glass design language

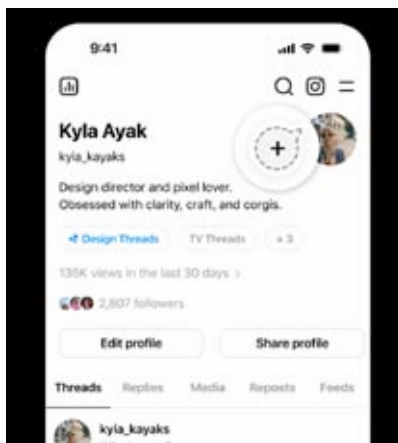
With all these changes, it appears iOS 27 will prioritise polishing rather than adding a large slate of new features. ■



Threads Launches Ghost Posts for 24 Hour Casual Sharing

Meta's Threads is adding a new feature called "ghost posts," which lets users share temporary posts that automatically disappear after 24 hours. The feature is designed to encourage more spontaneous and low-pressure interactions. Here's more on the new feature.

Threads Ghost Post Feature



Meta announced the new feature in a blog post titled "Introducing Disappearing Posts on Threads." As clearly indicated in the blog post title, the new ghost posts feature allows users to share content that's visible for only one day before being archived.

Unlike regular posts, replies to ghost posts are handled differently. When other users on either mobile or desktop

respond, their replies go directly to the DMs (direct messages) rather than showing up in the public feed. Beneath each post, people can still see smiley-faced icons indicating that others have liked or replied, but only the original poster can view the exact number of interactions and who engaged.

After 24 hours, ghost posts disappear from public view but remain accessible to their creator in an "Archived" section, found within the main settings menu.

Speaking to TechCrunch, Meta said the new feature aims to make users more comfortable with casual and short-lived content, similar to the success of Stories on Instagram and Facebook. The company hopes ghost posts will inspire users to share more unfiltered thoughts, engage in live conversations, and experiment with new types of real-time content.

How To Use the Ghost Post Feature on Threads?

To create a ghost post, users can tap the "ghost" icon on the app's compose screen while posting from a mobile device. Once published, ghost posts appear in others' timelines surrounded by a dotted conversation bubble, making them easy to distinguish from regular posts.

According to certain reports, users' messaging preferences do affect the feature.

If message requests are turned off, only people you follow can reply to your ghost posts. If message requests are on, replies from non-followers will appear in your message request inbox. These options can be managed through the



profile's drop-down menu in the top right corner.

Interestingly, Twitter (now X) tried something similar in 2020 with a feature called Fleets, which displayed disappearing content at the top of users' feeds. However, it was discontinued the following year due to low user engagement.

For Threads, however, Meta believes there's still strong potential.

With over 400 million monthly users, Threads is Meta's rival to Elon Musk's X (formerly Twitter). The app continues to evolve rapidly with new features aimed at improving engagement and content variety. The platform has been expanding steadily since its July 2023 launch, adding features such as custom feeds, direct messaging, fediverse integration (enabling cross-platform interactions with networks like Mastodon), longer text posts up to 10,000 characters, spoiler-hiding tools, and interest-based communities. ■

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BGMI Biggest Problems

We Need Krafton To Work On

BGMI is popular and is potentially India's go-to battle royale game. But there are issues that are getting hard to ignore. BGMI's 3.9 update brought in some cool stuff such as the hoverboards, neon zones and even a flashy Transformers crossover.

But we have to echo the opinion of many BGMI veterans online, long-standing problems are still ruining the experience for regular players. Without wasting too much time, here are some of the BGMI problems that we need Krafton to start working on.

Updates Break the Game

Every big update seems to break something.

In version 3.9, players are dealing with crashes, frame drops, and a mic echo bug that makes team communication nearly impossible.

It's frustrating because BGMI runs beta builds before updates go live. You'd expect things to be more stable

NOTABLE POINTS

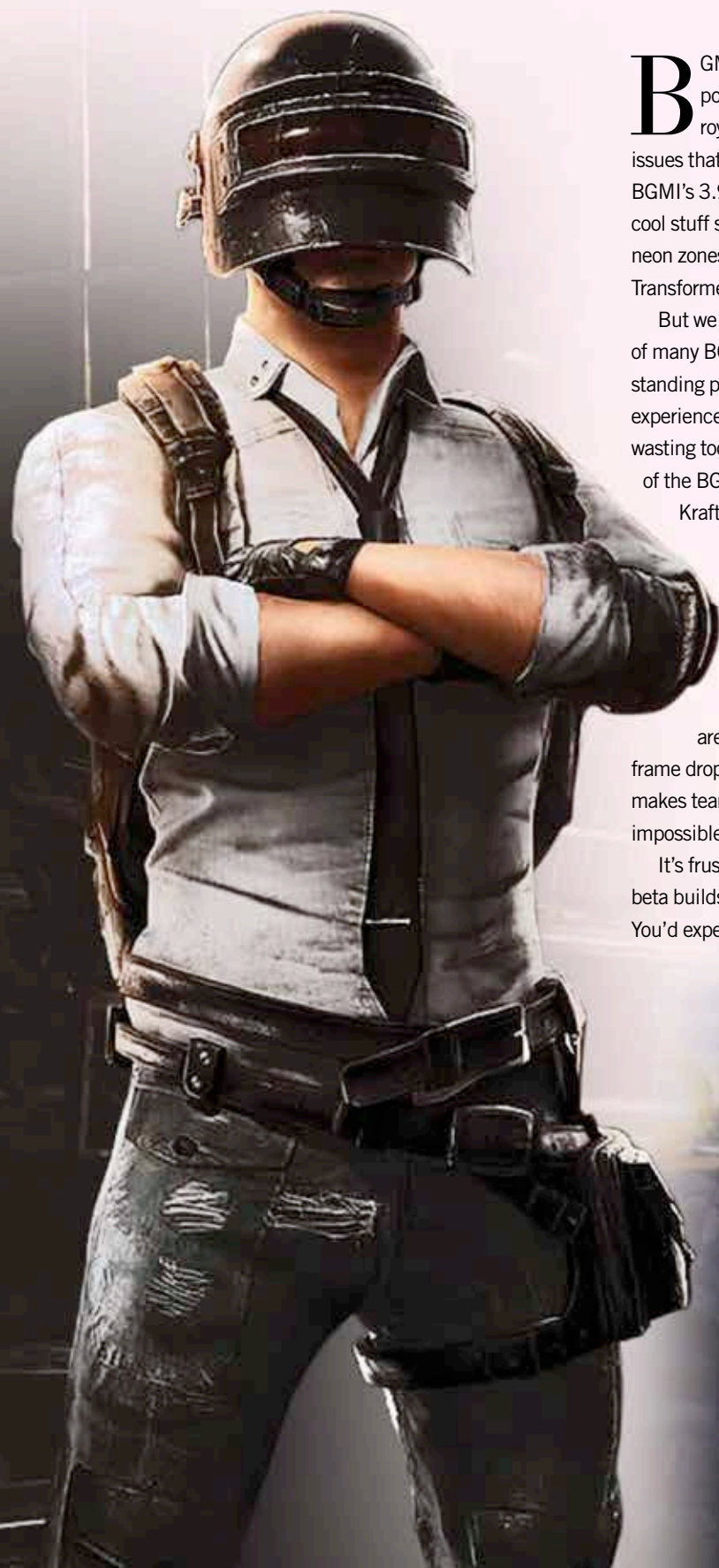
- Major updates like version 3.9 often introduce bugs such as crashes, frame drops, and mic echo issues.
- Krafton continues to prioritise Erangel for events, sidelining fan-favourite maps like Livik and Karakin.
- Voice chat bugs remain unresolved across devices and cheating continues despite Krafton's ban efforts.

by now. Instead, players are stuck reinstalling the game, clearing cache, or tweaking settings just to make it playable again.

This isn't a new issue. The real bug has been Krafton's update strategy as many players online have already pointed out. The updates need to work on core stability before enough complaints flood Reddit and YouTube.

Same Maps and Sidelining Fan Favourites

Krafton clearly loves Erangel! It's





always the centre of major updates. In 3.9, the Transformers content was added only to Erangel, while other maps like Livik were left out of the full experience.

Livik did get hoverboards and neon zones, but it missed out on the core crossover fun. That's disappointing, especially since Livik is a fan favourite for its fast-paced matches.

Karakin, another much-loved map known for close-range action, has also been ignored. It hasn't seen any big updates or events in ages. A dedicated event or mode could easily bring it back into rotation, but right now, Krafton's focus on Erangel is limiting variety.

Voice Chat Is Still a Mess

The voice chat issues are still here, going all the way back to version 3.6. If you're not using earphones, your squad hears a

loud echo. And even with headphones, players report static, high-pitched noises, or what some describe as a "tornado sound" that blasts into their ears.

This affects everyone including iPhone users using Bluetooth or wired headsets. For a team-based battle royale, this is more than annoying and it ruins the experience. And despite constant reports from the community, there's still no proper fix.

Cheaters Are Still a Problem

Cheating in BGMI is still a big issue even after Krafton's regular ban updates and their flashy "Ban Pan" videos. Speed hacks, wall cheats and aimbots continue to show up, making it impossible for honest players to compete fairly.

The anti-cheat system needs serious improvements. Banning accounts after



the fact isn't enough. BGMI needs better real-time detection and tougher punishment systems to stay ahead of cheaters instead of constantly playing catch-up.

While Krafton keeps releasing new skins and limited-time events, we are hoping it will soon stop ignoring the basics. We are referring to the lag, poor matchmaking, broken voice chat and bad optimisation across different phones. For a game with such a massive fanbase in India, we hope makers will soon pay attention to what's impacting the actual gameplay. ■

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Sigma Free Fire Lite APK

Download latest version Sigma Battle Royale apk, Read All Details Below

The lite version of the Sigma Battle Royale game is gaining popularity among the masses. However, the game is not available on the playstore. The steps to download the game on your device from the other way around with the steps are given here.

Introduction

The Sigma Battle Royale game is getting all the attention in the gaming community including its lite version. After the recent launch, this game has been downloaded by millions of gamers, the primary reason can be said to be the size of the game.

Even a low-end specification smartphone is well-compatible to download Sigma Battle Royale owing to the 280 MB size. Read the article ahead to know the steps to take for downloading this game to have an immersive experience via the owned device.

This instantly became a popular game

and secured millions of downloads in a little while after the launch of the Sigma Battle Royale Mobile Game is the latest version that came with better graphics and wider reach. This 280 MB sized game is compatible for devices supported by Android 5.0 and upwards.

With the whole gaming community eager to download the Sigma Free Fire Lite has led to some illegal distribution of the game. And due to the internet data connections some can not even play Garena free Fire and Free Fire MAX easily.

So, as these shortcomings have been restored now, the latest version of Sigma Free Fire Lite has been recently launched with compatible size for lighter phones for gamers to play the lighter version of the games on low end specification devices. The latest lite version is still not available on playstore and is planned to release soon; However, there is a way to install the game.



What is a Free Fire Lite?

Sigma Free Fire Lite is an action game, which is free and powered by Studio Arm Private Limited. This game provides battle royale experience by putting together 50 players in a combat scenario



with the winner should be the last man standing.

This game sports 3D visuals, almost similar to Fortnite. Sigma Free Fire Lite is of 280 MB size that brings an ease to massive low end specifications phone on the basis of being compatible to install. Currently, the site has prohibited the downloading process but the latest version can be installed by request.

Features of Sigma Game Free Fire

Just like any other action games, including PUBG Mobile, Rules of Survival, or Fire Squad Free Fire. Sigma Free Fire also entails some basic features, such as looting boxes for weapons and items, shrinking Safe Zone, and many more.

Besides this, the game will provide

lengthy graphic options from attire customization to choose the weapon of choice. Along with not so complex setup design against its counterparts Sigma Free Fire can be a great option for beginner gamers. The graphics are detailed and not jarring the eyes.

Moreover, the controls and addition of new buttons are easy to understand and put in senses.

As mentioned before, this game is yet not available on playstore to install. Here we have also tried to add the guidelines to follow while installing Sigma free fire Lite. Not only this, through these steps you can also download the Sigma Battle Royale game too. The steps are as follows:

1. First click on to
2. Appearing the Homepage on the official site.

3. Under the 'How to download Sigma free fire Lite' link, the user can see the 'download APK' button.
4. Click on the button and download the Sigma Free Fire Lite Royale APK.
5. After the successful download, install the Apk file that will start the game.

Note that: the application is only compatible for Android 5.0 devices and above. Gamers with other operating systems still need to wait for an updated and diverse version of the game to enjoy on their system.

Sigma Battle Royale APK Download

How much time you can spend there is the basic objective of the game. After that, the MAX version of Free Fire Lite came on the market around last year. However, Free Fire Lit was produced by someone other than Garena.

Instead, it was produced by a third party. Due to this, many players might find it difficult to use third-party applications such as Free Fire Lite Download PC, Free Fire Lite APK Download, etc.

Therefore, we ask you to look at the game's benefits and shortcomings before



BOREDOMBUSTER

installing any of the available versions in the market. And now, there is the news that Free Fire Lite APK will be released in the year 2023.

It has been prepared with the same idea and functions as the original one. So, if you are a gamer, you don't need to worry about your phone being used to this new version. The Free Fire Lite APK will look after each of them.

Sigma Free Fire Lite APK Download

According to the sources provided by Garena, the new Free Fire-Lite, which is going to be available soon, is the modified version of Free Fire. It has been tagged as a cheat application, due to which it cannot be used in the game.

The players who get caught using third-party applications have the risk of getting their access permanently denied. So, players will only be able to escape the anti-cheat system of the Free Fire Lite

that has been repeatedly developed with time.

Sigma FF Lite iOS

The Sigma Battle Royale game was released only for Android users, the game is not currently available for iOS Devices, and it is not expected whether the application will be available on the store, because the game is very similar to Free Fire.

In such a situation, this game may be available again on the play store and on the iOS store, when the graphics of the game or anything else will not be similar to Free Fire.

Download Sigma APK For Android

Here we are willing to inform you under Sigma Game Download APK that the Sigma Battle Royale game has been released some time ago and you will not even believe how it has become so popular in such a short time.

If you are curious to know how Sigma Game Download APK became so popular, then there is only one answer: that this game is given a five star positive rating by every user of Sigma Battle Game Royale on Google Play Store.

And because it has lite written behind its name, it means, this game downloads in very less space. And there is no fear of hanging on the smartphone. Regarding Download Sigma APK For Android, this is a very good opportunity for you to download and enjoy it. And share your experiences with other gamers.

Best Android APK Download Site

If a question is ticking in your mind under Best Android APK download Site, that this application is valid only on Android, and it is not valid for other operating systems, then let us explain to you that Sigma Game Download APK. For users

STEPS TO DOWNLOAD FREE FIRE LITE APK FILE

The process of downloading and installing the latest version of Free Fire Lite APK is quite easy. It will be available to download from the Play Store once it gets released. So, to download it;

- Go to the Google Play Store on your device.
- Tap the search button for 'Garena Free Fire Lite'.
- Find the official version of the app.
- Before installing it, make sure to see certain things, such as the number of downloads, reviews, and other certifications, to ensure the authenticity of the application.
- Now, download it. After completing the download, it will be installed on your device. Then, have fun playing it.
- You have to open the Free Fire Lite on your mobile phone.
- Then you have to create your account in the app if you still need to register. If you have a registration, then click on the login option.
- Then, finally, you will be able to play the Garena Free Fire Lite.

using other operating systems, we will notify you as soon as this application is updated under other operating systems and other developers.

As we have already made it clear to you that within a few hours of the launch of this game under Sigma Game Download APK, it became so popular that the game players downloaded it thousands and millions of times, although this game's quality has been in the news for.

Conclusion

The new version of Sigma free fire Lite with great visuals as Fornite does require one try on download. This game can be fun, especially for the reviewers and the beginner gamers. ■



PUBG Update 38.2 Arrives Nov 13

PS4 and Xbox One Support Ends as Next-Gen Becomes Standard

In a post on the official X (formerly Twitter) account, it was announced that Service Update 38.2 will begin rolling out on November 13, 2025. The pre-load, on the other hand, started a day earlier on November 12 at 02:00 UTC. The rollout window is scheduled between 01:00 and 12:00 UTC on November 13,

though the timing could vary slightly.

Once the update goes live, players will notice major performance upgrades across the new-generation consoles. The supported resolutions and frame rates will be as follows –

- Xbox Series S: 1080p/1440p resolution at 60fps or 30fps
- Xbox Series X: 2160p resolution at 60fps
- PlayStation 5: 1440p resolution at 60fps
- PlayStation 5 Pro: 2160p resolution at 60fps

This marks a significant leap in both visual quality and performance, aligning PUBG: Battlegrounds with the standards of next-gen gaming hardware.

Transition Rewards for PS4 and Xbox One Players

To thank players

from the previous generation, Krafton will offer exclusive in-game rewards to anyone who created a PUBG: Battlegrounds account on PS4 or Xbox One before the new update goes live. Eligible players will automatically receive the following items in their in-game inventory –

- PUBG Icons Parachute
- Desolate Military Base (Nameplate)
- PUBG Graffiti (Emblem)

Additionally, special bundles will be made available for PlayStation Plus and Xbox Game Pass subscribers, alongside upcoming discounts on Battlegrounds Plus memberships.

New Console Events and Bonus Rewards

Following the release of Update 38.2, Krafton plans to host several console-exclusive events open to new, returning, and existing players. Participants can also earn 500 G-Coin by inviting friends who are either returning to or joining the game for the first time. ■





PC GAME PASS

Xbox Game Pass Restructured

New Essential, Premium & Ultimate Tiers Rolled Out with Price Rise

The company says the move is intended to provide “more value, more benefits, and more great games” to subscribers worldwide.

Xbox Game Pass Ultimate



The Ultimate tier has received its most extensive overhaul yet. Subscribers now get access to over 75 day-one titles annually, including blockbuster releases like Call of Duty: Black Ops 7, High on Life 2, Keeper, Ninja Gaiden 4, and The Outer Worlds 2.

The overall library has grown to 400+ games, with 45+ new additions such as Blue Prince, Clair Obscur: Expedition 33, and Hollow Knight: Silksong.

Additional Ultimate perks include –

- Fortnite Crew (starting November 18) with monthly V-Bucks and Battle Pass access.
- Ubisoft+ Classics featuring Assassin’s Creed IV: Black Flag, Prince of Persia: The Lost Crown, and Ghost Recon Breakpoint.
- EA Play access bundled in.
- Upgraded cloud gaming with 1440p streaming, faster load times, and a full

exit from “Beta.”

- Revamped Rewards program offering up to \$100 yearly, 30% discounts on select Game Pass games, 4x points on purchases, 10% points back on add-ons, and up to 20% off Game Pass titles.

Xbox Game Pass Premium



Positioned between Essential and Ultimate, the Premium plan balances affordability and access.

It provides 200+ games across console, PC, and cloud, including fan favorites like Minecraft, Forza Horizon 5, Grand Theft Auto V, Diablo IV, and Hogwarts Legacy. First-party Xbox titles are added within a year of launch (except Call of Duty).

Other Premium benefits include –

- Unlimited cloud gaming including select owned titles.
- Exclusive in-game perks for League of Legends, Call of Duty: Warzone, and Rainbow Six Siege X.
- Rewards worth up to \$50 yearly, 2x points on purchases, and 5% points back on selected games and add-ons.

Xbox Game Pass Essential

The entry-level Essential plan introduces players to the Game Pass ecosystem with a curated library of 50+ titles like Hades, Stardew Valley, Cities: Skylines – Remastered, and Warhammer 40,000: Darktide.

Its benefits include –

- Unlimited cloud gaming (including select owned games).
- Online multiplayer support.



- In-game perks for League of Legends, Call of Duty: Warzone, and Overwatch 2.
- Rewards worth up to \$25 yearly, along with points on purchases.

Updated Pricing (India)

- Game Pass Essential – Rs.99 for the first month, then Rs.499/month
- Game Pass Premium – Rs.99 for the first 14 days, then Rs.699/month
- Game Pass Ultimate – Rs.1,389/month (up from Rs.829)

- PC Game Pass – Rs.939/month (up from Rs.449)

Existing subscribers will be migrated automatically. Core members shift to Essential, Standard members to Premium, and Ultimate members remain in the Ultimate plan.

Microsoft also confirmed that pricing may vary by region, depending on exchange rates and local market conditions. ■

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Nintendo Switch 2 Debuts with Major Upgrades

Here's Where to Buy and What Repairs May Cost

The wait is finally over – Nintendo has officially launched the Nintendo Switch 2. After months of anticipation, the company has revealed its next-generation console packed with exciting new features and supported by a strong lineup of upcoming games.

This is a major moment for gamers worldwide, especially since it marks Nintendo's first new console release in nearly ten years. But multiple market reports have hinted that just because launch day has arrived doesn't mean getting your hands on one will be easy.

Launch Day Rush – Getting the Switch 2 Might Be Tough

While some lucky fans who pre-ordered the Nintendo Switch 2 are already celebrating, others are still scrambling to find one. The demand has been huge especially in the U.S., where many major retailers sold out of their pre-order stock within minutes.

X (formerly Twitter) user @AesirMalos shared a video showing a long line of customers outside a local game shop. @AesirMalos wrote, "The HYPE for

#NintendoSwitch2 is REAL. This crazy line at my local game stop is wrapped around the building! Switch 2 about to break records!"

Another user on bsky shared a video of a long customer queue and wrote, "There are now over 400 people in line for Switch 2 at my local Best Buy in the smallish town of Union City, CA."

Still, don't lose hope as retailers are expected to restock on launch day. If you missed out earlier, you might still be able to grab one if you're quick. If you're in the UK or visiting, stores like Currys, Argos,





The Game Collection, John Lewis and Amazon are your best bets. These retailers are already offering pre-orders and are likely to get launch day stock too.

Nintendo Switch 2 – Pricing

- US version – \$449.99
- European version – 469.99 euros
- Australian version – AUD 699.95
- Hong Kong version – 3450 Hong Kong dollars

Switch 2 Isn't Just a Console

This time around, Nintendo isn't just releasing new hardware. The Switch 2 brings an upgraded gaming experience, including new features like GameChat, which promises smoother and more interactive online multiplayer sessions.

Nintendo Switch 2 Edition Launch Games

1. The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom
2. The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild
3. Sid Meier's Civilization 7
4. Rune Factory: Guardians of Azuma

Nintendo Switch 2 Repair Costs – What You Need to Know?

The Switch 2 is priced at \$449.99, but what happens if something goes wrong? Nintendo has already revealed repair

FREE NINTENDO SWITCH GAME UPDATES

- Pokémon Scarlet
- Pokémon Violet
- New Super Mario Bros. U Deluxe
- Super Mario 3D World + Bowser's Fury
- Super Mario Odyssey
- The Legend of Zelda: Link's Awakening
- The Legend of Zelda: Echoes of Wisdom
- Captain Toad: Treasure Tracker
- Game Builder Garage
- Clubhouse Games: 51 Worldwide Classics / 51 Worldwide Games
- Big Brain Academy: Brain vs. Brain

pricing on its Japanese website, giving us a glimpse of what future fixes might cost.

Here's the breakdown –

- Minor issues like speaker glitches or SD card problems will cost 7,150 yen (around \$50).
- Mid-level repairs such as battery replacement, USB-C port fixes, or a new game card slot are priced at 9,900 yen (about \$69).
- Screen and touch panel repairs, common in portable devices, will set you back 15,400 yen (roughly \$108).
- Major issues, including motherboard problems (like freezing, charging

WHAT YOU CAN PLAY ON SWITCH 2 RIGHT NOW

Nintendo Switch 2 Launch Games –

1. Mario Kart World
2. Nintendo Switch 2 Welcome Tour
3. Street Fighter 6 Years 1–2 Fighters Edition
4. Bravely Default Flying Fairy HD Remaster
5. Cyberpunk 2077: Ultimate Edition
6. Yakuza 0 Director's Cut
7. Fortnite
8. Split Fiction
9. Fast Fusion
10. Hogwarts Legacy
11. Hitman World of Assassination – Signature Edition
12. Sonic x Shadow Generations
13. Deltarune
14. Suikoden 1&2 HD Remaster
15. Puyo Puyo Tetris 2S
16. Arcade Archives 2 RIDGE RACER
17. Survival Kids
18. Kunitsu-Gami: Path of the Goddess
19. Nobunaga's Ambition: Awakening Complete Edition

failures, or power issues), will cost 27,500 yen (about \$192), not far from the price of a brand-new console in some markets.

These repair costs include tax and give us insight into which parts of the Switch 2 are most vulnerable. Keep in mind that pricing may vary by region, but this Japanese listing provides a solid estimate of what to expect.

So, if you're planning to pick up a Switch 2, now's the time and maybe also invest in a good protective case while you're at it. ■

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HMD Launches Dub Series Budget TWS With ANC and Long-Lasting Battery

HMD has expanded its audio portfolio with the launch of the new Dub series of true wireless stereo (TWS) earbuds. The brand has introduced six new budget-focused models globally including the Dub P50, Dub X50, Dub X50 Pro, Dub S60, Dub P60, and Dub P70.

Key Features

Leading the range is the Dub X50 Pro, which features DUB Platinum Sound paired with Hi-Fi DSP.

It supports Active Noise Cancellation (ANC) and Environmental Noise Cancellation (ENC) to improve call clarity. The earbuds deliver up to 60 hours of total battery life with the charging case and also support multipoint connectivity, allowing users to switch between devices seamlessly. A low-latency mode is included for smoother gaming and video streaming experiences.

The standard Dub X50 carries over the same Platinum Sound and ENC but extends total playback time to around 70 hours. It also supports fast charging, low-latency mode, and quick pairing, positioning it as a strong all-round option for daily use.

For users who prefer premium sound without ANC, the Dub S60 offers Dolby Audio support along with multiple EQ modes that can be adjusted using HMD's audio app. It includes ENC for clearer voice calls and provides up to 35 hours of battery life, balancing audio quality and affordability.

The Dub P70 and Dub P60 are tuned for users who prioritise punchy bass and reliable call performance. Both models feature bass-enhanced Platinum Sound and ENC. The Dub P70 adds ANC and delivers up to 35 hours of total playback, while the Dub P60



offers around 30 hours, a low-latency mode, and voice assistant support in a lighter design.

Completing the lineup is the Dub P50, a compact and pocket-friendly option aimed at commuters and casual listeners. It delivers around 25 hours of battery life, includes ENC for calls, and supports low-latency mode. All six Dub series TWS earbuds come with an IPX4 rating for sweat resistance.

Pricing and Availability

HMD has announced the Dub series earbuds in markets such as the Philippines, Malaysia, and select other regions. Wider availability and detailed pricing are expected soon.

The Dub P60 is priced at P1390 (roughly 24 US Dollars), the Dub S60 costs P1890 (around 32 US Dollars), and the Dub X50 is listed at P1990 (approximately 34 US Dollars).

In terms of colour options, the Dub X50 is available in Black and White. The Dub S60 comes in Purple and Grey, while the Dub P60 can be purchased in three dual-tone finishes, which are green with orange, white with purple and black with green. ■





Skullcandy Crusher Wireless Headphones and Sesh ANC Earbuds

Skullcandy has just unveiled two new audio products in India, the Crusher Wireless headphones and the Sesh ANC Active true wireless earbuds. Both belong to the brand's premium range and are built for users who want powerful sound with smart features. Here's more about both the newly launched devices.

Pricing & Availability

The Skullcandy Crusher Wireless headphones are priced at Rs. 9,999, while the Sesh ANC Active earbuds cost Rs. 7,999. Both products are available now on Skullcandy's official website and Amazon. Skullcandy is offering a one-year warranty with both.

Crusher Wireless Headphones

The Crusher Wireless is a refreshed version of an older model, now packed with Stereo Haptic Bass that lets you control the bass vibrations to your liking. It uses 40mm drivers, supports Bluetooth 5.3, and offers up to 40 hours

of battery life. A quick 10-minute charge gives around 3 hours of playtime.

Other features include soft memory foam ear cushions for added comfort, passive noise isolation, and a foldable, collapsible frame. You get on-ear buttons to control volume and calls, along with a built-in microphone.

It also supports voice assistants, has a 3.5mm AUX input for wired listening, and charges via USB Type-C. The headphones weigh about 275 grams and support a wireless range of up to 10 meters. Frequency response is rated at 20Hz to 20kHz with an impedance of 32 ohms.

Sesh ANC Active True Wireless Earbuds

Part of Skullcandy's Active Collection, the Sesh ANC Active earbuds are made for workouts and outdoor use. They feature a four-mic Active Noise Cancellation system and a Stay-Aware Mode to help you stay alert to your surroundings. With an IP67 rating, they're also sweat and water-resistant.

Battery life is a solid 7 hours with ANC on and 12 hours with it off. The charging case extends total playtime to 28 hours (ANC on) or 48 hours (ANC off). A 10-minute charge gives about 2 hours of listening. These earbuds come with 12mm drivers, a 20Hz to 20kHz frequency response, and 16 ohms impedance. They have a sound pressure level of 99dB $\pm$ 3dB.

Other features include custom EQ settings, Mimi sound personalisation, low-latency mode, multipoint pairing, Google Fast Pair, Spotify Tap, and the ability to use either earbud on its own. The total weight is 56 grams. ■



CMF Headphone Pro with Hybrid ANC & 100-Hour Battery

CMF has launched its first-ever over-ear headphones, the CMF Headphone Pro. It marks the brand's official entry into the headphone category. Let's get to know more about the latest device, starting with price and availability.

Pricing and Availability

The CMF Headphone Pro is priced at £79 / \$99 / €99. Sales have already started in the UK and EU, while the US launch is scheduled for October 7, 2025 via nothing.tech and select retail partners.

For India, CMF by Nothing has yet to announce any official launch details.

The headphones come in three colours, which are Light Green, Light Grey, and Dark Grey. It comes with additional swappable ear cushions offered in Green and Orange shades for a personalised look.

Key Features

At the core of the CMF Headphone Pro are 40mm custom dynamic drivers built with PEN+PU dome material and a nickel-plated coating. The setup also includes a 16.5mm copper voice coil, dual-chamber design, and a precision bass duct. Supporting SBC, AAC, and LDAC codecs, the headphones are Hi-Res certified for both wired and wireless playback.

Users can also configure a Personal Sound profile

powered by Audiodo™ to fine-tune the output to their hearing preferences.

For noise cancellation, the CMF Headphone Pro features Hybrid Active Noise Cancellation (ANC) capable of reducing up to 40dB of ambient sound. It relies on five microphones, an adaptive ANC algorithm, environmental noise cancellation (ENC), transparency mode, and a wind noise reduction mesh for clearer performance during calls and music playback.

Control options include a Roller dial for volume adjustment, playback, and ANC toggling. An Energy Slider lets users tweak bass and treble, while a customisable button gives quick access to features like ANC modes, Spatial Audio, or even ChatGPT activation.

Powering the device is a 720mAh battery, offering up to 100 hours of playback (ANC off, AAC codec, 50% volume), around 70 hours on LDAC, and up to 35 hours with ANC enabled. Talk time without ANC goes up to 50 hours. A full charge takes approximately 120 minutes via USB Type-C, while a 5-minute top-up delivers up to 5 hours of playback.

On the connectivity front, the CMF Headphone Pro comes with Bluetooth 5.4, dual-device pairing, and a 10-metre wireless range. It works with Android 5.1 and above, iOS 13 and above, and supports both Google Fast Pair and Microsoft Swift Pair.

Other highlights include IPX2 water resistance, a low-latency mode under 120ms for gaming, and Spatial Audio with dedicated Cinema and Concert modes. Using the Nothing X app, users can remap controls, customise equaliser settings, enable low-lag mode, update firmware, and track the headphones with Find My Headphones.

The headphones weigh 283 grams with cushions adding an additional 45 grams. ■





Sennheiser HDB 630 Wireless Headphones With 60-Hour Battery, High-Res Audio Support

Sennheiser HDB 630 wireless headphones have been officially launched in India. These headphones bring high-resolution audio, advanced tuning controls and a closed-back design to the premium headphone segment. Speaking at the launch, Saahil Kumar, GM, Sonova Consumer Hearing, India said, “The HDB 630 redefines what wireless audiophile sound can be. It brings together Sennheiser’s acoustic craftsmanship, advanced tuning, and long-lasting comfort – allowing listeners to experience true sound fidelity wherever life takes them.”

The company has opened pre-bookings at a special introductory price ahead of the official sale. In the meantime, here’s all about the newly launched headphones.

Price and Availability

The Sennheiser HDB 630 is priced at Rs. 54,990 in India. However, customers can pre-book the headphones for Rs. 44,990 and will receive an Accentum Open TWS headset worth Rs. 12,990 at no additional cost.

Pre-bookings will remain open until December 4 across multiple channels, including Sennheiser’s official website, Amazon, Headphone Zone, Audio Store, Concept Kart, and select retail outlets throughout the country.

The headphones come with a two-year warranty.

Key Features

The HDB 630 is equipped with a 42mm electrodynamic transducer, tuned for a neutral sound signature with detailed mids, controlled bass, and extended treble. Sennheiser says its redesigned acoustic chamber, featuring an optimised magnet mesh, back volume, and transparent baffle mesh, helps minimise distortion and deliver improved clarity.

Connectivity options include Bluetooth 5.2, a detachable 1.2m analogue cable with a 3.5mm jack,

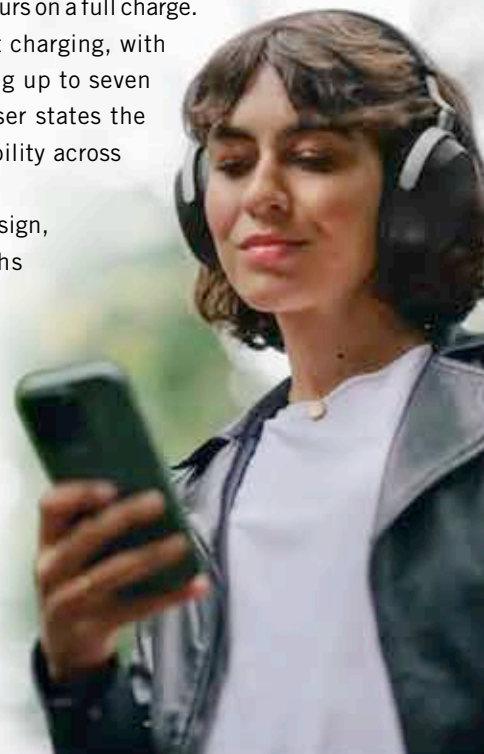


and a 1.2m USB-C to USB-C cable. The headphones offer an extensive frequency response of 6Hz to 40kHz depending on the input source. They come with adaptive noise cancellation as well as a transparency mode.

For high-resolution playback, the HDB 630 supports up to 24-bit/96kHz audio via USB-C, analogue input, or Bluetooth using the bundled BT D 700 dongle. Wireless codecs include aptX Adaptive, aptX HD, aptX, AAC, and SBC. Users can further fine-tune the sound using the parametric EQ in the Sennheiser Smart Control Plus app, which allows adjustments to frequency, bandwidth, and filter type. A built-in crossfeed feature is designed to make older or hard-panned tracks sound more natural.

Battery life is rated at up to 60 hours on a full charge. The headphones also support fast charging, with a quick 10-minute charge offering up to seven hours of listening time. Sennheiser states the headset has been tested for durability across more than 500 charging cycles.

Inspired by the Momentum 4 design, the Sennheiser HDB 630 weighs 311g and features a lightweight frame with reduced clamping force. The leatherette earpads are designed for comfort during long sessions and are replaceable.■



ADD-ONS

Huawei FreeBuds 7i with Dynamic ANC 4.0, Gesture Controls, and AI-Powered Call Clarity

Huawei has officially launched its latest true wireless earbuds, the Huawei FreeBuds 7i, at its Product Launch Event in Paris. The new earbuds come packed with advanced features such as gesture-based controls, AI-enhanced call clarity, and multi-platform compatibility, making them a strong contender in the premium TWS segment.

Price and Availability

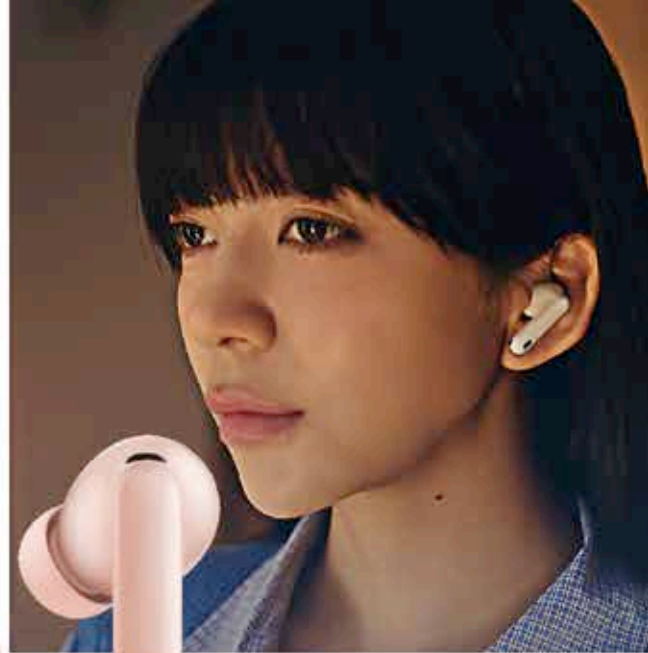
Huawei has priced the FreeBuds 7i at €99.99 during launch. As part of the global rollout, select regions will also get special promotional offers.

The earbuds are available in Black, White and Pink colour options.

Key Features

The highlight of the FreeBuds 7i is Intelligent Dynamic ANC 4.0, an upgraded noise-cancellation system that adapts to surrounding sounds in real time. Huawei claims it can react in just 0.5 seconds, using three microphones and AI-driven algorithms to suppress noise levels by up to 90 dB. This ensures clear call quality even in noisy environments.

For seamless connectivity, the earbuds



support dual-device pairing and work with both Android and iOS platforms. On the audio front,

Huawei has integrated 3D spatial sound with the help of an Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) and head-tracking technology, which shifts the audio direction dynamically as the user moves their head, offering an immersive listening experience.

The FreeBuds 7i are also IP54-rated, making them resistant to dust or splashes and ideal for outdoor use or workouts. Comfort has been prioritised with an ergonomic design and four ear tip sizes to suit different ear shapes.

Another standout feature is gesture control, which allows users to answer or reject calls with just a nod or shake of the head, enabling true hands-free convenience. ■





ADD-ONS

Netflix Adds Party Games to Smart TVs

Netflix is officially bringing its gaming experience to smart TVs, marking a major step in the company's expansion beyond streaming. Netflix subscribers can now play games directly on their television from this week. All they have to do is use their smartphone as a controller, a feature that has been in development for quite some time.

Now Play Games On Netflix

Since debuting its mobile games four years ago, Netflix's approach to gaming has evolved considerably. The addition of TV gaming highlights the company's renewed commitment to becoming a serious player in the gaming space, aiming to compete not only with mobile gaming platforms but also with major console and cloud gaming companies.

Alongside this rollout, Netflix also announced a new lineup of party-focused games designed for group play, perfect for family or friends gatherings.

To get started, users simply need to open the Netflix app on their TV, navigate to the "Games" tab, select a title, and pair their smartphone to use as the controller.

Here are the five titles now available –

- Boggle Party – Up to eight players race against the clock to find words in a scrambled letter grid.
- LEGO Party! – Four players face off in mini-games and creative challenges.
- Party Crashers – Fool Your Friends: One player secretly doesn't know what's happening, while others must uncover who the "crasher" is through clues.
- Pictionary – Game Night: A digital spin on the classic drawing game where players must guess the illustration

before time runs out.

- Tetris Time Warp – Compete with friends for the highest score in this twist on the classic puzzle game.



A Strategic Move Toward Group Play

Focusing on party-style games is clearly a strategic decision for Netflix. It encourages social engagement and keeps users entertained even when they're not watching movies or TV shows. It's part of the company's broader plan to make Netflix a multi-entertainment platform rather than just a streaming service.

Netflix recently outlined its four-category gaming strategy, which includes an emphasis on party titles like the one announced now.

Reports about Netflix's gaming ambitions for TVs first surfaced in early 2023. Initial rumours were followed by the launch of a game controller app for iOS devices later that year. Since then, updates on the feature have been scarce until now. The rollout confirms Netflix's next big move in its gaming strategy.

For now, the new TV gaming feature and party games are available on select smart TVs in specific countries. But Netflix has confirmed plans to expand availability globally in the coming months. ■

GAME NIGHT

NETFLIX
GAMES



Garmin Venu X1 Smartwatch with 8-Day Battery

Garmin has officially launched its Garmin Venu X1 smartwatch in India. The same model was globally launched back in June 2025 as one of the brand's premium wearables. The smartwatch stands out for its 8mm slim profile, titanium construction, and a 2-inch AMOLED display. The company claims the Venu X1 can deliver up to 8 days of battery life in smartwatch mode. Here's all you need to know about the new smartwatch.

Design and Display

The Garmin Venu X1 sports a rectangular design with softly rounded corners and features a titanium caseback paired with a scratch-resistant sapphire lens for added durability. It also comes equipped with a 24mm quick-release ComfortFit nylon strap and is available in two colour variants, Black and Moss. At the front, the smartwatch houses a 2-inch AMOLED touchscreen, designed to make viewing maps, metrics, and data more convenient.

Garmin has also included customisable watch faces, allowing users to display key information such as step count, real-time heart rate, altitude, and training readiness. Additionally, the watch offers multiple font sizes to improve notification visibility and readability.

Key Features

The Venu X1 introduces several new hardware upgrades including a built-in speaker, microphone, and LED flashlight. When paired with a compatible smartphone, users can make and receive calls directly from the watch. The integrated microphone and speaker also allow access to the connected phone's voice assistant for replying to messages or issuing commands.

Interestingly, some voice commands such as starting a workout or setting a timer can be executed without needing a smartphone connection, adding to its standalone utility. The LED flashlight feature further enhances practicality, offering visibility in dark environments or during outdoor activities at night.

Price and Availability

The Garmin Venu X1 is priced at Rs. 97,990 in India and is available for purchase through the official Garmin India website. The smartwatch also appears on Amazon India, though the Buy Now button isn't active yet at the time of writing. ■

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