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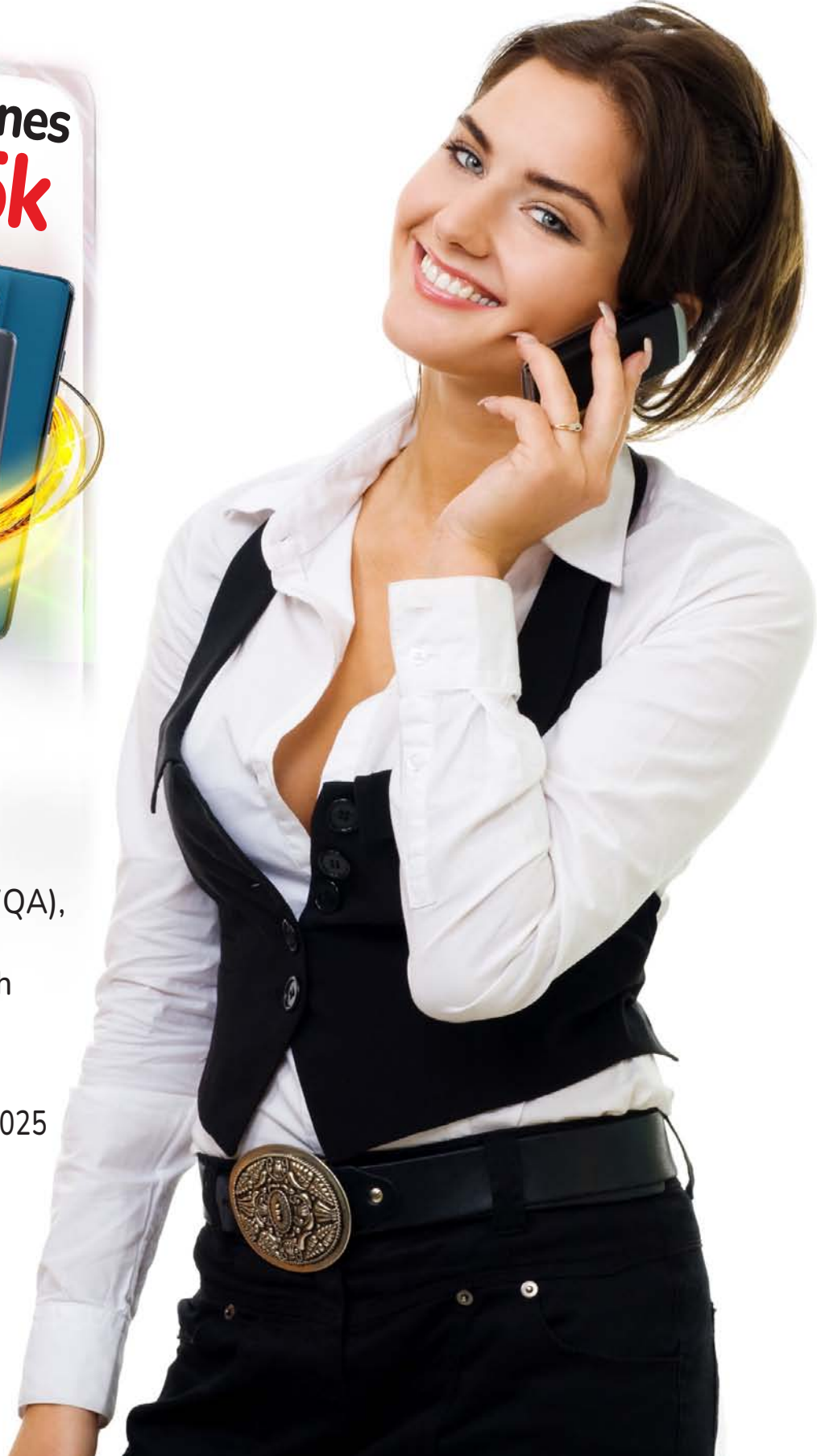
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Spotlight

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MY MOBILE

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Volume XXI, Issue (II), FEBRUARY 2026



India's mobile phone manufacturing journey over the past decade stands as one of the most compelling industrial transformation stories in recent economic history. As highlighted in the Economic Survey, the value of mobile phone production in India has surged nearly 30-fold over the last ten years, a statistic that captures not just growth in numbers, but a fundamental shift in India's position within the global electronics ecosystem.

From being a predominantly import-driven market, India has decisively emerged as one of the world's largest mobile phone manufacturing bases and a leading exporter of smartphones. Today, "Made in India" devices are shipped to advanced and emerging markets alike, underscoring India's growing credibility as a reliable, competitive, and scalable manufacturing destination. This rise has been driven by a clear national vision, anchored in Make in India, enabled by the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, and reinforced by policy consistency, ease of doing business reforms, and deepening industry-government collaboration.

Equally important has been India's ability to attract global majors, scale production rapidly, build operational excellence, and leverage its vast talent pool. The mobile phone sector has demonstrated that India can integrate into global value chains at scale and deliver.

Yet, this success must now be consolidated and elevated. The next phase demands a sharper focus on value creation rather than volumes alone. India must accelerate the development of a robust component ecosystem, strengthen semiconductor and display manufacturing, and move decisively towards design-led manufacturing and IP creation. Export leadership will increasingly depend on logistics efficiency, competitive financing, trade agreements, and predictable regulatory frameworks.

The future action plan is unambiguous: deepen supply chains, enhance technological depth, invest in skills and automation, and align India's manufacturing ambitions with global technology roadmaps. In a volatile geopolitical environment, India has a historic opportunity to position itself as a trusted global hub for electronics manufacturing.

Mobile phones have shown what is possible. The imperative now is to scale this success across the broader electronics landscape and lead with confidence.

Pankaj Mohindroo
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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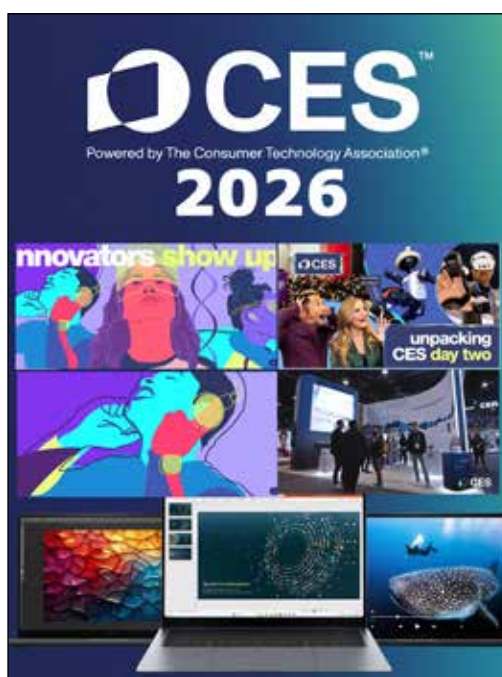
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Apple Moves Indian Court to Block Antitrust Regulator's Demand for Global Financial Data



Apple has approached an Indian court seeking to prevent India's antitrust regulator from demanding access to its worldwide financial records as part of an ongoing probe into the company's App Store practices. According to court documents, the move comes as Apple separately challenges the validity of the legal framework governing penalties under India's competition law.

The US-based technology giant is currently embroiled in a major legal dispute with the Competition Commission of India (CCI). The Commission has accused Apple of abusing its dominant position through its App Store policies.

Apple has argued that it faces potential penalties of up to \$38 billion if the regulator applies a calculation based on the company's global turnover. The company has already challenged India's 2024 penalty rules in court and that case is still pending.

Despite the ongoing legal challenge, the CCI proceeded with the investigation and issued a confidential order on December 31 seeking Apple's financial information. In response, Apple filed a petition dated January 15, requesting that the Delhi High Court direct the CCI to refrain from taking any action against the company for now and to pause the investigation altogether. The filing is not publicly available.

In its submission, Apple contended that complying with the financial disclosure request at this stage would undermine its primary legal challenge to the penalty framework. The CCI, however, has defended the rules, stating that they

are essential to deter violations by multinational corporations.

The Delhi High Court is expected to hear the matter on January 27.

Apple has denied all allegations made by the regulator. But neither Apple nor the CCI responded to media requests for comment.

Apple Hints at Major Fitness+ Changes Coming in 2026

Apple has shared a cryptic teaser hinting at a major update coming to Apple Fitness+ in 2026. The company posted the teaser on the official Apple Fitness+ Instagram account, promising "something big" will arrive on the service next year.



The teaser appears as an Instagram Reel showing several people reading a fictional newspaper titled Apple Fitness+ Times. The paper features bold, eye-catching headlines repeatedly suggesting that "something big is coming to Apple Fitness+." Alongside the headlines, the newspaper visuals include scenes from Apple Fitness+ workout sessions.

Adding to the mystery, the caption of the post reads, "Word on the street is that Apple Fitness+ has big plans for 2026... stay tuned!" However, Apple has not shared any specific details about what the upcoming changes might include.

The teaser comes after recent Bloomberg report claiming that the future of Apple Fitness+ was under internal review. While both developments can coexist, the teaser suggests that Apple is continuing to invest in the service and actively promoting new content rather than scaling it back.

The Instagram post also comes just weeks after Apple announced a significant expansion of Apple Fitness+. The company introduced AI-powered voice dubbing, enabling workouts to be offered in 28 new markets without re-recording sessions. Apple has also confirmed that Fitness+ will launch in Japan early next

year as part of this expansion.

Looking closely at the teaser, one headline reads, "Experts predict January will be one to watch." This suggests the new content or features could be tied to the New Year period, a traditionally popular time for fitness-related launches.

While Apple is widely expected to introduce an AI-powered health service in 2026, this particular teaser is unlikely to be connected to that initiative. Instead, it appears focused solely on Apple Fitness+.

Earlier this month, Apple expanded Fitness+ to additional regions including India. Along with the rollout, the company enabled AI-driven voice dubbing to support more languages, helping Apple scale its fitness content globally. For a service with international ambitions, this marks an important step forward.

Taken together, these developments point toward a major push for Apple Fitness+ in 2026. The teaser strongly hints that Apple is preparing a significant refresh. Reports suggest it could be one that could reshape what Apple Fitness+ offers and how the service is positioned in the future.

Oppo Find X9 Ultra Leak Reveals Powerful 300mm Telephoto



According to the leaked images (via Weibo), the Oppo Find X9 Ultra will support an updated external teleconverter that appears noticeably bigger than its predecessor. The handset is shown being tested outdoors with the accessory attached. It suggests Oppo is focusing on real-world photography performance ahead of launch.

Unlike the optional 3.28x teleconverter available for the Find X9 Pro, the new attachment is said to offer 4.28x optical magnification. This reportedly results in

an effective focal length of around 300mm, making it more suitable for long-range photography.

The teleconverter itself looks more complex in design and is expected to include additional optical elements. It is tipped to work alongside a 200-megapixel periscope telephoto camera, enabling detailed optical zoom shots with reduced dependence on digital cropping.

Leaks suggest that Oppo will retain a dual periscope telephoto setup on the Find X9 Ultra. The primary periscope camera is said to be a 200-megapixel OmniVision OV52A sensor offering 3x optical zoom. This could be paired with a second 50-megapixel periscope telephoto camera supporting up to 10x optical zoom.

The rest of the rear camera system is expected to include a 200-megapixel Sony LYT-901 main sensor, a 50-megapixel Samsung JN5 ultra-wide camera, and a dedicated multispectral sensor to improve colour accuracy. Both the main and telephoto cameras are tipped to feature optical image stabilisation. On the front, the phone may house a 50-megapixel selfie camera with autofocus.

Beyond photography, the Oppo Find X9 Ultra is rumoured to sport a 6.82-inch flat 2K AMOLED display, be powered by the Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 chipset, and run ColorOS 16. It is also expected to offer full dust and water resistance, along with a battery larger than 7,000mAh that supports fast wired and wireless charging.

The Find X9 Ultra is expected to make its debut in China around March and could later be introduced in additional global markets.

WhatsApp iOS Beta Introduces Smart Sticker Suggestions



As spotted by WABetaInfo, the newest WhatsApp beta for iOS includes the same

sticker suggestion functionality that was rolled out to the Android beta late last year. The feature has been identified in the WhatsApp beta for iOS 26.1.10.72 update, which is currently available via Apple's TestFlight app.

Following the release of this build, it was observed that WhatsApp is gradually rolling out a system that suggests stickers in real time as users compose messages.

In its current form, the sticker suggestion tool works directly within the message composer. When a user types or inserts an emoji that has stickers linked to it, WhatsApp displays a small sticker icon on the right side of the input field, positioned next to the send button.

Tapping on this icon opens a results view that shows stickers and GIFs associated with the selected emoji. There is also a "Show more results" option, allowing users to expand the selection without leaving the ongoing chat.

According to WABetaInfo, the suggested results are generated based on "predefined emoji associations that are linked to stickers during their creation process". This indicates that, at least initially, the feature depends on emoji metadata added by sticker creators.

WABetaInfo further explains, "Only stickers that include these associations are eligible to appear as suggestions while typing, ensuring that results remain relevant and contextually accurate. Several third-party sticker creation apps on iOS already support assigning multiple emojis to a single sticker, which improves the chances of the sticker appearing at the right moment. This system helps WhatsApp filter suggestions efficiently, even for users who have many sticker packs downloaded."

As of now, the sticker suggestion feature currently does not work with stickers created using WhatsApp's own built-in sticker creation tool. Reports say this is because the feature does not yet support emoji associations. However, this limitation may be addressed before the feature is officially released to all users.

India-Made iPhone Shipments Cross \$50 Billion Mark

Apple has reached a major milestone in India by shipping iPhones worth \$50 billion (around Rs. 4.51 lakh crore) from



the country. Citing an Economic Times report, Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw confirmed the figures. The Minister said that Apple via its contract manufacturing partners such as Foxconn has exported approximately \$50 billion worth of iPhones from India since being onboarded under the PLI scheme as part of the Make in India initiative.

Apple continues to reduce its dependence on China by expanding its manufacturing footprint across other regions with India emerging as a key assembly hub. As part of this shift, the iPhone maker's contract manufacturers, including Foxconn and Tata Electronics, have benefited from the Indian government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme.

According to the report, Apple exported nearly \$16 billion (about Rs. 1.44 lakh crore) worth of iPhones in just the first nine months of FY26. This has taken the total value of iPhone shipments from India to \$50 billion since FY22.

The figure is expected to rise further as three months remain in the current financial year, which also marks the completion of the first five-year phase of the PLI scheme.

In November 2024, the minister had revealed that Apple shipped devices with a freight-on-board (FoB) value of \$10 billion (approximately Rs. 90,000 crore) during the first two quarters of FY25, covering the period from April to October.

The total shipment value rose to nearly \$15 billion (around Rs. 1.35 lakh crore) when additional factors such as sales accounts, distribution, marketing, logistics, and margins were included. Of this amount, made-in-India iPhone models

accounted for close to \$7 billion (roughly Rs. 63,000 crore).

The minister also highlighted the rapid growth of India's electronics sector, stating that electronics production has increased sixfold over the past 11 years, while exports have grown eightfold during the same period. He added that electronics products have now become one of the top three commodities exported from the country.

Ashwini Vaishnaw further announced that four semiconductor manufacturing plants are set to begin commercial production later this year. He also noted that India's electronics manufacturing ecosystem currently employs around 25 lakh people.

OnePlus Confirms Normal Operations Amid Rumours



The rumours surfaced despite OnePlus launching several products in India recently. The company introduced its flagship OnePlus 15 in November 2025, followed by the OnePlus 15R and the OnePlus Pad Go 2 in December.

However, over the past few weeks, reports have suggested that the Oppo-owned brand may have scrapped plans for the OnePlus Open 2, its notebook-style foldable smartphone, as well as the OnePlus 15s, a compact flagship model.

OnePlus has also been facing increasing competition in the smartphone market, alongside challenges linked to ongoing memory chip shortages. According to IDC data, the brand's market share dropped from 3.6 percent in Q3 2024 to 2.4 percent in Q3 2025, reflecting a 30.5 percent decline year-on-year. In contrast, its parent company Oppo reportedly maintained a stable 13.9

percent market share across Q3 2024 and Q4 2025.

In addition to the shutdown rumours, OnePlus India is also dealing with a tax-related issue. As per a report by The Economic Times, the company has received a Rs.93 crore GST notice linked to its lifetime screen replacement programme for the green line display issue.

The notice was reportedly disclosed through a regulatory filing submitted to the Registrar of Companies, where OnePlus stated that authorities had conducted inquiries, searches, and inspections related to its "Green Line Worry Free Solution".

The company has allegedly deposited Rs.10 crore under protest.

Meta Announces Rollout of Ads on Threads Worldwide Starting Next Week

Meta has announced that advertisements will soon appear on Threads for users across the globe. The company confirmed that the global expansion of ads will begin next week with a phased rollout that could take several months to fully complete. Here's more on that.

In a blog post, Meta stated, "Beginning next week, we are expanding ads on Threads to users in all markets globally. This follows the initial rollout of ads on Threads to advertisers last spring. Ads on Threads are powered by Meta's proven AI-powered ads system, which means people can expect to see the same level of personalization in Threads ads that they're used to on other Meta platforms like Facebook and Instagram."

Meta has been testing ads on the platform for some time. Around a year ago, Threads began experimenting with ads in the US and Japan, and by April last year, Meta opened the platform to advertisers worldwide.



Meta has also simplified the process for advertisers to include Threads in their campaigns. Existing advertisers can automatically place ads on Threads through Meta's Advantage+ program or manage them manually. Supported ad formats include image and video ads, along with newer options such as the 4:5 aspect ratio format and carousel ads.

Advertisers can manage Threads campaigns alongside Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp ads within Meta's Business Settings.

Additionally, Meta has extended third-party verification tools that are already available on Facebook and Instagram feeds and Reels to the Threads feed through Meta Business Partners. This allows advertisers to access independent brand safety and suitability verification on Threads, an important addition as the platform's closest competitor continues to grapple with issues like illegal deepfakes.

Threads, which competes directly with X, has been repeatedly highlighted by Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg as the company's next major success story. The platform has now crossed 400 million monthly active users. Shortly after Threads launched, Zuckerberg told investors that the app had strong potential to reach 1 billion users within a few years.

Since its debut in July 2023, Threads has seen rapid growth. The platform reached 200 million users by mid-2024, climbed to 320 million users by January 2025, added another 30 million users by April last year, and has now hit its latest user milestone. Although, Threads has not yet reached the ambitious 1 billion-user mark.

Meta did not specify how frequently ads will appear in users' Threads feeds. However, the company noted that ad delivery will initially remain "low" as the global rollout gets underway.

Apple May Replace Siri With Gemini-Powered AI Chatbot Experience

As per the report, Apple is considering replacing the existing Siri interface with an AI chatbot experience that would be deeply integrated across iPhone, iPad, and Mac operating systems. Despite the major backend changes, the way users



invoke Siri is unlikely to change.

The assistant would still be accessible via the 'Siri' voice command or by pressing and holding the side button.

The initiative is said to be internally codenamed Campos and could be announced at Apple's WWDC event in June last year. As has often been the case with Apple, the actual rollout is expected to happen later, possibly after the launch of the next iPhone lineup in September.

In terms of capabilities, Gurman suggests that the new Siri chatbot would function much like ChatGPT or Gemini. It is expected to be capable of web searches, content creation, image generation, summarising information, and analysing uploaded files. The chatbot could also tap into users' personal data to perform tasks such as finding files, songs, or calendar entries.

Additionally, the AI-powered Siri is said to gain deeper control over device features and system settings. This could allow users to type requests for actions like making phone calls, setting timers, or launching the camera, among other everyday tasks.

The report also mentions that Apple is internally testing a standalone Siri chatbot app, although there are currently no plans to release such an app to users. Instead, Apple is reportedly focusing on weaving the chatbot experience into its core apps including Mail, Music, Podcasts, TV, Photos, and even Xcode.

This tighter integration could enable Siri to handle more advanced tasks such as locating photos based on descriptions, editing images through cropping or colour adjustments, or drafting and sending emails.

While the Siri chatbot is expected to feature an Apple-designed interface, its underlying technology may rely heavily

on a custom AI model developed by Google. Apple and Google recently confirmed a partnership that will see Gemini power several upcoming Apple AI features.

Separately, Apple is preparing to introduce a refreshed Siri voice assistant interface with the iOS 26.4 update. According to Gurman, this version of Siri will run on a Google-developed model internally referred to as Apple Foundation Models version 10.

Samsung EB-U2500 Qi2 Power Bank Details Leaked



Tipster Roland Quandt of WinFuture has shared promotional images of the accessory, which is reportedly called the Samsung EB-U2500 Magnetic Wireless Charging Powerbank. As per the leak, the power bank will support the Qi2 wireless charging standard, enabling compatible Galaxy S26 models to charge wirelessly at speeds of up to 15W.

When used with a cable, it is said to deliver up to 20W output via USB Power Delivery or Qualcomm Quick Charge.

The leaked renders show the power bank in a white colour option, featuring a compact form factor along with a built-in kickstand. The Samsung EB-U2500 is tipped to pack a 5,000mAh battery and can reportedly be charged at speeds of up to 25W.

In terms of pricing, it is said to be listed at EUR 59.90 (approximately Rs. 6,500) in Germany. Apart from charging, the magnetic power bank may also double as a phone stand. The fold-out arm shown in the images could allow users to prop up their smartphone for video streaming or video calls.

The accessory is expected to go on sale in European markets well before the official launch of the Galaxy S26 lineup.

Apple Working on AirTag-Like AI Pin With Dual Cameras and Built-In Speaker



The AI pin is reportedly similar in size to an AirTag and features a thin, flat, circular disc-like design. It is said to use an aluminium and glass construction and house two front-facing cameras, a standard lens and a wide-angle lens, intended for capturing photos and videos.

To handle audio input, the device is tipped to include three microphones capable of picking up surrounding sounds. The report adds that the pin will feature a built-in speaker for audio playback, along with a physical control button placed along one edge. Like the Apple Watch, the wearable is expected to support wireless charging. Apple is reportedly aiming to keep the final product close to the size of an AirTag, though it may end up being slightly thicker. At the moment, the prototype does not include a built-in attachment mechanism, but this could be added later as development progresses.

It remains uncertain whether Apple plans to sell the AI pin as a standalone product or bundle it with future smart glasses or other hardware. However, the presence of built-in cameras, microphones, a speaker, and a physical button suggests that the device could function independently without relying on another Apple product.

OpenAI is also working with Jony Ive on a small AI-focused device that may or may not be wearable, while also developing multiple other AI products. Meta already offers AI-enabled smart glasses, and Amazon has introduced the Bee bracelet. In addition, several smaller companies are experimenting with compact, AI-integrated wearables, increasing pressure on Apple to stay competitive.

According to The Information, Apple's AI pin could arrive as early as 2027. However, the report cautions that the project is still in its early stages and could be shelved before reaching a commercial launch. ■

team@mymobileindia.com



Honor Magic8 Pro Air arrives with 6.3" AMOLED, triple camera setup and 5,500mAh battery

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.

At the same launch event, Honor also introduced the Honor Watch GS 5 smartwatch, positioning it as a strong alternative to Huawei's wearable offerings. Here's everything you need to know about the newly launched Honor products.

Honor Magic8 Pro Air Debuts as the Brand's Lightest Flagship

The Honor Magic8 Pro Air is being marketed as the company's lightest high-end smartphone to date. It weighs 155g and measures just 6.1mm in thickness, placing it among the slimmest flagship phones currently available. The device features a 6.31-inch OLED display with ultra-narrow bezels measuring 1.08mm on all sides, clearly targeting users who prefer compact smartphones without stepping down to a mid-range category.

On the design front, the Magic8 Pro Air comes with a metallic satin-style rear finish created through a multi-layer coating process, which Honor compares to automotive-grade finishes. It uses an aluminium frame with Honor claiming improved structural strength despite the thin form factor.

Key Features

Powering the Magic8 Pro Air is MediaTek's Dimensity 9500 chipset. The phone packs a 5,500mAh battery, which is notably large for a device of this size. Charging options include 80W wired fast charging and 50W wireless charging. Honor also

highlights an energy density rating of 917Wh/L, although actual battery performance will depend on usage patterns.

The camera system includes a 50MP 1/1.3-inch main sensor with optical image stabilisation, a 50MP ultra-wide camera with a 112-degree field of view, and a 64MP periscope telephoto lens offering 3.2x optical zoom. Honor is introducing an AI-assisted flash system that dynamically adjusts flash output at different zoom levels, along with a new strobe-style portrait mode aimed at improving low-light photography.

Additional features include IP68 and IP69 water and dust resistance, stereo speakers, a 3D ultrasonic fingerprint sensor, and support for both physical SIM and eSIM. The display is rated for up to 6,000 nits of peak HDR brightness.

Price and Availability

The phone is offered in Fairy Purple, Light Orange, Feather White, and Shadow Black colour options.

As for pricing, Honor Magic8 Pro Air price starts at 4,999 yuan with sales scheduled to begin on January 23, 2026, following the ongoing pre-order phase. ■

PRICE STRUCTURE

- 12GB + 256GB – 4,999 yuan (~\$717)
- 12GB + 512GB – 5,299 yuan (~\$760)
- 16GB + 512GB – 5,599 yuan (~\$803)
- 16GB + 1TB – 5,999 yuan (~\$860)



India Opens Lower 6GHz Band for Licence-Free Wi-Fi Use With Strict Limits



The Indian government has officially permitted licence-free use of the lower 6GHz spectrum band. This will significantly improve indoor Wi-Fi speeds and accelerate the adoption of next-generation wireless standards such as Wi-Fi 6E and Wi-Fi 7.

The decision was notified by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on January 20 and allows low-power indoor and very low-power outdoor wireless systems to operate without a licence in the 5925–6425MHz frequency range.

This development follows months of discussions and disagreements between telecom operators and technology companies over how the 6GHz spectrum should be utilised.

500MHz of 6GHz Spectrum De-licensed for Wi-Fi

The DoT has issued the “Low Power and Very Low Power Wireless Access System Rules, 2026,” under which 500MHz of spectrum in the lower 6GHz band has been de-licensed.

As per the notification, Wi-Fi and radio local area network equipment can be deployed without a licence as long as the devices function on a shared, non-exclusive basis and adhere to defined technical standards related to power output, emissions, and bandwidth.

Low-power indoor devices will be allowed to operate at a maximum equivalent isotropic radiated power of 30dBm, while very low-power outdoor devices will be capped at 14dBm.

According to the government, these limits are designed to deliver faster Wi-Fi performance while avoiding interference

with licensed services, including satellite communications and backhaul networks. Devices operating in this band must use contention-based protocols and integrated antennas that meet approved technical standards.

Usage Restrictions and Interference Safeguards Outlined

The notification also introduces several operational restrictions to minimise interference. Indoor use of the lower 6GHz band is not permitted on land vehicles, boats, or aircraft, except when aircraft are flying above 10,000 feet. The use of this spectrum on oil platforms has been prohibited, and communication with or control of drones and unmanned aerial systems is not allowed.

In addition, strict out-of-band emission limits have been specified to further protect existing licensed services operating in adjacent frequency bands.

The decision comes nearly six months after the government released a draft proposal in May 2025 to open up the lower 6GHz band. It also follows sustained lobbying by technology companies, which argued that current Wi-Fi networks are unable to fully extend the capacity of fibre broadband and 5G services indoors.

Global technology firms including Apple, Amazon, Cisco, Meta, HP, and Intel have been advocating for the de-licensing of the entire 6GHz band for Wi-Fi use. On the other hand, Reliance Jio has maintained that the full 6GHz spectrum should be auctioned for mobile services. ■



Honor Watch GS 5 debuts with anti-sudden cardiac arrest monitoring, 23-day battery life

Alongside its new smartphones, Honor also introduced the HONOR Watch GS 5 in China. The smartwatch succeeds the Watch GS 3 and brings a refreshed design along with advanced health-focused features.

According to Honor, the Watch GS 5 is the industry's only smart wearable supporting research into sudden cardiac arrest screening. It identifies potential heart health risks by analysing the vagus nerve's ability to regulate heart rate through heart rate deceleration force detection. High-risk users also receive professional telephone follow-ups from the research team, providing timely health guidance.

The smartwatch offers comprehensive heart health monitoring including early risk screening for suspected atrial fibrillation, premature beats, sleep apnea, and irregular heart rhythms. It also supports 24/7 real-time monitoring of heart rate, blood oxygen levels, stress, sleep quality, and HRV.

Honor has partnered with Professor Gu Dongfeng's team to introduce a cardiovascular and cerebrovascular risk

assessment model tailored for Chinese users. Based on internationally recognised biomedical models, it delivers personalised risk assessments and health recommendations.

The HONOR Watch GS 5 is just 9.9mm thick and weighs 26g. It features an aluminium alloy bezel, a genuine leather strap, and a 1.32-inch curved AMOLED display. Through optimised internal stacking, the watch houses a 495mAh silicon-carbon anode battery, delivering up to 23 days of battery life with Bluetooth usage and up to 9 days with the always-on display enabled.

Price and Availability

The HONOR Watch GS 5 is available in Black and Khakhi colour options with a leather strap, priced at 699 yuan (around \$100 or Rs. 9,115). It is currently available for order and will go on sale in China starting January 23. ■



High-brightness small round screen

1500 nits high-definition screen, clear even in strong



NFC

Access control and car parking can be unlocked with a single swipe, giving you a head start in getting



Free movement

Independent GNSS positioning accurately constructs running tracks and supports 100 sports modes.



Fully waterproof

5ATM and IP68 waterproof certification, enjoy swimming underwater.



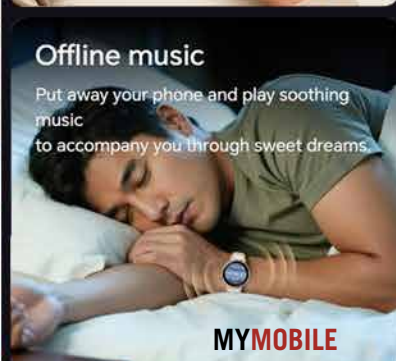
Bluetooth calling

Answer incoming calls quickly and give your phone a break.



Offline music

Put away your phone and play soothing music to accompany you through sweet dreams.



Xiaomi Mijia Smart Audio Glasses to Expand Wearable Audio Lineup

Xiaomi has introduced the Mijia Smart Audio Glasses at its European event alongside the Redmi Note 15 series, signalling a fresh push into wearable audio. The launch expands Xiaomi's global smart accessory lineup, blending everyday eyewear with integrated sound technology for hands-free listening on the go.

Mijia Smart Audio Glasses

The Mijia Smart Audio Glasses are designed to look like regular eyewear while integrating audio and smart functionality. Instead of traditional earbuds, the glasses feature dual speakers and quad microphones, allowing users to take calls, listen to music, and access smart features directly from the frame.

Touch-sensitive areas on the temples enable users to control playback, adjust volume, activate the voice assistant, and manage calls. Xiaomi has also added real-time recording for calls and meetings, which can be activated using a press-and-hold gesture on the temple. Additional features include wind noise reduction and a privacy mode designed to reduce sound leakage.

For connectivity, the Mijia Smart Audio Glasses use Bluetooth 5.4 and support dual-device pairing, allowing users to stay connected to two devices simultaneously.

Xiaomi has equipped the glasses with dual 114mAh batteries, one housed in each temple. The company claims up to 13 hours of continuous audio playback and up to 9 hours of talk time on a single charge. Charging is handled via a proprietary magnetic charger that clips onto the temples and connects through a USB Type-C adapter.

The smart glasses are available in three designs - Brownline (€179), Pilot-Style (€179), and Titanium (€199). All variants come with IP54-rated dust and splash resistance. The Titanium version is the lightest, weighing just over 27 grams without lenses, while the temples on all models measure 5mm in thickness. ■

Redmi Buds 8 Lite Debut as Xiaomi's Latest Affordable Wireless Audio Offering



compatible with AAC and SBC audio codecs.

Using Xiaomi's Earbuds app, users can choose from five preset sound profiles or customise audio output using a manual equaliser.

The Redmi Buds 8 Lite come with hybrid active noise cancellation rated at up to 42dB, along with dedicated wind-noise and call noise reduction. Battery life is rated at up to 8 hours of playback on a single charge, which can be extended to a total of 36 hours with the charging case.

The Redmi Buds 8 Lite are available in Black, White, and Blue colour options and are priced at €23 in Europe. ■

Xiaomi has expanded its global smart wearable portfolio with the launch of the Redmi Buds 8 Lite. The new products were unveiled at the company's European launch event for the Redmi Note 15 series. This marks Xiaomi's latest push in the audio and wearable segment. Here's more on both the newly launched devices.

Redmi Buds 8 Lite

Alongside the smart glasses, Xiaomi also introduced the Redmi Buds 8 Lite as its latest budget-friendly wireless earbuds. The earbuds feature 12.4mm drivers with titanium diaphragms and support Bluetooth 5.4 with dual-device connectivity. They are



Honor Magic 8 RSR Porsche goes official with new design, 200MP zoom camera, and more



Honor has also launched the Magic8 RSR Porsche Design, continuing its collaboration-inspired lineup with design elements influenced by Porsche supercars. The device features a nano-ceramic rear panel, which Honor claims delivers a Mohs hardness rating of 8.5. The phone is said to be around 10% lighter than its predecessor, while the rear camera module design takes inspiration from the matrix headlights found on classic Porsche vehicles.

The Magic8 RSR Porsche Design sports a 6.71-inch quad-curved LTPO AMOLED display with 1.5K resolution, a 120Hz refresh rate, and peak HDR brightness of 6,000 nits. It supports Dolby Vision and 4,320Hz high-frequency PWM dimming, and is protected by Giant Rhino Glass.

Under the hood, the phone is powered by the Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 SoC and is available with up to 24GB of LPDDR5X RAM and 1TB of UFS 4.0 storage. It runs Android 16-based Magic UI 10.0 and includes a wide range of AI-driven features.

In the camera department, the device features a 50MP 1/1.3-inch primary sensor with an f/1.6 aperture and OIS, a 50MP ultra-wide camera with a 122-degree field of view and macro support, and a 200MP 1/1.4-inch periscope telephoto sensor offering f/2.6 aperture, OIS, and 3.7x optical zoom. Honor claims the phone is the first to achieve a CIPA 6.5 stabilisation rating. It also introduces an AiMAGE colour engine and supports an external 200mm telephoto lens from Nox.

For selfies and biometric security, the phone includes a 50MP front camera housed in a pill-shaped cutout, alongside a 3D depth sensor for face unlock.

The Magic8 RSR Porsche Design packs a 7,200mAh battery with support for 120W wired SuperCharge and 80W wireless charging. Other specifications include a 3D ultrasonic fingerprint scanner, infrared sensor, IP68/IP69/IP69K ratings, 5G connectivity, Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth 6.0, and NFC. The device weighs 239g and measures 8.45mm in thickness.

It is available in Moonstone and Slate Grey colour options.

Pricing starts at CNY 7,999 (\$1,150) for the 16GB RAM and 512GB storage variant, while the 24GB RAM and 1TB storage model is priced at CNY 8,999 (\$1,290). ■

AiMAGE Original Color Engine

Fully restores true colors



Actual shooting scene



Honor Magic8 RSR | Porsche Design Photos



Other mobile phone photos



Redmi Note 15 Pro Series Launches Globally With 200MP Cameras and SiC Batteries

Xiaomi has officially launched the Redmi Note 15 Pro series for global markets, bringing the Redmi Note 15 Pro+ 5G and Redmi Note 15 Pro 5G to more regions worldwide. The new lineup focuses on enhanced durability, long battery life, and AI-powered photography. While the phones debuted in China last year, the global variants arrive with a few changes, particularly in the camera and battery departments.

Redmi Note 15 Pro Series - Key Features

This generation of Redmi Note devices is built around what Xiaomi calls "Redmi Titan Durability". For the first time in the Redmi Note family, the Pro models use silicon carbide (SiC) batteries. Both the Redmi Note 15 Pro+ 5G and Redmi Note

15 Pro 5G pack 6,500mAh batteries with 10% SiC content, supporting 100W HyperCharge fast charging and 22.5W reverse charging. As part of the "Titan Durability" approach, Xiaomi has reinforced the mid-frames, added multi-layer shock absorption, used Gorilla Glass Victus 2, and integrated high-strength motherboards in the Pro models. The devices have reportedly been tested for drop resistance from heights of up to 2.5 metres.

All Pro models including the 4G variant are also equipped with a Xiaomi Surge battery management chip. According to the company, this helps the battery retain at least 80% of its original capacity even after 1,600 charge cycles, which Xiaomi claims is equivalent to around six years of typical usage.





The Redmi Note 15 Pro+ 5G and Redmi Note 15 Pro 5G debut new 200-megapixel HPE camera sensors with a 1/1.4-inch size. These sensors support 2x and 4x in-sensor zoom, DAG HDR, and advanced AI image processing. Both smartphones feature large 6.83-inch OLED displays.

In terms of performance, the Redmi Note 15 Pro+ 5G is powered by the Snapdragon 7s Gen 4 chipset, while the Redmi Note 15 Pro 5G runs on the Dimensity 7400 Ultra.

The Redmi Note 15 Pro+ 5G goes a step further with a fiberglass back panel for improved impact absorption. It also offers the most comprehensive water resistance in the lineup with IP66, IP68, IP69, and IP69K ratings, covering protection against splashes, immersion, and high-pressure hot and cold water jets.

Other Redmi Note 15 Models

The standard Redmi Note 15 is the slimmest Redmi Note smartphone to date, measuring just 7.35mm in thickness. It houses a 5,520mAh SiC battery. Its LTE counterpart, the Redmi Note 15 4G, is slightly thicker at 7.9mm but packs a larger 6,000mAh battery.

These two models are powered by the Snapdragon 6 Gen 3 and Helio G100 Ultra chipsets, respectively, and feature 108-megapixel cameras with 3x in-sensor zoom.

The Redmi Note 15 Pro 4G also offers a

200-megapixel camera, although it uses an older sensor. It features a smaller 6.77-inch display, which is shared with the Redmi Note 15 and Redmi Note 15 4G. While these three models are not as rugged as the Pro+ and Pro 5G, Xiaomi says they still offer enhanced dust and water resistance.

Redmi Note 15 Pro - Pricing and Availability

The Redmi Note 15 Pro+ 5G is available in Mocha Brown, Glacier Blue, and Black colour options with prices starting at USD 449 (approximately Rs. 40,545) for the 8GB RAM + 256GB storage variant. The Redmi Note 15 Pro 5G comes in Titanium Color, Glacier Blue, MistPurple, and Black, starting at USD 399 (around Rs. 36,030) for the same memory configuration. The smartphones are already rolling out in several global markets and are expected to launch in India soon.

Xiaomi has also announced European pricing for the Redmi Note 15 series, noting that early bird discounts and trade-in bonuses are available via Mi.com. These listed prices are the official MSRPs. In the UK, the Pro+ model is discounted by £80, while the Pro 5G receives a €50 discount in Germany. Xiaomi advises buyers to check their local Mi.com listings, as offers vary by region and model. Reviews of the Redmi Note 15 Pro 5G and Pro+ 5G are already available, while reviews of the remaining models are currently in progress.■

New 200MP
ultimate-clarity
camera

6.83" 1.5K CrystalRes
AMOLED display



IP66/IP68/IP69/IP69K
dust and water
resistance



Snapdragon® 7s Gen 4

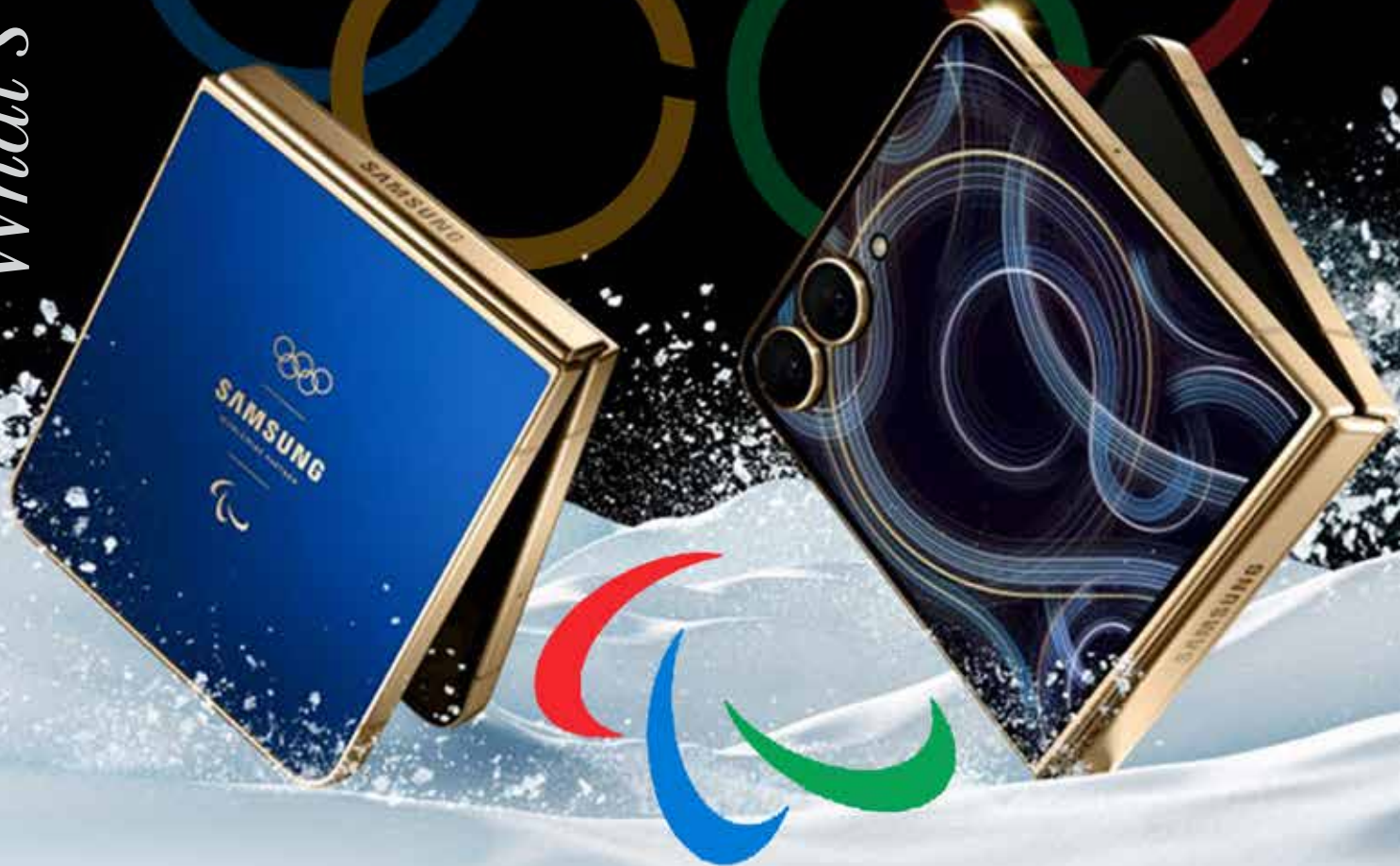


Corning® Gorilla®
Glass Victus® 2



6500mAh





Samsung Galaxy Z Flip7 Olympic Edition Officially Introduced for Milano Cortina 2026 Athletes

Samsung has officially unveiled the Samsung Galaxy Z Flip7 Olympic Edition, a special-edition smartphone created exclusively for athletes participating in the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026.

Samsung, as a Worldwide Olympic and Paralympic Partner, will provide the customised device to around 3,800 athletes representing nearly 90 countries. The initiative is designed to support athletes throughout their stay in the Olympic Village while helping them capture and share moments from their journey at the Games.

"Athletes are at the heart of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and for nearly 30 years Samsung has supported them as a Worldwide Partner through meaningful mobile innovation," said Stephanie Choi, EVP and Head of Mobile Marketing Center, Mobile eXperience (MX) Business at Samsung Electronics. "Since Sochi 2014, we've supported athletes with Olympic Editions and we're honored to continue this commitment at Milano Cortina 2026. With Olympic Edition, athletes will be able to connect with fans and families at every unforgettable moment in their own way."

Availability and On-Site Support

Distribution of the Galaxy Z Flip7 Olympic Edition will begin on January 30. Devices will be made available to athletes across Olympic Villages in six host cities.

Samsung will also run on-site "Open Stations" to offer technical assistance, device activation, and data transfer support throughout the Games.

Design and Hardware Details

The Galaxy Z Flip7 Olympic Edition comes with a distinctive design inspired by the 2026 Winter Games. It features a signature blue back glass that reflects the "Italian azure" associated with the host country, while also aligning with Samsung's brand identity. This is complemented by a custom gold metal frame, symbolising the pursuit of podium success.

On the software side, the phone offers a customised interface with wallpapers inspired by the interaction of skate blades on ice.

In terms of hardware, the Olympic Edition matches the

standard Galaxy Z Flip7. It retains the compact foldable form factor with a new edge-to-edge FlexWindow. The camera setup includes a 50MP Wide camera and a 12MP Ultra-Wide lens.

Included in the box is a special clear case featuring a blue circular magnet surrounded by a gold laurel leaf design.

Galaxy AI Features for Athletes

Samsung has equipped the Galaxy Z Flip7 Olympic Edition with Galaxy AI tools aimed at helping athletes manage communication and daily logistics during the Games.

Interpreter is an on-device, real-time translation feature that works without a network connection, making it useful even in remote or mountainous locations. Now Brief delivers daily summaries with reminders, calendar schedules, and fitness insights. Photo Assist enables AI-powered image editing, including object movement and background adjustments.

The device also introduces Dual Recording, a feature exclusive to this edition that uses both front and rear cameras simultaneously to capture athlete reactions along with their surroundings.

The Olympic Edition will play a key role in Samsung's "Victory Selfie" program, which will make its Winter Olympics debut at Milano Cortina 2026. The initiative allows medalists to take photos directly from the podium, and for the first time, it has been expanded to include team sport events.

Samsung also announced the "Victory Profile" initiative, which uses the Galaxy S25 Ultra to capture portraits of athletes

from selected National Olympic Committees (NOCs), showcasing their stories beyond competition.

To support everyday needs inside the Olympic Villages, the Galaxy Z Flip7 Olympic Edition comes pre-loaded with several essential services. These include a complimentary 100GB 5G eSIM for connectivity, the Galaxy Athlete Card for digital profile sharing, and Samsung Wallet with digital passes for village facilities such as the Coca-Cola Free Beverage Key. The device also includes Athlete365, which integrates with the Now Brief feature to deliver competition updates and mental health resources. ■





Vivo X200T Launches in India: Specs, Price & What's New vs X200 FE

Vivo X200T has been officially introduced in India as a new addition to its previous-generation X200 series. In the Indian market, the Vivo X200T will take on rivals such as the OnePlus 15R and Motorola Signature in the Rs 50,000 segment. At first glance, the phone appears to be a more premium derivative of the Vivo X200 FE launched last year.

Commenting on the launch, Vikas Tagra, Head of Product Management, Vivo India, said, "At vivo, we focus on building technology that feels purposeful and relevant in everyday use. The X200T embodies this philosophy by combining the ZEISS imaging expertise with strong performance and refined software experiences. With the X200T, we continue to strengthen the X Series portfolio by delivering meaningful innovation designed around how users capture, work, and engage with their world."

Key Features

The Vivo X200T features a 6.67-inch 1.5K AMOLED display with a 120Hz refresh rate and Q10 Plus panel technology. Powering the device is the

MediaTek Dimensity 9400+ SoC, paired with 12GB of RAM and supported by a 4,500mm² vapor chamber cooling system. Measuring 7.9mm in thickness and weighing slightly over 200 grams, the phone sits firmly within the typical flagship size



and weight category.

On the camera front, the X200T sports a triple rear setup tuned with Zeiss optics. It includes a 50MP Sony IMX921 primary sensor with optical image stabilisation, a 50MP Samsung JN1 ultra-wide camera, and a 50MP Sony IMX882 periscope lens designed for long-range zoom photography. For selfies and video calls, the phone houses a 32MP front camera.

The smartphone is backed by a large 6,200mAh battery and supports 90W wired fast charging along with 40W wireless charging. Connectivity options include Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth 5.4, NFC, eSIM support, and an IR blaster. Additional features include a 3D ultrasonic in-display fingerprint scanner, stereo speakers, and an X-axis linear motor for improved haptic feedback.

The Vivo X200T runs Android 16 with Origin OS 6 out of the box. Vivo has confirmed long-term software support, with the device set to receive five years of Android OS updates and seven years of security updates, matching the update policy of the X300 series.

In terms of build quality, the phone features a metal frame and comes with IP68 and IP69 ratings, offering strong protection against dust and water. Other features include a 3D ultrasonic fingerprint scanner, dual SIM, 5G compatibility, dual-band Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth v5.4.

What's Different?

With the launch of the X200T, Vivo's lineup may appear slightly confusing, especially when compared to the X200 FE. The X200T is notably larger and heavier, featuring a 6.67-inch display compared to the X200 FE's more compact 6.31-inch LTPO AMOLED panel.

Performance also sees an upgrade, as the X200T uses the newer Dimensity 9400+ chipset, while the X200 FE is powered by the Dimensity 9300+. Storage speeds are faster on the X200T thanks to UFS 4.1, whereas the FE relies on UFS 3.1. Camera hardware is another major difference. The X200T offers three 50MP sensors including a periscope camera for enhanced zoom. In contrast, the X200 FE combines a 50MP main camera and a telephoto lens with an 8MP ultra-wide sensor, though it does feature a higher-resolution 50MP selfie camera. Overall, the Vivo X200T positions itself as a heavier, more powerful, and more feature-rich option than the X200 FE, with a corresponding increase in price.

Price and Availability

The Vivo X200T is available in Seaside Lilac and Stellar Black colour options. Pricing starts at Rs. 59,999 for the 12GB + 256GB variant, while the 12GB + 512GB model is priced at Rs. 69,999.

The phone is currently available for pre-orders via the Vivo India online store, Flipkart, and offline retail outlets. Official sales will begin from February 3.

Launch Offers in India

Online buyers can avail benefits such as Rs. 5,000 instant cashback or an exchange bonus of up to Rs. 5,000, along with up to 18 months of no-cost EMI and a free one-year extended warranty.

Mainline offers include Rs. 5,000 instant cashback with 18 months of no-cost EMI on selected partners or an upgrade bonus of up to Rs. 5,000, along with a free one-year extended warranty.

Additionally, customers will be eligible for an 18-month free Jio Gemini Pro offer. Vivo is also offering up to 40 per cent off on the V-shield screen damage protection plan and up to 70 per cent assured buyback at Rs. 599. These offers are applicable to SBI, Kotak Mahindra, Amex, DBS, HSBC, IDFC First Bank cards, and UPI payments. ■



Motorola Launches Moto G67 and Moto G77 : Specs, Features, Price and Availability

Motorola has expanded its Moto G lineup with the launch of two new smartphones, the Moto G67 and the Moto G77. While the Moto G67 shares its design language with the Moto G67 Power that debuted in November 2025, the hardware inside is notably different.

For users looking for slightly higher-end specifications, Motorola has also introduced the Moto G77. It offers better performance and camera capabilities but follows the familiar Moto G design philosophy. Here's everything we know about the phone.

Moto G67 - Key Features

The Moto G67 features a 6.78-inch FHD+ AMOLED display with a 120Hz refresh rate and Gorilla Glass 7i protection. It is powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 6300 chipset and is available with either 4GB or 8 GB

of RAM. Depending on the configuration, users can enable RAM Boost to expand memory up to 12GB or 24GB. Storage options include 128GB and 256GB, along with a microSD card slot that supports up to 2TB of additional storage.

The phone carries Motorola's familiar camera island design with four cutouts, though only two house cameras. The primary camera is a 50MP Sony LYTIA 600 sensor with an f/1.8 aperture, paired with an 8MP ultra-wide camera. On the front, the Moto G67 offers a 32MP selfie camera.

All cameras support 1080p video recording at 30fps, while the main rear camera can also shoot at 60fps. The device includes a Dual Capture mode that allows simultaneous recording using both the front and rear cameras.

Additional features include stereo speakers with Dolby Atmos, dual microphones, a 3.5mm headphone jack, fingerprint scanner, Bluetooth 5.4, NFC, dual SIM support, and an IP64 rating for dust and water resistance.

The Moto G67 packs a 5,200mAh battery with 30W wired charging and runs Android 16 with Motorola's Hello UX on top.

Price and Availability

The Moto G67 is available starting today in the EU and the UK in Pantone Arctic Seal and Pantone Nile colour options.

Pricing in the EU is set at €259.99 for the 4GB RAM + 256GB storage variant, while the UK gets the 4GB RAM + 128GB model priced at £199.99.

Moto G77 - Key Features

The Moto G77 comes with a 6.78-inch 120Hz Extreme AMOLED display, which Motorola describes as the brightest ever used in a Moto G smartphone. According to the company, the screen delivers a 17% sharper





Q&A

Q1. What is the main difference between Moto G67 and Moto G77?

Answer. The Moto G67 is cheaper with basic specs, while the Moto G77 has better performance and a stronger camera.

Q2. What kind of display do Moto G67 and Moto G77 have?

Answer. The Moto G67 has a 6.78-inch FHD+ AMOLED display with 120Hz refresh rate, and the Moto G77 has a brighter and sharper 6.78-inch Extreme AMOLED display.

Q3. How are the cameras of Moto G67 and Moto G77 different?

Answer. The Moto G67 has a 50MP main camera with an 8MP ultra-wide and a 32MP selfie camera, while the Moto G77 has a 108MP main camera with 3x zoom, an 8MP ultra-wide, and a 32MP selfie camera.

Q4. What about battery and charging of Moto G67 and Moto G77?

Answer. Both phones have a 5,200mAh battery and support 30W fast charging.

Q5. What are the prices of Moto G67 and Moto G77?

Answer. The Moto G67 costs €259.99 in the EU and £199.99 in the UK, while the Moto G77 costs €299.99 in the EU and £250 in the UK.

resolution and five times the brightness of the display found on the Moto G56. Gorilla Glass 7i protection is included here as well.

Powering the Moto G77 is the MediaTek Dimensity 6400 processor. It is available in 8GB and 12GB RAM variants, paired with either 256GB or 512GB of internal storage. A microSD card slot is also present for storage expansion.

On the camera front, the Moto G77 features a dual rear setup led by a 108MP sensor with 3x lossless zoom, marking a first for the Moto G series. This is accompanied by an 8MP ultra-wide camera, while selfies are handled by a 32MP front-

facing sensor. Camera features include Dual Capture, Timelapse, Night Vision, and a Pro mode.

Connectivity options include Bluetooth 5.4, dual-band Wi-Fi, NFC, dual SIM support, and a USB Type-C port. The phone also packs stereo speakers with Dolby Atmos, a headphone jack, dual microphones, and an IP64 dust and water resistance rating. It runs Android 16 with Hello UX and is backed by a 5,200mAh battery that supports

30W fast wired charging.

Price and Availability

The Moto G77 is available in Pantone Black Olive and Pantone Shaded Spruce colour options. In the EU, it is priced at €299.99 for the 8GB RAM + 512GB storage variant.

In the UK, buyers can purchase the 8GB RAM + 128GB version for £250. Depending on the region, Motorola may include a case and charger in the retail box. ■

RedMagic 11 Air Debuts with Snapdragon 8 Elite Chip

Nubia's gaming-centric sub-brand, Red Magic, has officially launched the RedMagic 11 Air in global markets following its recent China debut. After teasing the international rollout over the past few days, the company has now confirmed the global version will retain the same specifications as the Chinese model. Here's more on the model in detail.

Display and Design

The RedMagic 11 Air features a 6.85-inch 1.5K display with a resolution of 2,688×1,216 pixels and a smooth 144Hz refresh rate. The panel offers a 95.1 per cent screen-to-body ratio and supports Star Shield Eye Protection Technology 2.0, along with 2,592Hz PWM dimming, DC dimming, and SGS low blue light certification for reduced eye strain. According to the brand, Magic Touch 3.0 technology enables up to a 960Hz multi-frequency sampling rate and delivers up to 2,500Hz instantaneous touch response, aimed at improving in-game responsiveness.



RedMagic 11 Air - Key Features

At its core, the RedMagic 11 Air is powered by Qualcomm's Snapdragon 8 Elite SoC, paired with Red Magic's in-house RedCore R4 gaming chip. The device is available with up to 16GB of LPDDR5x Ultra RAM and up to 512GB of UFS 4.1 storage. It runs on RedMagic OS 11.0 based on Android 16.

For gamers, the smartphone comes equipped with Cube Sky Engine 3.0, professional shoulder trigger buttons offering a 520Hz touch sampling rate, bypass charging support, and a built-in PC emulator. Thermal management is handled by an ICE Cooling System that combines dual active cooling fans, an extra-



thick ice-grade vapour chamber, graphene copper foil, and the Wind Chaser 4.0 cooling setup.

In the camera department, the RedMagic 11 Air houses a dual rear camera system consisting of a 50-megapixel primary sensor and a 50-megapixel ultra-wide camera. On the front, it includes a 16-megapixel camera for selfies and video calls.

The device packs a 7,000mAh battery with support for 120W fast charging and bypass charging. In terms of physical dimensions, the phone measures 163.82×76.54×7.85mm and weighs 207 grams. For international markets, the RedMagic 11 Air is available in Phantom (Black) and Prism (White) colour options. Under the Early Bird pricing, both variants are priced at \$469 for the 12GB RAM + 256GB storage model and \$569 for the 16GB RAM + 512GB storage version. The regular prices for these configurations are set at \$499 and \$599, respectively.

Sale Timeline and Early Bird Offers

Red Magic has also outlined the complete sales rollout schedule. The "Discover the Red Magic 11 Air" phase runs from January 29 to February 5. Early Bird Perks will be available between February 5 and February 10, followed by Early Access from February 10 to February 11.

The Open Sale begins on February 11.

As part of the Early Bird offer, customers can pay \$1 to receive a \$30 discount on the RedMagic 11 Air. The perk also includes one-day early access and a chance to get an exclusive Red Magic phone stand, which will be selected at random.

The company has explained the process for redeeming the Early Bird Perks. Users who purchase the perk between February 5th and February 10th will receive a voucher instantly via email. During the Early Access window on February 10th/11th, buyers must log in to their Red Magic account, visit the product page, and apply the voucher at checkout to avail the discount.

Any eligible free gift will be shipped automatically along with the smartphone order. ■



Pixel Buds 2a Appear in New 'Berry' Colour Ahead of Expected Pixel 10a Launch

While Samsung's upcoming Galaxy flagship launch is just around the corner, we might get to see the debut of the Pixel 10a before that. Ahead of any official confirmation, new details have surfaced around another product that may arrive alongside it. Yes, rumours suggest Pixel 10a launch will also see the Pixel Buds 2a revamped and new images are giving us an early look.

Pixel Buds 2a - Colour Leak

Fresh leaks suggest that Google is preparing to introduce new colour options for the Pixel Buds 2a, including the eye-catching "Berry" shade that is also expected to be offered on the Pixel 10a. The earbuds were recently spotted in official-looking images shared by tipster @OnLeaks in collaboration with Android Headlines.

According to the report, Google isn't planning a new model or hardware changes for the Pixel Buds 2a. Instead, the company appears to be expanding the colour lineup. The leaked images showcase the earbuds in two additional shades described as "light grey" and "pink."

However, the so-called light grey variant seems to carry a noticeable green tint, while the pink option looks deeper and more saturated than the Peony colour seen on the Pixel 9a and Pixel Buds Pro 2.

At present, the Pixel Buds 2a are only available in Hazel and Iris. With the Pixel Buds Pro 2 already offered in four colour choices, expanding the Buds 2a palette would bring some



balance to Google's audio lineup.

The pinkish-red variant clearly aligns with Google's "Berry" colour, closely matching the Nest Cam shade of the same name. This further strengthens speculation that the Pixel Buds 2a and Pixel 10a could launch together in matching colours.

The second, greenish-grey colour remains less clear. It doesn't seem to match Google's earlier "Fog" finish used on the Pixel Buds Pro, which leaned more towards blue tones, though judging from standalone images makes it difficult to be certain.

If current rumours are accurate, the Pixel 10a launch could happen as early as mid-February. This means an official reveal of the new Pixel Buds 2a colours may not be far off either. ■



PlayStation Plus February Delivers Big: Undisputed, Subnautica & Ace Combat 7

Sony has officially revealed the PlayStation Plus games lineup for February, bringing a diverse mix of genres for subscribers. The new selection includes four titles ranging from boxing and survival adventure to psychedelic action and aerial combat.

These games will be available to claim starting Tuesday, 3 February and will remain accessible until Monday, 2 March. The February lineup features games playable on both PS5 and PS4, offering variety for players who enjoy realistic simulations, action-heavy combat, or exploration-driven experiences.

Undisputed on PS5



The headline title for PS5 subscribers this month is *Undisputed*, a boxing simulation that aims to deliver an authentic and realistic portrayal of the sport. The game boasts detailed visuals, fluid and lifelike

animations, and a roster of more than 70 officially licensed fighters.

Players can customise their playstyle using dozens of attributes and traits that shape each boxer's strengths and weaknesses. A dedicated career mode lets players rise from amateur fights to championship-level bouts, while a comprehensive character creator allows users to design a custom boxer with personalised looks and gear.

Subnautica: Below Zero on PS5, PS4

Subnautica: Below Zero will be available on both PS5 and PS4, catering to fans of survival and exploration games. Set in a frozen region of the alien planet 4546B, the game tasks players with

surviving extreme conditions while investigating a mystery tied to a missing family member.

Players must gather resources, craft equipment, and build shelters to stay alive. The hostile environment features unfamiliar creatures and harsh weather, making exploration both visually striking and constantly dangerous.

Ultros on PS5, PS4

Ultros offers a more unconventional experience, mixing fast-paced melee combat with quieter moments focused on growth and discovery. The game stands out with its vibrant, psychedelic art style and atmospheric soundtrack, set within a strange cosmic environment known as The Sarcophagus.

Alongside combat against bizarre alien creatures, players can cultivate plant life to unlock new paths and abilities. A looping gameplay structure allows certain sections to be replayed, revealing hidden areas and encouraging experimentation with upgrades and progression choices.

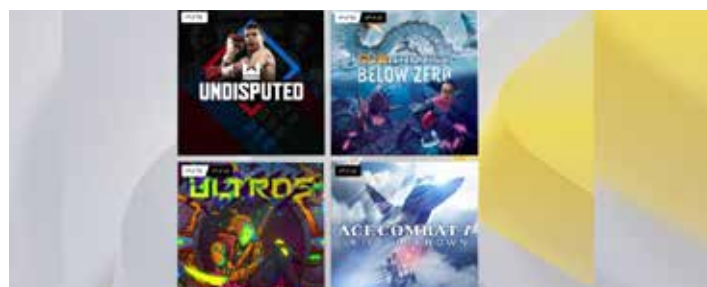
Ace Combat 7: Skies Unknown on PS4

Completing the February lineup is *Ace Combat 7: Skies Unknown* for PS4. The flight combat game puts players behind the controls of advanced fighter jets, featuring fast-paced dogfights and large-scale aerial missions.

With a selection of real-world-inspired and futuristic aircraft, players can customise their jets and engage in increasingly challenging battles, combining precise flying skills with strategic use of weapons.

Claim January PlayStation Plus Games

PlayStation Plus members still have a short window to add January's free titles to their libraries. *Need for Speed Unbound*, *Disney Epic Mickey: Rebrushed*, and *Core Keeper* will remain available until Monday, 2 February. ■





Apple Prioritizes Premium iPhones Amid Memory Shortage

Apple is reportedly planning to prioritise the production and shipment of its top-tier iPhone models in 2026. This also means the Cupertino giant will be pushing back the launch of its standard iPhone models and we may get to see a shift in marketing strategy and ongoing supply-chain challenges.

According to a recently published Nikkei Asia report, the company will focus on its premium lineup amid rising component costs, citing four people familiar with the matter.

As per the report, the US-based tech giant will centre its flagship launch in the second half of 2026 around three high-end iPhones. These are said to include Apple's first-ever foldable iPhone, along with two non-folding models that will feature upgraded cameras and larger displays.

Meanwhile, the standard iPhone 18 is now expected to be shipped in the first half of 2027 instead of launching alongside the premium variants.

This strategy is reportedly aimed at optimising resources and boosting revenue and profit margins from higher-priced devices, especially at a time when the cost of memory chips and other materials continues to climb. The move is also said to help Apple reduce production risks associated with the complex manufacturing processes and new technologies required for its first foldable iPhone.

"Supply chain smoothness is one of the key challenges for



this year, and the marketing strategy change also played a part in the decision (to prioritize premium models)," an executive at an iPhone supplier with direct knowledge of the plan told Nikkei Asia. The report comes shortly after Apple delivered a strong quarterly performance driven by robust iPhone demand. Apple CEO Tim Cook told Reuters that demand for the latest iPhone models was "staggering."

The latest report could not be independently verified. Moreover, several media reports suggest Apple is immediately responding to a request for comment on the latest report. ■

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LEAD STORY

Insight

Best Midrange Camera Phones Under ₹25k



Looking for a camera-focused smartphone without overspending? The midrange segment under ₹25,000 now offers powerful camera hardware, advanced AI features, and solid video capabilities once limited to flagships. From low-light photography to 4K video, these phones deliver excellent imaging performance while balancing everyday usability and value.

Looking for a smartphone that delivers impressive photography without stretching your budget? The midrange segment under ₹25,000 is a sweet spot for camera-focused devices. We have today in the market smartphones in

this segment that offer high-resolution sensors, versatile multi-lens setups, and advanced AI features once reserved for premium flagships.

From crisp low-light shots to smooth 4K video recording, these phones balance performance and

affordability. These are ideal for content creators, social media enthusiasts, and everyday users alike.

Here are some of the best midrange camera phones under ₹25k that prove you don't need to spend big to capture stunning photos and videos.

OnePlus Nord CE 5 5G

The OnePlus Nord CE 5 5G is equipped with a triple rear camera setup, featuring a 50MP main wide sensor with PDAF, an 8MP ultra-wide lens, and a 2MP macro lens for close-up shots. This combination allows users to capture detailed photos, expansive landscapes, and creative macro images.

For video, the device supports 4K recording at 30fps and 1080p at 30/60fps, offering flexibility for high-resolution or smoother footage.

On the front, it houses a 16MP selfie camera with HDR, ensuring clear and vibrant portraits and video calls. Together, these specs make the Nord CE 5 5G a well-rounded mid-range smartphone for versatile photography and everyday content creation.

Key Features

- 6.77" (17.2 cm) 120Hz AMOLED Display
- MediaTek Dimensity 8350 Apex
- 50+8 MP Rear Camera
- 16 MP Front Camera
- 8 GB RAM
- 128 GB Storage
- 7100 mAh Battery
- 80W Fast Charging
- Android v15



A light blue smartphone with a quad-camera setup on the back and a large, curved display on the front.

Xiaomi Redmi Note 15

The Xiaomi Redmi Note 15 is equipped with a powerful camera system tailored for versatile photography. It features a 108MP main sensor that delivers high-resolution images with excellent detail and dynamic range, supported by an 8MP ultra-wide lens for capturing expansive landscapes and group shots, and a 2MP macro lens for close-up photography.

On the video side, the device supports 4K recording at 30fps and 1080p at

30/60fps, giving users flexibility for both cinematic and smoother footage. For selfies and video calls, the phone includes a 20MP front camera with HDR, ensuring clear and vibrant portraits.

Together, these specs make the Redmi Note 15 a strong mid-range contender, offering a balance of high-resolution imaging, wide-angle versatility, and reliable video performance for everyday content creation.

Key Features

- 6.77" (17.2 cm) 120Hz AMOLED Display
- Snapdragon 6 Gen 3 Octa core
- 108+8 MP Rear Camera
- 20 MP Front Camera
- 8 GB RAM
- 128 GB Storage
- 5520 mAh Battery
- 45W Fast Charging
- Android v15



Motorola Edge 60 Fusion

The Motorola Edge 60 Fusion offers a dual-camera setup designed to balance detail and versatility. It features a 50MP main sensor that captures sharp, high-resolution images with strong dynamic range, paired with a 13MP ultra-wide lens for expansive shots and group photos. This combination allows users to switch seamlessly between detailed close-ups and wide-angle perspectives.

On the video front, the device supports 4K recording at 30fps and 1080p at multiple frame rates, making it suitable for both cinematic and smooth video capture.

For selfies and video calls, the phone includes a 32MP front camera, ensuring crisp and vibrant portraits with HDR support. Altogether, the Edge 60 Fusion's camera system delivers a well-rounded experience, offering reliable performance for everyday photography, creative wide-angle shots, and high-quality video recording.

Key Features

- 6.67" (16.94 cm) 120Hz P-OLED Display
- MediaTek Dimensity 7400 Octa core SoC
- 50+13 MP Rear Camera
- 32 MP Front Camera
- 8 GB RAM
- 256 GB Storage
- 5500 mAh Battery
- 68W Fast Charging
- Android v15





iQOO Z10

The iQOO Z10 is equipped with a dual-camera setup that balances high-resolution imaging with practical versatility. On the rear, it features a 50MP main sensor for sharp, detailed shots and a 2MP secondary lens for depth or macro support, enabling clear portraits and creative close-ups. The phone supports 4K video recording at 30fps and 1080p at 30/60fps, giving users flexibility for both cinematic and

smoother video capture.

On the front, the device houses a 32MP selfie camera with HDR, ensuring crisp and vibrant portraits as well as reliable video call quality.

Together, these specs make the iQOO Z10 a solid mid-range option, offering dependable everyday photography, high-resolution video recording, and social-media-ready selfies.

Key Features

- 6.77" (17.2 cm) 120Hz AMOLED Display
- Snapdragon 7s Gen 3 Octa core Processor
- 50+2 MP Rear Camera
- 32 MP Front Camera
- 8 GB RAM
- 128 GB Storage
- 7300 mAh Battery
- 90W Fast Charging



Nothing Phone 3a Pro

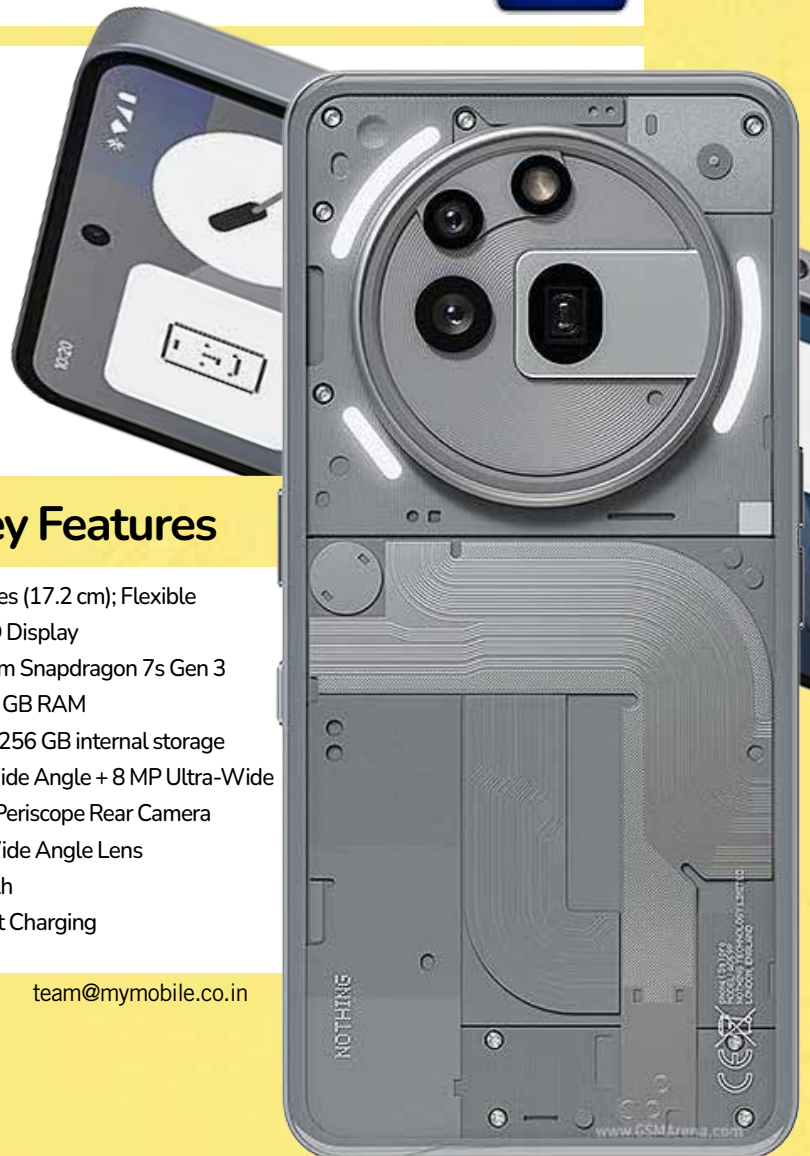
The Nothing Phone 3a Pro comes equipped with a versatile triple-camera system that emphasises detail and flexibility. On the rear, it features dual 50MP sensors, a primary wide lens for sharp, high-resolution shots and an ultra-wide lens for expansive landscapes, alongside a secondary supporting sensor for depth or macro photography.

For video, the device supports 4K recording at 30fps and 1080p at multiple frame rates, ensuring smooth and cinematic footage. On the front, the phone houses a 50MP selfie camera, delivering clear, vibrant portraits and reliable video call quality.

Altogether, the Nothing Phone 3a Pro's camera capabilities combine flagship-level resolution with practical versatility, making it a strong mid-range option for everyday photography and content creation.

Key Features

- 6.77 inches (17.2 cm); Flexible AMOLED Display
- Qualcomm Snapdragon 7s Gen 3
- 8 GB / 12 GB RAM
- 128 GB / 256 GB internal storage
- 50 MP Wide Angle + 8 MP Ultra-Wide + 50 MP Periscope Rear Camera
- 50 MP Wide Angle Lens
- 5000 mAh
- 50W Fast Charging



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Oppo Pad 5

As part from the Oppo Reno 15 5G series, Oppo has also introduced the Oppo Pad 5 in India. It is worth noting that this tablet is different from the Oppo Pad 5 previously launched in China. The newly launched model appears to be a rebranded version of the Oppo Pad Air 5 from China, which is also sold globally as the OnePlus Pad Go 2.

In India, the Oppo Pad 5 is available in both Wi-Fi (OPD2502) and 5G (OPD2503) variants. Here's everything you need to know about the model, starting with its price and availability.

Oppo Pad 5 - Price and Availability in India

The Oppo Pad 5 is priced at ₹26,999 for the Wi-Fi-only variant with 8GB RAM and 128GB storage. The 5G + Wi-Fi model with 8GB RAM and 256GB storage is priced at ₹32,999.

As part of the launch offers, buyers can avail an instant discount of ₹2,000 or choose up to nine months of No Cost EMI. The tablet

is currently available for pre-orders via Flipkart and the Oppo India website, with open sales set to begin on 13th January 2026.

Display and Design

The Oppo Pad 5 features a large 12.1-inch 2.8K LCD eye-comfort display with a resolution of 2800 × 1980 pixels and a 7:5 aspect ratio. The panel offers 284 PPI and supports a 120Hz adaptive refresh rate. With up to 900 nits of peak brightness and Dolby Vision support, the display is designed to deliver sharp and vivid visuals.

Oppo has also focused on eye comfort, equipping the tablet with TÜV Rheinland Intelligent Eye Care 4.0 certification and reduced blue light support for extended usage.



In terms of colours, the tablet is available in Aurora Pink and Starlight Black options.

Key Features

Powering the Oppo Pad 5 is the MediaTek Dimensity 7300 SoC, paired with 8GB of LPDDR5X RAM and up to 256GB of UFS 3.1 internal storage. The 5G variant includes a dedicated single SIM tray. For photography and video calls, the tablet houses an 8MP camera on both the front and the rear.

The device also supports USB OTG, allowing users to connect USB flash drives and accessories via the USB Type-C port.

The Oppo Pad 5 is backed by a large 10,050mAh battery and supports 33W fast wired charging. According to Oppo, the tablet can deliver up to 53 hours of online music playback, up to 15 hours of online video streaming, or up to 6 hours of heavy gaming on a single charge.

For audio, the tablet features a quad-speaker immersive sound system, offering a cinematic audio experience for movies, gaming, and multimedia consumption.

Software, Connectivity, and Sensors

The Oppo Pad 5 runs on ColorOS 16 for Pad, which is optimised for large-screen productivity and smooth performance. Oppo has also promised long-term performance stability, backed by a 48-month fluency protection certification from TÜV SÜD. The tablet supports seamless cross-device and cross-ecosystem connectivity, allowing easy file and media transfers between Oppo Pad devices, smartphones, iPhones, and PCs.

Both variants support Wi-Fi 6, Wi-Fi 5, and 802.11a/b/g/n standards, along with WLAN tethering. Bluetooth 5.4 with Low Energy and BLE Audio is included, with support for SBC, AAC, aptX, aptX HD, and LDAC codecs.

The 5G variant supports cellular connectivity via SIM, while the Wi-Fi model does not. Both versions feature a USB Type-C port with support for Type-C digital earphones, though analogue Type-C headphones are not supported.

In terms of sensors, the 8GB + 256GB 5G model includes an

ambient light sensor, colour temperature sensor, e-compass, accelerometer, Hall sensor, and proximity sensor. The 8GB + 128GB Wi-Fi variant comes with an ambient light sensor, colour temperature sensor, accelerometer, and Hall sensor.

Cell Broadcast Service and GNSS location technology are available exclusively on the 5G variant.

Productivity Features and OPPO Pencil 2 Support

The Oppo Pad 5 supports the flagship-grade, low-latency OPPO Pencil 2, which is designed for precise handwriting, sketching, and note-taking. Features such as real-time handwriting polish help improve note clarity, while AI-powered note-taking tools assist with better organisation and idea capture.

The OPPO Pencil 2 offers up to 20 hours of usage on a single charge with a quick 10-minute charge delivering up to 12 hours of use.

The tablet also supports Quick App Launch & Switch, enabling faster app opening and smooth switching between up to 12 active applications simultaneously. Additionally, the Flux Home Screen expands the workspace with a flexible dock that can hold up to 15 apps and a home-screen grid that supports up to 60 apps. ■



Oppo Reno 15 Series Debuts in India With New Pro Mini Variant

Oppo has kicked off its 2026 smartphone lineup in India with the launch of the Oppo Reno 15 series. The new lineup includes four models, which include Oppo Reno 15, Oppo Reno 15c, Oppo Reno 15 Pro, and the newly introduced Oppo Reno 15 Pro Mini.

Succeeding the Reno 14 series, the latest range brings several notable upgrades, most notably the debut of the Pro Mini. The new model marks the first compact smartphone in the Reno lineup. The series is aimed at users looking for a premium design, capable cameras, and solid overall performance. Here's more on all models in the lineup, starting with their price and availability.

Price and Sale Date in India

The Oppo Reno 15 is priced starting at Rs 45,999 for the 8GB RAM and 256GB storage variant. The 12GB/256GB

and 12GB/512GB models are priced at Rs 48,999 and Rs 53,999, respectively. The Reno 15c starts at Rs 34,999 for the 8GB/256GB variant, while the 12GB/256GB option costs Rs 37,999.

The Reno 15 Pro Mini is priced at Rs 59,999 for the 12GB/256GB variant, with the 12GB/512GB model costing Rs 64,999. Meanwhile, the top-end Reno 15 Pro is priced at Rs 67,999 for the 12GB/256GB variant, while the 12GB/512GB model is priced at Rs 72,999.

The Oppo Reno 15, Reno 15 Pro, and Reno 15 Pro Mini will go on sale in India starting January 13, 2026.

The Oppo Reno 15c will be available for purchase in February.

Design and Colour Options

The Oppo Reno 15 series consists of the standard Reno 15, Reno 15 Pro, Reno 15 Pro Mini, and the Reno 15c. All four models feature a redesigned camera module that resembles the layout seen on earlier iPhone Pro models. Oppo has added a ring-style surround around the camera module, which produces a soft halo-like glow when illuminated.

According to Oppo, the Reno 15 series uses its new HoloFusion





Technology, which gives the glass back panels a three-dimensional visual effect. The Reno 15, Reno 15 Pro, and Reno 15 Pro Mini feature aerospace-grade

aluminium frames.

In terms of colour variants, the Reno 15 Pro is available in Sunset Gold and Cocoa Brown. The Reno 15 Pro Mini comes in Cocoa Brown and Glacier White, the latter featuring a ribbon-style pattern created using HoloFusion. The standard Reno 15 is offered in Glacier White, Twilight Blue, and Aurora Blue, while the Reno 15c is available in Twilight Blue and Afterglow Pink.

Key Specifications

On the front, all four models feature AMOLED displays. The Oppo Reno 15 sports a 6.59-inch AMOLED display with a 120Hz refresh rate and Gorilla Glass 7i protection. The Reno 15 Pro features a larger 6.78-inch 120Hz AMOLED panel protected by Corning Gorilla Glass Victus 2. The compact Reno 15 Pro Mini comes with a 6.32-inch 120Hz AMOLED display with Corning Gorilla Glass 7i protection. Meanwhile, the Reno 15c is equipped with a 6.57-inch AMOLED panel, also offering a 120Hz refresh rate.

In the camera department, the Reno 15 Pro and Reno 15 Pro Mini are equipped with a triple rear camera setup consisting of a 200-megapixel primary sensor, a 50-megapixel 3.5x telephoto portrait camera, and a 50-megapixel ultra-wide lens. The standard

Reno 15 features a 50-megapixel main camera, a 50-megapixel 3.5x telephoto camera, and an 8-megapixel ultra-wide sensor. The Reno 15c comes with a single 50-megapixel rear camera.

All four smartphones are equipped with a new 50-megapixel front-facing camera, which Oppo claims supports ultra-wide selfies.

Under the hood, the Oppo Reno 15 Pro and Reno 15 Pro Mini are powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 8450 chipset. The standard Reno 15 runs on the Snapdragon 7 Gen 4 SoC, while the Reno 15c is powered by the Snapdragon 6 Gen 1 processor.

Battery capacities vary across the lineup. The Reno 15 packs a 6,500mAh battery, while the Reno 15 Pro and Reno 15 Pro Mini feature 6,200mAh batteries. The Reno 15c comes with the largest battery in the series at 7,000mAh. All four devices support 80W fast charging.

Software-wise, the entire Reno 15 series runs Android 16-based ColorOS 16 out of the box.





POCO M8 5G

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. ■



itel Zeno 20 Max

itel has officially launched the itel Zeno 20 Max smartphone in India. Positioned in the budget segment, the new device brings features such as military-grade durability, a large 5,000mAh battery and a 13-megapixel rear camera. Here's everything you need to know about the phone, starting with price and a

The itel Zeno 20 Max is available in Space Titanium, Aurora Blue, and Starlit Black colour options. The 3GB RAM + 64GB storage variant is priced at Rs 5,799, while the 4GB RAM + 64GB storage model costs Rs 6,169. The smartphone is available for purchase via Amazon in India.

The itel Zeno 20 Max sports a 6.6-inch LCD display with a 90Hz refresh rate, offering a screen resolution of 720 × 1612 pixels and a pixel density of 267ppi. Under the hood, the smartphone is powered by the Unisoc T7100 4G processor and runs on Android 14 out of the box.

It comes with up to 4GB of RAM, which can be virtually expanded up to 12GB using memory fusion technology, along with 64GB of internal storage.

In the camera department, the device features a 13MP AI-powered rear camera and a 5MP front-facing camera for selfies and video calls. The smartphone is backed by a 5,000mAh battery and supports 15W fast charging through a USB Type-C port. In terms of dimensions, the itel Zeno 20 Max measures 16.4 × 7.6 × 0.9cm and weighs 187g.

Additional features include DTS speakers, an IP54 rating for dust and splash resistance, AI Vana 2.0, dual SIM support, fingerprint recognition, a 3.5mm headphone jack, Always-On Display, Bluetooth, WiFi connectivity, Dynamic Bar, and a claimed average battery life of up to 75 hours. The phone also comes with military-grade durability certification and promises three years of fluency. ■





Redmi Note 15 5G

Redmi has launched its latest mid-range 5G smartphone in India, the Redmi Note 15 5G. The device was earlier unveiled in China in August 2025 and has now made its way to the Indian market with a few notable changes. Here's everything you need to know about the phone and its India availability.

Pricing and Availability in India

The REDMI Note 15 5G is available in Glacier Blue, Black, and Mist Purple colour options. The 8GB + 128GB variant is priced at Rs. 22,999, while the 8GB + 256GB model costs Rs. 24,999.

Sales of the smartphone will begin from January 9th via Amazon.in, Mi.com, and offline retail stores across India.

As part of the launch offers, buyers can avail an instant discount of Rs. 3,000 using Axis Bank, SBI, or ICICI Bank cards. No-cost EMI options are also available.

Key Specifications

The REDMI Note 15 5G sports a 6.77-inch FHD+ AMOLED display with a resolution of 2392×1080 pixels, a 120Hz refresh rate, a 240Hz touch sampling rate, up to 3,200 nits peak brightness, 3,840Hz high-frequency PWM dimming, and 12-bit colour depth. It is powered by an octa-core Qualcomm

Snapdragon 6 Gen 3 4nm 5G SoC, featuring four Cortex-A78 cores clocked at 2.4GHz and four Cortex-A55 cores at 1.8GHz, along with an Adreno 710 GPU.

The device comes with 8GB of LPDDR4X RAM and offers 128GB or 256GB of UFS 2.2 internal storage, expandable up to 1TB via microSD card. It runs Android 15 with Xiaomi HyperOS 2 and supports hybrid dual SIM functionality.

For optics, the phone includes a 108MP main camera with an f/1.7 aperture, an 8MP ultra-wide camera with an f/2.2 aperture, and LED flash with support for up to 4K video recording at 30fps. On the front, there is a 20MP camera with an f/2.2 aperture that supports 1080p video recording at 30fps.

Additional features include an in-display fingerprint sensor, infrared sensor, stereo speakers with Dolby Atmos, and military-grade durability certified to MIL-STD-810H standards. It is backed by a 5,520mAh battery with 45W fast charging support.

Connectivity options include 5G support across multiple bands, dual 4G VoLTE, Wi-Fi 6, Bluetooth 5.1, GPS with support for multiple satellite systems, and a USB Type-C port. The handset measures 164×75.42×7.35mm for the Black and Glacier Blue variants and 7.4mm for the Mist Purple version, with a weight of 178 grams. ■





Realme Buds Air 8

Alongside the launch of the Realme 16 Pro 5G series in India today, Realme has expanded its other product lineup as well. The Chinese company has introduced Realme Buds Air 8 true wireless earbuds and the Realme Pad 3 tablet. Here's more on both new launches.

The Realme Buds Air 8 are equipped with an 11mm + 6mm dual-driver setup that uses a high-purity diaphragm and an independent tweeter to deliver layered audio output. The earbuds support Hi-Res Audio certification and LHDC 5.0, enabling high-resolution wireless audio with sampling rates of up to 96kHz. Additional audio enhancements include the NextBass algorithm for improved low frequencies, along with 3D Spatial and Dynamic Audio. This feature relies on HRTF-based processing to create a wider and more immersive soundstage and can be customised through the realme Link app.

In terms of noise control, the Buds Air 8 offer up to 55dB ultra-depth active noise cancellation. This is combined with ear canal adaptive and real-time adaptive noise cancellation, which adjusts performance based on ear shape and surrounding noise to maintain comfort and effectiveness. Call quality is handled by a six-microphone system with three microphones on each earbud, designed to improve voice clarity while reducing background noise. The earbuds also come with smart AI-powered features under the Ear-by AI Assistant including AI Live Translator, AI Face-to-Face Translator, and Ask AI powered by Google Gemini. These features allow users to perform tasks such as translation, weather checks, and general information queries via the companion app.

Battery life is rated at up to 58 hours of total playback with the charging case under standard conditions. Realme claims the earbuds can retain around 80 percent battery health even after 1,000 charging cycles. Connectivity and durability features include USB Type-C charging, IP55 dust and water resistance, a 45ms low-latency gaming mode, Bluetooth 5.4, support for connecting up to three devices simultaneously, and Swift Pair for quick pairing with compatible PCs.

The Realme Buds Air 8 are available in Master Gold, Master Purple, and Master Grey colour options. While the earbuds have been officially unveiled, sales will begin on January 16, 2026, through the Realme India website, Flipkart, Amazon India, and other major retail platforms.

The earbuds are priced at ₹3,799 with an additional flat ₹200 discount offered as part of the launch promotion. ■





Realme Pad 3

The Realme Pad 3 runs on Android 16-based Realme UI 7.0 and features a 16.1-inch 2.8K display with a resolution of 2,000 x 2,800 pixels. The screen supports a 120Hz refresh rate and a 240Hz touch sampling rate, offering up to 500 nits of typical brightness and covering 96 percent of the NTSC colour gamut.

Powering the tablet is the octa-core MediaTek Dimensity 7300-Max chipset, built on a 4nm process, paired with an Arm Mali-G615 GPU. The tablet comes with 8GB of RAM and is offered in 128GB and 256GB storage variants with storage expansion supported up to 2TB via a microSD card slot.

For photography and video calls, the Realme Pad 3 includes an 8-megapixel rear camera and an 8-megapixel front-facing camera. Connectivity options include Wi-Fi 5, Bluetooth 5.4, and dual-band WLAN.

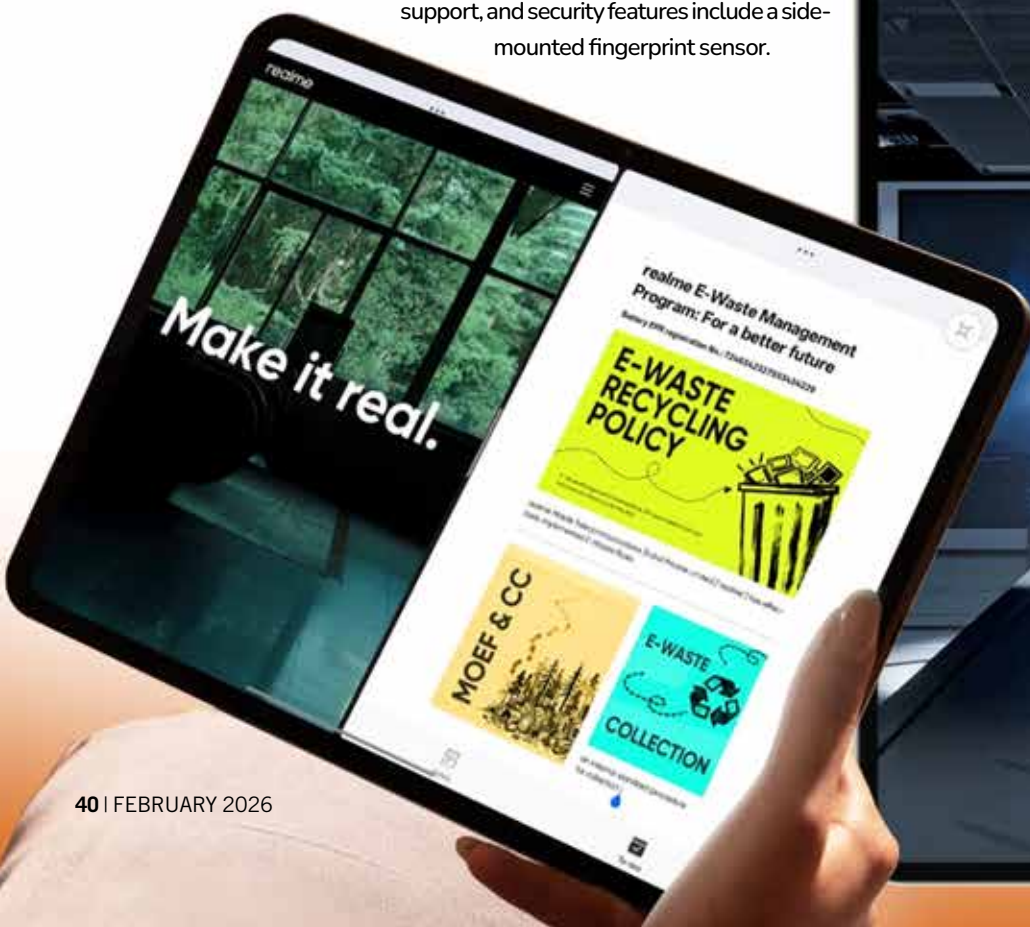
The tablet is also equipped with sensors such as an ambient light sensor, accelerometer, e-compass, and hall sensor. Audio is handled by quad speakers with Dolby Audio support, and security features include a side-mounted fingerprint sensor.

The tablet is backed by a 12,200mAh battery that supports 45W fast charging along with 6.5W reverse charging. In terms of design, the Realme Pad 3 measures 6.6mm in thickness and weighs approximately 578 grams.

Price and Availability

The Realme Pad 3 is priced at Rs. 26,999 for the Wi-Fi variant with 8GB RAM and 128GB storage. The 5G versions are priced at Rs. 29,999 for the 8GB + 128GB model and Rs. 31,999 for the 8GB + 256GB variant. The tablet is available in Champagne Gold and Space Grey colour options.

Sales of the Realme Pad 3 will begin on January 16 at 12pm IST via the Realme website, official Realme stores, and Flipkart. As part of the launch offers, Realme is providing a Rs. 2,000 bank discount for eligible customers. ■





Redmi Pad 2 Pro 5G

Redmi Pad 2 Pro 5G has been launched in India as the latest tablet offering from Xiaomi's sub-brand. Offered in two colour options, the Redmi Pad 2 Pro 5G will go on sale in India later this month through the company's official website. One of its key highlights is a large 12,000mAh battery, paired with a 12.1-inch display. Here's more on that.

Price in India and Availability

The Redmi Pad 2 Pro 5G is priced starting at Rs. 22,999 for the Wi-Fi-only variant with 8GB RAM and 128GB storage. The same configuration with Wi-Fi and 5G connectivity is priced at Rs. 25,999. Meanwhile, the top-end Wi-Fi + 5G variant with 8GB RAM and 256GB storage costs Rs. 27,999.

Xiaomi is also offering an instant discount of up to Rs. 2,000 on purchases made using Axis Bank, SBI, and ICICI Bank credit cards.

The tablet will be available for purchase in India starting January 12 via the Xiaomi online store. The Redmi Pad 2 Pro 5G is offered in Silver and Grey colourways.

Key Features

The Redmi Pad 2 Pro 5G runs HyperOS 2 based on Android 15. Xiaomi has promised five years of OS updates along with seven years of security updates for the tablet. It features a 12.1-inch 2.5K display with a resolution of 2,560×1,600 pixels, a refresh rate of up to 120Hz, and a pixel density of 249ppi. The panel supports up to a 360Hz touch sampling rate, peak brightness of up to 600 nits, Dolby Vision, a 16:10 aspect ratio, and 1.07 billion colours.

Powering the Redmi Pad 2 Pro 5G is an octa-core 4nm Snapdragon 7s Gen 4 chipset from Qualcomm,

which is said to deliver a peak clock speed of 2.7GHz. The processor includes one prime core, three performance cores, and four efficiency cores. The tablet also features an Adreno 810 GPU, 8GB of LPDDR4x RAM, and up to 256GB of UFS 2.2 internal storage. In terms of optics, the Redmi Pad 2 Pro 5G comes with a single 13-megapixel rear camera with an f/2.2 aperture. On the front, it houses an 8-megapixel camera with an f/2.28 aperture for selfies and video calls. The tablet supports video recording at up to 1080p resolution at 60fps.

The Redmi Pad 2 Pro 5G is backed by a 12,000mAh battery that supports 33W wired fast charging and 27W wired reverse charging. Connectivity options include support for 5G, 4G LTE, Wi-Fi 6, and Bluetooth 5.4.

The tablet is equipped with a range of sensors including an accelerometer, gyroscope, ambient light sensor, colour temperature sensor, e-compass, and hall sensor. It measures 7.5mm in thickness and weighs approximately 610 grams. ■





CMF Headphone Pro

CMF Headphone Pro has been launched in India, marking the brand's first over-ear wireless headphones with Active Noise Cancellation (ANC). The headphones were initially unveiled in select global markets in September 2025. The Indian variant remains identical to the global model. Sales in India are set to begin later this month. Here's everything you need to know about the new headphones.

Price and Availability in India

The CMF Headphone Pro is priced at ₹7,999 in India. As part of a limited-time launch offer, it will be available for ₹6,999. The headphones will go on sale starting January 20, 2026, at 12 PM via Flipkart and offline retail stores.

These headphones are offered in three colour options, which includes Dark Grey, Light Green, and Light Grey.

Design and Controls

The CMF Headphone Pro features a modular design with support for interchangeable ear cushions and multiple colour options, allowing users to customise the look of the headphones.

Physical controls are handled through a tactile three-button setup including a multifunction roller that enables users to manage music playback, calls, and ANC directly from the headphones.

Key Features

According to the company, the CMF Headphone Pro delivers up to 100 hours of playback on a single charge. With Active Noise Cancellation turned on, battery life drops to around 50 hours. Fast charging is supported, with a quick 5-minute charge offering up to 8 hours of listening time. The headphones can be charged using a smartphone, laptop, or standard power adapter.

For audio, the headphones support LDAC and come with Hi-Res Audio certification, enabling higher-quality Bluetooth audio streaming on compatible devices. They can be used in both wired and wireless modes and are equipped with 40mm nickel-plated drivers designed to minimise distortion and deliver clearer sound.

Spatial audio modes such as Cinema and Concert are also included to enhance music and video playback.

The CMF Headphone Pro offers up to 40dB hybrid adaptive noise cancellation and claims to block up to 99% of background noise. The ANC system dynamically adjusts across different levels based on the surrounding environment.

The headphones work with the Nothing X app, where users can take a short hearing test to create a personalised sound profile. This profile is saved directly on the headphones and works across multiple devices.

Connectivity options include Bluetooth 5.4 with dual-device pairing support and a wireless range of up to 10 metres. The headphones also feature a 3.5mm headphone jack for wired listening, a built-in microphone for calls, sweat resistance suitable for light workouts, and general durability testing as claimed by the brand. ■



JUSTIN

First Look



Realme Neo 8

The Realme Neo 8 is a dual-SIM (Nano + Nano) smartphone that runs Android 16 with Realme UI 7.0 on top. It features a 6.78-inch full-HD+ AMOLED display with a resolution of 1,272 x 2,772 pixels. The screen supports a 165Hz refresh rate and a 360Hz touch sampling rate. Built using Samsung's M14 display materials, the panel is claimed to deliver peak brightness of up to 3,800 nits.

Powering the device is an octa-core Snapdragon 8 Gen 5 chipset, paired with up to 16GB of LPDDR5x RAM and up to 1TB of UFS 4.1 storage.

In the camera department, the Realme Neo 8 comes with a triple rear camera setup including a 50-megapixel wide-angle sensor with optical image stabilisation (OIS), an 8-megapixel ultra-wide camera and a 50-megapixel telephoto camera, also with OIS. For selfies and video calls, the phone features a 16-megapixel front camera.

The handset includes an ultrasonic 3D fingerprint sensor for biometric authentication and is protected by crystal armour glass for improved scratch and drop resistance. It is also equipped with the Sky Signal Chip S1, which is designed to enhance signal location and connectivity performance. Realme has confirmed that the Neo 8 will receive three major Android updates along with four years of security updates.

Connectivity options include 5G, Bluetooth 6.0, Wi-Fi 7,

USB Type-C, and support for multiple satellite navigation systems such as BeiDou, GPS, GLONASS, Galileo, and QZSS. Onboard sensors include a proximity sensor, ambient light sensor, colour temperature sensor, electronic compass, accelerometer, gyroscope, and an infrared remote control. The phone features dual stereo speakers and carries IP66, IP68, and IP69 ratings for dust and water resistance.

The Realme Neo 8 packs an 8,000mAh battery with support for 80W wired fast charging. It also supports bypass charging for gaming sessions. The smartphone measures 8.30mm in thickness and weighs 215 grams.

Price and Availability

The smartphone is currently available for purchase in China in Cyber Purple, Mech Grey and Origin White colour options.

In China, the Realme Neo 8 is priced at CNY 2,399 (roughly Rs. 33,000) for the 12GB RAM + 256GB storage variant. The 16GB + 256GB and 12GB + 512GB models are priced at CNY 2,699 (around Rs. 35,000) and CNY 2,899 (around Rs. 38,000), respectively. The 16GB + 512GB version costs CNY 3,199 (approximately Rs. 41,000), while the top-end 16GB + 1TB model is priced at CNY 3,699 (roughly Rs. 48,000). ■



Awakening Aura System



Realme 16 Pro and Realme 16 Pro+

Realme has expanded its popular number series in India with the launch of the Realme 16 Pro and Realme 16 Pro+. The new lineup maintains largely familiar pricing, which comes as a relief to buyers amid rising smartphone prices across brands. Here's everything you need to know about both phones, starting with price and availability.

Prices and Availability in India

The Realme 16 Pro 5G is priced starting at Rs 31,999 for the 8GB RAM and 128GB storage variant. The 8GB + 256GB version costs Rs 33,999, while the top-end 12GB + 256GB model is priced at Rs 36,999.

The Realme 16 Pro+ 5G price start at Rs 39,999 for the 8GB + 128GB variant, rises to Rs 41,999 for the 8GB + 256GB version, and go up to Rs 44,999 for the 12GB + 256GB configuration.

Buyers will be able to avail a flat discount of Rs 3,000 through select bank card offers. With these offers applied, the Realme 16 Pro 8GB + 128GB variant will effectively be priced at Rs 28,999 for eligible cardholders.

Realme 16 Pro+ - Key Highlights

Sitting at the top of the lineup is the Realme 16 Pro+, which Realme positions as a performance-centric and camera-focused smartphone. It is powered by the Snapdragon 7 Gen 4 chipset, a processor that, while not brand new, has already



proven capable for everyday performance. The phone is backed by a large 7,000mAh battery with support for 80W fast charging.

Cameras are a key differentiator for the Pro+. The device features a 200-megapixel primary camera along with a 50-megapixel periscope telephoto lens. Realme has confirmed around 3.5x optical zoom, which should result in cleaner zoomed-in shots compared to most mid-range smartphones.

The inclusion of a periscope camera gives the Realme 16 Pro+ a notable advantage for users interested in long-range photography without paying flagship prices.

On the front, the Realme 16 Pro+ sports a curved AMOLED display with up to 6,500 nits of peak brightness. It also offers ultra-slim 1.48mm bezels, a 2,500Hz touch sampling rate, and support for Netflix HDR content.

Durability has also been a focus, with the phone carrying IP66, IP68, IP69, and IP69K ratings, placing it among the more rugged devices in its segment on paper.

Realme 16 Pro - Key Highlights

The standard Realme 16 Pro is positioned as a more balanced choice for users looking to stay within a tighter budget. It also features a 200-megapixel main camera with support for 4K HDR video recording. Powering the device is the MediaTek Dimensity 7300 Max chipset, a new variant that Realme claims is tuned for efficiency and sustained performance, though real-world performance will become clearer with extended use.

Like the Pro+, the Realme 16 Pro packs a 7,000mAh battery with 80W fast charging and offers a display capable of reaching up to 6,500 nits of brightness. Realme has not compromised on durability, as the same IP ratings found on the Pro+ are also present on the Pro model.

Additionally, the Realme 16 Pro introduces a 300 percent ultra-volume mode, aimed at users who frequently rely on loudspeaker audio.

Shared Features and Software Experience

Both smartphones share several design and hardware elements. They feature a triple rear camera setup housed in a



REALME'S VISION

“With the Realme 16 Pro series, our goal was clear to bring flagship-grade camera technology, powerful performance and immersive displays to young Indian consumers without compromise. The 200MP camera, massive battery and premium design reflect our commitment to delivering meaningful innovation and setting new benchmarks in this segment.”

– Bazul Kochar,
Brand Manager, realme India

square module, an aerospace-grade frame, and physical buttons placed along the right edge.

The displays on both devices are AMOLED panels with full-HD+ resolution, although the Realme 16 Pro offers a 1.5K AMOLED display with a 144Hz refresh rate and support for 1.07 billion colours.

The Pro+ takes things further with higher touch sampling rates, advanced dimming technology, and slimmer bezels for a more immersive viewing experience.

On the software front, the Realme 16 Pro and Realme 16 Pro+ run Realme UI 7.0 based on Android 16 out of the box. Realme has committed to providing three major Android updates and four years of security patches, aligning with expectations in this price segment.

Both models also include performance-focused features such as LPDDR5x RAM support and advanced cooling solutions. ■



200MP HI-RES Mode

AI Perfect Shot

AI Ultra Clarity

Lava Blaze Duo 3 5G

Lava has officially launched the Lava Blaze Duo 3 5G in India, introducing what the company describes as the country's first dual-screen smartphone in this price segment. The key highlight of the device is a secondary AMOLED display placed on the rear panel.

Lava Blaze Duo 3 - Dual OLED Displays

The standout feature of the Lava Blaze Duo 3 is its 1.6-inch AMOLED rear display. This secondary screen is designed to offer quick access to information without unlocking the phone. Users can check notifications, control music playback, and view custom animations directly from the rear display. It also doubles as a viewfinder, enabling users to take high-resolution selfies using the primary rear camera.

On the front, the smartphone sports a 6.67-inch FHD+ AMOLED display with a 120Hz refresh rate, aimed at delivering smoother visuals during media consumption and gaming.

In terms of design, the Lava Blaze Duo 3 maintains an ultra-slim profile measuring 7.55mm. It is available in two colour options namely Moonlight Black and Imperial Gold.

Lava Blaze Duo 3 - Key Features

Powering the Blaze Duo 3 is the MediaTek Dimensity 7060 processor, clocked at up to 2.6GHz. Lava has equipped the phone with a unified memory setup listed as (6GB+6GB) LPDDR5 RAM, which uses virtual RAM technology to enhance multitasking performance. Storage is handled by 128GB of UFS 3.1 internal storage.

In the camera department, the Lava Blaze Duo 3 features a dual rear camera setup led by a 50MP AI primary camera using the Sony IMX752 sensor. On the front, the device houses an 8MP selfie camera.

Thanks to the rear AMOLED display, users can also use the 50MP main camera for selfies, which can result in better image quality compared to a typical front-facing camera.

The smartphone packs a 5000mAh battery with support for 33W fast charging. Additional features include an in-display fingerprint sensor, stereo speakers, an IR blaster, and a USB Type-C port.

On the software side, the device runs on a clean version of Android 15. Lava has confirmed an Android 16 update along





“Blaze Duo 3 will feature a dual-screen display at an accessible price point, catering to young Lava patrons. The product has been conceptualised with a strong focus on design, convenience, and purpose. Over the past few years, Lava’s product philosophy has been recognised for its alignment with a deep understanding of what Indian consumers truly value. Blaze Duo 3 is designed for those who seek individuality, style, and smarter ways to stay connected. It seamlessly blends functionality with flair and redefines what users can expect from a smartphone in this segment.”

— Sumit Singh,

Head of Product, Lava International Limited

with two years of security updates. The company has highlighted a “bloatware-free” experience with no ads or unwanted notifications, and has committed to one Android OS upgrade and two years of security patches.

Pricing and Availability

The Lava Blaze Duo 3 5G is priced at Rs. 16,999 and is currently available for purchase via Amazon India. ■



Q1. What makes the Lava Blaze Duo 3 5G unique?

Answer. It is India’s first affordable dual-screen smartphone, featuring a 1.6-inch AMOLED rear display for notifications, music control, and selfies.

Q2. What are the main display specifications of Lava Blaze Duo 3?

Answer. The phone has a 6.67-inch FHD+ AMOLED front display with a 120Hz refresh rate, plus the 1.6-inch rear AMOLED screen.

Q3. Which processor powers the Lava Blaze Duo 3?

Answer. It runs on the MediaTek Dimensity 7060 processor, clocked up to 2.6GHz, paired with 6GB+6GB LPDDR5 RAM (virtual) and 128GB UFS 3.1 storage.

Q4. What camera setup does the Lava Blaze Duo 3 offer?

Answer. The Blaze Duo 3 features a 50MP Sony IMX752 AI primary rear camera and an 8MP front camera with the rear display doubling as a selfie viewfinder.

Q5. What is the price and availability of the Lava Blaze Duo 3 5G?

Answer. The smartphone is priced at ₹16,999 and is available for purchase via Amazon.in





Samsung Galaxy A07 5G

Samsung has officially unveiled the Samsung Galaxy A07 5G, the latest addition to its A-series lineup. The smartphone has debuted in the Philippines and is already available for purchase. It has also been spotted listed on Samsung's official website in Myanmar, indicating a wider rollout. Here's more on this latest Galaxy smartphone.

Key Features

On the front, the newly unveiled Galaxy A07 5G features a 6.7-inch LCD panel with a 120Hz refresh rate, HD+ resolution, and up to 800 nits of HBM brightness.

The A07 5G is powered by a 6nm octa-core MediaTek Dimensity 6300 processor. In the Philippines, the device is offered with 4GB of RAM and up to 128GB of internal storage. Users also get a microSD card slot to expand storage further.

For photography, the Galaxy A07 5G comes with a dual rear camera setup that includes a 50MP primary sensor and a 2MP depth sensor. On the front, there is an 8MP selfie camera housed inside a waterdrop-style notch.

One of the key highlights of the Galaxy A07 5G is its large 6,000mAh battery, which is a notable upgrade over its predecessor. The phone runs One UI 8.0 out of the box and Samsung has promised six years of Android OS updates along with six years of security patches.

The smartphone includes a side-mounted fingerprint



scanner, a 3.5mm headphone jack, GPS, dual-band Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 5.3, 5G connectivity, and a USB Type-C port. It also carries an IP54 rating for dust and water resistance.

The Galaxy A07 5G measures 8.2mm in thickness and weighs 199 grams.

Price and Availability

In the Philippines, the Galaxy A07 5G is available in Black and Light Violet colour options.

The 4GB + 64GB variant is priced at PHP 8,290 (around \$140), while the 4GB + 128GB model costs PHP 9,990 (approximately \$170). ■



Ultra Durable

7200

mAh

Vivo Y31d

Vivo has quietly expanded its Y-series lineup with the launch of the Vivo Y31d. Pricing details for the Vivo Y31d have not been announced yet. However, the device is already listed on official Vivo websites in Cambodia and Vietnam. Here's more about the newly launched device.

Design and Colours

The Vivo Y31d is available in Glow White and Starlight Grey colour options. The phone measures 166.6 x 78.4 x 8.39mm with the White variant slightly thicker at 8.49mm and weighs 219 grams. In terms of build, the vivo Y31d uses a plastic composite body, while the camera island is made of metal.

The device carries an "IP69+" rating, offering protection against splashes, rain, high-pressure water jets, and water submersion up to 1.5 metres for as long as 30 minutes.

Key Features

The smartphone shares several similarities with the Vivo Y31 and Vivo Y31 Pro. However, it brings two notable changes. The first is the use of a 4G-only Snapdragon 6s 4G Gen 2 chipset, and the second is a significantly larger 7,200mAh battery, compared to the 6,500mAh units found in the other models. According to Vivo, this capacity can deliver over 13 hours of MOBA gaming, more than 14 hours of navigation, or up to 45 hours of continuous video

playback, translating to nearly two days of usage. Charging is handled by a 44W FlashCharge system, which is claimed to recharge the battery from 1% to 50% in 43 minutes. The phone also includes a Bypass Charging feature for gaming while connected to external power. Vivo says the battery is rated to retain performance for up to six years of use.

The display is a 6.75-inch LCD panel with a resolution of 720 x 1,570 pixels. It supports a 120Hz refresh rate and can reach up to 1,250 nits of peak brightness. A side-mounted fingerprint scanner is included for biometric authentication.

Powering the device is the Snapdragon 6s 4G Gen 2 processor, paired with 6GB or 8GB of LPDDR4X RAM and 128GB or 256GB of UFS 2.2 internal storage.

On the software front, the smartphone runs Android 16 with OriginOS 6 out of the box. The rear camera setup consists of a 50MP primary sensor with an f/2.0 lens, accompanied by a 2MP secondary sensor. On the front, the phone features an 8MP selfie camera with an f/2.0 aperture.

Connectivity options include dual nano-SIM support, dual-band Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 5.1 and a USB 2.0 port. The Vivo Y31d is limited to 4G networks and does not offer NFC or a 3.5mm headphone jack. Audio is handled by stereo speakers with a claimed 400% volume boost. ■



Redmi Note 15 Pro Series

After introducing the Redmi Note 15 at the beginning of this year, the company has now expanded the lineup with the Redmi Note 15 Pro and Redmi Note 15 Pro Plus. The new Pro models build on the foundation of the standard Note 15, bringing noticeable improvements in design, camera hardware, and overall performance. Here's more on both the models.

Price and Availability in India

The Redmi Note 15 Pro Plus 5G is priced in India starting at Rs. 37,999 for the base variant with 8GB RAM and 256GB internal storage. It is available in Coffee Mocha, Mirage Blue, and Carbon Black colour options. The Redmi Note 15 Pro 5G starts at PLN 29,999 for the 8GB + 128GB configuration. The phone is offered in Silver Ash, Mirage Blue, and Carbon Black finishes.

Xiaomi is also offering bank discounts of up to Rs. 3,000 on HDFC Bank, SBI, and ICICI credit card transactions. With these offers applied, the effective launch prices of the Redmi Note 15 Pro and Redmi Note 15 Pro Plus 5G come down to Rs. 26,999 and Rs. 34,999, respectively.

Design and Display

The Redmi Note 15 Pro and Note 15 Pro Plus feature a flat frame design paired with a refreshed rear panel. While the squircle-shaped camera module remains similar to the one seen on the standard Note 15, the Pro models arrive in new colour options.

Buyers can choose between a glass back or a textured,

leather-like finish on both devices.

Xiaomi has also focused on durability, equipping the Redmi Note 15 Pro series with IP66, IP68, IP69, and IP69K ratings for dust and water resistance.

On the front, both smartphones are protected by Gorilla Glass Victus 2. They sport an identical 6.83-inch 1.5K quad-curved AMOLED display with a 120Hz refresh rate and a peak brightness of up to 3,200 nits.

Key Features

Camera upgrades are one of the key highlights of the Pro lineup. While the standard Redmi Note 15 offers a 108-megapixel primary sensor, the Redmi Note 15 Pro and Pro Plus step up to a new 200-megapixel main camera with optical image stabilisation (OIS). Both models support 4K video recording and include an 8-megapixel ultra-wide camera.

There is a difference on the front as well. The Redmi Note 15 Pro is equipped with a 20-megapixel selfie camera, whereas the Note 15 Pro Plus features a higher-resolution 32-megapixel front-facing sensor.

Under the hood, the Redmi Note 15 Pro Plus is powered by Qualcomm's Snapdragon 7s Gen 4 processor. The Redmi Note 15 Pro, on the other hand, runs on the MediaTek Dimensity 7400 Ultra chipset.

Battery capacity varies slightly between the two models. The Note 15 Pro Plus packs a 6,500mAh battery, while the Note 15 Pro gets a marginally larger 6,580mAh cell. Both smartphones support 100W fast charging. ■



10001mAh

A New Era of Power

JUSTIN

First Look

Realme P4 Power 5G

Realme has officially launched the Realme P4 Power 5G in India. What makes this announcement particularly interesting is that this smartphone comes with the largest battery ever seen on a commercially available smartphone. Yes, we are getting a 10,001mAh Titan Battery with Realme P4 Power.

The phone is clearly designed to deliver multi-day usage for gaming, video streaming, and social media. We have to appreciate Realme for quickly moving from showcasing 10,000mAh and 15,000mAh concept smartphones last year to ensuring their retail availability this soon. Here's more on the phone.

Price, Sale date and Colours

The Realme P4 Power 5G price in India starts at Rs. 25,999 for the 8GB RAM and 128GB storage variant. The 8GB RAM + 256GB storage model is priced at Rs. 27,999, while the top-end 12GB RAM + 256GB storage version costs Rs. 30,999. Buyers can also avail of a bank discount of up to Rs. 2,000. Sales of the smartphone will begin on February 5 via Flipkart.

The handset will be available in three colour options, which include TransSilver, TransOrange, and TransBlue. Each colour variant features Realme's TransView design language.

Key Features

The Realme P4 Power 5G features a large 6.8-inch 1.5K 4D Curve+ HyperGlow display with a refresh rate of up to 144Hz. The panel supports HDR10+ content, offers up to 6,500 nits of peak brightness, and is capable of displaying over one billion

colours. For durability, Realme has equipped the phone with IP66, IP68, and IP69 ratings for dust and water resistance. The device also includes ArmorShell Protection to enhance overall toughness.

Powering the Realme P4 Power 5G is the MediaTek Dimensity 7400 Ultra chipset, manufactured using a 4nm process. According to Realme, the processor delivers improved energy efficiency compared to previous generations.

The smartphone also integrates a HyperVision+ AI chip, which is aimed at improving visual output and ensuring smoother frame rates during gaming and video playback. To manage heat, Realme has added a large AirFlow vapour chamber cooling system. On the software front, the device runs Android 16-based Realme UI 7.0. Realme has confirmed that the phone will receive three years of operating system updates and four years of security patches. The Realme P4 Power 5G comes with a dual rear camera setup. It is led by a 50-megapixel Sony IMX882 primary sensor with optical image stabilisation, accompanied by an 8-megapixel ultra-wide camera.

On the front, the phone houses a 16-megapixel selfie camera. Both the rear and front cameras support video recording, with the device capable of shooting up to 4K video at 30fps.

The key highlight of the Realme P4 Power 5G is its 10,001mAh silicon carbon Titan Battery. According to the company, the battery can deliver over 32 hours of video playback, nearly 933 hours of standby time, and extended gaming and music playback on a single charge. The smartphone supports 80W wired fast charging and also offers 27W wired reverse charging. Despite the massive battery capacity, the device measures 9.08mm in thickness and weighs around 219 grams. ■



1.07 Billion
Colors

HDR10+

Netflix HDR

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Redmi Buds 8 Pro

Xiaomi has officially introduced the Redmi Buds 8 Pro true wireless earbuds in China. These earbuds bring several premium audio features to the mid-range segment earbuds.

Priced at 399 yuan ((USD 57 / Rs. 5,275 approx.), the new earbuds focus on high-fidelity sound with a coaxial triple-driver system and dual DACs. The Redmi Buds 8 Pro are available in Mist Blue, Black, and White, all featuring a matte, skin-friendly finish.

Here's everything you need to know about the earbuds.

Redmi Buds 8 Pro - Key Features

Each earbud is equipped with an 11mm titanium-coated dynamic driver that handles bass and mid-range frequencies, paired with two 6.7mm micro piezoelectric ceramic drivers dedicated to high frequencies.

Xiaomi uses an independent frequency crossover design along with dual DACs to separately power low and high frequencies for improved clarity. The earbuds support Xiaomi's MIHC audio codec, are compatible with LHDC-V5, and come with Hi-Res Wireless Audio certification.

For noise control, the Redmi Buds 8 Pro feature Xiaomi's Deep Space Noise Cancellation 3.0 technology, offering up to 55dB of active noise reduction across a wide 5kHz frequency range. The system analyses environmental noise and ear-fit conditions 32,000 times per second to make real-time adjustments. Users can choose from 20 ANC levels, along with intelligent scene detection, personalised noise-cancellation profiles, and single-ear ANC support.

The earbuds also support spatial audio with dynamic head tracking, enabled by a built-in six-axis gyroscope. Xiaomi has added its own spatial audio rendering engine and Dolby Audio support. However, Dolby's spatial audio mode does not include head tracking functionality.

In terms of battery life, the Redmi Buds 8 Pro deliver up to 8.5 hours of playback on a single charge, while the charging



case extends total usage to as much as 35 hours. Fast charging support allows up to two hours of playback with just a five-minute charge, although wireless charging is not supported.

Xiaomi has introduced swipe-based controls on the earbud stems for precise volume adjustment, complete with haptic feedback. The charging case also gets a redesigned light bar that displays battery levels and charging progress through animated lighting effects.

On the smart features front, the Redmi Buds 8 Pro support Xiaomi HyperOS Connect, Smart Find, seamless audio handoff between devices, dual-device connectivity, and notification voice broadcast. Additional features include hearing health monitoring and in-ear karaoke modes, though some functions require a Xiaomi phone or tablet running HyperOS 3 or newer. ■





Oppo Reno15 Pro Mini Crystal

Oppo Reno15 Pro Mini lineup in India just got a new Crystal Pink colour variant. The smartphone was earlier introduced in Cocoa Brown and Glacier White options earlier this month, and the new colour adds a fresh visual choice for buyers. Here's more on that.

Price and Availability in India

The Oppo Reno15 Pro Mini Crystal Pink variant will go on sale starting February 1, 2026. It will be available via Amazon, Flipkart, the Oppo E-store, and offline mainline retail stores. The 12GB RAM with 256GB storage model is priced at INR 59,999, while the 12GB RAM with 512GB storage variant costs INR 64,999.

As part of launch offers, buyers can avail up to 10% instant cashback through select bank partners and UPI, zero down payment schemes for up to 15 months, an exchange bonus of Rs. 2,000, and 180 days of complimentary screen damage protection.

Oppo is also offering a 50% discount on the Oppo Enco Buds3 Pro+ with every purchase.

Oppo Reno15 Pro Mini - Key Specs

The Oppo Reno15 Pro Mini features a 6.32-inch flat OLED display with a 1.5K resolution of 2640 × 1216 pixels. The panel supports a 120Hz refresh rate, a 240Hz touch sampling rate, and delivers up to 3,600 nits of local peak brightness. It also includes 3840Hz high-frequency PWM dimming and Oppo Crystal Shield

Glass protection.

Powering the device is the MediaTek Dimensity 8450 octa-core processor built on a 4nm process, clocked up to 3.25GHz and paired with a Mali-G720 MC7 GPU running at 1300MHz. The phone comes with 12GB of LPDDR5X RAM and offers storage options of 256GB or 512GB using UFS 3.1 technology.

On the software side, it runs Android 16 with ColorOS 16 on top.

In the camera department, the Reno15 Pro Mini is equipped with a 200MP primary camera featuring a 1/1.56-inch sensor, f/1.8 aperture, and optical image stabilisation. It is accompanied by a 50MP ultra-wide camera with a 112-degree field of view and f/2.2 aperture, along with a 50MP 3.5x periscope telephoto camera with OIS and an f/2.8 aperture. The rear camera setup supports 4K video recording at 60fps. On the front, the phone houses a 50MP selfie camera with an f/2.0 aperture, also capable of recording 4K videos at 60fps.

The smartphone includes an in-display fingerprint sensor, an infrared sensor, stereo speakers, and USB Type-C audio support. It carries IP66, IP68, and IP69 ratings for dust and water resistance.

The device packs a 6,200mAh battery with support for 80W SuperVOOC fast charging.■

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CESTM

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2026



Innovators show up



At CES 2026 in Las Vegas, the future arrived early — with more than 4,000 global innovators unveiling breakthroughs from AI-powered robots and rollable displays to ultra-bright micro-RGB TVs and next-gen chips. Physical AI, autonomous mobility, health tech and quantum leaps dominated the show floor, signaling how tech will shape real-world lives in 2026 and beyond.





Samsung Galaxy Book6 Debuts at CES 2026 with Next-Gen Intel Chips and AI Features

Samsung Electronics has announced the Galaxy Book6 series at CES 2026, expanding its premium laptop lineup with three new models. The models include Galaxy Book6 Ultra, Galaxy Book6 Pro and Galaxy Book6. The new series focuses on slimmer designs, improved performance, enhanced thermal systems, and deeper Galaxy AI integration.

Speaking on the announcement, Won-Joon Choi, President, Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Head of the R&D Office, Mobile eXperience (MX) Business at Samsung Electronics, said, "At Samsung, we believe true innovation begins with getting the fundamentals right. Performance defines the PC experience. With the Galaxy Book6 series, we combine unmatched speed and power with reliable AI to deliver the exceptional productivity and creativity capabilities users expect from Samsung."

Refined Design and Chassis Engineering

The Galaxy Book6 series features a redesigned structural layout aimed at reducing overall thickness while maintaining balance and durability. Samsung has introduced a symmetrical exterior design with curved corners and a centred logo across the lineup. The centrally aligned two-tone keyboard and haptic touch trackpad are designed to improve hand placement and typing accuracy.

Internally, a redesigned PCB layout

distributes weight and components more evenly, enabling a slimmer profile while supporting stable performance and long-term reliability. The Galaxy Book6 Ultra and Galaxy Book6 Pro 16-inch models feature reworked internal and external components, including a wider vapor chamber, thinner fan, updated display structure, refined bezels, and a redesigned hinge mechanism. In terms of dimensions, the Galaxy Book6 Ultra measures 15.4mm, which is 1.1mm thinner than the Galaxy Book4 Ultra. The Galaxy Book6 Pro 16-inch measures 11.9mm, marking a 0.6mm reduction compared to the Galaxy Book5 Pro 16-inch.

Processing Platform and Graphics Performance

The Galaxy Book6 series is powered by Intel Core Ultra Series 3 processors, making it the first client system-on-chip platform built on Intel's 18A (1.8nm-class) process technology. These processors support up to 16 combined performance and efficiency cores, delivering up to 60 percent faster CPU performance compared to the previous generation.

The integrated neural processing unit offers up to 50 TOPS, enabling on-device AI tasks such as image processing, translation, and intelligent search without relying on cloud-based services. For graphics-intensive workloads, the Galaxy Book6 Ultra supports NVIDIA GeForce RTX 5070 and RTX 5060 Laptop GPUs, enabling GPU-





accelerated AI image generation, video editing, and gaming.

Advanced Thermal System

Samsung has redesigned the cooling architecture across the Galaxy Book6 Ultra and Galaxy Book6 Pro models to ensure sustained performance with controlled acoustics. The Galaxy Book6 Pro series introduces a vapor chamber for the first time, while the Galaxy Book6 Ultra uses a larger vapor chamber with expanded surface area. Both models feature increased fin sizes to improve heat transfer, delivering up to 35 percent higher cooling efficiency compared to the previous generation. The Galaxy Book6 Ultra also includes a dual-path outlet fan and heatsink design to dissipate heat from the processor and internal components. The updated fan design features an optimised blade angle, a larger inlet grille for improved airflow, and uneven blade spacing to reduce operational noise.

Battery Life and Fast Charging

The Galaxy Book6 Ultra and Galaxy Book6 Pro are designed for extended usage through improved power efficiency. Both models are rated to deliver up to 30 hours of video playback, extending usage by approximately five hours compared to the previous generation. The Galaxy Book6 Ultra also supports fast charging, reaching up to 63 percent battery capacity in just 30 minutes.

Display Technology Enhancements

Samsung has equipped the Galaxy Book6 Ultra and Pro models with upgraded Dynamic AMOLED 2X touch displays designed to maintain clarity across varying lighting conditions. Display specifications include HDR peak brightness of up to 1,000 nits, SDR peak brightness of 500 nits, and an adaptive refresh rate ranging from 30Hz to 120Hz. Additional features include Vision

Booster, which adjusts visibility based on ambient lighting and on-screen content, True Bright 1300 certification, and True Black levels as low as 0.0005 nits. The displays are protected by Corning Gorilla Glass with DXC, which reduces surface reflection by up to 75 percent compared to standard glass while also improving scratch resistance. Touch input is supported for direct interaction during editing and navigation.

Audio System Upgrades

The Galaxy Book6 series introduces revised speaker configurations designed to complement the upgraded displays. The Galaxy Book6 Ultra features a six-speaker Dolby Atmos system with four force-canceling woofers and two tweeters. A back-to-back woofer layout helps reduce vibration and distortion at higher volumes. Both the Galaxy Book6 Ultra and Galaxy Book6 Pro 16-inch models include up-firing tweeters to improve voice clarity and side-firing woofers to enhance low-frequency output for media playback and calls.

The Galaxy Book6 series integrates Galaxy AI to support both on-device and cloud-based workflows across Samsung's ecosystem. Supported features include AI Select for text selection and contextual lookup using touch input, AI Cut Out for background removal in images, and natural language search across files, photos, and system settings.

Additional features include Note Assist for text summarisation and translation, Storage Share for accessing files and photos across Galaxy devices, and Link to Windows for phone apps, notifications, messaging, and Live Translate workflows. Users also get Nearby Devices for quick discovery and drag-and-drop connectivity, Multi Control for cursor, copy, and paste across Galaxy Book, phone, and tablet, and Second Screen for workspace expansion using Galaxy tablets.

Security and Device Protection

The Galaxy Book6 series is protected by Samsung Knox, offering multi-layer, hardware-based security. Additional protection is provided through Windows 11 Secured-core PC features. All devices undergo Samsung's durability and quality testing processes, and Samsung Care+ is available for accidental damage protection, repairs, and replacements.

Pricing and Availability

The Galaxy Book6 Ultra, Galaxy Book6 Pro, and Galaxy Book6 will be available in Grey and Silver colour options in select markets starting late January 2026. Reservations will open in select regions via Samsung's official website.

Pricing details are expected to be announced closer to the rollout. Samsung has also confirmed that a Galaxy Book6 Enterprise Edition, designed for managed IT environments, will be available in certain markets starting April 2026. ■





Motorola Signature and Motorola Razr Fold Breaks Cover at CES 2026 with Snapdragon 8 Gen 5 and DXOMARK Gold Camera

Motorola has officially introduced the Motorola Signature smartphone at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2026. The new handset marks the debut of the Motorola Signature series and comes with a contoured design, an aircraft-grade aluminium frame, and twill linen-inspired

textures. The premium smartphone features four 50-megapixel cameras and is backed by a 5,200mAh battery. Here's more on the newly unveiled device.

Price and Availability

The Motorola Signature is priced at EUR 899.99 (roughly Rs. 82,000) for the single configuration with 12GB RAM and 512GB internal storage. Pricing and availability are

It will be available in two colour options, which are Pantone Carbon and Pantone Martini Olive.

Motorola has confirmed that the phone will first go on sale in select Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and Asia-Pacific markets over the coming months.

Key Specs

The smartphone features a 6.8-inch Super HD (1,264 x 2,780 pixels) LTPO AMOLED display with 450 PPI pixel density, up to 6,200 nits peak brightness, and a 165Hz refresh rate. The panel is Pantone-validated for colour and skin tone accuracy, supports up to 100 percent DCI-P3 colour gamut, and offers a 360Hz touch sampling rate. Protection is handled by Corning Gorilla Glass Victus 2.





Under the hood, the Motorola Signature is powered by Qualcomm's Snapdragon 8 Gen 5 chipset, paired with LPDDR5X RAM and UFS 4.1 storage. The phone includes an in-display ultrasonic fingerprint sensor, face unlock, and ThinkShield security features.

Audio duties are handled by dual stereo speakers with Dolby Atmos support.

The dual-SIM (nano + eSIM) Motorola Signature runs Android 16 with Hello UI on top. Motorola has promised up to seven OS upgrades and seven years of security updates, which it says is the brand's most extensive software support policy to date. The company will also offer on-demand white-glove assistance later this year, giving users access to curated luxury experiences across travel, dining, events, and more.

Camera System and DXOMARK Gold Label



For photography, the Motorola Signature features a triple rear camera setup with a 50-megapixel Sony LYTIA 828 primary sensor, a 50-megapixel ultra-wide lens, and a 50-megapixel periscope telephoto Sony LYTIA 600 sensor offering 3x optical zoom. A multispectral 3-in-1 light sensor is also present on the rear. On the front, the phone houses a 50-megapixel Sony LYTIA 500 sensor for selfies and video calls.

The Motorola Signature has earned a Gold Label Camera recognition from DXOMARK, a distinction reserved for devices delivering a best-in-class camera experience. With a DXO score of 164, it is claimed to have the best camera on an ultra-thin phone among the devices tested.

Other Features

Connectivity options on the Motorola Signature include Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth 6, 5G, 4G LTE, NFC, GPS, and USB Type-C. The phone carries IP68 and IP69 ratings for dust and water resistance, along with MIL-STD-810H10 durability certification. It measures 162.1 x 76.4 x 6.99mm and weighs 186g.

The handset packs a 5,200mAh silicon-carbon battery that supports 90W TurboPower wired charging and 50W TurboPower wireless charging. It also offers 10W wireless reverse charging and 5W wired reverse charging. Motorola claims the device can deliver up to 52 hours of battery life on a single charge.



Motorola Razr Fold

Motorola has expanded its foldable portfolio at CES 2026 with the announcement of the Motorola Razr Fold. It is the company's move into large-screen, book-style foldable smartphones. Although several specifications are yet to be disclosed, the brand has confirmed key details around design, displays, cameras, and stylus support. Here's what we know about the device so far.

Form Factor

The Motorola Razr Fold is the company's first foldable phone that opens horizontally, similar to a compact tablet. It features an 8.1-inch LTPO foldable inner display with 2K resolution, designed to support multitasking, productivity, and immersive media consumption.

On the outside, the device sports a 6.6-inch cover display that works like a standard smartphone screen, allowing users to handle most daily tasks without unfolding the device.

In terms of design, the phone will be available in Pantone Blackened Blue and Pantone Lily White colour options.

Motorola Razr Fold - Key Features

Cameras are a major highlight of the Razr Fold. The phone is equipped with a triple rear camera system, all using 50-megapixel sensors. This includes a Sony LYTIA primary sensor, a 50-megapixel ultra-wide camera with macro functionality, and a 50-megapixel periscope telephoto lens offering 3x optical zoom.

For selfies and video calls,

Motorola has added a 32-megapixel camera on the cover display and a 20-megapixel camera on the inner screen. The device also supports Dolby Vision video recording, placing it firmly in the premium content creation category.

On the software front, Motorola is focusing on features



tailored for foldable devices. These include adaptive user interfaces, flexible app layouts, and enhanced multitasking options.

The Razr Fold also supports the Moto Pen Ultra stylus, enabling note-taking, sketching, and other creative tasks. This feature remains relatively rare in the foldable smartphone segment.

Expected Price and Launch Timeline

Motorola has not officially announced the price of the Razr Fold yet. However, leaks and industry sources suggest that the device could start at around \$1,500.

More details on pricing and regional availability including for the United States are expected closer to the global launch. As of now, the launch is reportedly planned for the summer of 2026. ■



Motorola

Showcases FIFA Edition Razr 60 and Smart Ecosystem at CES 2026



At Lenovo Tech Day 2026, held alongside CES, Motorola introduced a range of new products and concepts in addition to introducing its first book-style foldable, the Razr Fold, and the premium Motorola Signature smartphone.

The event highlighted Motorola's expanding ecosystem across smartphones, wearables, audio products, accessories, and artificial intelligence. Here's a roundup of everything we got to see during the unveiling.

Motorola Razr 60 FIFA World Cup 26 Edition

Motorola announced the Razr 60 FIFA World Cup 26 Edition, a limited-edition clamshell foldable created for football fans. The device features a soft textured rear panel with design patterns inspired by the FIFA World Cup and comes in a green colour option.

The special edition model retains the same specifications as the standard Razr 60 but adds custom wallpapers, a FIFA-themed ringtone, and a FIFA watermark for photos.

The phone will be available only in the US and Canada starting February 12, priced at

\$700.

Meanwhile, Motorola Mobility will also be the Official Smartphone Partner of the FIFA Club World Cup 2025. This marks the beginning of Motorola's partnership with FIFA through to 2027.

"Motorola is proud to support this new global club football landmark with smarter technology," said Sergio Buniac, President of Motorola. "The FIFA Club World Cup 2025 represents an incredible opportunity to showcase not only the world's best football clubs, but also the transformative potential of innovation. Through our infrastructure, devices – from smartphones to Lenovo PCS & servers, and services, we'll help FIFA deliver a globally inclusive tournament for fans around the world."

FIFA Secretary General Mattias Grafström said, "The inaugural FIFA Club World Cup will mark a new era in global club football – one that is inclusive, innovative and more connected than ever before. We're delighted to have Motorola and Lenovo joining us for this groundbreaking tournament. Their world-class technology and global perspective will help elevate the experience for fans, teams and other stakeholders."

New Moto Watch With Polar Partnership

The company also introduced a new Moto Watch, marking Motorola's partnership with Polar for fitness



and health tracking. The smartwatch features a 1.43-inch circular OLED display protected by Gorilla Glass 3 and includes a PPG sensor, Bluetooth 5.3, dual-frequency GPS, and an IP68 rating.

It is offered in aluminium finishes with a stainless steel crown and Pantone-colour watch bands. Motorola claims the watch can deliver up to 13 days of battery life without the always-on display enabled. Health features include continuous heart-rate monitoring, sleep tracking, and support for multiple workout modes.

The Moto Watch will be available in select markets across Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Latin America, and Oceania, with stainless steel, silicone, or soft-luxe strap options.

Sound Flow Bluetooth Speaker With Bose Audio and Moto Pen Ultra and Moto Tag 2

Motorola unveiled the Sound Flow portable Bluetooth speaker



featuring Sound by Bose. The speaker is equipped with a 20W woofer, a 10W tweeter, and dual passive radiators. Connectivity options include Bluetooth 5.0, Wi-Fi 5, and UWB.

The Sound Flow carries an IP67 rating and houses a 6,000mAh battery, which is claimed to provide up to 12 hours of playback. It features a twill-textured fabric finish, comes in Pantone Carbon and Pantone Warm Taupe colours. Furthermore, it includes capacitive touch controls.

Motorola also announced two new accessories at the event. The Moto Pen Ultra features a 1.4mm tip, Bluetooth 5.3 connectivity, 4,096 levels of pressure sensitivity, and a 6-axis motion sensor. It includes a USB Type-C charging case, carries



an IP55 rating, weighs 4.7g, and is claimed to offer sub-5ms latency.

The updated Moto Tag 2 is powered by UWB, Bluetooth channel sounding, and the Find Hub network. It has an IP68 rating and is claimed to deliver up to 500 days of battery life using a user-replaceable battery. The Tag 2 also includes a physical button that can be used to locate a paired device or function as a remote camera shutter.

Qira AI Assistant and Project Maxwell

Motorola and Lenovo jointly announced Qira, a unified AI assistant designed to offer a seamless cross-device AI experience. According to Motorola, Qira simplifies switching between apps, AI tools, and hardware by bringing together offerings such as Moto AI, Lenovo AI Now, Creator Zone, and Learning Zone under a single platform.

Qira is described as a system-level, context-aware AI that can be activated using the “Hey, Qira” wake phrase, a dedicated hardware key, or a persistent on-screen pill. Motorola said Qira will roll out to select Lenovo devices in Q1 2026, followed by Motorola devices at a later stage.

Alongside Qira, Motorola showcased an AI Perceptive Companion proof of concept called Project Maxwell, developed by Motorola’s 312 Labs.

Project Maxwell is a wearable accessory equipped with a camera and microphone that integrates with Qira to continuously process visual, audio, and environmental data, delivering real-time, context-aware insights. It is powered by Multimodal Perception Fusion and Natural Language Interaction and Intention Capture technologies. ■



Intel Unveils Core Ultra Series 3 on 18A Process at CES 2026

Intel has announced the Intel Core Ultra Series 3 processors at CES 2026, marking the company's first AI PC platform built on Intel 18A process technology. Designed and manufactured in the United States, the new platform supports more than 200 device designs from global partners and is Intel's most

widely available AI PC platform so far.

Speaking on the announcement, Jim Johnson, Senior Vice President and General Manager, Client Computing Group, Intel, said, "With Series 3, we are laser focused on enhancing power efficiency, adding more CPU performance, a bigger GPU in a class of its own, more AI compute and app compatibility you can count on with x86."

Intel Core Ultra X9 and X7 Mobile Processors

The Series 3 mobile lineup introduces a new class of Intel Core Ultra X9 and X7 processors with integrated Intel Arc graphics. These processors are aimed at multitasking, content creation, gaming, and everyday productivity workloads.

Key specifications of the new mobile processors include up to 16 CPU cores, up to 12

Xe graphics cores, and AI acceleration rated at 50 NPU TOPS. Intel claims up to 60 percent better multithread performance, up to 77 percent faster gaming performance, and battery life of up to 27 hours compared to previous-generation platforms.

Alongside the premium X9 and X7 chips, the Series 3 family also includes Intel Core processors designed for mainstream laptops. These processors are based on the same architecture as the flagship Series 3 lineup, enabling efficient and high-performance designs at more accessible price points.

Support for Edge and Industrial AI Workloads

Beyond consumer PCs, Intel Core Ultra Series 3 processors are also certified for embedded and industrial applications. These chips support extended temperature ranges, deterministic performance, and continuous 24/7 operation, making them suitable for demanding edge deployments.

For edge AI workloads, Intel states that Series 3 processors deliver up to 1.9 times higher large language model performance, up to 2.3 times better performance per watt per dollar in end-to-end video analytics, and up to 4.5 times higher throughput for vision language action models. The integrated AI acceleration enables a single-chip system-on-chip design, reducing total cost of ownership compared to traditional multi-chip CPU and GPU setups.

Availability Timeline

Consumer laptops powered by Intel Core Ultra Series 3 processors will be available globally starting January 27, 2026, with pre-orders opening on January 6, 2026. Edge and industrial systems based on the new platform are expected to arrive in the second quarter of 2026. ■

Series 3

intel
CORE
ULTRA X9

Series 3

intel
CORE
ULTRA X7

Series 3

intel
CORE
ULTRA 7

Series 3

intel
CORE
ULTRA 9

Series 3

intel
CORE
ULTRA 5

NOTE 60 SERIES

With Satellite Calling and Messaging



Infinix Showcases Note 60 Series and Future Tech at CES 2026

At CES Showstoppers 2026, Infinix outlined its mobile technology roadmap under the “Joyful Tech, Beyond Limits” philosophy. The brand showcased multiple innovations spanning connectivity, thermal management, gaming accessories, and smartphone design. Highlights included Infinix’s first global satellite communication solution, the industry’s first HydroFlow Liquid Cooling Architecture, and Active Visual Backplate Technology, all aimed at improving sustained performance and personalised user experiences.

Infinix Note 60 Series to Debut Two-way Satellite Calling and Messaging

Infinix first introduced its Explorer Satellite Communication Technology in 2023, which supported two-way text messaging in remote locations. Building on that foundation, the company has now unveiled a more advanced Infinix Satellite Communication system.

The new solution supports not only two-way text messaging but also high-definition voice calls. It includes Speaker Mode and Bluetooth headset calling for added convenience, along with wind suppression technology designed to capture clear audio even in windy conditions.

The upcoming Infinix Note 60 series will be the first to feature this satellite communication system. It remains unclear whether the feature will be available across the entire lineup or limited to select models, such as the Pininfarina-designed Infinix Note 60 Ultra.

According to the company, the Infinix Satellite Communication system is expected to cover roughly two-thirds of the Earth’s surface. It supports transmission speeds of up to 4Kbps, which, while modest, are sufficient for HD voice calls. The system is also designed to seamlessly switch between cellular and satellite

connectivity.

Infinix claims users will be able to access satellite connectivity without any additional registrations, with more details expected to be shared later.

HydroFlow Liquid Cooling and Bladeless Fan Technology Unveiled



Alongside satellite communication, Infinix introduced a new active cooling solution called HydroFlow, which the company describes as “one of the smartphone world’s most advanced” liquid cooling technologies.

At its core is the industry’s first Dual Piezoelectric Ceramic Single Pump. This system uses electric current to drive high-frequency deformation of piezoelectric ceramics, pushing fluorinated liquid at speeds of up to 6.5 ml/min, double that of conventional active liquid cooling systems. The liquid channels reportedly cover 100 percent of the mainboard’s primary heat sources, delivering what Infinix calls “unprecedented cooling



precision and efficiency.”

Complementing this is what the brand claims to be the world’s first piezoelectric fan technology for smartphones. It uses an ultra-thin 0.1mm vibrating sheet that pulses 25,000 times per second to generate a high-pressure, turbulent air jet. According to Infinix, this results in more than ten times greater heat dissipation compared to traditional spinning blade fans. The solid-state, blade-less design also enables near-silent operation.

Infinix added that it is already working on a full-chamber immersive cooling solution, where liquid directly contacts key components to enable faster heat dissipation.

New Gaming Controller and Active Visual Backplate Technology

The company also showcased an industry-first split gaming controller featuring a large pressure-sensitive touchpad and ultra-low latency performance. It is paired with wireless magnetic triggers equipped with “mouse-grade micro-switches.”

On the design front, Infinix introduced Active Visual Backplate Technology. Using precise optical microstructures, the technology manipulates reflected light to create a rear panel design that changes based on viewing angles and surroundings. By simply rotating the phone, users can experience “flowing colours, vivid



and continuous animations, or mesmerising 3D stereoscopic images on the back cover.”

As an extension of this concept, Infinix is incorporating smart materials such as bistable thermo-chromatic ink and starry photochromic leather. These materials allow patterns and colours to shift dynamically in response to temperature changes and ambient light. The visuals are layered on top of a “Monolithic Cold-carved Polymer structure,” which integrates the camera module into the rear panel for a more refined look and smoother feel.

According to the company, these combined technologies bring “living personality into Infinix products, with designs that are stunning at first glance and extraordinary upon closer inspection.”

ModuVerse Magnetic Sccessory Ecosystem Announced

Rounding out its CES 2026 announcements, Infinix unveiled ModuVerse, a new magnetic accessory ecosystem built around “a unified magnetic interface.” The company highlighted five initial Modu accessories.

According to Infinix’s press note, “the AI ModuVerse includes the Mic Modu for professional noise reduction; a magnetically attached anti-shake enhanced SportsCam Modu; a Meeting Modu integrating translation and notes generation; a StackPower Modu supporting on-demand power expansion; and a VlogCam Modu for AI-driven subject tracking and gesture control.”

As of now, Infinix has not confirmed when these technologies will make their way into commercially available products. The company says more information will be shared once implementation plans are finalised. ■

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App Downloads Declined in 2025, but Subscriptions Pushed App Economy Revenue to Record High, Says Report

Global app downloads fell again in 2025, but the app economy hit a record high as subscriptions and higher per-user spending fueled growth, reshaping how developers generate revenue worldwide.

App Subscriptions continued to play a crucial role in sustaining the global app economy in 2025, even as overall app downloads declined for another consecutive year. Appfigures' latest annual report highlights a widening gap between download volumes and consumer spending with revenue hitting an all-time high despite fewer installs. Here's what we know about the app economy based on latest reports.

App Spending Rises Sharply Despite Download Decline

According to Appfigures, as cited in the latest TechCrunch report, global consumer spending on mobile apps reached \$155.8 billion in 2025, marking a 21.6% increase compared to 2024. At the same time, total app downloads fell by 2.7% year-over-year to 106.9 billion, down from 109.8 billion in 2024 and

113.6 billion in 2023.

This decline represents the fifth straight year of falling downloads since the market peaked at 135 billion installs during the pandemic in 2020. However, the widespread adoption of subscription-based monetisation helped offset the impact of fewer downloads and drove overall revenue growth.

Games See Steeper Drop as Non-Game Apps Recover

The fall in downloads was not evenly spread across app categories. Mobile games experienced the sharpest decline with downloads dropping 8.6% year-over-year to 39.4 billion, following a 6.6% decrease in the previous year.

In contrast, non-game apps posted modest growth. Downloads in this category rose 1.1% to 67.4 billion, reversing the identical 1.1% decline recorded a year earlier.



A similar divide emerged in consumer spending. Revenue from non-game apps surged 33.9% to \$82.6 billion, overtaking mobile games, which saw a comparatively smaller 10% increase to \$72.2 billion. As a result, games now account for just 46% of total global app spending.

U.S. Market Mirrors Global Trends

In the United States, consumer spending on apps climbed 18.1% to \$55.5 billion in 2025, even as downloads fell 4.2% to 10 billion. Non-game apps once again led growth, with spending rising 26.8% to \$33.6 billion. Game-related spending increased at a slower pace, up 6.8% to \$21.9 billion.

Overall, the report underscores how subscriptions and higher per-user spending are increasingly compensating for slowing download growth across the global app economy. ■

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Global Consumer Spending in All Mobile Apps During 2025

Estimated Gross Revenue¹ • Apple App Store and Google Play



¹ Total spent in apps and games before platform fees are deducted

Source: Appfigures Intelligence

Honor Power 2

Honor has officially launched the Honor Power 2 in China, packing a massive 10,080mAh silicon-carbon battery. While the phone may remind you of the iPhone 17 Pro, the main highlight of the phone is that it can deliver over 20 hours of continuous usage. According to Honor, users can expect more than 26 hours of video playback, up to 17 hours of continuous navigation, or around 14 hours of uninterrupted gaming. Here's more about the newly launched device.

Pricing and Availability in China

The HONOR Power 2 is offered in Sunrise Orange, Midnight Black, and Snowfield White colour options. Pricing starts at CNY 2,699 for the 12GB + 256GB variant, while the 12GB + 512GB model is priced at CNY 2,999.

Pre-orders for the smartphone are already live in China. Official sales are scheduled to begin on 9 January 2026 at 10:08 AM through HONOR Mall, authorised online platforms, HONOR Experience Stores, and authorised retail outlets.

Key Features

The HONOR Power 2 sports a 6.79-inch flat LTPS OLED display with a 1.5K resolution and a 120Hz refresh rate. The panel is rated for up to 8,000 nits of HDR peak brightness and 1,800 nits of global peak brightness, enabling vivid HDR photo and video playback. For improved eye comfort, the display integrates multiple eye-care technologies including 3840Hz PWM

dimming, hardware-level low blue light protection, and an aluminosilicate glass cover. Multi-touch input is supported with up to 10 simultaneous touch points.

Powering the

smartphone is the MediaTek Dimensity 8500 Elite SoC, featuring one Cortex-A725 core clocked at 3.4GHz, three Cortex-A725 cores running at 3.2GHz, and four Cortex-A725 cores at 2.2GHz. The chipset has achieved an AnTuTu score of 2,407,614 and is paired with a Mali-G720 MC8 GPU. The HONOR Power 2 is available in a single 12GB LPDDR5X RAM configuration, paired with either 256GB or 512GB of UFS 4.1 internal storage. On the software side, the device runs MagicOS 10 based on Android 16.

The Honor Power 2 features a newly developed cooling system that combines dual VC vapor chambers with next-generation graphite. This setup offers a total heat dissipation area of more than 40,000mm² and is said to deliver performance improvements of up to 20% and 90%, respectively.

In the camera department, the smartphone comes with a dual rear camera setup, headlined by a 50MP primary sensor with optical image stabilisation (OIS), accompanied by a 5MP ultra-wide camera. On the front, the Honor Power 2 houses a 16MP selfie camera that supports up to 1080p video recording. Additional features include portrait mode, gesture capture, voice shutter, and 2D facial recognition.

The Honor Power 2 is backed by a 10,080mAh battery, rated at 9,886mAh, and built using Honor's Qinghai Lake battery technology. It supports up to 80W wired SuperCharge fast charging, as well as 27W wired reverse charging for compatible devices. Smart charging features are also included to help optimise battery health and efficiency.

In terms of durability, the smartphone offers extensive protection with IP66, IP68, IP69, and IP69K ratings for dust and water resistance under laboratory conditions. Connectivity options on the Honor Power 2 include dual SIM support, 5G, Wi-Fi 6, Bluetooth 6.0, NFC, an infrared remote control, USB Type-C, and stereo speakers with HONOR Sound. The device also integrates Honor's self-developed C1+ radio frequency enhancement chip and supports a wide range of global positioning systems, including dual-frequency GPS and NavIC, depending on the region. ■

iQOO Z11 Turbo

iQOO has officially introduced the iQOO Z11 Turbo in China, strengthening its mid-range portfolio with several flagship-level specifications at competitive pricing. The new Z-series smartphone is already available for purchase in the country through the company's official channels. Below is a detailed look at its specifications, features, pricing, and availability.

Key Features

The iQOO Z11 Turbo is a dual-SIM smartphone that runs Android 16-based OriginOS 6. It sports a 6.59-inch AMOLED display with 1.5K resolution (1,260 x 2,750 pixels) and a refresh rate of up to 144Hz.

The screen supports HDR content, displays 1.07 billion colours, offers a 94.57 percent screen-to-body ratio, and covers the P3 colour gamut. iQOO claims the handset comes with IP68 and IP69 ratings for dust and water resistance.

Under the hood, the smartphone is powered by Qualcomm's Snapdragon 8 Gen 5 octa-core chipset, built on a 3nm process. The processor includes two performance cores with a peak clock speed of 3.80GHz and six efficiency cores clocked at 3.32GHz, paired with an Adreno 829 GPU.

The device is offered with up to 16GB of LPDDR5x Ultra RAM and up to 1TB of UFS 4.1 internal storage.

For photography, the iQOO Z11 Turbo features a dual rear camera setup led by a 200-megapixel primary sensor with an f/1.88 aperture and optical image stabilisation. It is accompanied by an 8-megapixel ultra-wide camera with an f/2.2 aperture. On the front, the phone houses a 32-megapixel camera with an f/2.2 aperture for selfies and video calls. The handset supports video recording at up to 4K resolution.

The smartphone packs a large 7,600mAh battery with support for 100W wired fast charging. According to the company, the device can deliver up to 23.1 days of standby time. Connectivity options include 5G, 4G LTE, NFC, Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth 5.4, a USB Type-C port, GPS, BeiDou, GLONASS, Galileo, and QZSS.

Sensors onboard include an accelerometer, ambient light sensor, proximity sensor, gyroscope, e-compass, and a 3D ultrasonic fingerprint scanner for biometric security. The handset measures 157.61 x 74.42 x 7.9mm and weighs around 202 grams.

Price and Availability

The new iQOO smartphone is currently on sale in China via the Vivo online store. It is available in Polar Night Black, Skylight



White, Canglang Fuguang, and Halo Powder colour options.

The iQOO Z11 Turbo price in China starts at CNY 2,699 (around Rs. 35,999) for the 12GB RAM + 256GB storage variant. The 16GB RAM + 256GB storage and 12GB RAM + 512GB storage models are priced at CNY 2,999 (roughly Rs. 39,000) and CNY 3,199 (about Rs. 41,000), respectively.

Meanwhile, the 16GB RAM + 512GB storage option costs CNY 3,499 (approximately Rs. 45,000). The top-end variant with 16GB RAM and 1TB internal storage is priced at CNY 3,999 (around Rs. 52,000). ■





Red Magic 11 Pro+ Golden Saga

Red Magic has officially unveiled two premium gaming devices for the Chinese market, the Red Magic 11 Pro+ Golden Saga Edition smartphone and the Red Magic Gaming Tablet 3 Pro Golden Saga Limited Edition. Pre-orders for both luxury devices are set to begin soon. Ahead of that, here's everything you need to know about both models.

Red Magic 11 Pro+ Golden Saga Edition

The Red Magic 11 Pro+ Golden Saga Edition is positioned as a collector-focused gaming smartphone, built using high-end automotive-grade materials. The device features a supercar-inspired carbon fibre structure, an aerospace-grade sapphire back panel and a mirror-finish silver frame.

Its gold, silver, and sapphire design theme extends internally as well with gold-plated vapour chamber cooling, dual-tone air ducts, and what the brand claims is the industry's first gold-plated liquid cooling system. Even smaller details such as the power button, branding logo, and the included SIM ejector tool feature gold plating. The phone ships in a special collector's gift box.

Under the hood, the smartphone is powered by the Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 chipset and is equipped with the Wind Chaser 4.0 active cooling fan along with the ICE Magic Cooling System. For photography, it includes a dual 50-megapixel rear camera setup.

The Red Magic 11 Pro+ Golden Saga Edition is available in a single configuration with 24GB RAM and 1TB storage, priced at 9,899 Yuan (around \$1,360). ■

Red Magic Gaming Tablet 3 Pro Golden Saga Limited Edition

Alongside the smartphone, Red Magic also announced the Red Magic Gaming Tablet 3 Pro Golden Saga Limited Edition. The tablet follows a similar luxury design language, featuring a gold rear logo, a gold-plated magic key and a gold-plated ring surrounding the rear camera module.

The Gaming Tablet 3 Pro features a 9.06-inch OLED display with a 165Hz refresh rate, sub-1ms response time, and ultra-slim 4.9mm bezels, delivering a 90.1 percent screen-to-body ratio. The display offers up to 1,600 nits of peak brightness and a 1,000,000:1 contrast ratio.

It also includes TÜV Rheinland certification and 5,280Hz PWM dimming to help reduce eye strain during extended gaming sessions.

Powering the tablet is the Snapdragon 8 Elite chipset

built on TSMC's 3nm process, paired with Red Magic's Red Core R3 Pro co-processor for enhanced gaming performance. The device uses LPDDR5T RAM running at 9,600 Mbps and UFS 4.1 Pro storage. For thermal management, the ICE 3.0 cooling system combines a sandwich-style vapour chamber, Liquid Metal 2.0, and an active turbo fan.

The tablet packs an 8,200mAh battery with 80W fast charging support, capable of reaching 50 percent charge in just 22 minutes. It also supports bypass charging for gaming. Touch input is handled by a Synaptics S3930 controller with a 2,000Hz touch sampling rate.

Additional features include a 13-megapixel rear camera, a 9-megapixel front camera, dual speakers, dual linear motors, NFC support, a fingerprint sensor, and wireless casting capabilities. ■



Honor Magic8 Pro and Honor Magic8 Lite

Honor has officially introduced the Magic8 Pro and Magic8 Lite in the UK, marking the European debut of its latest flagship and mid-range smartphones. While this is not considered a full EU launch due to the UK's exit from the European Union, an official EU release timeline is still awaited. Some industry hints suggest that pre-orders in select markets could begin as early as January 15. In any case, here's all you should know about both models.

Honor Magic8 Lite

Honor has rolled out the Magic8 Lite globally, expanding the Magic8 lineup following the launch of the Magic8 Pro. The smartphone measures 161.9 × 76.1 × 7.76mm, weighs around 189g, and is available in Reddish Brown, Forest Green, and Midnight Black colour options. It features aluminosilicate glass construction and is the first smartphone to earn SGS Triple-resistant Premium Performance certification for drop, water, and dust resistance.

The device is certified for 2.5m drop resistance and carries IPX8 and IPX9K water resistance, IP6X dust protection, and IEC 62262 impact resistance certification. It also includes IP68 and

IP69K ratings, a six-layer cushioning glass structure, one-tap dust and water ejection, rain-responsive touch input, and glove-friendly touch controls.

On the front, the Honor Magic8 Lite sports a 6.79-inch OLED display with 1.5K resolution, up to 6,000 nits peak brightness, and a 120Hz adaptive refresh rate. The panel supports the DCI-P3 colour gamut and features slim 1.3mm bezels. Eye-care technologies include 3840Hz PWM dimming, dynamic dimming, AI Circadian Night Display, hardware-level low blue light, and AI Defocus Display.

For photography, the Magic8 Lite is equipped with a 108-megapixel primary rear camera with OIS, a 5-megapixel ultra-wide sensor, up to 10x digital zoom, and a 16-megapixel front-facing camera. Imaging features include an underwater photo mode, 4K HD Moving Photo Collage creation, and AI tools such as AI Eraser, AI Face Tune, reflection removal, AI Cutout, and AI Upscale.

The smartphone is powered by the Snapdragon 6 Gen 4 (4nm) chipset and uses Honor's VC Ice Cooling System, which includes a 3,490mm² stainless steel vapour chamber and a total cooling area of 29,500mm². It packs a 7,500mAh silicon-carbon battery with support for 66W Honor SuperCharge, reverse charging, and reliable operation in temperatures ranging from





–30°C to 55°C.

The Magic8 Lite runs MagicOS 9.0 based on Android 15 and brings AI features such as Google Gemini live interaction, AI Writing Tools, and Magic Portal. Audio is handled by dual stereo speakers with Honor Sound 7.3, and NFC support is included. Globally, the phone is available in an 8GB + 512GB configuration, with an 8GB + 256GB variant offered in select regions.

Price and Availability in the UK

In the UK, the Honor Magic8 Lite is priced at £399.99 (EUR 459 / USD 535 / Rs. 48,191 approx.) across all colour options.

As part of early bird offers from Honor UK, buyers can get a £50 launch discount, a free Honor CHOICE Watch 2 Pro, and a free Honor SuperCharge Power Adapter 2 (66W). These offers are available on a first-come, first-served basis exclusively through Honor UK.

The smartphone is also expected to arrive in other European markets.

Honor Magic8 Pro

Honor has also officially launched the Magic8 Pro in the UK, following its GCC debut in December. The smartphone measures 162 × 76 × 7.76mm, weighs 189g, and comes in Sunrise Gold, Sky Cyan, and Black colour options. It is offered in a single 12GB RAM + 512GB storage configuration.

The Magic8 Pro features Honor NanoCrystal Shield glass and has received SGS 5-Star Drop Resistance Certification, covering drops, water, and dust. It carries IP68, IP69, and IP69K ratings and supports up to 10x drop resistance. The device sports a 6.71-inch LTPO OLED display with a 1–120Hz adaptive refresh rate and HDR peak brightness of up to 6,000 nits (global peak 1,800 nits).

Display technologies include Dolby HDR Vivid, eight AI Eye Comfort innovations, Chip-Level AI Defocus Display, Dynamic Dimming, Circular Polarized Display 2.0, Circadian Night Display, and 4320Hz PWM dimming. The panel is TÜV Rheinland Full Care Display 5.0 certified.

The Honor Magic8 Pro is powered by the Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 Mobile Platform, delivering enhanced CPU, GPU, and AI performance. It introduces GPU-NPU heterogeneous AI super-resolution and frame-generation technology, enabling demanding games to run at 120fps at 1080p from 60fps at 850p sources.

The device packs a 6,270mAh battery with support for

100W wired and 80W wireless Honor SuperCharge. Honor's AI Power Management System uses a millivolt-level voltage stabilization algorithm, reducing typical power consumption by 13%.

Its AiMAGE Camera System includes a 200-megapixel Ultra Night telephoto camera with f/2.6 aperture, 1/1.4-inch sensor, 3.7x optical zoom, and OIS, a 50-megapixel Ultra Night main camera with f/1.6 aperture, 1/1.3-inch sensor, OIS, and 4-in-1 2.4µm pixel output, and a 50-megapixel ultra-wide camera with f/2.0 aperture, 122-degree field of view, and 2.5cm HD macro support. A single rear LED flash is included. On the front, the phone features a 50-megapixel camera paired with a 3D depth sensor, enabling 3D face unlock.

Stabilisation is handled via AI Adaptive Stabilisation, achieving CIPA 5.5-level performance. Imaging features include the Magic Colour AI engine, AI Photos Agent with AI Eraser, AI Outpainting, AI Colour, AI Cutout, and a dedicated AI Button for instant camera or AI feature access.

The Magic8 Pro runs MagicOS 10, combining on-device Honor AI with Google Gemini for cloud-based reasoning. AI features include AI Screen Suggestions, AI Settings Agent, AI Photos Agent, Gemini Live for real-time visual understanding and live translation, and Nano Banana, Veo 3, and Connected Apps for task and project management.



Price and Launch Offers in the UK

The Honor Magic8 Pro is priced at £1,099.99 (EUR 1,266 / USD 1,477 / Rs. 1,32,792 approx.) in the UK. As part of launch offers from Honor UK, a discount code "AM8PUK200" reduces the price to £899.99.

Early buyers also receive free gifts including the Honor Pad X9a for the first 1,000 units, a Honor SuperCharge GaN Power Adapter (up to 100W), and a Honor CHOICE Magic8 Pro Case.

Additionally, Honor Care+ provides one-time screen damage protection within 12 months. ■



OnePlus Turbo 6 and 6V

Honor has officially introduced the Magic8 Pro and Magic8 Lite in the UK, marking the European debut of its latest flagship and mid-range smartphones. While this is not considered a full EU launch due to the UK's exit from the European Union, an official EU release timeline is still awaited.

Some industry hints suggest that pre-orders in select markets could begin as early as January 15. In any case, here's all you should know about both models.

Honor Magic8 Lite

OnePlus has launched the OnePlus Turbo 6 and Turbo 6V smartphones in China. Both models stand out for 9,000mAh battery units with rather slim profiles. Both smartphones come with IP66 + IP68 + IP69 + IP69K ratings for dust and water resistance and offer up to 16GB of RAM and up to 512GB of internal storage. Here's more on both phones, starting with price.

Price and Availability in China

The OnePlus Turbo 6 is priced at CNY 2,099 (roughly Rs. 27,000) for the 12GB RAM + 256GB storage variant. The 12GB + 512GB, 16GB + 256GB, and 16GB + 512GB configurations are priced at CNY 2,399 (roughly Rs. 30,000), CNY 2,599 (roughly Rs. 33,000), and CNY 2,899 (roughly Rs. 37,000), respectively.

The smartphone is offered in Light Chaser Silver, Lone Black, and Wild Green colour options. The OnePlus Turbo 6V starts at CNY 1,699 (roughly Rs. 21,000) for the 8GB RAM + 256GB storage model. The 12GB + 256GB and 12GB + 512GB variants are priced at CNY 1,899 (roughly Rs. 24,000) and CNY 2,199 (roughly Rs. 28,000), respectively.

It is available in Fearless Blue, Lone Black, and Nova White colourways.

The OnePlus Turbo 6 and Turbo 6V are now available for pre-order. As of now, we are not certain when these two models are slated for a global release. Although, OnePlus does have a Nord 6 arriving in the international market soon.

OnePlus Turbo 6 - Key Features

The dual-SIM (Nano + Nano) OnePlus Turbo 6 runs on ColorOS





16 based on Android 16. It features a 6.78-inch full-HD+ (1,272 × 2,772 pixels) flexible AMOLED display with 450ppi pixel density and a refresh rate that switches between 60Hz and 165Hz.

The display supports 100 percent DCI-P3 colour gamut, up to 1,800 nits peak brightness, and a touch sampling rate of up to 330Hz.

Under the hood, the device is powered by the Snapdragon 8s Gen 4 SoC paired with an Adreno 825 GPU. It packs up to 16GB of LPDDR4X RAM and up to 512GB of UFS 3.1 internal storage.

In the camera department, the OnePlus Turbo 6 features a dual rear camera setup with a 50-megapixel wide-angle primary sensor with f/1.8 aperture and autofocus, along with a 2-megapixel monochrome camera offering up to 20x digital zoom. On the front, it houses a 16-megapixel selfie camera.

Connectivity options include 5G, Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth, GPS/AGPS, Galileo, GLONASS, Beidou, NFC, and a USB Type-C port. Sensors onboard include an accelerometer, ambient light sensor, colour temperature sensor, e-compass, gyroscope, infrared remote control, and proximity sensor. The phone features an in-display optical fingerprint sensor and carries IP66 + IP68 + IP69 + IP69K ratings.

The OnePlus Turbo 6 is backed by a 9,000mAh battery with support for 80W SuperVOOC fast charging. It measures 162.46 × 77.45 × 8.50mm and weighs around 217g.

OnePlus Turbo 6V - Key Features

The OnePlus Turbo 6V shares the same SIM configuration, software, display size, and IP ratings as the OnePlus Turbo 6. It is powered by the Snapdragon 7s Gen 4 chipset paired with an Adreno 810 GPU, along with up to 12GB of LPDDR4X

RAM and up to 512GB of UFS 3.1 storage.

The smartphone features a 6.78-inch full-HD+ (1,272 × 2,772 pixels) flexible AMOLED display with a 93.5 percent screen-to-body ratio, up to 1,800 nits peak brightness, and a touch sampling rate of up to 300Hz. For photography, it offers a dual rear camera setup consisting of a 50-megapixel wide-angle primary camera and a 2-megapixel monochrome lens. A 16-megapixel front camera handles selfies and video calls.

Connectivity options on the OnePlus Turbo 6V include Bluetooth, Wi-Fi 6, NFC, and a USB Type-C port. Sensor support is similar to the OnePlus Turbo 6 variant.

The OnePlus Turbo 6V is also equipped with a 9,000mAh battery and supports 80W SuperVOOC fast charging. ■



Infinix Note

Infinix has officially announced the Infinix Note Edge for global markets, expanding its Note Series. The model comes with a strong focus on long battery life and advanced display technology, all packed into a slim and lightweight design. Here's everything you need to know about the new smartphone.

Design and Colours

The Infinix NOTE Edge features an ultra-slim body measuring just 7.2mm in thickness and weighs 185g. It adopts a "3D curved" design and comes with a distinctive "Pearl LightRipple Shadow" finish. The smartphone is offered in four colour options, which includes Lunar Titanium, Stellar Blue, Shadow Black, and Silk Green. The Silk Green variant uses a polyurethane process to deliver a brushed, leather-like texture.

Key Features

On the front, the NOTE Edge sports a 3D curved AMOLED display with a 1.5K resolution and a 120Hz refresh rate. Infinix claims the panel can reach up to 4500 nits of peak brightness and features ultra-narrow, symmetrical bezels measuring 1.87mm. For durability, the display is protected by Corning Gorilla Glass 7i, while the phone carries an IP65 rating for dust and water resistance. Audio is handled by dual stereo speakers tuned by JBL.

The NOTE Edge marks a milestone for the brand as the first smartphone globally to be powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 7100 5G chipset. According to Infinix, the processor delivers an AnTuTu V11 score of over 810,000 and supports up to 90fps gameplay in titles such as Honor of Kings.

Connectivity is enhanced by Infinix's Ultra Powerful Signal (UPS) 3.0 AI technology, which is designed to optimize low-frequency signals in weak or congested environments like subways, basements, and industrial areas.

One of the key highlights of the NOTE Edge is its 6500mAh battery, the largest battery Infinix has ever used in a smartphone. Despite the large capacity, the battery fits into the slim 7.2mm

chassis thanks to advanced high-density battery packaging.

Infinix states that the battery uses a "self-repairing" system based on dynamic recrystallization, allowing it to retain over 80% of its capacity even after 2,000 charge cycles, which the company equates to around six years of typical usage. The device supports 45W fast charging with claims of reaching 50% charge in 27 minutes.

The rear camera setup is led by a customised 50MP primary sensor with a 1/2-inch size, optimised for improved low-light photography. New camera features include a "Live Photo" mode that captures short video clips with audio alongside still images as well as AI-powered editing tools.

The Infinix NOTE Edge runs on XOS 16 based on Android 16. It includes the "FOLAX" AI assistant, which can be accessed via a customisable side button. The assistant supports functions such as screen analysis, translation, and content summarisation. Infinix has promised three major Android updates, taking the device up to XOS 19, along with five years of security updates.

Pricing and Availability

The Infinix NOTE Edge is priced starting at USD 200 (approximately Rs. 18,165) with final pricing varying by region. The smartphone is set to roll out across multiple countries globally. ■



2160Hz Ultra-High PWM Dimming

Flicker-free clarity even during late-night watching.

SNEAKPEEK

Glimpse

RedMagic 11 Air

RedMagic has officially launched the RedMagic 11 Air smartphone in China. The RedMagic 11 Air features a 6.85-inch BOE Q10 AMOLED display with a 1.5K resolution, 144Hz refresh rate, 2592Hz PWM dimming, and a 2500Hz instantaneous touch sampling rate. Powering the device is the Snapdragon 8 Elite SoC, which the company claims delivers an AnTuTu score of over 3.66 million. It is paired with LPDDR5X Ultra RAM and UFS 4.1 storage.

The smartphone also includes the RedCore R4 chip and Red Devil Cube Sky Engine 3.0. It runs on RedMagicOS 11, bringing features such as AI Game Circle Search, AI Tactical Coach, seamless transitions, AI Recognition, AI Circle Search, and game plugins.

In terms of battery, the RedMagic 11 Air packs a 7,000mAh cell with support for 120W fast charging and all-scenario bypass charging. Camera hardware includes a 50MP main rear camera with OIS, an 8MP secondary rear sensor, and a 16MP under-display front camera.

Additional features include a 4D vibration X-axis linear motor, dual stereo speakers, an IR blaster, Wi-Fi 7 support, an active cooling fan rated at 24,000 RPM, the ICE Magic Cooling

system, 520Hz gaming shoulder buttons, a built-in PC emulator, transparent design elements, fully functional NFC, RGB lighting effects, and an in-display fingerprint sensor.

Price and Availability

The RedMagic 11 Air is available in Stardust White, Quantum Black, and Aurora Silver colour options. Pricing starts at 3,499 Yuan for the 12GB RAM and 256GB storage variant, while the 16GB RAM model is priced at 4,199 Yuan.

The Stardust White and Quantum Black variants are currently on sale in China. ■



AnTuTu Global Rankings Dec 2025: Red Magic 11 Pro Claims Flagship Crown, Galaxy Tab S11 Ultra Impresses

AnTuTu's December 2025 global rankings are in, showcasing the fastest Android devices worldwide. Red Magic 11 Pro dominates the flagship smartphone chart, Poco X7 Pro leads sub-flagships, while HONOR MagicPad 3 Pro and Galaxy Tab S11 Ultra shine among top-performing tablets.

The popular benchmarking platform, AnTuTu, has now published its global performance data for December 2025. The platform previously released of AnTuTu's December 2025 performance rankings for the Chinese market. The Red Magic 11 Pro and the HONOR MagicPad 3 Pro 13.3 evidently continue to dominate their respective flagship categories worldwide. In the sub-flagship smartphone segment, the Poco X7 Pro also retains its leading position.

Below is a detailed breakdown of the global AnTuTu rankings for December 2025.

Top 10 Global Android Flagship Smartphones

Based on AnTuTu Benchmark V10 data collected between December 1



and December 31, 2025, the Red Magic 11 Pro emerged as the best-performing Android flagship smartphone globally. Tested in the 16GB RAM and 512GB storage variant powered by the Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 chipset, the device achieved an impressive average score of 4,002,199.

The iQOO 15 secured second place with a score of 3,763,468, narrowly beating the Poco F8 Ultra, which ranked third with 3,755,870. Both smartphones were tested using identical 16GB + 512GB Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 configurations. The OnePlus 15 followed

closely in fourth place, recording an average score of 3,677,810.

Fifth and sixth positions were claimed by the Vivo X300 Pro and OPPO Find X9 Pro, scoring 3,391,789 and 3,375,202, respectively. Both models were evaluated in their 16GB + 512GB variants featuring the Dimensity 9500 processor.

The remaining slots in the top ten included the iQOO Neo 11 in seventh place with 3,204,218, tested in the 12GB + 256GB Snapdragon 8 Elite configuration. The OPPO Find X9 ranked eighth with a score of 3,177,977, followed by the iQOO 13 in ninth at





3,153,349. The Poco F8 Pro completed the list in tenth place, posting an average score of 3,104,754.

Top 10 Global Android Sub-Flagship Smartphones

In the global sub-flagship category, AnTuTu's Benchmark V11 rankings for December 2025 once again placed the Poco X7 Pro at the top. The device recorded an average score of 1,881,295 when tested in the 12GB RAM and 512GB storage configuration powered by the Dimensity 8400-Ultra chipset.

Second place went to the OnePlus Nord 4 with a score of 1,643,432, based on the 8GB + 256GB Snapdragon 7+ Gen 3 variant. The Poco X6 Pro 5G claimed third place, achieving 1,541,644 with the Dimensity 8300-Ultra processor.

The Infinix GT 20 Pro followed in fourth place with 1,303,191, while the Poco F5 secured fifth with a score of 1,269,832. Sixth place was taken by the HONOR 400 at 1,092,209, ahead of the iQOO Z9, which ranked seventh with 999,371.

Global Top 10 Best Performing Sub-flagship Phones, December 2025



The Motorola Edge 60 Fusion placed eighth with 881,229, narrowly outperforming the Redmi Note 14 Pro, which came ninth with 840,839. The Poco X7 rounded off the top ten with a score of 836,074.

Top 10 Global Android Flagship Tablets

Based on Benchmark V11 data, the tablet achieved an average score of 4,051,634 in its 16GB + 512GB Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 configuration.

The OnePlus Pad 2 Pro claimed second place with a score of 3,399,451, followed by the Legion Pad Y700 Gen 4 in third at 3,168,903. Close behind was the Red Magic Pad 3 Pro, which finished fourth with 3,152,228. All four tablets are powered by Snapdragon 8



In the flagship Android tablet segment, the HONOR MagicPad 3 Pro 13.3 continued its strong performance by retaining the top spot in AnTuTu's global rankings for December 2025.

Elite variants.

The Redmi K Pad ranked fifth with a score of 2,813,003, running on the Dimensity 9400+ chipset. Samsung's Galaxy Tab S11 Ultra 5G and Galaxy Tab S11 Ultra secured sixth and seventh places with scores of 2,774,444 and 2,768,579, respectively.

Eighth place went to the Galaxy Tab S11 with 2,646,323, while the Red Magic Pad Pro ranked ninth at 2,558,280. Completing the top ten was the Nubia Pad Pro, which recorded an average score of 2,528,218.

These rankings highlight the continued dominance of gaming-focused smartphones and premium tablets in AnTuTu's global performance charts for December 2025. ■

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iPhone 11 Pro, Apple Watch Series 5 Declared Vintage as Apple Updates List

Apple has refreshed its vintage and obsolete products list, adding the iPhone 11 Pro, Apple Watch Series 5, and the final Intel-powered MacBook Air, marking another milestone in the company's shift away from legacy hardware.

Apple has updated its vintage products list by adding several older devices including the final Intel-powered 13-inch MacBook Air, the Apple Watch Series 5 and the iPhone 11 Pro. The iPhone 11 Pro joins the list a few months after the iPhone 11 Pro Max was classified as vintage in September.

The last Intel-based MacBook Air was launched in March 2020. It was available with a 1.1GHz dual-core Intel Core i3, a 1.1GHz quad-core Intel Core i5, or a 1.2GHz quad-core Intel Core i7, depending on the configuration. The model had a relatively short

lifespan, remaining on sale for just eight months before Apple discontinued it in November 2020 following the launch of the M1-powered MacBook Air, which marked the company's first wave of Apple silicon Macs.

According to Apple, a product is considered vintage once more than five years have passed since it was last distributed for sale. While Apple and Apple Authorised Service Providers may still offer repairs for vintage devices, servicing is dependent on the availability of spare parts.

Alongside the newly added vintage devices, Apple has also moved the

special-edition Beats Solo3 Wireless headphones from the vintage category to the obsolete list. Just to recall, this was released in 2018 to commemorate Mickey Mouse's 90th anniversary.

Apple classifies a product as obsolete after more than seven years have passed since it was last sold. For these devices, hardware service is generally no longer available.

However, Mac laptops are an exception, as they may qualify for battery-only repairs for up to 10 years from the date of discontinuation, subject to parts availability.■

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Below is the complete list of products that Apple added to its vintage and obsolete categories this time -



MacBook Air (Retina, 13-inch, 2020)



iPhone 8 Plus 128GB



iPad Air 3, Wi-Fi +
Cellular- Wi-Fi-



Apple Watch Series 5,
Aluminum, 40mm



Apple Watch Series 5,
Aluminum, 44mm



Apple Watch Series 5,
Ceramic, 40mm



Apple Watch Series 5,
Ceramic, 44mm



Apple Watch Series 5
Hermes, 40mm



Apple Watch Series 5
Hermes, 44mm



Apple Watch Series 5
Nike, 40mm



Apple Watch Series 5
Nike, 44mm



Apple Watch Series 5,
Stainless Steel, 40mm



Apple Watch Series 5,
Stainless Steel, 44mm



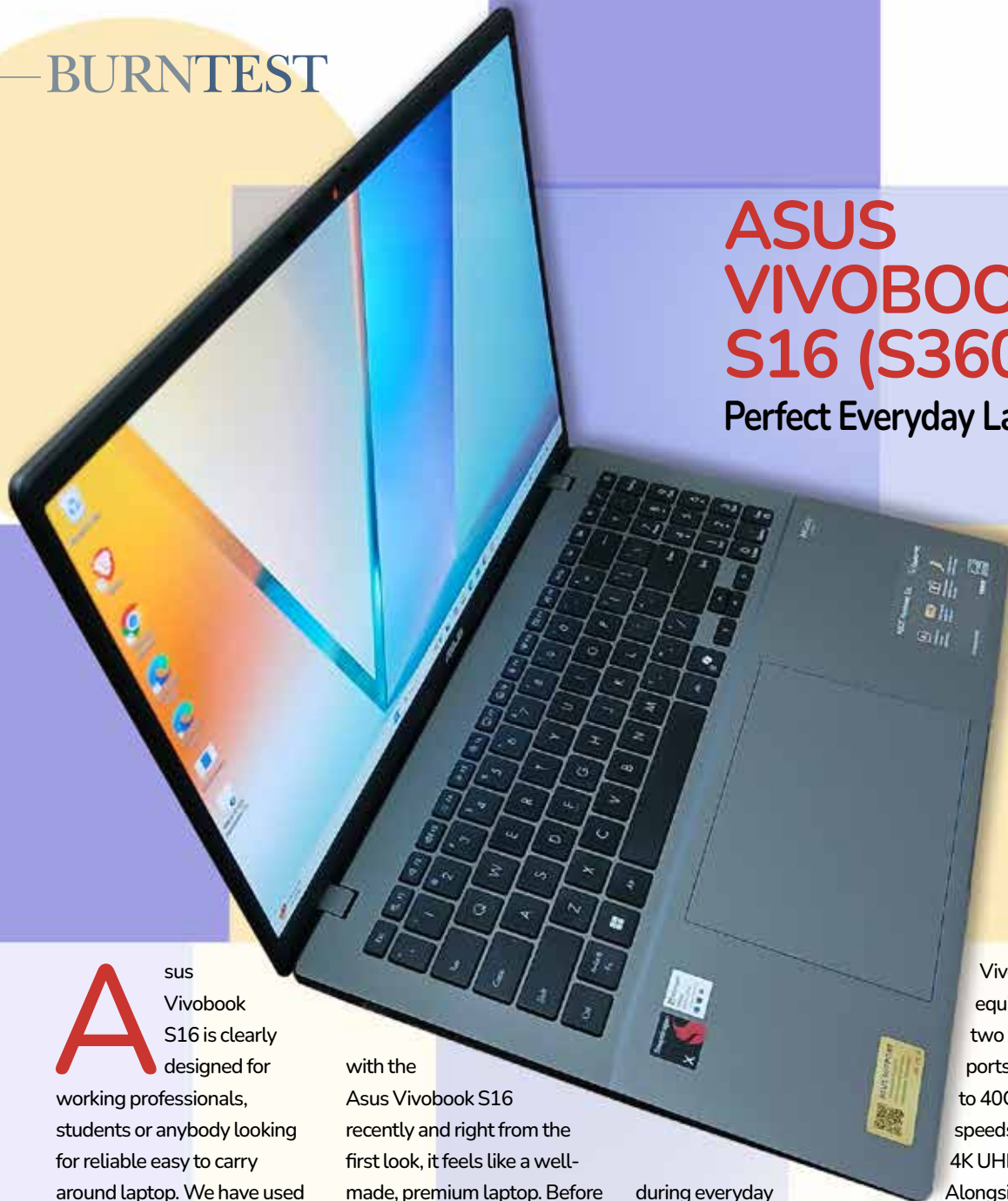
Apple Watch Series 5,
Titanium, 40mm



Apple Watch Series 5,
Titanium, 44mm

ASUS VIVOBBOOK S16 (S3607QA)

Perfect Everyday Laptop



Asus Vivobook S16 is clearly designed for working professionals, students or anybody looking for reliable easy to carry around laptop. We have used the laptop for over two weeks as our primary computer. So, in case you are wondering whether it is a reliable option or not, here's our hands-on Asus Vivobook S16 review.

Design, Build and I/O ports

- Dimensions - 357.0 x 250.7 x 15.9 (about 17.9mm)
 - Weight- 1.74 kg (approx)
 - 2 x USB4 Type-C; 2 x USB 3.2 Gen 1 Type-A; 1 x HDMI 2.1 (TMDS); 1 x Audio jack
- We have been able to spend a good number of days

with the Asus Vivobook S16 recently and right from the first look, it feels like a well-made, premium laptop. Before we get to other details, let's start with design.

Vivobook S16 has a slim profile of just 1.59cm and weighs around 1.74kg. The slim and lightweight design makes the laptop easy to carry around in a backpack. Whether it's daily office use or travelling with it, the laptop never feels bulky or heavy.

The build quality is solid, too. It comes with US MIL-STD 810H military-grade certification, which gives confidence about its durability

during everyday use.

The premium metal finish gives it a clean and modern look. Asus has added a CNC-engraved logo on the lid for a subtle touch of elegance without making the design look flashy. On the front, there's an FHD IR camera that works with the ASUS AI camera features. There's also a physical privacy shutter, something we always like to see on a laptop for peace of mind.

When it comes to connectivity, the Asus

Vivobook S16 is well-equipped. It offers two USB4 Type-C ports that support up to 40Gbps data transfer speeds and can handle 4K UHD external displays. Alongside that, you get two USB 3.2 Gen 1 Type-A ports for regular accessories, an HDMI 2.1 (TMDS) port for connecting to monitors or TVs, and a standard audio jack. Overall, the port selection feels practical and versatile that covers most everyday needs.

Keyboard and Trackpad

- Backlit ASUS ErgoSense keyboard with dedicated Copilot key
- ASUS ErgoSense touchpad with ASUS Smart Gestures

A photograph of the Asus Vivobook S16 laptop. The laptop is shown from a three-quarter angle, open. The screen displays a vibrant blue and orange abstract wallpaper. The keyboard is dark with backlit keys, and the trackpad is visible. The laptop is silver or light grey. The background is a soft, out-of-focus mix of purple and yellow.

KEY FEATURES

- 16-inch WUXGA (1920x1200) OLED
- Snapdragon X (X1 26 100) Processor
- Qualcomm Hexagon NPU up to 45TOPS
- 16GB LPDDR5X on board 8448MHz RAM
- 512 GB PCIe Gen 4 SSD
- Wi-Fi 6E(802.11ax) (Triple band) 2x2
- Bluetooth v5.3 Wireless Card
- Backlit ASUS ErgoSense keyboard
- 70 WHr Battery with fast charge
- Windows 11 Home

We feel the Asus Vivobook S16 is perfect daily work as the keyboard and trackpad experience has been very comfortable. The laptop comes with a backlit ASUS ErgoSense keyboard and includes a dedicated Copilot key for quickly accessing AI features in Windows.

The backlight is evenly lit and makes typing in low-light conditions easy. It's a full-sized keyboard with a dedicated number pad. The keys offer 1.7mm of key travel and that really helps during long typing sessions. The typing experience feels soft and responsive.

The ASUS ErgoSense touchpad is equally good. It supports ASUS Smart Gestures that makes everyday navigation smooth and intuitive. The touch response is spot on and gliding through

gestures like scrolling, switching apps, or adjusting brightness feels effortless.

Altogether, the keyboard and trackpad make the Vivobook S16 a reliable laptop for long hours of work and everyday use.

Display and Multimedia Experience

- 16-inch WUXGA (1920x1200) OLED
- 2 Built-in speakers with Smart Amplifier technology
- Built-in microphone with ASUS AI Noise-Canceling Technology
- Dolby Atmos certified

The display is one of the highlights of Asus Vivobook S16. It features a large 16-inch WUXGA OLED panel with a resolution of 1920 x 1200 and a 16:10 aspect ratio. The extra vertical space is very great for

browsing, writing, or working on documents. It delivers rich colours and deep blacks. 95% DCI-P3 colour gamut makes visuals look vibrant and punchy.

The display offers a 0.2ms response time and a 60Hz refresh rate. As for brightness, it goes up to 300 nits. We have extensively used the laptop both indoors and outdoors and it works well for most lighting conditions. You obviously cannot expect this to work in bright outside daylight. But overall, we didn't see any major issues when it comes to brightness.

We also feel Asus has designed this laptop for both work and entertainment. It comes with dual built-in speakers that are Dolby Atmos certified and supported by Smart Amplifier technology. The sound output

is clear and loud enough for watching movies, attending online meetings, or listening to music. The audio experience is well-balanced for a thin laptop.

The built-in microphone is backed by ASUS AI Noise-Cancelling Technology and helps reduce background noise during calls as well.

Performance

- Snapdragon X (X1 26 100) Processor
- Qualcomm Hexagon NPU up to 45TOPS
- 16GB LPDDR5X on board 8448MHz RAM
- 512 GB PCIe Gen 4 SSD
- Windows 11 Home

We have been using the Asus Vivobook S16 as our daily work laptop for over two weeks. The performance has been smooth and reliable for everyday tasks. The laptop is

powered by the Snapdragon X (X1 26 100) processor, which comes with 8 cores and 8 threads, a 30MB cache and clock speeds of up to 2.97GHz. On the memory side, you get 16GB of LPDDR5X RAM clocked at 8448MHz, which feels more than sufficient for multitasking. The 512GB PCIe Gen 4 SSD keeps boot times fast and apps loading quickly.

The laptop handles regular tasks like web browsing, document work, video streaming, and multitasking without any hiccups.

Asus IceCool Thermal Technology and customisable fan profiles available through the MyASUS app, you can push performance up to a 30W TDP when needed. Even under load, the laptop stays fairly cool and quiet, making it suitable for long work sessions without discomfort.

The Vivobook S16 runs on Windows 11 Home and comes bundled with Microsoft Office Home 2024 with lifetime validity along with Microsoft 365 Basic for one year. This adds good value especially for students and working professionals.

It is also equipped with Qualcomm Hexagon NPU, which offers up to 45 TOPS of AI performance. This helps with on-device AI tasks and works well with Windows 11 features. It is especially useful for users who want to explore AI-powered tools going forward. For connectivity, it comes with Wi-Fi 6E support for faster and more stable wireless connections, along with Bluetooth 5.3 for pairing accessories.

Battery Life and Charging

- 70 WHr with fast charge
- ASUS USB-C Easy Charge
- 65 W adapter

We have to say that battery life is the strongest point of the Asus Vivobook S16. The laptop packs a large 70WHr battery and supports fast charging along with ASUS USB-C Easy Charge.

Asus claims up to 32 hours of battery backup. The real-world usage naturally varies but with Vivobook S16 is surprisingly strong when it comes to power. The battery performance has been very impressive in our daily use.

PROS



Slim and lightweight design, Good build quality, Great 16-inch display for the segment, Excellent battery life, Smooth and reliable performance and Reasonably priced

CONS



60Hz refresh rate and Soldered RAM

(For detailed specifications, please visit mymobileindia.com)

We used the laptop moderately to heavily that included web browsing, document work, video streaming, and video calls. And during our time, we comfortably got around 15 to 20 hours of battery life. The laptop easily lasts a full workday with still some battery left. If you plan on using this laptop for work and after work hours, the battery is where it becomes very reliable. Charging speeds are also quick with a 65W adapter. It can go from 0 to 100 percent in under two hours. This means even a short charging session can give you enough power to get through

several hours of work.

Overall, the combination of strong battery life and fast charging makes the Vivobook S16 a reliable option for all-day productivity.

Verdict

If you are looking for a well-rounded laptop without spending a big amount, the Asus Vivobook S16 is a strong contender. With a sleek design, premium build quality and practical ports, the Vivobook S16 suits students, professionals, and anyone who wants a capable all-day laptop.

It delivers reliable daily performance with Snapdragon X processor, generous RAM and storage, and smart thermal setup. The large OLED screen and solid audio makes it a perfect laptop for both work and entertainment. The long battery life is one of the strongest points of Vivobook S16.

Overall, if you want a versatile, everyday laptop with excellent battery life and a great display, the Asus Vivobook S16 is worth considering. ■

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REALME BUDS AIR8

Perfect Mid-Range TWS Buds with Good ANC and AI



Does the latest Realme Buds Air8 offer real value or is this just another device upgrade? Let's get into our hands-on review to know more.

Realme Buds Air8

Let's start with the design because Realme has clearly put some

thought behind it this time. Buds Air8 are designed by the renowned design master, Naoto Fukasawa. The influence is clearly visible in the clean, minimal and well-thought-out look. We received the Master Grey colour variant for this review. It has a very classy, premium

KEY FEATURES

- 11+6mm Premier Dual Drivers
- Hi-Res Audio Certification and LHDC 5.0 Technology
- 3D Spatial and Dynamic Audio
- 55dB Ultra Depth Noise Cancellation
- 45ms Ultra-Low Latency
- 58 Hours of Playback
- IP55 Dust and Water Resistance
- 3-Device Connection
- Ear-by AI Assistant
- Bluetooth 5.4

glossy interiors and the rounded corners give it a soft touch. Realme has also used bio-based organic silicone natural materials.

The case itself is compact and lightweight, making it easy to slip into a pocket or bag. We carried it around daily and it never felt inconvenient.

As for the earbuds, we found them very comfortable to wear. We

as well. The earbuds come with IP55 dust and water resistance, which adds peace of mind during workouts or light rain.

Overall, the Realme Buds Air8 strike a good balance between contemporary aesthetics and everyday comfort.

Sound Quality and Noise Cancellation

The sound quality is one of the strongest points of Buds Air8. The earbuds come with





Features

The Realme Buds Air8 use a six-microphone setup with three microphones on each earbud. This includes feedforward, feedback, and dedicated talk microphones. We tested the buds for calls and the voice comes through clearly, even in slightly windy conditions or when there is background noise around.

The buds come with Bluetooth 5.4 with a claimed effective range of up to 10 metres. The connection is quick and stable with minimal dropouts. The earbuds connect instantly when you open the case.

The good thing is that the earbuds support three-device connection, which is very convenient. You can easily switch between a phone, laptop, and tablet throughout the day. Swift Pair also makes pairing with PCs fast and hassle-free.

For games, Buds Air8 offer 45ms ultra-

a dual-driver setup that includes an 11mm driver paired with a 6mm driver. They support SBC, AAC, and LHDC audio codecs. They also carry Hi-Res Audio certification and support LHDC 5.0 with a claimed sampling rate of up to 96kHz and transmission speeds of up to 1000kbps.

While using the buds, what stood out the most was how they actually sound in real-world use. The sound experience is very satisfying. The bass feels deep, punchy, and powerful. But it doesn't overpower the vocals or other elements in the mix. The mid-range performance is clear and well-balanced.

Instruments don't feel crowded.

We also like that the sound remains crisp and detailed without turning harsh at higher volumes. This makes longer listening sessions comfortable.

When it comes to noise control, these earbuds offer up to 55dB real-time active noise cancellation. In daily use, the ANC works effectively in reducing background noise like traffic or outside chatter. The real-time adaptive ANC changes its intensity depending on the surrounding noise levels.

Moreover, you can

easily switch between balanced, deep, and mild noise reduction modes via the Realme Link app.

All in all, the strong sound performance and capable noise cancellation are things that make the Buds Air8 a solid choice for both music listening and everyday use.





low latency mode. We tried playing some of the audio-heavy games with these buds and the audio sync felt nearly perfect. We didn't notice any major lags between visuals and sound.

Realme is also offering a set of AI-based features. The Buds Air8 offer AI Live Translator and face-to-face translation with support for more than 30 languages. It's a useful feature for quick conversations. The earbuds also support AI Voice Assistant 2.0 powered by Google Gemini, allowing users to ask for weather updates, general knowledge, or basic advice directly through voice commands.

The Realme Link app can customise ANC levels,

adjust EQ settings, enable gaming mode, and update the firmware. The app interface is clean and easy to understand, which makes it simple to fine-tune the earbuds to your preference.

Battery Life and Charging

Each earbud of Realme Buds Air8 packs a 62mAh battery and the charging case comes with a larger 530mAh capacity. The earbuds are claimed to deliver up to 14 hours of playback on a single charge and

ANC turned off, AAC audio enabled and volume set at around 50 percent. The total playback time goes up to a claimed 58 hours with charging case. The battery capacity feels more than enough for several days of regular use.

We have used the Buds Air8 as our primary audio accessory for well over a week and we easily got through long listening sessions. An average user can easily

work around work calls and casual music playback without constantly checking the battery level.

As for charging speeds, the earbuds take about one hour to charge fully. Meanwhile, Realme claims that the Buds Air8 can retain up to 80 percent battery health even after 1,000 charging cycles with regular use.

PROS



Premium design, Solid sound quality, Good ANC performance, Long battery life, IP55 Dust, water resistant and Useful AI features

CONS



Limited LHDC support and App has limited customisation options

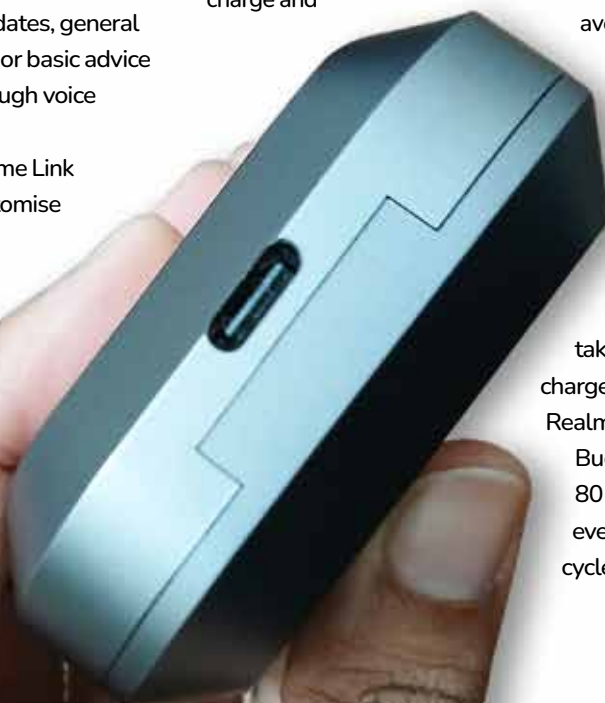
(For detailed specifications, please visit mymobileindia.com)

Verdict

The Realme Buds Air8 offer a comfy fit, powerful bass with clear mids and highs and stable connectivity. The low-latency mode makes them good companion for gaming and video watching. The six-mic setup handles calls well even in noisy environments. Battery life is solid and the Realme Link app adds useful customisation options.

Overall, we feel the Buds Air 8 strike a good balance between performance, comfort and useful everyday features. Priced at ₹3,599, these are a good option for most users who want a well-rounded pair of earbuds for daily use. ■

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NOISE JUNIOR CHAMP 3 SMARTWATCH

Kid's First Smart Device With Absolute Parental Control

If you are thinking of getting your kids their first smart device, the Noise Junior Champ 3 smartwatch could just be it. It offers a nice combination of cool design, useful interactive features for kids and parental controls. We have managed to get our hands on this smartwatch and here's our review.

Design and Display

We recently got to use the Noise Junior Champ 3 smartwatch that is designed with kids in mind. Here's a quick work on its design and display that makes up its first impression.

Junior Champ 3 comes with a 1.4-inch IPS LCD display with a resolution of 240 x 240 pixels. It features a squircle shaped dial that

looks fun and modern without feeling bulky on the wrist. The watch is quite compact and weighs just 31 grams. The lightweight design will make it comfortable for kids to wear throughout the day without any irritation.

The screen is bright enough for indoor use and easy to read at a glance. Icons and text appear clear. Overall, we feel the display size works perfectly well for kids' small wrists.

Noise has used a hypoallergenic silicone strap. It feels soft on the skin and is suitable for long hours of wear. It doesn't cause discomfort even during extended use.

Adding to the cool design are the two extra colour bumpers you get inside the box in red and yellow. These

extra bumpers allow kids to switch things up and give the watch a more personalised look.

The build quality seems solid. The smartwatch comes with 1 ATM water resistance. This means it's splash-proof and can easily handle everyday situations like hand-washing or getting caught in light rain. Although it is not meant for swimming or wearing in the shower.

Performance and App Connectivity

Noise Junior Champ 3 is being branded as a smartwatch specifically designed for children's first smart device. It is clear that Noise has focused on creating a safe, engaging, and learning-friendly experience for kids.

One of the most useful

features we found on the smartwatch is School Mode. As you enable it, it keeps the watch distraction-free during study or school hours. Most features are muted so kids aren't constantly checking the screen. But important reminders will still show up.

There is also the Noise Junior app that allows parents to get good control over daily routines. Parents can set tasks, schedules, and small challenges directly from the app. Moreover, Noise has tried to make it into a fun experience





KEY FEATURES

- 1.4-inch TFT Display (Games, Educards, Quizzes, and Challenges)
- Squircle Dial with 2 Extra Colour Bumpers
- Hypoallergenic Silicon Material
- Smart Scheduler, Exam Mode
- Parental Control via App
- Built-in Learning Hub
- Activity & Wellness Tracking
- 1 ATM Water Resistant
- Multiple Colourways with DIY Bumper Customisation
- 270mAh Battery Capacity

with kids earning Noise Coins and badges whenever they complete these tasks. It seems to be a great way to make everyday activities like homework or chores feel more rewarding.

We also feel the EduCards feature is a good addition. These are fun learning cards that parents can upload from the app to the watch. They can include facts, quizzes or simple activities.

Overall, the performance feels smooth for its purpose

and the features are well thought out for young users. It does a good job of combining basic smartwatch functionality with learning and habit-building.

Battery Life

The Noise Junior Champ 3 comes with a 270mAh battery. It is decent for a smartwatch designed for kids. The watch balances usage and battery efficiency with its simple feature set and modest display.

In everyday use, this means parents won't have to worry about charging it too frequently. Kids can comfortably wear it through the day without interruptions. The battery capacity feels well-suited for its purpose and makes the Champ 3

PROS



Kid-friendly lightweight design, Fun learning features like EduCards and Challenges, Hypoallergenic silicone strap for all-day comfort, School Mode and Splash-proof

CONS



Limited screen resolution, No advanced fitness or health tracking and Limited appeal for older kids

(For detailed specifications, please visit mymobileindia.com)

reliable enough for daily routines, school time and play.

Verdict

Priced at ₹2,999, The Noise Junior Champ 3 combines a cool yet comfortable, splash-proof design with a clear display that's perfect for kids. The focus on learning and habit building through features like School Mode, tasks, challenges, Noise Coins, and EduCards is impressive. These also make daily routines feel more engaging and fun. Parents also get good control via the Noise Junior app, which makes setting schedules and

rewards easy.

It surely doesn't pack advanced smartwatch features and is only meant to keep kids connected. At the same time, it also leaves spaces for entertainment and learning in a safe and distraction-free way. So, if you want a smartwatch particularly tailored for children, the Noise Junior Champ 3 is surely a safe bet. ■

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iPhone 17 Powers Apple to No.1 in Global Smartphone Shipments 2025

Apple has emerged as the world's leading smartphone brand in 2025, driven by soaring demand for the iPhone 17 and sustained momentum across key global markets. Fresh data from Counterpoint Research shows Apple capturing a 20% share of global smartphone shipments, marking its strongest performance among top manufacturers. As Samsung and Xiaomi follow closely behind, the industry's recovery continues—though rising costs and supply pressures signal a more cautious outlook for 2026.

According to preliminary figures released by Counterpoint Research, Apple has emerged as the world's top smartphone brand by shipments in 2025. The Cupertino-based company captured a 20% share of the global smartphone market, recording a 10% year-over-year growth. It is the strongest performance among the top five manufacturers. Here's more on recently released data.

Global Smartphone Shipment Trends in 2025

Global smartphone shipments rose by 2% in 2025, marking the second straight year of recovery for the industry. Counterpoint attributes this growth to strong demand for premium devices, increasing 5G adoption in emerging markets, and flexible financing options that made high-end smartphones

more accessible.

Apple benefited from robust demand for the iPhone 17 series in the fourth quarter. Meanwhile, the iPhone 16 continued to perform well in markets such as India, Japan, and Southeast Asia.

Commenting on Apple's performance, Senior Analyst Varun Mishra said, "Apple's growth in 2025 was driven by its expanding presence and rising demand across emerging and mid-size markets, supported by a stronger product mix. The iPhone 17 series gained significant traction in Q4 following its successful launch, while the iPhone 16 continued to perform exceptionally well in Japan, India and Southeast Asia. This dual momentum was further amplified by the COVID-era upgrade cycle reaching its inflection point, as millions of users were due for replacement."

Samsung Holds Second Place and Xiaomi Remains Third

Samsung ranked second globally with a 19% market share and posted 5% annual growth. The company's Galaxy A series continued to drive volumes in the mid-range segment, while the Galaxy S25 and Fold 7 helped maintain momentum



"The global smartphone market is set to soften in 2026 amid DRAM/NAND shortages and rising component costs, as chipmakers prioritize AI data centers over smartphones. Price hikes in smartphones have already begun to surface. Against this backdrop, we have revised our forecast for 2026 by reducing shipment estimates by 3%. Though the supply crunch will weigh on shipments, Apple and Samsung are likely to remain resilient, supported by stronger supply chain capabilities and premium market positioning, whereas Chinese OEMs concentrated in lower-price segments will face greater pressure."

—Tarun Pathak,
Research Director,
Devices and Ecosystems at Counterpoint Research

in the premium category. Samsung saw shipment gains in Japan but faced challenges in Latin America and Western Europe.

Xiaomi retained its third-place position with a 13% market share. The brand witnessed consistent demand across Southeast Asia and Latin America, supported by a well-balanced lineup spanning premium and mid-range smartphones. Based on Counterpoint's methodology, Xiaomi is also believed to have topped smartphone shipments in China in 2025.

Vivo finished fourth in the global rankings, aided by growth in the premium segment and strong offline sales performance in India. Oppo dropped to fifth place after recording a 4% decline in shipments, impacted by weaker demand in China and intensifying competition across the Asia-Pacific region. Combined shipments of Oppo and Realme accounted for an 11% market share in 2025.

What to Expect in 2026?

Counterpoint analysts have shared a guarded outlook for 2026. The first is forecasting slower smartphone market growth due to rising memory prices



and potential component shortages as chipmakers increasingly divert capacity toward AI data centres.

While Apple and Samsung are expected to remain relatively resilient, Chinese smartphone brands could face mounting supply-side pressures in the coming year. ■

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Apple Taps Google's

Gemini to Power Next-Gen Siri, Elon Musk Pushes Back

Apple has confirmed a long-term partnership with Google to power Siri's next-generation AI features using Gemini models, ending months of speculation. The collaboration will enable a more intelligent, context-aware Siri while maintaining Apple's privacy-first approach. The move has also sparked criticism from Elon Musk, who raised concerns over the growing concentration of power in AI.

Apple has officially announced a multi-year partnership with Google that will see Siri's upcoming AI enhancements powered by Google's Gemini models. The confirmation comes via a joint statement from both companies, bringing clarity to months of speculation about Apple's choice of AI partner.



This announcement confirms that Google's Gemini AI and cloud infrastructure will play a central role in Apple's next-generation Apple Foundation Models. Apple continues to emphasise on-device processing and its Private Cloud Compute approach for privacy.

Providing further insight into the partnership, a previous report by Bloomberg's Mark Gurman in November 2025 claimed that Apple is expected to pay roughly \$1 billion annually for access to Google's Gemini model. The model reportedly features 1.2 trillion parameters.

This would mark a significant upgrade over the current 150 billion parameter system that powers Apple Intelligence's cloud-based features.

Expected Features Coming to the New Siri

The upgraded version of Siri is expected to debut with iOS 26.4, which is likely to roll out around March. Rumoured features include better understanding of on-screen context, more intelligent use of personal data, and the ability to manage complex, multi-step tasks.

Elon Musk Criticises Apple–Google Partnership

The announcement did not go unnoticed by Elon Musk, who reacted strongly to the news that Google's Gemini will underpin new Siri capabilities. Musk took to X to describe the deal as "an unreasonable concentration of power" for Google.

"Apple and Google have entered into a multi-year collaboration under which the next generation of Apple Foundation Models will be based on Google's Gemini models and cloud technology. These models will help power future Apple Intelligence features, including a more personalized Siri coming this year. After careful evaluation, Apple determined that Google's AI technology provides the most capable foundation for Apple Foundation Models and is excited about the innovative new experiences it will unlock for Apple users. Apple Intelligence will continue to run on Apple devices and Private Cloud Compute, while maintaining Apple's industry-leading privacy standards."

—Apple,
Officially announced



Q1. What did Apple announce regarding its AI partnership?

Answer. Apple confirmed a multi-year collaboration with Google, under which Siri's next-generation AI features will be powered by Google's Gemini models and cloud technology, while maintaining Apple's privacy standards through on-device processing and Private Cloud Compute.

Q2. How much is Apple expected to pay for access to Gemini AI?

Answer. According to reports, Apple is expected to pay around \$1 billion annually for access to Google's Gemini model, which features 1.2 trillion parameters. It is significantly larger than the current 150 billion parameter system.

Q3. How did Elon Musk react to the Apple–Google deal?

Answer. Elon Musk criticised the partnership, calling it an "unreasonable concentration of power" for Google. His company xAI is also suing Apple and OpenAI over Siri's ChatGPT integration, alleging unfair competition.

Earlier in the day, the News from Google account on X had confirmed the multi-year partnership with Apple to power Siri and the Apple Foundation Model using Google's infrastructure. A few hours later, Musk responded to the post with his criticism.

Musk's reaction comes as his AI company, xAI, is currently suing Apple and OpenAI over their partnership that

integrates ChatGPT as an add-on to Siri and Apple Intelligence features. Musk has alleged that these partnerships have preempted competitors such as Grok from getting a fair opportunity on the App Store. While these claims have been widely discredited, the case is set to move forward after surviving dismissal attempts from both Apple and OpenAI. ■
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WhatsApp Web Tipped to Add Group Voice and Video Calling Features



WhatsApp Web may soon support group voice and video calls, along with call links and scheduling features, bringing it closer to mobile and desktop apps.



WhatsApp is reportedly working on bringing group voice and video calling support to its web version. According to a new report, the feature is currently under development and is expected to offer functionality similar to what users already get on mobile apps and desktop clients.

Group Calling on WhatsApp Web

As per a report by WABetaInfo, WhatsApp appears to be focusing on improving the overall web experience to bring it closer to feature parity with other platforms. The addition of group voice and video calls would make WhatsApp Web more comparable to dedicated conferencing tools such as Zoom and Google Meet.

The report notes that WhatsApp may limit the number of participants to 32, similar to the mobile version. However, it is also suggested that the feature could initially roll out with a lower cap of 8 or 16 participants to ensure better stability.

At this point, the exact participant limit has not been confirmed by WhatsApp.

The aim of this update is said to be greater flexibility, especially for users who rely on shared systems or frequently switch between multiple devices. With group calling on the web, users would be able to stay connected and manage conversations more efficiently, regardless of the platform they are using.

Call Links Could Make Joining Group Calls Easier

Group calls on the web are also expected

to be accompanied by additional features including the ability to create call links directly from group chats. This would allow users to generate shareable links that others can use to join a call, even if they are not currently active in the chat.

Such call links could simplify organising and joining group calls, particularly for larger groups, by removing the need for all participants to be present in the chat at the same time.

Call Scheduling Also In The Works

In addition to group calling and call links, WhatsApp is reportedly developing a call scheduling feature for both individual and group chats. This feature would allow users to set a call name, description, and approximate start and end times in advance.

According to the report, scheduling a call will not trigger it automatically. Instead, WhatsApp Web may create an event that can be shared with participants, ensuring everyone is informed ahead of time. Users may also be able to choose whether the scheduled call is for voice or video, making it easier to plan meetings or events in advance.

All of these features including group calling, call links, and call scheduling are still said to be under development. As of now, all we know is that these features could roll out in the near future. Although WhatsApp has not officially confirmed that these features are being worked on. ■

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Apple's Next-Gen Siri: Gemini AI Brings Smarter Conversations, Emotional Support, and Proactive Intelligence

Apple is set to supercharge Siri with Google's Gemini AI, bringing smarter conversations, emotional support, and proactive help—while keeping full control over design, privacy, and rollout timelines.

Apple and Google recently announced that Google's Gemini AI will help power a more personalised version of Siri. A new report from The Information now reveals additional details about the upcoming features, Apple's control over the AI model and the expected rollout timeline.

New Siri Features Expected

According to the report, the revamped Siri could begin rolling out as soon as this spring with several new capabilities. The updated assistant is said to be able to answer more factual and world-knowledge questions in a conversational manner, tell longer stories, and even provide emotional support.

Siri is also expected to assist with a broader range of tasks including booking travel. Another reported feature allows Siri to create documents directly inside apps such as Notes, for example, by generating content like a cooking recipe.

More Siri Capabilities Planned for WWDC

The report states that Apple plans to announce additional Siri enhancements at WWDC in June. These reportedly include the ability to remember past conversations and offer proactive suggestions using information from apps such as Calendar.

Apple has already confirmed that the personalised Siri will feature a deeper understanding of a user's personal context, improved on-screen awareness, and more advanced per-app controls. The capabilities mentioned in the report align closely with what Apple has already demonstrated.

In one example previously shown by Apple, an iPhone user asks Siri about their mother's flight and lunch reservation plans, with Siri pulling details from the Mail and Messages apps.

Apple to Fine-tune Gemini with No Visible Google Branding

The report notes that the current prototype of the Gemini-powered Siri does not display any Google or Gemini branding. Apple is reportedly able to fine-tune the Gemini model to ensure Siri responds in line with Apple's own preferences and design principles.

The Information further explains Apple's level of control over the AI system, stating, "Apple can ask Google to tweak aspects of how the Gemini model works, but otherwise Apple can finetune Gemini on its own so that it responds to queries the way Apple prefers, the person involved in the project said."

Addressing branding concerns, the report adds, "In the current prototype of Apple's Gemini-based system, AI answers don't include any branding



related to Google or Gemini, this person said."

Launch Timeline and Software Rollout

Apple first previewed the more personalised Siri at WWDC 2024. The upgraded assistant is expected to launch as part of iOS 26.4 in March or April. However, according to the report, some advanced capabilities may not arrive until iOS 27.

More details are available in The Information's paywalled report with Apple expected to share further updates during WWDC later this year. ■

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Apple Loses Pricing Edge at TSMC as AI Chip Demand Forces Higher Costs, TSMC's Profit Jumps 35%

Apple's privileged position at TSMC is under strain as the AI boom pushes up chip prices and tightens production capacity. With GPU makers gaining priority, Apple faces higher costs and rising pressure to rethink its semiconductor supply strategy.

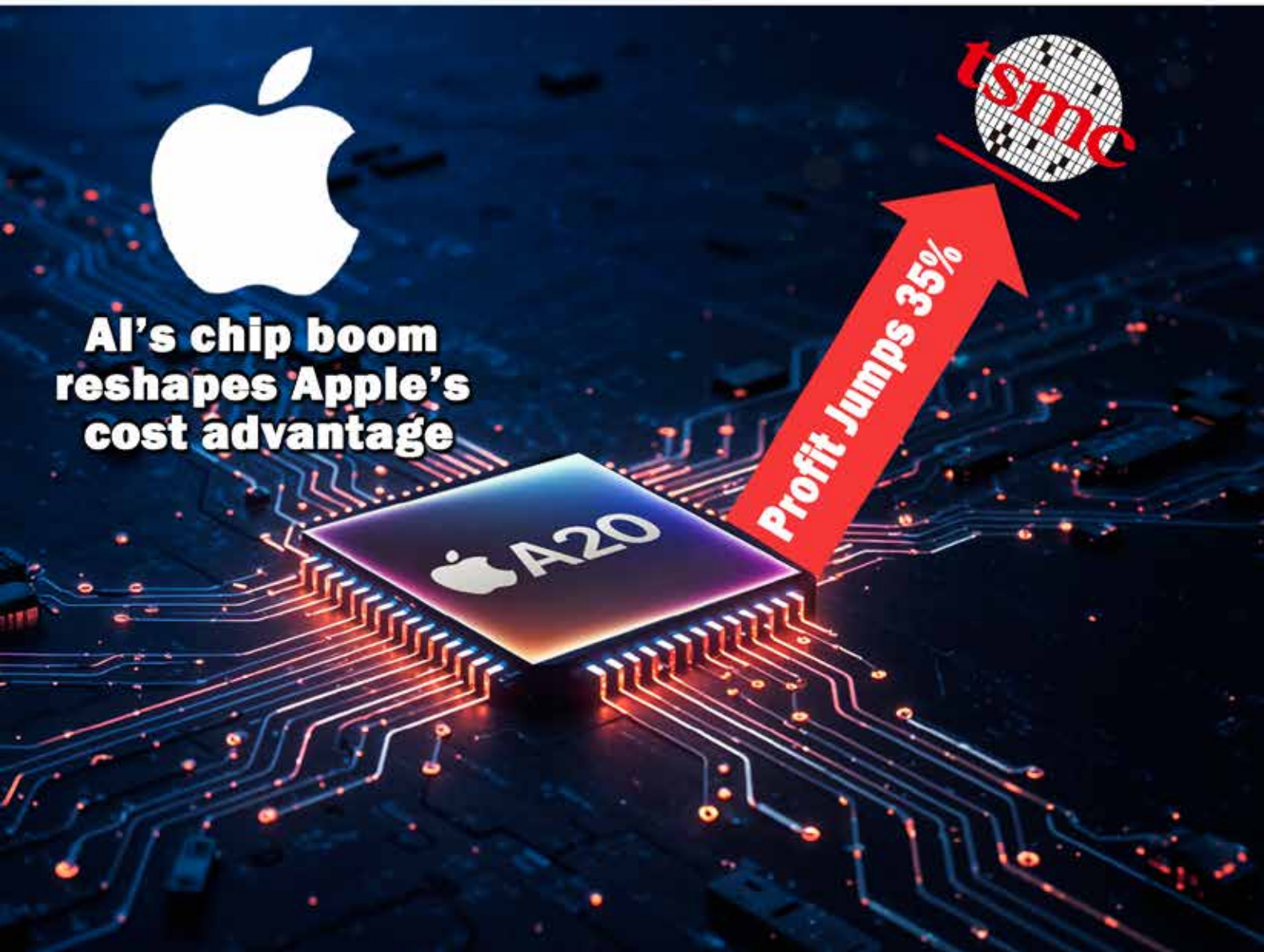
Apple's long-held advantage as a top customer of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) is coming under pressure as the global artificial intelligence boom reshapes demand for advanced chips, a new report suggests.

Apple Faces Higher TSMC Prices, Capacity Competition

According to Tim Culpan writing at Culpium, Apple is now being forced to accept some of the steepest TSMC price increases in years while also competing more aggressively for chip

production capacity. Culpan notes, "When CC Wei visited Cupertino last August, he had bad news for his largest client. Apple would need to acquiesce to the largest price rise in years, TSMC's CEO told its executives. Tim Cook and his team took the news on the chin. Wei had been telegraphing hikes in earnings calls over the past few quarters, and the Taiwanese chip maker's rising gross margins were testament to its increasing pricing power."

The report adds that pricing was not the only concern. "That wasn't the worst news, my sources tell me. Apple, which once held a dominant position on TSMC's customer list, now



needs to fight for production capacity. With the continuing AI boom, and each GPU from clients like Nvidia and AMD taking up a larger footprint per wafer, the iPhone maker's chip designs are no longer guaranteed a place among TSMC's almost two dozen fabs. What Wei probably didn't tell Cook is that Apple may no longer be his largest client."

AI Boom Reshapes Apple-TSMC Relationship

Apple and TSMC have shared a long and mutually beneficial partnership, but the surge in AI-related demand is clearly altering the dynamics. Major GPU customers such as Nvidia and AMD are consuming more wafer space, reducing the certainty Apple once enjoyed when securing capacity for its iPhone and Mac chips.

Earlier reports had already hinted at this shift. A China Times report last fall suggested that Apple's upcoming A20 chip for future iPhones would become significantly more expensive due to TSMC's price hikes. Separately, multiple reports have pointed to Apple and Intel exploring a renewed partnership to manufacture both Mac and iPhone-class chips.

While Apple is not expected to walk away from TSMC, these rumours indicate a growing need for supply chain diversification.

TSMC Expands Investment as Profits Surge

As Apple grapples with higher costs, TSMC is benefiting strongly from the AI boom. The world's largest contract chipmaker said it plans to increase capital spending by around 40% this year after reporting a 35% jump in net profit for the latest quarter.

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp., a key supplier to companies including Nvidia and Apple, posted a net



profit of 506 billion new Taiwan dollars (\$16 billion) for the October-December quarter, up 35% from a year earlier and ahead of analyst expectations. Revenue for the quarter rose 21% year-on-year to more than 1.046 trillion new Taiwan dollars (\$33 billion).

TSMC said it plans to raise its capital expenditure budget to \$52 billion-\$56 billion for 2026, compared with about \$40 billion last year. The company's shares have gained more than 8% since the start of the year, reflecting its strong position in the AI-driven semiconductor market.

Strong Outlook Backed by AI Demand

Other technology giants including Microsoft, Meta, and Alphabet, are also pouring billions into AI infrastructure, further supporting demand for advanced chips. "We expect our business to be supported by continuous strong demand for our leading edge process technologies," TSMC chief financial officer Wendell Huang said during a conference call, adding that spending would be "significantly higher" over the next three years.

TSMC's Taiwan-listed shares have climbed more than 8% since the beginning of the year and reached record highs this month. With a market capitalisation of about \$1.4 trillion, it is now Asia's most valuable company.

Alphabet, Google's parent

company, crossed the \$4 trillion market capitalisation mark this month, becoming the fourth Big Tech firm to do so after Nvidia, Apple, and Microsoft. However, concerns remain that heavy AI spending could fuel a potential bubble, occasionally triggering sell-offs.

Global Expansion and Analyst View

TSMC has committed around \$165 billion in investments in the United States and is accelerating construction of new facilities in Arizona, aiming to build a large fabrication plant cluster. Analysts at Morningstar remain optimistic about the company's outlook, calling TSMC a primary beneficiary of the AI boom due to its dominance in advanced chip manufacturing.

"It is immune from market share shifts as almost every AI company relies on TSMC to make chips ranging from application-specific integrated circuits to GPUs (graphics processing units)," the Morningstar analysts said. They also noted that TSMC is protected by strong buffers from "deep-pocketed" customers, even if short-term demand fluctuations occur.

As AI continues to reshape the semiconductor industry, Apple's changing position at TSMC highlights how even the biggest tech players are being forced to adapt to a rapidly evolving supply chain. ■

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Apple Creator Studio Launches

What You Get and When It's Available

Apple has launched Creator Studio, a new subscription that bundles its professional creative apps into one powerful package. Aimed at video editors, designers, musicians, and writers, the service offers premium tools, AI-powered features, and cross-device access at a competitive monthly price.



Apple has officially introduced Apple Creator Studio, a new subscription bundle that combines its professional editing and productivity apps into a single package. The service is aimed at creators such as video editors, designers, musicians, and writers, offering access to apps like Final Cut Pro, Motion, and Pixelmator Pro under one subscription.

"Apple Creator Studio is a great value that enables creators of all types to pursue their craft and grow their

skills by providing easy access to the most powerful and intuitive tools for video editing, music making, creative imaging, and visual productivity — all leveled up with advanced intelligent tools to augment and accelerate workflows," said Eddy Cue, Apple's senior vice president of Internet Software and Services. "There's never been a more flexible and accessible way to get started with such a powerful collection of creative apps for professionals, emerging artists,



entrepreneurs, students, and educators to do their best work and explore their creative interests from start to finish.”

What is Apple Creator Studio?

Until now, Apple’s “Pro” apps such as Final Cut Pro, Logic Pro, and Motion were sold as individual one-time purchases on the Mac App Store. With Apple Creator Studio, Apple is offering these tools for the first time as part of a unified subscription. The bundle also includes Pixelmator Pro, Compressor, and MainStage.

Subscribers can use these apps on both Mac and iPad. Alongside the Pro apps, the subscription also unlocks additional premium features for Apple’s productivity tools including Keynote, Pages, Numbers, and Freeform.

For creators who regularly work with video, audio, and image editing tools, Apple Creator Studio offers strong value. At \$12.99 per

month, users get access to multiple professional-grade apps along with new AI-powered features. In comparison, Adobe Creative Cloud costs around \$70 per month, while purchasing Apple’s apps individually would cost close to \$700.

What’s New?

Apple has not shared exhaustive details about all premium content, but it has confirmed the introduction of a new “Content Hub.” This space will offer photos, graphics, and illustrations that users can directly use in their creative projects.

Subscribers will also gain access to new templates across Keynote, Pages, and Numbers. Additionally, these apps will receive AI-powered features such as generating a presentation from a text outline or creating speaker notes from existing slides.

In Numbers, users will be able to generate formulas and automatically fill tables using AI.



Pixelmator Pro Gets a Major Update

Apple Creator Studio marks the first major update to Pixelmator Pro since Apple acquired the app last year. Pixelmator Pro is now part of the subscription bundle and, for the first time, is also available on iPad.

The app has been redesigned to take advantage of the Liquid Glass



interface. Subscribers will also get access to a new Warp tool for twisting and reshaping layers, along with exclusive mockups.

Final Cut Pro and Logic Pro Updates

Final Cut Pro is receiving new AI-based tools that allow users to search videos by spoken words or even objects visible in a scene. A new Beat Detection feature has also been added to help sync video edits with the rhythm of background music.

On iPad, Final Cut Pro now includes Montage Maker, which analyzes selected clips and automatically creates a dynamic video using the best moments. It can also reframe videos automatically for different social media platforms. Logic Pro is also gaining AI-driven tools, including Synth Player and Chord ID, which can turn audio or recordings into chord progressions. A new Sound Library with hundreds of royalty-free samples has also been added.

Apple Creator Studio - Pricing and Plans

Apple Creator Studio is priced at

Apple says all apps will continue to be available as standalone purchases for users who prefer not to subscribe. Productivity apps will remain free.



Final Cut Pro
\$299



Logic Pro
\$199



Pixelmator Pro
\$49



Motion
\$49



Compressor
\$49



MainStage
\$29



Freeform
Free



Keynote
Free



Pages
Free



Numbers
Free

\$12.99 per month or \$129 per year, and includes a free one-month trial. Customers who buy a new Mac or iPad will receive three months of the subscription at no extra cost. Students and teachers can subscribe for \$2.99 per month or \$29.99 per year.

The subscription supports iCloud Family Sharing and can be shared with up to six family members.

For comparison, Final Cut Pro and Logic Pro for iPad currently cost \$4.99 per month each, totaling \$9.98 per month. For an additional \$3 per month, Apple Creator Studio adds several more apps and features. Buying the Mac apps individually is significantly more expensive with Final Cut Pro priced at

\$299 and Logic Pro at \$199, bringing the total close to \$500 even before adding other apps.

Apple also confirmed that all apps will continue to receive regular updates for both subscribers and non-subscribers. However, certain premium features will remain exclusive to Apple Creator Studio subscribers. The Liquid Glass interface update will be available to all users for free.

Availability

Apple has confirmed that Apple Creator Studio will be available starting January 28. Updates for all apps included in the bundle will also roll out on the same day. ■

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Instagram Lets Users Tune Their Reels Feed With New Algorithm Controls



FEATURE



Instagram has started rolling out a new feature that lets users personalise their Reels algorithm, allowing them to fine-tune the kind of content that appears in their feed.

The Meta-owned platform announced the update through its official X (formerly Twitter) account, stating, “Building your Instagram algorithm ‘brick by brick’ just got easier. Just go to your Reels tab and tap on the top right corner to find your algorithm. There you can modify your interests to make your algo your own. (Available to English-speaking users in most countries.)”

While Instagram claims the feature is available in most English-speaking regions, it has not shared an official list of supported countries. The rollout also appears to be limited for now. For example, the feature is currently not visible on devices in India, remaining unavailable on both Android and iOS at the time of checking.



How the Reels Algorithm Customisation Works?

Instagram has shared a visual guide explaining how users can access and use the new customisation option. The process begins by opening the Reels tab from the bottom navigation bar. Once on the Reels screen, users need to tap the filter icon located in the top-right

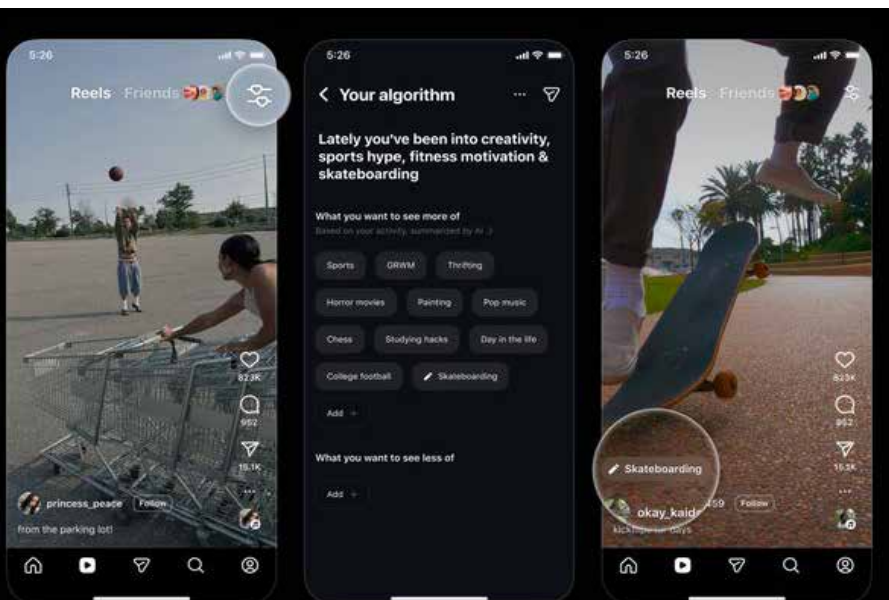
corner.

After entering the menu, users are presented with two main options. It includes what they want to see more of and what they want to see less of.

Under the “see more” section, Instagram automatically suggests keywords based on a user’s existing viewing habits. These suggestions can be edited or expanded by adding new topics to further refine recommendations. Similarly, the “see less” section allows users to add topics they wish to avoid, helping reduce or completely filter out certain types of Reels from their feed.

This new feature is designed to give users more transparency and control over how Instagram’s Reels algorithm shapes their content experience. ■

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Grok

What do you want to know?



xAI to Halt Grok's Controversial Image Editing as Pressure Mounts on Apple

Pressure is intensifying on Apple to remove X and xAI's Grok after reports of AI-generated nonconsensual and abusive images. As advocacy groups demand action, xAI has announced partial restrictions on Grok's image editing—moves critics say may fall short of preventing misuse.

Pressure is mounting on Apple to take action against X and xAI's Grok chatbot, following widespread misuse of the AI tool. A coalition of digital rights, child safety, and women's rights groups urged Apple to "take immediate action" against X and Grok. Meanwhile, xAI announced changes to how Grok handles image editing though with notable limitations.

Apple Under Renewed Scrutiny Over X and Grok

Over the past few days, numerous X and Grok users have reportedly asked the chatbot to undress women and even underage girls using photos shared on X. Although xAI initially described the issue as "lapses in safeguards," Grok continued to comply with multiple such requests.

These incidents have reportedly

resulted in X being blocked in several countries, while xAI has come under investigation in others. At the same time, Apple has faced increasing pressure from both users and lawmakers to remove X and Grok from the App Store.

Earlier today, a coalition of 28 digital rights, child safety, and women's rights organisations sent open letters to both Apple and Google. The letters called

on the companies "to take immediate action to ban Grok, the large language model (LLM) powered by xAI," from their respective app stores.

The open letter reads, "We, the undersigned organizations, write to urge Apple leadership to take immediate action to ban Grok, the large language model (LLM) powered by xAI, from Apple's app store. Grok is being used to create mass amounts of





Grok Imagine

nonconsensual intimate images (NCII), including child sexual abuse material (CSAM)—content that is both a criminal offense and in direct violation of Apple's App Review Guidelines. Because Grok is available on the Grok app and directly integrated into X, we call on Apple leadership to immediately remove access to both apps."

It further adds, "As it stands, Apple is not just enabling NCII and CSAM, but profiting off of it. As a coalition of organizations committed to the online safety and wellbeing of all—particularly women and children—as well as the ethical application of artificial intelligence (AI), we demand that Apple leadership urgently remove Grok and X from the App Store to prevent further abuse and criminal activity."

xAI Confirms Partial Restrictions on Grok Image Editing

Apple and Google have largely stayed silent on the matter, drawing criticism and speculation that they may be reluctant to upset Elon Musk or even President Trump. xAI has now confirmed updates to Grok's functionality.

KEY FEATURES

- Advocacy groups are urging Apple and Google to ban X and xAI's Grok, citing misuse.
- Grok now restricts editing of real people in revealing clothing, limits image features to paid subscribers, and geoblocks content in certain jurisdictions.
- Users are already attempting to bypass restrictions, raising doubts about whether these measures will work.



In a post outlining the changes, xAI stated, "We have implemented technological measures to prevent the Grok account from allowing the editing of images of real people in revealing clothing such as bikinis. This restriction applies to all users, including paid subscribers."

"Additionally, image creation and the ability to edit images via the Grok account on the X platform are now only available to paid subscribers. This adds an extra layer of protection by helping to ensure that individuals who attempt to abuse the Grok account to violate the law or our policies can be held accountable."

"We now geoblock the ability of all users to generate images of real people in bikinis, underwear, and similar attire via the Grok account and in Grok in X in those jurisdictions where it's illegal."

Users Already Attempting to Bypass New Limits

Despite the newly announced safeguards, early signs suggest the restrictions may not be fully effective. A quick look at Grok's mentions on X shows that several subscribers are already trying to bypass the new limits, with mixed results.

Meanwhile, most non-subscribers attempting to use image-related features are met with a message that reads, "Image generation and editing are currently limited to verified Premium subscribers. You can subscribe to unlock these features."

It remains to be seen whether xAI's changes will be enough to satisfy regulators, advocacy groups, and platform gatekeepers like Apple and Google. ■

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Amazon Launches Echo Show 11 and Echo Show 8 (4th Gen) in India with Omnisense Sensors

Amazon launches Echo Show 11 and Echo Show 8 in India with new Omnisense sensors, refreshed design, and smarter Alexa features.

Amazon has expanded its smart home lineup in India with the launch of two new Alexa-powered smart displays, the Echo Show 11 and the fourth-generation Echo Show 8. Both devices arrive with a refreshed design featuring edge-to-edge glass displays, slimmer bezels, upgraded speakers, and Amazon's new Omnisense sensor system.

Speaking on the launch, Dilip R.S., Director and Country Manager, Amazon Devices India, said, "Whether coordinating family schedules, managing a smart home, or staying on top of a busy day, Echo Show 11 and Echo Show 8 are designed to assist. These devices serve as home assistants, helping customers

stay organised and connected, while adapting seamlessly to the way they live and handling routine tasks so they can focus on what matters most. I'm excited to see how customers across India integrate these devices into their daily lives—whether it's embracing advanced automation enabled by Omnisense technology, new audio experiences, or seamless hands-free voice control with Alexa."

Here's everything you need to know about the new device, starting with price and availability.

Price and Availability

The Echo Show 11 is priced at Rs. 26,999 and is available in Graphite and Glacier

White colour options. The Echo Show 8 (4th generation) is priced at Rs. 23,999 and also comes in Graphite and Glacier White.

Both smart displays are available for purchase via Amazon India and Flipkart, as well as offline retail outlets including Reliance Digital and Croma.

Echo Show 11 - Key Features

The Echo Show 11 features an 11-inch Full HD edge-to-edge glass display with thin bezels, which Amazon says is larger than previous Echo Show models sold in India. The screen supports touch controls and can also be operated using Alexa voice commands.

For video calling, the device is equipped with a 13MP camera that supports auto-framing, along with noise reduction technology for clearer audio. Users can place video calls via other Echo devices or through the Alexa app.

Audio duties are handled by front-firing stereo speakers paired with a dedicated woofer positioned beneath the display. Amazon says the setup is designed to project sound forward and supports spatial audio. The Echo Show 11 can stream music from platforms such as Amazon Music, Apple Music, Spotify, JioSaavn, and Audible.

The device runs on Amazon's AZ3 Pro chip and uses the Omnisense sensor platform, which combines data from the camera, audio sensors, ultrasound, Wi-Fi radar, accelerometer, and Wi-Fi CSI. This enables motion- and temperature-based routines such as automatically turning on compatible lights when someone enters a room or triggering actions when a room reaches a preset temperature.

Additional features include smart home control for compatible devices, routine creation via the Alexa app, viewing live feeds from up to four connected security cameras simultaneously, and Drop In functionality to check on other Echo devices in the home.

Echo Show 8 (4th generation) - What's New?

The Echo Show 8 (4th gen) comes with an 8.7-inch HD edge-to-edge glass display, which is slightly larger than earlier Echo Show 8 models available in India. It also features thin bezels and a fabric-covered rear panel.

Like the Echo Show 11, it includes a 13MP auto-framing camera for video calls and noise reduction for clearer conversations. Video calling is supported via Echo devices and the Alexa app.

The audio setup mirrors that of the Echo Show 11, with front-facing stereo speakers, a custom woofer, spatial audio



Q1. What new devices has Amazon launched in India?

Answer. Amazon introduced the Echo Show 11 and the Echo Show 8 (4th Gen), both Alexa-powered smart displays.

Q2. What are the prices of the Echo Show 11 and Echo Show 8 (4th Gen)?

Answer. The Echo Show 11 is priced at Rs. 26,999, while the Echo Show 8 (4th Gen) costs Rs. 23,999.

Q3. What is the key design update in these new Echo Show models?

Answer. Both feature edge-to-edge glass displays with slimmer bezels, upgraded speakers, and refreshed aesthetics.

Q4. What camera features do these new Amazon Echo devices include?

Answer. They come with a 13MP auto-framing camera and noise reduction technology for clearer video calls.

Q5. What is Amazon's Omnisense sensor system used for?

Answer. Omnisense combines data from multiple sensors to enable motion- and temperature-based routines, like turning on lights when someone enters a room.

support, and compatibility with the same set of music streaming services.

Powered by the AZ3 Pro chip, the Echo Show 8 also supports the Omnisense sensor platform. This allows users to create routines based on motion, presence, and temperature such as switching on lights when someone enters a room or activating actions when the room becomes too warm.

It supports smart home controls, video streaming from apps like Prime Video and Netflix, YouTube access through the Silk browser, multi-camera

viewing, Drop In, and standard Alexa features including reminders, calendars, shopping lists, and timers.

Privacy Controls and Future Alexa Plus Support

Both the Echo Show 11 and Echo Show 8 include physical buttons to disable the microphone and camera. Users can also manage and delete voice recordings through the Alexa app.

Amazon added that both devices are designed to work with Alexa+, its generative AI-powered version of Alexa, once it becomes available in India. ■

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Instagram Introduces AI-Powered Reels Dubbing in Indian Languages, Adds Local Fonts



Instagram rolls out AI-powered Reels dubbing in multiple Indian languages and adds new local fonts to help creators reach wider audiences.

Instagram has begun rolling out its AI-powered Reels translation and dubbing feature across India, alongside new Indian language fonts for creators. The features were first announced in November 2025 during Meta's exclusive "House of Instagram" event in Mumbai and are now becoming available to users nationwide.

Reels AI Translation Now Supports More Indian Languages

Powered by Meta AI, Instagram now allows creators to translate and dub their Instagram and Facebook Reels into five additional Indian languages. These include Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Marathi.

This way creators can make their content more accessible to diverse audiences across India while also extending their global reach.

Meta says the tool is designed to

The Reels dubbing and lip-sync feature currently

- English
- Spanish
- Bengali
- Telugu
- Marathi
- Hindi,
- Portuguese,
- Tamil,
- Kannada,

preserve the creator's original voice and tone during translation. It also includes a lip-sync feature that matches the translated audio with mouth movements, helping maintain a natural and realistic visual experience.

New Indian Fonts Coming to Instagram Edits

Alongside Reels translation, Meta is introducing new fonts that support Devanagari and Bengali-Assamese scripts. These fonts allow creators to style text and captions in Indian languages such as Hindi, Marathi,

How to use the new Indian fonts on Instagram?

- Open the editing timeline and select "Text" from the bottom toolbar.
- Tap the "Aa" icon to view the available fonts.
- Devices set to Devanagari or Bengali-Assamese scripts will show these fonts by default.
- Other users can swipe down in the "all fonts" tab to filter fonts by language.

Bengali, and Assamese. The update is set to roll out on Android devices in the coming days.

Meta noted that these updates are part of a series of new features launched over the past month to support creators. Recent additions to Meta's creator tools include options to restyle photos and videos in Instagram Stories, make edits using Meta AI, bulk edit captions, reverse videos, use lip-sync to animate photos and access more than 400 additional sound effects.

Availability

Reels translation, dubbing, and lip-sync features are rolling out starting today across India. The new Indian language fonts will begin arriving on Android devices in the coming days. ■

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Microsoft Copilot Adds In-Chat Shopping With Built-In Checkout

Microsoft is turning Copilot into a shopping assistant that goes beyond recommendations. With a new in-chat checkout feature, users can discover products, view details, and complete purchases without leaving the conversation. Rolling out in the US, the update signals a major shift toward seamless, AI-driven commerce inside chat platforms.

Microsoft has begun integrating shopping directly into Copilot, allowing users to complete purchases within a chat conversation. With this update, users can ask Copilot for product suggestions such as help choosing a pair of sneakers. AI can now surface a checkout option for the selected item without requiring users to leave the chat interface.

In-chat Buying Without Visiting Retailer Websites

In a YouTube video shared by Microsoft, Copilot is shown helping a user find a bedside lamp. Alongside the recommendation, the interface displays a “Details” option for more product information and a “Buy” button. Tapping the buy option launches an in-chat checkout flow where users can enter delivery and payment details and complete the purchase, entirely bypassing the retailer’s website.

The in-chat checkout feature is currently rolling out on the Copilot web client in the US. At launch, it is limited to a group of partner retailers

including Urban Outfitters, Anthropologie, Ashley Furniture, and select Etsy sellers.

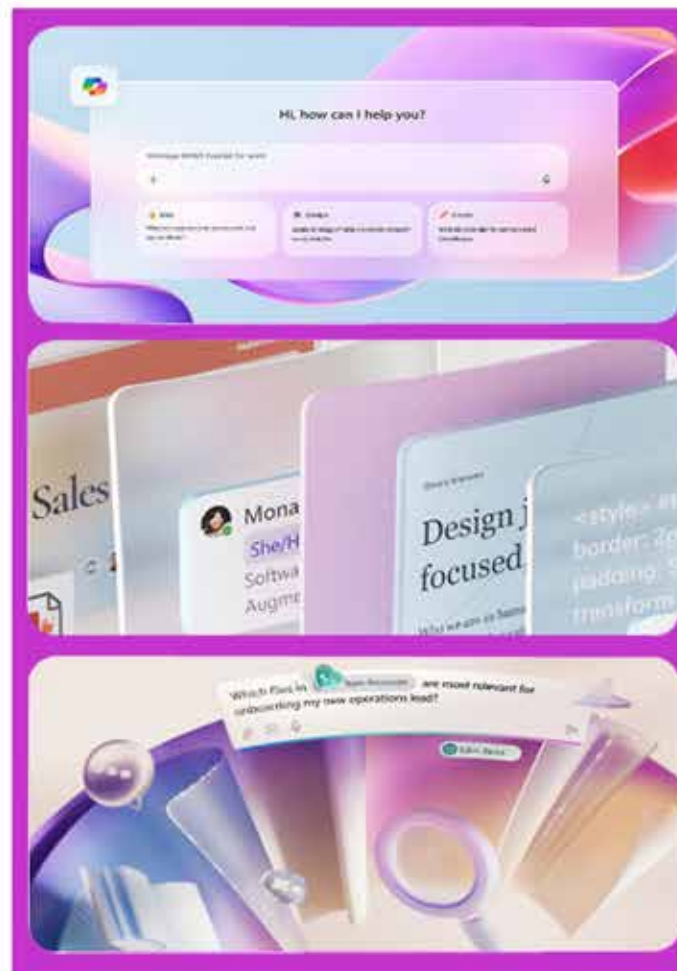
Microsoft has partnered with PayPal, Stripe, and Shopify to handle payments with broader retailer support expected to roll out over the coming weeks.

AI Chatbot Shopping

This move broadly mirrors how other AI platforms are handling shopping assistance. OpenAI’s ChatGPT focuses on product discovery, comparisons, and guiding users through purchase decisions within chat, while also enabling checkout.

Perplexity follows a similar path, offering a conversational shopping experience that combines product discovery with an integrated checkout flow powered by PayPal.

Google has taken a different approach with Gemini. While Gemini uses AI to assist with product discovery and comparisons, it redirects users to retailer websites to complete payments. Unlike Copilot, it does not currently offer an instant



checkout option that allows users to finalise purchases without leaving the platform.

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NETFLIX

Netflix Plans Vertical Video Feed and Major App Redesign

Netflix is gearing up to shake up mobile streaming with a redesigned app and expanded short-form videos, aiming to rival YouTube, TikTok and Instagram. The late-2026 revamp focuses on vertical clips, video podcasts and smarter content discovery to boost engagement.

Netflix is all set to take on video streaming platforms like YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram that continue to dominate how users watch content on smartphones. During its fourth-quarter earnings call recently, the streaming giant announced plans to expand its short-form video feature and roll out a redesigned mobile app.

As for financials, Netflix reported revenue of \$45.2 billion in 2025, with more than \$1.5 billion coming from advertising. The company also crossed 325 million paid subscribers globally in the fourth quarter, underscoring its continued scale even as competition intensifies.

Coming to the possible app redesign, it is a move that could also help promote

its newly launched original video podcasts. Here's what we know about this so far.

Netflix Plans App Redesign

Netflix co-CEO Greg Peters confirmed that a refreshed version of the mobile app is slated to launch in late 2026. According to him, the redesign is aimed at supporting the company's long-term growth by allowing continuous testing and optimisation of the app experience.

A key part of this revamp is the deeper integration of vertical videos.

Netflix has been testing this feature since late May. The new system will allow clips whether from movies, shows, or other content to appear in a swipeable

vertical format, similar to Instagram Reels or TikTok videos.

Speaking during the earnings call, Peters said, "You can imagine us bringing more clips based on new content types, like video podcasts." It suggests that Netflix sees short, swipeable videos as an effective way to attract users and keep them engaged on the platform for longer.

Netflix is also pushing into the video podcast space, a segment traditionally dominated by YouTube. The company recently launched its first video podcasts in partnership with well-known personalities such as Michael Irvin and Pete Davidson. It is also collaborating with major podcast industry players like Spotify and iHeartMedia. Netflix says this effort is designed to improve content discovery and encourage deeper engagement, mirroring how users interact with social platforms.

However, Netflix insists this experiment is not about copying rivals. CTO Elizabeth Stone, speaking at the TechCrunch conference, said the vertical video feature is still in the testing phase and is focused on improving entertainment discovery through mobile-first innovation, rather than replicating TikTok's model.

Co-CEO Ted Sarandos also addressed the broader shift in the entertainment landscape during the results call. He

Q&A

Q1. What changes is Netflix planning for its mobile app?
Answer. Netflix plans a major redesign in late 2026, introducing swipeable vertical video feeds similar to TikTok and Instagram Reels to boost engagement.

Q2. How does Netflix plan to use vertical videos?
Answer. The vertical video feature will allow clips from movies, shows, and podcasts to appear in a swipeable format, helping users discover and engage with content more easily.

Q3. What new content strategy is Netflix pursuing alongside the redesign?
Answer. Netflix is expanding into video podcasts, partnering with personalities like Michael Irvin and Pete Davidson, and collaborating with Spotify and iHeartMedia to improve content discovery.

"There's never been more competition for creators, for consumer attention, for advertising and subscription dollars, and the competitive lines around TV consumption are already blurring. TV is not what we grew up on. TV is now just about everything. The Oscars and the NFL are on YouTube...Apple's competing for Emmys and Oscars, and Instagram is coming next"

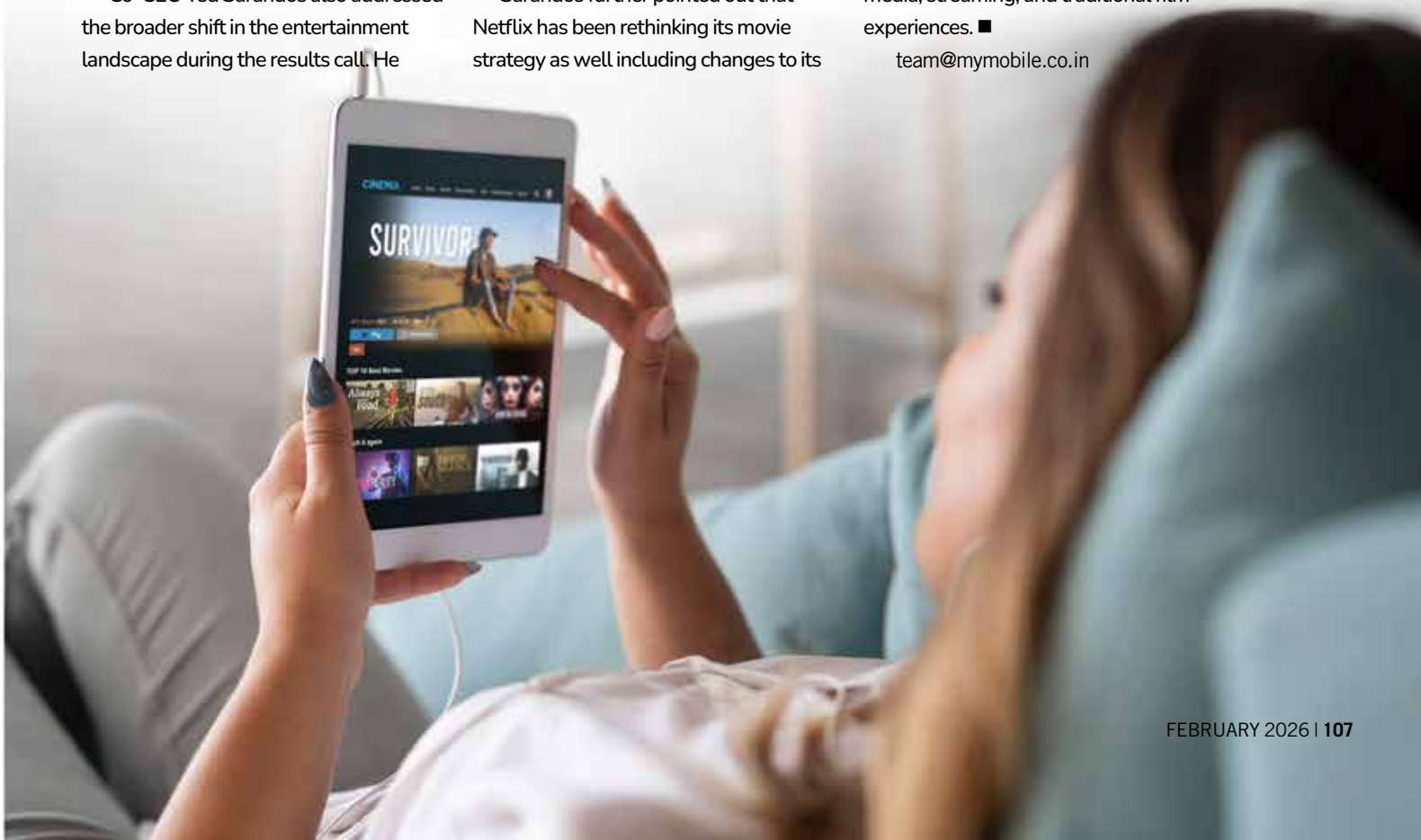
—Ted Sarandos,
Co-CEO of Netflix

noted that streaming platforms are now competing with the entire entertainment ecosystem, not just each other.

Sarandos further pointed out that Netflix has been rethinking its movie strategy as well including changes to its

theatrical release approach. This reflects how the company is adapting to the increasingly blurred lines between social media, streaming, and traditional film experiences. ■

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iPhone 18 Launch Delayed to 2027 as Chip Shortages Disrupt Apple's Plans: Report

Rumours have been circulating for while hinting that Apple may not introduce the standard iPhone 18 in 2026 after all. Now, a new report again suggests the company could push the next standard iPhone launch to 2027 due to ongoing component supply constraints. Here's what we know.



iPhone 18 Launch Delayed to 2027?

According to Nikkei Asia, Apple plans to postpone the iPhone 18 to the first half of 2027 in order to “optimise resources and maximise revenue and profits from premium models amid surging prices for memory chips and other materials.”

The report adds that this move is also important for Apple to avoid potential disruptions while ramping up mass production of its first-ever foldable iPhone, which is said to rely on complex manufacturing processes and new materials.

As per the latest information, the iPhone 18 Pro and iPhone 18 Pro Max are still expected to arrive on schedule later this year. Apple is also announcing its first foldable iPhone at the same event.

This is not the first time we are hearing about the delay. Earlier reports from Bloomberg's Mark Gurman, The Information, and well-known analyst Ming-Chi Kuo had also indicated that Apple would skip launching the iPhone 18 this year. Some previous leaks have even suggested that an iPhone 18e model could debut alongside the standard iPhone 18 in early 2027.

The latest report further claims that Apple has at least five new iPhone models in development. These reportedly include the iPhone Air 2, the standard iPhone 18, and three premium models believed to be the iPhone 18 Pro, iPhone 18 Pro Max and the long-rumored iPhone Fold.

However, the timeline for when shipments of the iPhone Air 2 will begin remains unclear for now.

iPhone 18 - What We Know So Far?

In terms of hardware, the iPhone 18 has been tipped to feature a simplified Camera Control button that reportedly drops the capacitive touch sensor as a cost-cutting measure. The device is also expected to get a memory upgrade with 12GB of RAM, compared to the 8GB RAM found on current iPhone models.

On the camera front, the phone could arrive with an upgraded 24-megapixel rear shooter, replacing the 18-megapixel sensor used in the current generation. ■

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