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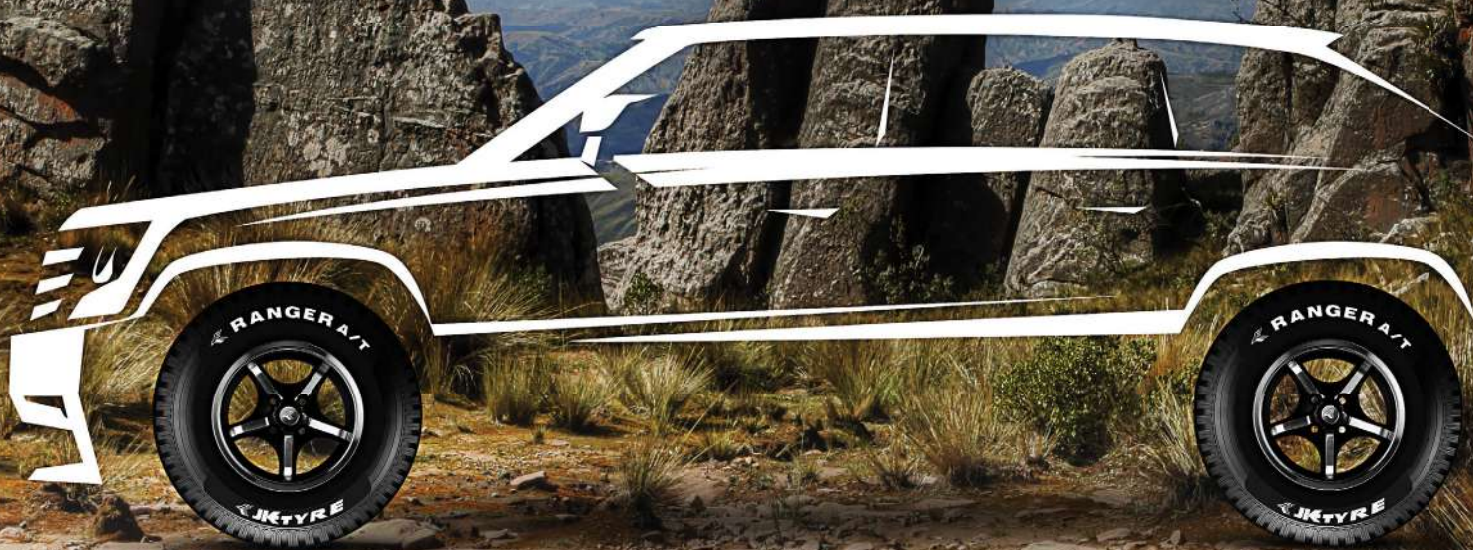
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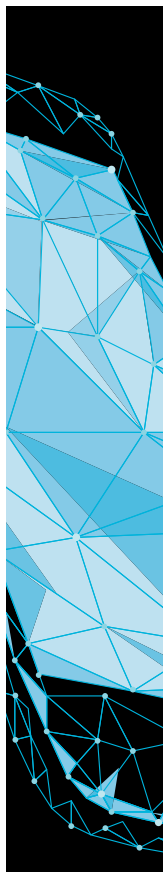


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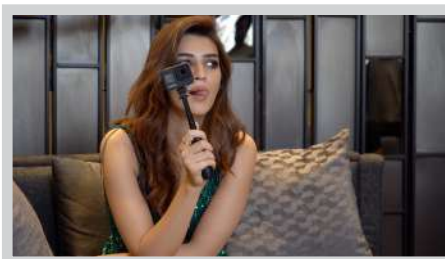
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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Hello 2020, for some reason it's a good looking year and writing 2020 is easy which pins up our hopes that 2020 should be an easy year for all us. I am sure we all have made our list of resolutions and pledges, however, we have made only one – [Exhibitcares](#). It is our initiative to save the world and we are going to do bit by bit, plant by plant, to leave this world a better place. Global warming is at alarming levels and we all should act now before we get winter chills in April before our fundamental right of fresh air is stripped from us.

While I am writing this piece, I am also looking at my unpacked suitcases which are getting stroked up to make another trip to Las Vegas for CES. Excited? Hell Yes! There is no better way to start the year than to nosedive right in the middle of the global stage of innovation at CES, meet the people who matter, and yes meet them over drinks. CES is also becoming a mini Auto show with major Auto manufacturers showcasing all the connectivities and Tech coming up. About five years back major launches used to be announced from the Smartphone brands but now the gears are slowly shifting with smartphones players moving a month to GSMA - MWC Barcelona and

taking their space are the Auto manufactures. As usual, we will decode and bring to you the Tech that matters; you can plug into thetechy.com and our Instagram also follow us on YouTube feeds where we will be live from the show floor.

[No time for Jet lag or hangover, we are already thinking ahead of the upcoming second edition of Exhibit Auto Tech awards and the Inaugural issue launch of BBC Top Gear which is going to come out of Exhibit's Garage in its second innings.](#) Perhaps, we think it is the only good rejoice for the stressed Auto industry which is trying to speed up and find the right lane juggling between the GST, BS6 and our country's slow economy. Anand Mahindra stepping down as chairman from the board paving the way for Puneet Goenka and the new leadership after the JV with Ford keeps all of us more inquisitive. Can't the entrepreneurs and owners run more efficiently than the professionals who will come on board? For India, he will remain the "Henry Ford" and how rightly so!

Until we meet again.
[#DoYourexhiBit](#)



I AM SURE WE ALL HAVE MADE OUR LIST OF RESOLUTIONS AND PLEDGES, HOWEVER, WE HAVE MADE ONLY ONE – EXHIBITCARES. IT IS OUR INITIATIVE TO SAVE THE WORLD AND WE ARE GOING TO DO BIT BY BIT, PLANT BY PLANT, TO LEAVE THIS WORLD A BETTER PLACE.

RAMESH SOMANI

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& Chief Editor



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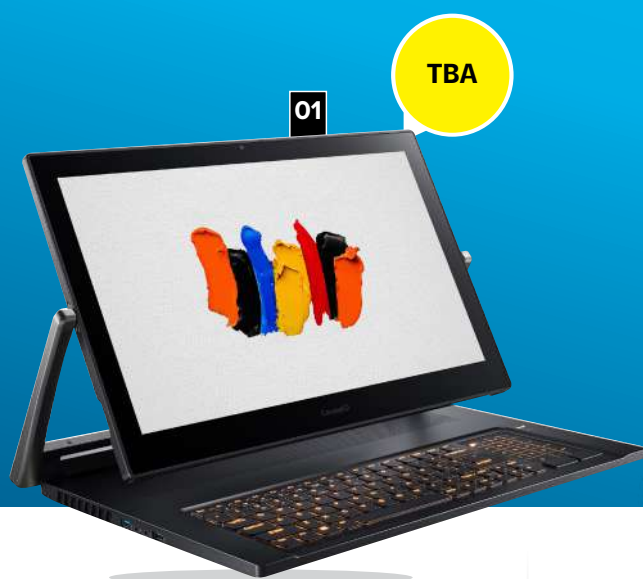
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LAUNCHES OF



1. ACER CONCEPTD 9 PRO

Acer's ConceptD range targets all forms of content creators. It house NVIDIA Quadro GPUs and are powered by 9th Gen Intel Core Processors. The Notebooks also have Windows 10 support. The company claims that these notebooks are built to ensure peak performance and long battery life.

SPECS

- ◆ 17.3-inch 4K display
- ◆ Intel Core i9 processor
- ◆ NVIDIA Quadro RTX 5000 GPU
- ◆ Windows 10



2. NOKIA 2.3

HMD Global, the home of Nokia phone delivering a feature-packed camera fuelled by AI, will help users to get the best shot and watch it on 6.2-inch HD+ display and two-days battery life. Plus, it runs the latest Android 10 operating system.

SPECS

- ◆ 6.2-inch HD+ display
- ◆ 4000 mAh battery



3. REALME BUDS AIR

realme Buds Air offers a truly wireless experience with no cables. The wireless experience has been improved to next level with custom R1 chip and the Bluetooth 5.0. For charging, simply place the case on the 10w wireless charger to charge the earbuds

SPECS

- ◆ Custom R1 chip
- ◆ 12mm sound unit
- ◆ Dual-channel transmission
- ◆ Wireless charging

THE MONTH



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4. BLURAMS SNOWMAN

The blurams Snowman allows the user to monitor their loved ones with the help of a built-in Bluetooth chip. It also features optional 24/7 Continuous Video Recording which helps in ensuring the safety of their family members.

SPECS

- ◆ 1/2.7" 2MP CMOS sensor
- ◆ Up to 1080P video capture
- ◆ Built-in microphone & speaker
- ◆ Intelligent alert using Motion, Sound, Human and Face detection

5. HP SPECTRE X360

The new HP Spectre is a premium laptop with ultra slim design, enhanced performance with 10th generation Intel Core processor. It even is the world's smallest convertible with 90% screen-to-body ratio and weighing only 1.27 kg.

SPECS

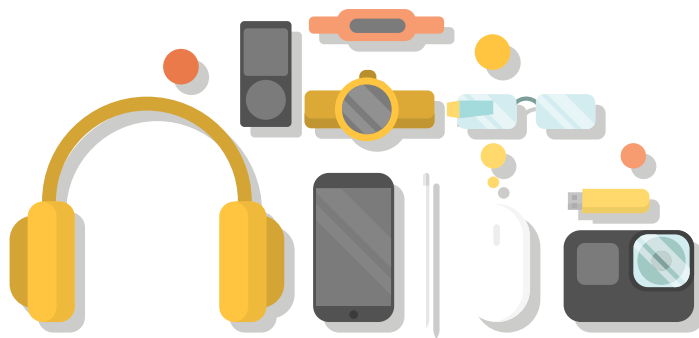
- ◆ 13.3-inch FHD touch panel display
- ◆ 10th Gen Intel Core processor
- ◆ Intel Iris Plus Graphics
- ◆ 1.27 kg weight
- ◆ Windows 10

6. BOAT STONE 200A

boAt's new portable speaker is now integrated with built-in Alexa, you can ask to play music, hear the news, check weather, control smart home devices and access over 30,000 Alexa skills across genres.

SPECS

- ◆ IPX 6 water resistant
- ◆ 3W speaker output
- ◆ 1500mAh battery
- ◆ Bluetooth v4.1



COMING UP



HONOR 9X

Honor 9X and 9X Pro launched in China and it is expected to land in India by January. The devices look similar to Honor 20 series featuring the glass back in gradient colours with X-shaped patterns. Honor 9X and 9X Pro feature punch-hole design with a 6.59-inch OLED display on top. Both the Honor 9X smartphones are powered by the new flagship Kirin 810 chipset, based on a 7nm process. Honor 9X offers a dual-camera setup featuring a 48MP primary rear camera coupled with a 2MP depth sensor.

VIVO NEX 3

Vivo NEX 3 will be a big upgrade over its predecessor. The leak suggests that the Vivo NEX 3 will come with a 6.89-inch display with a 99.6 percent screen-to-body ratio. In terms of camera, Vivo NEX 3 will come with 16MP selfie camera and triple camera setup including primary 64MP sensor, secondary 13MP sensor and third is a 13MP sensor. On the hardware front, the Vivo NEX 3 will be powered by Qualcomm Snapdragon 855 Plus. There is a 4500mAh battery with 44W fast charging support.

REALME 6 PRO

Realme 6 Pro is expected to feature a five-camera system and a mid-range Qualcomm flagship processor, expected to be Snapdragon 730. The major highlight is the fifth camera sensor that will offer high-end zooming functions with dedicated periscope infused zoom lens with in-depth zooming functionalities. Realme 6 Pro will run on Qualcomm Snapdragon 730 processor. Currently, Realme 5 Pro runs on Snapdragon 712 SoC. Snapdragon 730 is built on an 8nm process with Kryo 470 octa-core CPU paired with Adreno 618 GPU.

XIAOMI CC9

Manu Jain, Business head of Xiaomi India has recently tweeted a teaser of its upcoming 108-megapixel based smartphones coming in India. The new Samsung 108-megapixel ISOCELL sensor was launched last month. Xiaomi will be the first company to use the 108-megapixel sensor. Other specs include a gigantic 5,260 mAh battery, an edge-to-edge 6.47-inch curved FHD+ AMOLED display, Qualcomm Snapdragon 730G processor paired with up to 8GB RAM and 256GB storage.

MOTO RAZR

Motorola India has started posting on social media about its first foldable phone, Moto Razr in India. Featuring a clamshell design, Motorola Razr looks very similar to the classic V-series flip phones scheduled to launch next month. Specs-wise, the Razr is powered by Qualcomm Snapdragon 710 processor with 6GB of RAM and 128GB storage. The phone has a 2,510mAh battery with 15W fast charging.

OPPO A8

Oppo A8 has been spotted on the Chinese website. The design and details of the phone have been revealed. Oppo A8 packs a triple rear camera setup – with one 12-megapixel sensor, an 8-megapixel camera, and a 2-megapixel shooter. Upfront, the phone has an 8-megapixel selfie camera. It will also include Micro-USB port and weigh 180 grams. The Oppo A8 is listed to pack a 4,230mAh battery and should be available in Black, White, Green, and Red colour options.

WHAT FITS MY POCKET!



There are times when you have a limited amount of money to spend on gadgets, but you are confused about which gadgets to buy? Not the case anymore, we're here to recommend you the best gadgets you can own within a budget of just ₹ 14,000/-

Shintu Dhang



Infinix S5 Lite

₹7,999

Infinix S5 Lite is an affordable variant of its bigger brother Infinix S5 with minor changes. It sports a 6.6-inch FullView HD+ LCD display with 19.5:9 aspect ratio. The device is powered by Mediatek Helio P22 processor paired with 4GB RAM for smooth multitasking and 64GB of internal storage which can be further expandable by up to 256GB. The new chipset is efficient and consume less power providing more battery life for more than a day. This device runs on Android 9.0 Pie operating system. It also houses 4000 mAh battery.



HiFuture OlymBuds

₹3,999

HiFuture is a compact wireless earphone that fits perfectly on to your ears. Both the left channel and right channel are synchronised together to offer amazing stereo sound without losing quality. Both are paired together and it can be easily connected to your smartphone just like any other Bluetooth accessory.

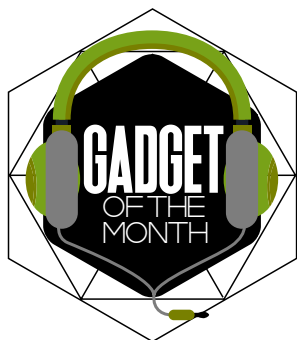
These tiny wireless earphones can provide 6 hours of talktime and 120 hours of standby.



Mi Band 3i

₹1,299

The Mi Band 3i features an AMOLED display with touch support. The AMOLED display will show functions like time, heart rate and steps. It also includes alerts for calls and app notifications. The band also includes a digital heart rate monitor. It even boasts a military-grade power-efficient ADI accelerometer and latest Bluetooth 5.0 which help to connect the band with Android and iOS devices. It is also IP67 certified splash resistant fitness band. Xiaomi Mi Band 3i is thickest at 10.5mm, and weighs in at 19gms.



GOPRO MAX

For those who want to capture 360-degree videos and action photos, GoPro Max is a perfect choice. Those crazy perspectives of a 360 world will definitely bring a smile onto your face.

₹47,000



Shintu Dhang



GoPro is well-known for making tough action cameras and they did it again with the new GoPro MAX - an action camera which captures every possible angle with its dual wide-angle camera giving it a complete 360-degree view.

With social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube supporting 360-degree videos, having such a camera gives you more options. The GoPro Max is the biggest improvement over its predecessor - GoPro Fusion. The new GoPro MAX is waterproof and it doesn't require

any case. There is a mounting buckle that folds away if you don't use it. The battery compartment is on the side which also has one microSD card and the MAX can be charged using the USB Type-C cable.

The main feature is a dual wide-angle lens on both sides that capture 360-degree images or video simultaneously and all the stitching process is done in-camera itself. The camera has two microphones for better audio capture, which works great.

The real advantage of GoPro Max comes when you start shooting videos. This is where Max shows its true potential. The videos are

recorded at 1440p 60 fps with a single lens and 5.6k 30 fps spherical clips. If you have used the GoPro action camera, then you won't have any difficulty operating it. Once the 360-degree video is recorded, you can choose important parts of the video called keyframes and the app will automatically pan between those parts and create an MP4 video file. However, we cannot upload the full 360-degree video directly from a phone. You can also use it as a GoPro Hero8 Black by enabling only one lens. You can also switch the camera in selfie mode to start vlogging.

The current firmware has been the biggest strengths for GoPro and

it's no exception with the GoPro Max. It got a new and smooth user interface, along with touchscreen makes it all the more convenient similar to what GoPro Hero8 Black does. The HyperSmooth and Warp mode is now at version 2.0, means it has been improved compared to its predecessor. In 360 mode, all clips are stabilized and the footage looks like a shot with a Gimbal. All of this goodness is held together in a rigid body which can take any bump without trouble. In case if you're strong enough to still break the camera, with GoPro Plus subscription, the camera will be replaced without asking any questions, which makes the entire deal even more sweeter. 

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BLUETOOTH EARPHONE
DBE-008



WIRELESS POWER BANK
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Anticipated Gadgets of 2020



Shintu Dhong



e're now truly into the new year now, which means it's time to look forward to a fresh foray of new gadgets, all with the same goal: to keep us excited and jaw drop with new tech. But whatever happens this year ahead, one thing is for certain, the tech product companies are cooking up cutting-edge innovations to wow us in the coming months as we wait patiently for the next big trend. With that, here are our most anticipated gadgets and technologies of the coming year.



Samsung S11-series

Samsung is gearing up for the launch of Galaxy S11 series in February or March. As we draw closer to the launch, reports say that Samsung is working on major camera improvements to take on the latest iPhones. Similar to last year, the upcoming Samsung Galaxy S11 smartphone will be available in three screen sizes – 6.2-inch being the smallest, mid-sized with 6.7-inch being the largest one.

Specs: It still remains if all the S11 series will support 5G, but definitely, they will have a separate variant featuring 5G. While the global variant will be packed with the latest Qualcomm Snapdragon 865 chipset, the Indian variant will be featuring Samsung's in-house Exynos 990 chipset, which has enough horsepower to offer 8k video decoding/encoding capabilities.

One of the major highlights will be Samsung's new 108-megapixel camera on a Galaxy S11 series. While Xiaomi has already launched a smartphone with a 108-megapixel camera, the Galaxy S11 series is said to use a newer version of the sensor. Although higher megapixels doesn't make it a better camera, having super-high-resolution will capture more data. According to reports, Samsung Galaxy S11 will feature 5x optical zoom and a time-of-flight sensor that was seen on the Galaxy Note10+.



Apple iPhone 12 series

If there is one phone which everyone is excited about will be the iPhone, expected in September. While at the end of the year, there are already multiple rumours about the upcoming iPhones. We're expecting the 2020 iPhones to be called the iPhone 12, iPhone 12 Pro and iPhone 12 Pro Max, if Apple follows the same naming scheme is used for the 2019 iPhone lineup. The 2020 iPhones will feature major updates, introducing the first design changes that we've seen since the iPhone X was released back in 2017. Rumours suggest the iPhone 12 Pro and iPhone 12 Pro Max will feature a higher-resolution OLED display with triple-lens cameras, while the lower-end iPhone with dual-lens cameras, but expected to feature OLED displays.

The new iPhone will feature a significant redesign with a metal frame that's similar to the flat look of the iPhone 4. There could be a new TrueDepth camera system that decreases the size of the notch on the front, and there may be a laser on the rear to calculate depth information for objects in the room, improving both photography and AR capabilities.

Rumours also suggest that the next iPhone will be the first Apple phone to introduce 5G support, allowing the new iPhones to connect to 5G networks that are much faster than 4G LTE networks.



Nokia 10 Pureview

Nokia is back in the game, at least in the affordable pricing segment. HMD Global will be adopting a modern design for its upcoming flagship. Some leaked renders of the upcoming

Nokia 9 PureView successor will have a stunning waterfall display that wraps around the edges improves overall aesthetics. These waterfall displays can give phones a screen-to-body ratio of almost 100 percent. The phone has a pretty slim but noticeable top bezel in which the front camera, earpiece and other sensors seem to reside. The bottom bezel, on the other hand, will be similar to the top but will have nothing.

Like the Nokia 9 PureView, there will be five cameras at the rear end arranged in a circular setup. It will also have an LED unit, an ambient sensor, and a 3D Time of Flight (ToF) sensor. With upping the number of sensors doesn't necessarily improve the photography, but the camera software optimization is required to get the best of the camera system. HMD Global will most likely include 5G chip inside the flagship Nokia phone to take advantage of the chipset. If that's the case, the phone will most likely have the Qualcomm Snapdragon 865 under the hood.



Huawei P40

Huawei is reportedly working on Huawei P40 and P40 Pro despite the Google service lockout. Rumours suggest there will be same Waterfall OLED display that was featured on last year's Huawei P30 Pro, and we can clearly see that the above render shows a phone with exactly that kind of curved screen. We can also see a fairly significant camera bump on the handset, leading us to believe it may carry a Leica Penta Camera as mentioned in Chaudhary's specs list. Specifically, a Sony IMX686 1/1.7 inch with OIS, along with a 20MP ultra-wide camera, 12 MP (Periscope) telephoto lens, macro camera and ToF sensor.

Not much else is offered by the render when it comes to tantalising information, however, if the image is to be believed, the Huawei P40 Pro will sport a power button and volume rocker along its right edge – just like the P30 Pro. We probably won't hear anything more concrete until early in the new year.

There is also a significant camera bump on the handset, leading us to believe it may carry a Leica Penta Camera. Specifically, a Sony IMX686 1/1.7 inch with OIS, along with a 20MP ultra-wide camera, 12 MP (Periscope) telephoto lens, macro camera and ToF sensor.

Redmi K30 Pro

Xiaomi new adoption to sell mid-range flagship smartphone - "Redmi K20 Pro" has been quite successful, and it's currently a bestseller in the entry premium flagship segment. The new Redmi K30 Pro is already in development and will also pack in a wide range of top specs. K30 Pro will feature the latest Qualcomm flagship chip: Snapdragon 865 along with other premium features. Redmi K30 Pro will sport an AMOLED display offering smoother 120Hz refresh rate along with in-display fingerprint sensor, a quad-camera setup with 64MP main rear camera, punch-hole styled display, 12GB RAM with up to 256GB storage and Quick fast charging capabilities; all of these at a mid-range flagship price competing OnePlus and Realme.



OnePlus 8, OnePlus 8 Pro

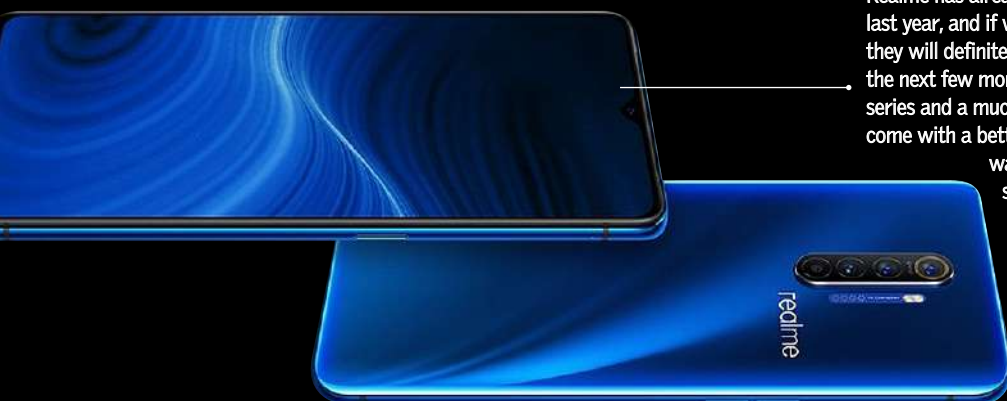
If we watch the last few year roadmaps of OnePlus, they will definitely be coming up with its new OnePlus 8 series smartphone by June. There are few leak images revolving around the web and if we believe the leak images, the new OnePlus 8 has dropped waterdrop notch in favour of new punch-hole design technology to offer a notch-less viewing experience. Both OnePlus 8 and OnePlus 8 Pro will come with a punch-hole camera upfront without a pop-up sensor or notch as previous devices. It will also add an additional camera sensor, so it will be the first OnePlus smartphones to feature a quad-camera setup.

There may be the upgrade to the current 90Hz refresh rate, OnePlus 8 Pro will come with a more enhanced display with 120Hz refresh rate to offer an enriched super smooth experience. Both the OnePlus 8 smartphones will be powered by the latest Qualcomm Snapdragon 865 paired with 12GB of RAM and minimum 256GB of storage.



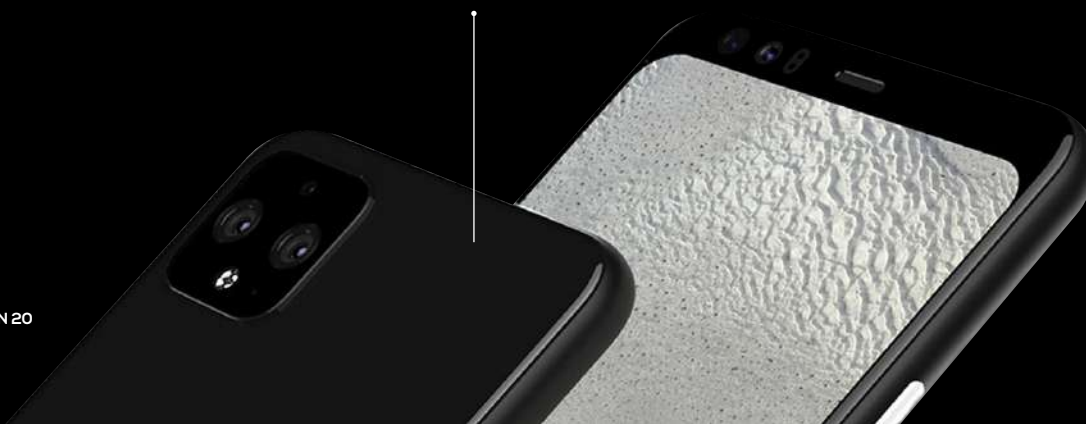
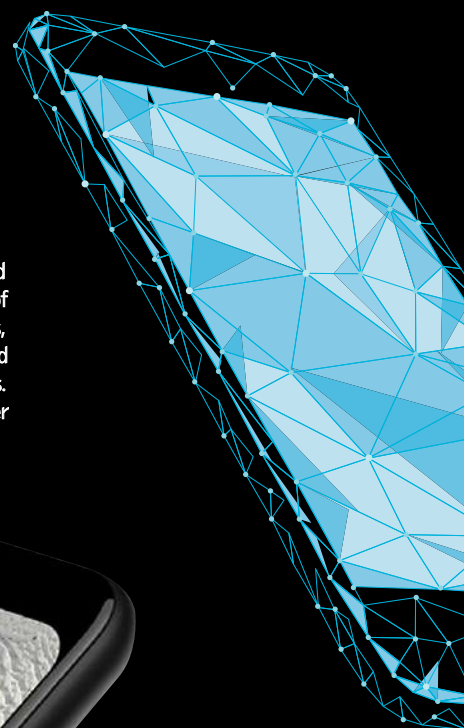
Realme X3, Realme X3 Pro

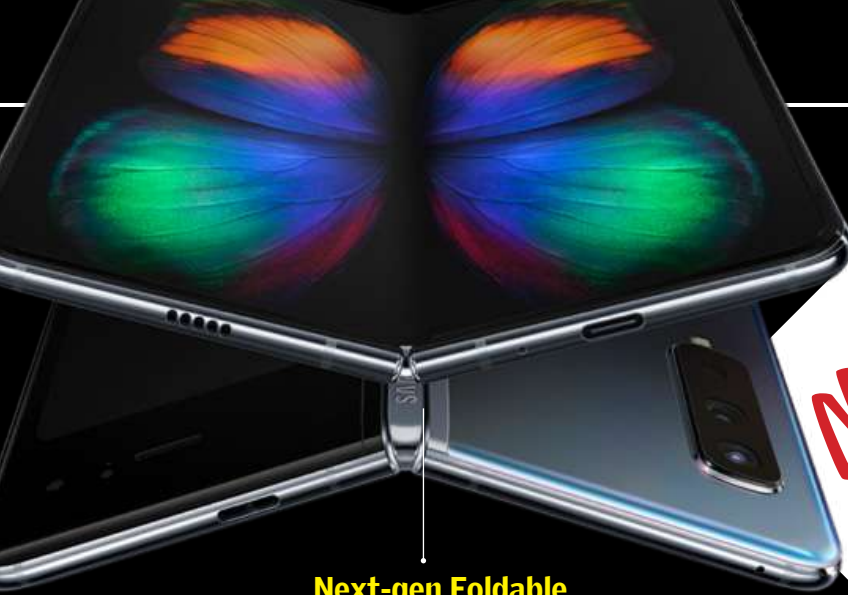
Realme has already unveiled Realme X2 and Realme X2 Pro in November last year, and if we look at the Realme progress of launching new phones, they will definitely come up with Realme X3 and Realme X3 Pro within the next few months. Realme X3 will be a part of the earlier Realme X series and a much-upgraded Realme XT model. Realme X3 is expected to come with a better display and other specs. This time company may ditch waterdrop notch to a punch-hole display to increase the screen-to-body ratio. While the horde of Penta camera fever is catching up, both Realme X3 and Realme X3 Pro might come with Penta camera on the rear. Realme X3 Pro will succeed X2 Pro with its latest Qualcomm Snapdragon 865 processor upgrade and some additional functionalities. Both Realme X3 and Realme X3 Pro will arrive in the second quarter of 2020.



Google Pixel 5, Pixel 5XL

Google Pixel phones were one of the most awaited phones of 2019, and it did launch globally, but miss India due to the use of sonar sensor which is banned in India. While India didn't get the Pixel 4, Google is aware of the Indian market and Indian consumer requirements. The Pixel 5 will be launching in somewhere in October of 2020 and Google has got a lot of time to figure out new specs and features to be integrated on its new Pixel 5 phones. In spite of being good smartphones, the Pixel still isn't the bestsellers in the market due to its cost and not-so-impressive design. A new design is expected, and the company may choose to completely transform the Pixel 5 smartphone from the current Pixel 4 series of smartphones. Google Pixel 5 might get more attractive in terms of features and design with Qualcomm Snapdragon 865 platform under the hood. With the camera being the major USP, Google will again keep the focus on cameras for Pixel 5 and Pixel 5XL.





Next-gen Foldable

At the beginning of 2019, two big smartphones brand unveiled its foldable phones. The Samsung Galaxy Fold and Huawei Mate X are the first two foldable phones but their release dates kept being pushed back and finally available to customers by last quarter of 2019. Moto also unveiled the Motorola Razr, a throwback to the in-famous Razr Flip phone back in the 2000s. There are other big brands like Vivo, Xiaomi, Royole, ZTE, OPPO showcased their foldable phones which is still more of a concept rather than the final product. Those phones still feature a first-gen foldable display that has few setbacks like a bulge at the folding area.

This year will witness the next generation foldable display will fix the issue and setback faced by the first generation foldable display. It will feature a more robust display panel and less fragile.

*New year
New tech!*

Samsung 75-inch Micro LED 4K TV

Samsung may show up its new iteration of Micro LED 4K TV, which is far more interesting because it's modular. With a few twists, the Micro LED TV can be made bigger by adding modular panels of LEDs. Such a design is pricey, but it lets you create a TV of virtually any size, resolution, and aspect ratio for your space.



Dell XPS 13 (2020)

There wasn't much Dell needed to tweak to its popular XPS 13 laptop. The biggest change on the XPS 13 (2020) will be the new 10th generation Intel Core processor making it more powerful and power-efficient. Otherwise, the XPS 13's virtually the same with thin display bezels, a nice keyboard and trackpad and plenty of ports.

For the past few years, LG is demonstrating a rollable TV - LG Signature OLED TV R, that rolls up into its aluminium base when not in use. The R in LG Signature's OLED TV R stands for rollable. The rollable TV was first teased at CES 2018, but this year you can able to see the final retail version and able to buy it. With gorgeous colours and deep blacks, a display that's just 3mm thick, and of course the rollable design, LG's TV is easily one of the coolest things we will encounter at CES.

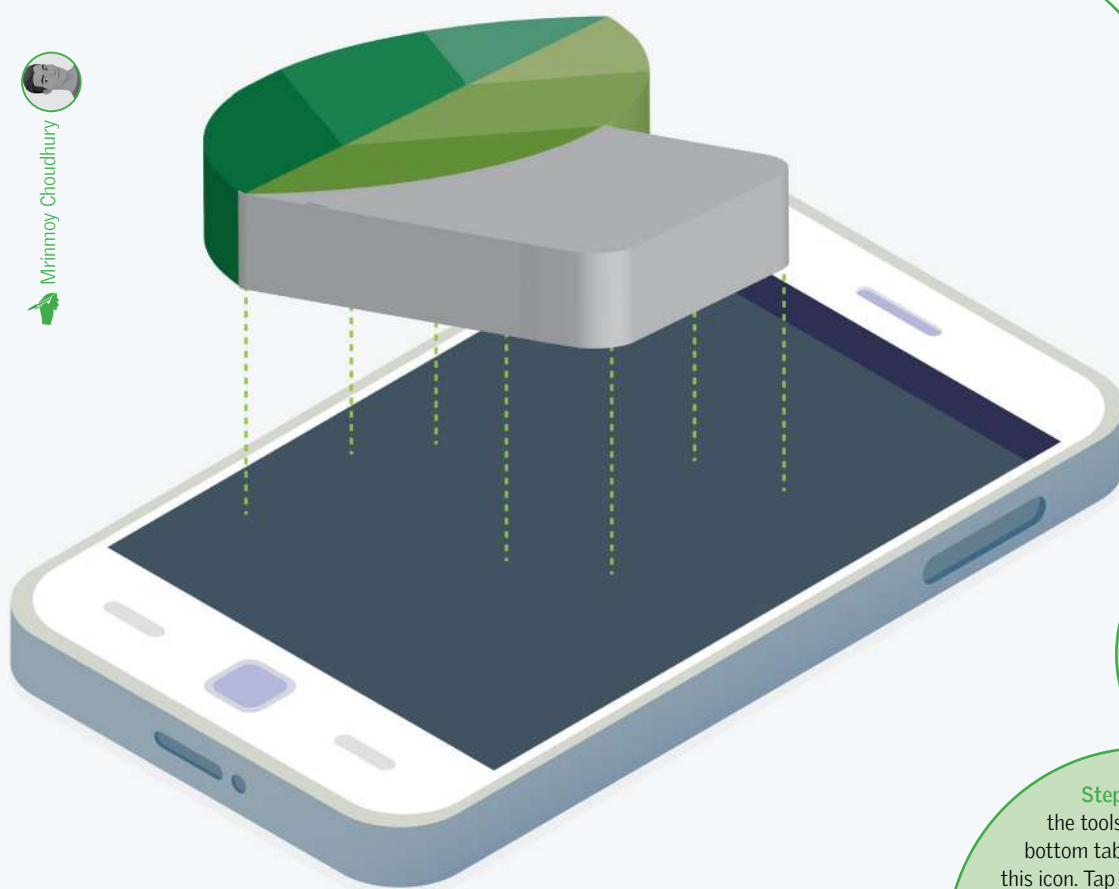
LG Signature OLED TV R 2020 edition



QUICK PHOTO EDITING SNAPSEED



Minmay Choudhury



Step 1: Open Snapseed on your phone and tap anywhere on the screen to open an image. Browse your image and you will see this on your screen.

Step 2: Tap on the tools section in the bottom tab and you will see this icon. Tap on it and this menu will appear on the screen. Tweak the shadows and highlights of the image according to your preference. Open up the ambient lighting as well. Finally, you can adjust the contrast to your preference. You can see the adjustments that we have made for this image.

Step 3: Again hit the tools section and click on 'Details'. This will allow you to increase the structure as well as sharpness in your image. Make sure you do not oversharpen your image as it would look odd. Also, most of the adjustments should be kept at a minimum to get a natural look which is close to the actual image.

W

hile most of us are hooked onto our smartphones on a daily basis, smartphones have become smarter, faster and more capable, but the hardware on the phones are also capable enough as well.

One big piece of the smartphone puzzle is the camera. Smartphone cameras are now much better, with better sensors, better optics, more megapixels and top-notch software to keep up with the current times.

Shooting on a smartphone is easier as well as sharing the images on social media has also become easy.

While most of us shoot a lot of images, some like to edit their images a bit before hitting that upload button.

Snapseed is one of the most popular photo editing platforms which is used for editing images on the fly. It is available for Android and iOS. It's quick and easy to edit a bunch of images on Snapseed just using the basic tools. Here we will take you through a quick edit for dummies and how out of phone images can be given a bit more of a punch. **ex**

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CES 2020: WHERE CARS MEET TECHNOLOGY

Las Vegas



B

ack in June 1967, the first-ever Consumer Electronics Show was hosted in New York City. More than 50 years on, CES has been an extraordinary platform for showcasing some of the most groundbreaking works in the field of technology and innovation. For example, in 1970, Philips introduced the first-ever home VCR, which could be had at an affordable price. Since then, CES has set the precedent when it comes to consumer products, which have quite literally changed the way we live our lives. HDTV, DVD, Satellite Radio, Microsoft Xbox and much more, were all unveiled at CES throughout the years. Given its massive popularity, the show is undoubtedly a proving ground for the next generation of technology. Today, CES is owned and produced by the Consumer Technology Association (CTA).

In the last decade, brands have taken the type of technology showcased to a different level altogether. Case-in-point - 2011. One of the largest manufacturers of cars in the US showcased an electric version of the Fiesta; one of the most popular hatchbacks in Europe at the time. Furthermore, in 2013, Driverless Car Technology also came to the forefront at CES that year. Since then, there has been a plethora of automobile-related technology which has been spoken about and showcased at CES. With CES expected to be bigger than ever this time around, one can expect an even greater exhibition of automotive technology in Las Vegas.

At CES 2020, automotive technology won't just be restricted to electric or autonomous vehicles. Technology brands like Altia will be showcasing the future of auto dashboards at CES. From 3D displays to augmented reality heads up displays to integrated cockpits. The brand also claims to be developing the next-gen of personalized GUIs focused on 3D and AR. Folks at Altia state that a majority of automotive brands are turning to Altia to implement their brand-defining graphic interfaces into production at the lowest cost. Some popular brand



Daimler Chairman Ola Källenius will be showcasing a groundbreaking concept car, which is expected to envision a completely new form of interaction between humans, technology and nature.


as a flying car. Apart from this, the Korean automaker is also expected a purpose-built vehicle which will come with autonomous driving tech along with customisable options to suit the buyer's needs. BMW, on the other hand, will be showcasing a 'personalised mobility experience' on a custom BMW i3. Japanese carmaker Nissan also has big plans for the much-awaited CES 2020. The brand plans to showcase a zero-emission vehicle called the Nissan Ariya Concept, along with an electric ice cream van! If you thought that was a little oddball, Nissan will also showcase a golf ball inspired by Nissan's ProPILOT 2.0 advanced driver assistance technology, which guarantees you'll sink your putt each time. Additionally, Nissan will also display its new Formula E car along with the Nissan LEAF e+ electric vehicles. Expect other major auto brands to also play a pivotal role in the proceeding at CES 2020. Daimler Chairman Ola Källenius will be showcasing a groundbreaking concept car, which is expected to envision a completely new form of interaction between humans, technology and nature. Whether it's connected cars, self-driving, life-like AR and VR centres for testing these technologies, CES looks all set to disrupt the way automobiles have been classically perceived in the world.



1967: CES New York

customers include BMW, Toyota, Ford, Lamborghini, Jaguar, Fiat, etc. Furthermore, Canatu's transparent and 3D shaped smart touch surfaces enable design freedom and innovative car interiors. Canatu's 3D heaters keep ADAS sensors and headlamps free from ice and fog for autonomous driving in any weather. Other than Canatu, RoboSense, a manufacturer of LiDAR environment perception solutions, is on a mission to serve as the "eyes" for autonomous vehicles and ensure the safety of the automatic driving system and passengers. The tech brand will showcase the latest in cutting-edge automotive LiDAR technology.

Apart from a whole host of technology companies foraying into the automotive tech space, CES 2020 will also feature more conventional automotive brands like Hyundai, BMW, Nissan, etc. Hyundai will be showcasing a 'Personal Air Vehicle', which essentially functions

It doesn't just end there. Expect even more technology which is set to take the automobile industry by storm; electric vehicle and its various parts, autonomous and self-driving vehicles, 3-D printing for automotive parts, a shape-shifting electric motorcycle by Damon and a whole lot more! Would it be fair to say then that CES has been effecting automobiles since its very inception more than 50 years ago? We think it has. If you take a lot at some of the technologies that have been exhibited at CES over the years, you'll notice a lot of have made their way to automobiles, in one way or another. That's the beauty of CES, what we see today might not have an immediate effect on the automobiles of today, but it will and we're counting on it! So, expect cars to come loaded to the brim with technology, even more than now, pretty soon. Also, stay tuned for comprehensive coverage of CES 2020 in our upcoming February 2020 issue. 

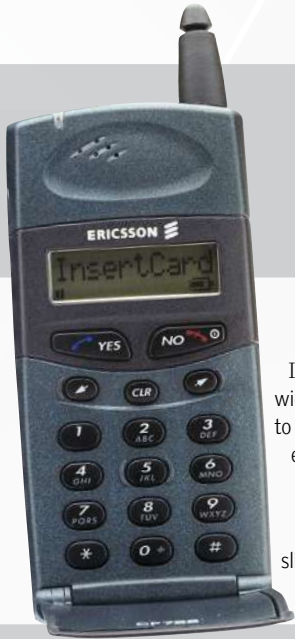
FUTURE OF MOBILE DISPLAYS

THE FUTURE

Coming to the future of displays, let us just revise what we have witnessed in the present. Smartphones have larger displays now with most of the front estate given up for the screen and removing cameras and other sensors from the front. Motorised mechanisms like pop-up cameras and flipping rear cameras which cover both the front and rear. Samsung and Motorola have already taken the dive to create foldable display phones and it is quite an interesting piece of tech. It is really hard to say and predict the future of smartphone displays, but it is sure that displays will evolve more with changing times. Lighter and stronger materials, better colours and quality and less energy consumption will be the forefront of the future displays. While the need for hardware and buttons have been very much made obsolete now, screens will incorporate many such features in the future making them more versatile than just being a normal display.



Smartphone displays are a very interesting piece of tech that we come across in our lives on a day to day basis. Most of the time spent staring at the screen is either social media, applications or just consuming media and entertainment. However, this was not the case even a few years ago. There has been a lot of changes since the time phones had black and white screens which were not more than an inch or two. Since then, smartphone displays have evolved drastically along with technology to keep up with the higher demands. As smartphones became more and more widely used, the need for better displays arrived. Soon, more revolutionary display tech is going to arrive and we cannot really assume how it would be after so many improvements already. Phone displays were not really how they are today and were rather very simple components. Here we will revisit some of the old school days of displays and see how they have changed for good.



THE BLACK AND WHITE

It would be slightly more than a decade when black and white screen mobile phones were being used widely. Only a few phone models came with the colour displays and were expensive tech when compared to the black and white ones. Colour displays were bought by people who generally had deep pockets. The early displays were small and not more than two inches in most of the cases. However, even with the small, backlit and inverted displays, phones did prove to be a big utility in the day to day lives.

With brands like Nokia, Motorola and Samsung innovating a lot more at that time, phones soon had slightly bigger and better colour displays. More and more phones started having colour screens and the overall cost of making and selling colour screen phones had also dropped down significantly.



THE ARRIVAL OF THE TOUCH

The initial days, touchscreen phones were a huge innovation in the world of tech. People went crazy over how phone screens could register touches to perform functions. The initial touchscreen phones had comparatively a larger display and less number of actual buttons on the screen. Since keyboards were still a big thing back then, manufacturers had designed several phones which could slide, swipe, fold and pop out the screens while having a full QWERTY keyboard for input. If you still remember the Nokia E90 Communicator, you will know what we are talking about here.

One major challenge in those days was posed by Chinese handset manufacturers. They were very quick to study and then reproduce the touchscreen phones for a lot cheaper cost. These phones offered some mind-boggling features like dual batteries and LED flashing lights. However, they had a buggy and crappy software which made using those phones really annoying to use. Soon, every other phone from China had a huge display.

In the early days of touchscreen displays, resistive touch was used instead of the capacitive touch which is found on touchscreen phones today. These displays had to be pressed a bit which allowed it to register an input. Soon, bigger players like Samsung, Sony and Apple who started making displays with capacitive touch technology which is still used in the phones of the present day.





THE PHASE OF RAPID DEVELOPMENTS

It was after the year 2010 when the actual smartphone revolution had begun. Most of the brands became cautious about the quality of the display. Samsung had begun selling phones with higher resolution displays. Soon, Apple introduced the iPhone 4 which came with a Retina Display. Most other smartphones started using TN panels which had limited viewing angles and very less bright.

With the incoming IPS display tech making an entry, it was a welcome move for all the phone makers. IPS displays were better than TN panels and had much better colours and viewing angles. IPS displays are still in use and can be found on budget smartphones which could cost less but do not compromise in the quality of the display.

The LED, IPS and TN panels are similar to each other in the basic levels. Each pixel consists of three sub-pixels which also act as RGB filters. A backlight is used and the light passing through the pixels get colour coated. These pixels on the panels do not produce their own light but depend on the backlighting.

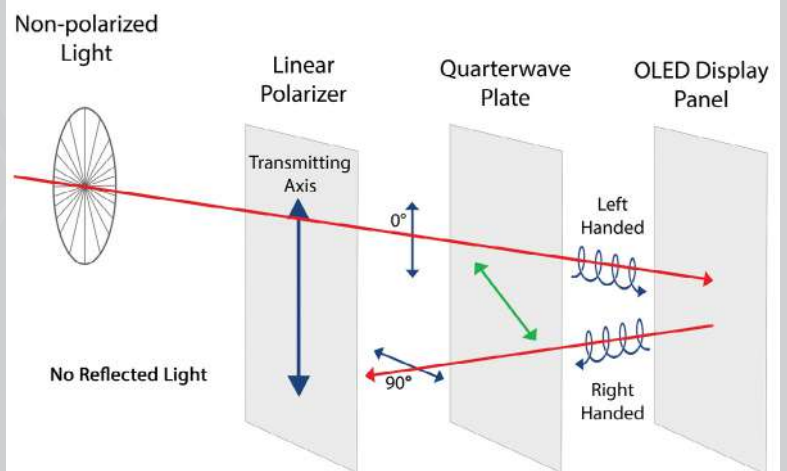
THE ARRIVAL OF OLED PANELS

OLED is the short form for Organic Light Emitting Diodes) which come as the best kind of the displays which can be found on smartphones these days. These

OLED panels are quite different from regular IPS and LCD panels. In OLED displays the individual pixels on the panel are capable of generating its own light.

This allows the OLED display to generate true black colour and has a higher contrast ratio, which is not the case with the normal LED screens.

Samsung has worked on the OLED panels and brought the Super AMOLED technology which is clearly one of the best kind of displays on smartphones. OLED displays are becoming more and more prominent now. It is being said that, in the coming years, OLED displays will be found on most of the smartphones which will be available then. OLED panels come with the promise of better colours and contrast as well as lower power consumption.





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How Big Is BBK Electronics?



Mrinmoy Choudhury



There is a joke which I had come across while scrolling through memes. "If you do not see an Oppo and Vivo advertisement

board every fifty meters when you walk, have a look around as you might have crossed the border".

Well jokes apart, the current smartphone market in India is cutthroat competition. The brands have been popping up like crazy and smartphones have stepped out of their basic silhouette to become capable handheld devices providing you with the maximum bang for your bucks.

Coming to the Indian crowd, which is very difficult to impress these days. And why not? They have been

spoilt with so many choices in this very competitive as well as price-sensitive market. Gone are those days when a premium smartphone would mean taking a bite off the apple in your bank. Pick any budget and you will have a plethora of choices which fit right into your bill. The premium smartphone makers like Apple and Samsung are having a hard time catching up with these budget offerings, the reason

Samsung is venturing into the budget territory with new products every season now.

In this rat race for making and selling the best smartphones for all budgets, BBK electronics have embarked into a big journey which now is taking shape in one of the most challenging markets in the world, India. Here in India, you either take the stage away with

the cut-throat pricing or a ton of features. Although a new segment in the premium phone category has opened up, especially those people who do not have the budget for an iPhone or a flagship Samsung, but somewhere in the middle ground with features of the flagship.

The entire smartphone market is trying very hard to put up a fight with Samsung and Apple. This has led to all the smartphone manufacturers to take up the place behind them; with future plans to surpass them. With the Indian market opening up to so many brands and various price segments have helped brands to expand here in India. The Indian market has a huge potential which has been discovered in the past few years and this is what the phone makers are tapping on to expand their reach.

BBK
步步高

Who is BBK?

BBK is a multinational corporation which is based out of China. They own a number of popular brands which are spread across various consumer electronics markets across the world. Their products include headphones, Blu-ray players and smartphones. Under BBK's umbrella, they have the ownership of three major smartphone makers - Oppo, Vivo and OnePlus.

BBK's advent into the Chinese electronics industry began around the 1990s. Billionaire Duan Yongping spearheaded the company. They generated a revenue of over a billion selling 'Subor' gaming consoles which was a competitor to the Nintendo Entertainment System commonly known as NES. Duan left the company in 1995 and started a company called Bubugao which eventually was named BBK.

BBK started making CD, DVD and MP3 players along with many other household appliances. All of these consumer electronics came under a global brand. In 2004, Duan founded Oppo along with CEO Tony Chen. Initially, Oppo built the brand on Duan's experience selling consumer electronics before their foray into the smartphone business. Their factories are now spread over 10 hectares of land with more than 17000 employees working.

Popular smartphone brand Vivo came into existence in the latter half of 2009. Duan Yongping along with Shen Wei, CEO Vivo founded the brand. The first smartphones from Vivo hit the markets in 2011. Vivo followed the ultra-slim form factor design. They also relied on a lot of celebrity endorsement to cope up with the then smartphone boom.

2013

A new brand was about to rise from the horizon. This is the brand most of us are familiar with, worldwide. Former Oppo vice president Pete Lau along with co-founder Carl Pei started OnePlus in 2013. The brand appearance was radical for the smartphone industry. OnePlus had set their benchmarks of establishing themselves as a 'flagship killer' premium smartphone brand even before their first product rolled out. OnePlus however, takes a different approach when it comes to the business model. It follows a completely different path, unlike Oppo and Vivo's retail-based business. OnePlus mainly sells its devices online along with giants like Amazon, which has also allowed BBK to enter American and European markets.

2018

The smartphone brand Realme was introduced. Realme is a Shenzhen based Chinese smartphone maker. They came into existence on May 4, 2018, which is also celebrated as the National Youth Day in China. Realme was founded by Sky Li, who was previously the vice president of Oppo electronics. Realme products include smartphones, fitness bands and earphones.

Realme's actual appearance was in China, in the year 2010 and carried the name 'Oppo Real' as the sub brand of Oppo electronics. In 2018, Realme separated from Oppo and became an individual brand under BBK's umbrella. Since then, realme has been making smartphones which are affordable and focus on 'technology' and 'beauty'. By July 2019, realme has successfully entered 20 markets including China, India, South East Asia and Europe. By August 2019, realme registers more than 10 million users all around the world.



2008

2009

2011

2012

2013

2014

Oppo A103 introduced



Oppo T9 was launched - Supported Lossless music playback



Oppo X903 - First Smartphone with sliding full keyboard.



• **Oppo Finder** - It sported a 6.65mm body and was claimed to be the world's thinnest mobile phone.

• The Ulike 2 was also launched in 2012 with a 5 MP front camera for the first time on a phone.

• Oppo also Introduced the Find 5 which got the first 1080 full HD display.

Oppo N1 smartphone with a 206-degree rotating camera along with gesture control for taking pictures.



Oppo Find 7 introduced with the introduction of VOOC flash charge.

2015

2016

2017

2018

Oppo R7 with an all-metal body and a 3070mAh battery with VOOC flash charging.



Oppo R9 launched with IMX398 Sony sensor for the camera and micro-slit antenna technology.



Oppo R11s with full-screen without the notch was introduced

• **Oppo R15** with gradient colour design on the phone. **Oppo Find X** with sliding camera and full screen without a notch.



2019

Oppo has launched a host of smartphones in entry and mid-segment.

Oppo

Oppo's roadmap is longer than we think.

Oppo started selling phones in India from 2013 with the Oppo N1.

Since then, there has been no looking back. Oppo had also won the bid to sponsor the IPL.





2018

Vivo Y91 launched with Options of 2GB 16GB/2GB 32GB/ 3GB 64GB



2017

Vivo announces the **Vivo V7+**. It came with a 5.99-inch display, octa-core Snapdragon 450, 4GB RAM, 16 Mp rear and 24 MP front camera along with a 3225 mAh battery.

2017

Vivo announces the **Y53** in April



2017

Vivo **V5 Plus** launched



2016

January 2016, Vivo announces the **Y51**

2015

Vivo announced the **V series** of smartphones with the V1 and followed up with the **Vivo V1 Max**

2018

Vivo NEX launched with first pop-up front camera and optical fingerprint scanner under its OLED display



2019

Vivo announces the **V11 Pro** with 6.41-inch Super AMOLED display, octa-core Snapdragon 660 and 6 GB of RAM. It also sports an under-display fingerprint scanner and 18W dual-engine fast charging



2019

Vivo S1 announced with 6.38-inch AMOLED display and under-display fingerprint scanner. It is powered by a MediaTek Helio P65 processor



2019

Vivo introduced the next version of the **NEX3** smartphone with 5G support and a Snapdragon 855+ processor.



Vivo

Since their inception, Vivo has expanded well over 100 countries. In 2014, Vivo rapidly started expanding its international business with Thailand, quickly following up with countries like India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Vietnam. By 2017, Vivo had entered Russia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Brunei, Macau, Cambodia, Laos, Bangladesh and Nepal. In 2019, Vivo has expanded its operations in the Middle East.



2014

The OnePlus One is introduced. Pegged as the '**Flagship Killer**' it was clear that OnePlus was looking to make its strong foothold in India



2015

OnePlus Two launched. The OnePlus two could not carry what the OnePlus had done it with their first smartphone. This also became an important learning curve for the company

2015

OnePlus introduced a budget version of the OnePlus as the **OnePlus X**. The OnePlus X was aimed to be an entry-level offering. However, it didn't do really well owing to its performance and battery issues.



2016

OnePlus 3 was launched and picked up where the first phone had left off. The OnePlus 3 received huge interest from buyers and was locking horns with some of the premium android offerings in the market.



2016

In the same year, OnePlus launched the **3T** variant. The 3T had overtaken the OnePlus 3 in terms of price and was also the first phone to cross the Rs. 30K

2019

The **Oneplus 7** and the **OnePlus 7 Pro** arrives. The OnePlus 7 was an entry-level offering while the 7 Pro was a bigger and better phone in terms of the display which gets a 90Hz refresh rate. Oneplus does not like to sit idle. The OnePlus 7T and the 7T Pro breaks cover and comes with a host of changes and are currently the flagship smartphones from OnePlus in India.

2018

The arrival of the **OnePlus 6** which sported the notch. The race for getting the notch out for utilising the entire front for the display was underway. OnePlus later announced the OnePlus 6T with a water drop notch which sort of eliminated the notch to a great extent



2017

OnePlus 5 was launched and it joined the league of the dual-camera smartphones. The OnePlus 5T followed the 5 and it pushed the limits for smartphones. With some really narrow bezels and 8GB of RAM on the 5T, it garnered a lot of sales for OnePlus



OnePlus

It has been five years since OnePlus entered the Indian market. Since then, OnePlus have worked their way up to become one of the most preferred premium smartphone brands in India. OnePlus devised a unique Invite only system to buy their smartphones. This took the demands for OnePlus devices even higher.

HEAD START

FOSSIL GEN 5 CARLYLE

The Fossil Gen 5 Watch is certainly one of the most attractive Android Wear watches in the market and the fifth generation Fossil watch benefits with the new efficient processor and a long-lasting battery. But is it worth investing in Fossil Gen5 watch? Let's find out.


How does it feel?

When it comes to the Fossil Gen 5 design, it ticks all the boxes of being fashionable. The Fossil Gen5 features a circular display with no bulge on the sides, just like its predecessor. The Fossil Gen5 we have here comes with a premium rubber strap and it can easily swap with any other 22mm strap, allowing you to change the look of your Fossil Gen5 that fits your style. The Fossil Gen5 smartwatch is sized at 44mm wide and is 12mm thick, makes it a bit oversized for the people with the thinner wrist. On the back, there is a heart rate sensor surrounded by dual circular contact point which is used to charge the watch with the provided adapter. It even fits firmly in the charging plate with the use of magnets. I wished they could have integrated wireless charging technology, as the Wireless charging adapters are widely available in the market.

How does it perform?

One of the major improvements for Gen5 is the integration of new Qualcomm Snapdragon Wear 3100 platform, it is powerful as well as energy efficient giving it enough juice for the whole day. Not only the processor, the 1.3" AMOLED digital display is power efficient and offers crisp images even under direct sunlight. The Fossil watch can also act as a portable music player where you can listen to your favourite songs while on the go and it can even take calls right from a watch.

Out of the box, Fossil Gen5 runs Wear OS, operating system made by Google specifically for the smartwatch. With Wear OS, you get notifications for calls, emails, texts, apps and calendar alerts along with watchfaces. For some reason, the Fossil smartwatch kept on disconnecting after a certain period of time. I tried to change settings on a phone, but it still failed to disconnect.

You'll also be able to use 'Ok Google' to voice search, dictate from the wrist. Fossil Gen5 promises 24 hours of battery life, which is about what I've been getting at every charge. It can also track your steps and activities, giving you a daily report on your movement. 



Reviewed by
Shintu Dhang

thetechy.com

The Fossil Gen5 is one of the best looking Android wear smartwatch at the moment. With a sleek and improved performance along with the Brand name, it makes a must-buy product for the Brand conscious consumers.

SPECS

- OS: Wear OS
- Battery: 360mAh
- Connectivity: Bluetooth 5, WiFi
- Sensor: G-Sensor, Gyroscope
- Case Size: 44mm
- Case Thickness: 12mm
- Water Resistant: IP67

REALME X2



Pair it up with



PRICE
₹22,995

10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

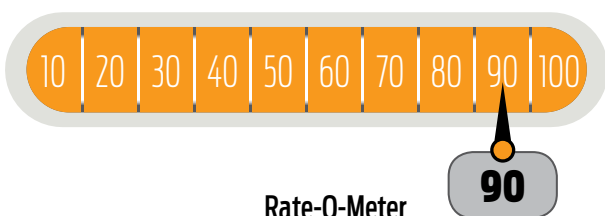
Rate-O-Meter

75

SPECS

- Wi-Fi Mesh Technology
- Voice Based Smart Home Network Control
- Powerful Home Network Protection
- Dual-Core Processor
- Dual-Band Wi-Fi with MU-MIMO
- Works with Google Assistant and Alexa

PRICE
₹7,080



Reviewed by
Shintu Dhang

thetechy.com

If you need a new wireless router that based on the latest technology and provides better Wi-Fi speed, a better management interface and voice assistant and a network-attached USB port, then you should definitely check out the D-Link DIR-1360. If you're looking for all the above features, then it is definitely worth it!

LINKED-IT


D-LINK DIR-1360

HOW DOES IT LOOK?

D-Link has taken a lot of effort in giving a visually appealing design. It got a dome shape design with a downwards arrow in the middle. Out of those, few arrows also act as LED notification for power, internet, WiFi and USB. The front bezel of the router has a mesh for air ventilation along with USB 3.0 port which can connect to the printer or any USB based devices. On the back is the small ventilation on top along with the ports. Talking about ports, there is 1x WAN port, 4x LAN port, power port and a reset button. There are a total of four high gain antennas which can cover the whole house.

HOW DOES IT PERFORM?

WiFi performance is the most important aspect of a wireless router. Luckily, the DIR-1360 doesn't disappoint. The WiFi speed is stable and consistent and we do not notice any issue throughout one week of testing. The DIR-1360 turned in solid results on our throughput performance tests. It scored an average of 89Mbps download speed on the 2.4GHz close-proximity test. With some wall barrier, the DIR-1360's score of 67Mbps which was a bit slower. Over the course of a week, I used the DIR-1360 daily to watch videos, listen to music and do all kinds of work including gaming. It worked well for Battlefield V playing or watching the pros streaming games on Twitch, and it served me well. I stressed the router by listening to the Podcast while playing a variety of videos and moving data from the NAS system. The audio and video came through skip-free and there was no noticeable lag.

One of the interesting integration is the implementation of Google Assistant and Amazon Alexa. The router can be controlled with a voice. You can enable or disable the guest Wifi or ask for the password without a touch of a button, all through the voice. It is the best way to show off the smart router capability in front of your friends. Additionally, it comes with McAfee Secure Home Platform with 5-year license to protect all smart devices connected to the router and unlimited McAfee LiveSafe license protection to protect all PC, Mac, Android and iOS for 2 years. 

Gaming headset

HyperX Cloud Alpha S

The HyperX Cloud Alpha S is one of the best and most versatile gaming headphones that we've tested. It is a well-built headset with soft breathable pads, ergonomic controls and a detachable mic. It has the comfortable headband and it's circumaural, meaning it goes over your ear for comfort during long gaming sessions. The ear cups feature soft ear cushion memory Foam design and it feels really good. Connecting into a computer is simple, with a shorter cable housing a headset jack for use with mobile devices, and a dual jack extension lead for connecting into the adapter which offers multiple functions including 7.1 virtual sound. The other side of the cable is USB-A which can be connected to PC's USB port. The Cloud Alpha S really starts to prove its talents when it comes to the audio department. It doesn't matter whether you're blasting tunes from Prime Music, watching YouTube videos or playing video games – the Cloud Alpha S never fails to deliver clear audio that's balanced and well defined. The headset now features adjustable bass levels thanks to bass port sliders. When the 7.1 surround sound is activated, the audio is improved providing to a whole new level, especially in the gaming department. It even has a detachable microphone which is clear making it perfect for in-game voice chat.



PRICE
₹13,200



PRICE
₹9,990



Shintu Dhang

XPG Spectrix S40G

NVMe PCIe SSD is known for its speed, but often company miss out on aesthetics side. What makes the new XPG S540 special is the advanced integration of the company's RGB lighting technology. The heatsink and lighting on the XPG SSD help it fit in with any motherboards. The RGB lighting can be controlled through XPG RGB Control software, and it is supported by multiple brands motherboard. Now coming towards the performance, the XPG S40G read speed went up to 3200MB/s and write speeds up to 2200MB/s while maintaining 60-degree average temperature while transferring. The XPG S40G NVMe SSD is indeed fast. If you are looking for an NVMe SSD that has got both the looks and the performance, the XPG S40G RGB NVMe SSD could be a great choice to consider.

SPECS

- Driver: Hybrid mesh PRO-G 50mm
- Magnet: Neodymium
- Frequency Response: 20 Hz to 20 kHz
- Impedance: 35 Ohms
- Weight: 320 g



ASUS VIVOBOOK S15

Pair it up with

PRICE
₹9,995



10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

Rate-O-Meter

85



Reviewed by
Mrinmoy Choudhury

thetechy.com

The Logitech G Pro Gaming Headset is aimed at gamers, however, it will hold well both for gaming and multimedia usage. The design and build are solid and feels very reassuring when holding in the hands. Longer periods of usage does not leave your ears fuming from the heat while the sound is good enough for serious gaming as well as music. Overall, it is a very well balanced headset and provides the right bang for your valuable bucks.

GET SET GAME

LOGITECH G PRO WIRED GAMING HEADSET

The Logitech G Pro headset gets best from both worlds. It is slick but features curves and sharp angles. The main structure is metal, most likely aluminium of industrial-grade which has been machined and smooth on the edges. The clasp is flexible but at the same time has the grip which will not allow it to slip or fall from your head. The memory foam on the earcups is layered with faux leather which feels soft and comfortable.

The G Pro is a gaming headset but it lacks the space ship looks that we see with most of the gaming aimed peripherals. There is no RGB or any kind of lighting. This review unit we have is matte black in colour with accents of silver. Extending the band clasp reveals the stainless steel extensions. It is padded and delivers comfort when using the headset. The extenders can be stretched long enough so that even large heads have no problem.

Moving on, the ear cups are soft and feel premium. Long periods of use does not really have any discomfort. However, the clasp might feel a bit strong with its grip for a few people - a matter of personal opinion though. The cups rotate so that you can pack it flat for travelling and up and down swivel allows for a more snug fit.

Connecting the headset is a braided cable which also has a microphone, volume wheel and a mute button. The microphone can be separately attached and is flexible which makes it easy to move and position. Overall, it has a good design and is ergonomic which allows for better user experience.

Performance

Now what needs to be seen is the performance of the Logitech G Pro headset. The sound output is quite punchy and The low-end performance is also noteworthy. All of this proves to be very fulfilling when gaming. The noise isolation with the ear cups, helping you to distinguish between the high and lows of the sound stage. Gaming in busy surroundings was not a problem while longer hours of gaming does not get unbearably uncomfortable as well.

The bass on the G Pro is very punchy and the 50mm Pro-G Neodymium magnet Hybrid Mesh drivers do a great job of delivering crisp sound at all frequencies. The microphone also does a good job catching the voice even with a lot of commotion happening in the surroundings. The external USB Pro DAC which comes in the box is the real deal. This is how you can get the highest quality analogue sound output from the digital signals of your PC.

For music, it is a pretty good headset. The overall soundstage is wide and lends a great listening experience. However, the bass was slightly overwhelming at times which sort of layers on top of the highs. However, it is not really a matter of concern for regular users. **ex**

SOUNDS LIKE RIGHT

MULO ARENA 500 2.1 SOUNDBAR

A good sound system for home entertainment will comprise of a receiver and passive speakers and subwoofers. These kind of multi-channel systems are very expensive and require a significant amount of time and money to buy one. For those who are looking for better solutions, a soundbar and subwoofer paired together is the right way to go.

The Mulo Arena 5000 2.1 Soundbar makes a case for itself and we have been testing the same for a considerable amount of time now. So is a soundbar a good solution for your living or bedroom? Let's find out.

How does it look?

Inside the box, you get the Mulo soundbar and the Mulo subwoofer. Accessories include a remote for the soundbar, auxiliary audio cables, remote control, accessories for mounting the soundbar on a wall and an instruction manual.

From the looks, the Mulo Arena 5000 soundbar looks like any other soundbar. The Mulo logo on the front. The soundbar is not obnoxiously big and so it will be easy to place it under the TV without it being sore to one's eye. Ports include a USB on the side for pen drives, mode and volume toggle buttons, a subwoofer input jack and the AC power lead. The subwoofer is simple and has the driver and the port built on the back. The soundbar comes with a glossy finish and the subwoofer is slightly heavy built and gets a matte finish which makes it look very premium. The overall looks of the Mulo Arena 5000 2.1 look and feels impressive.

How does it perform?

The Mulo Arena 5000 2.1 soundbar is very easy to setup. The subwoofer is connected to the back of the soundbar and the soundbar lead is connected to the AC power outlet. You can toggle through the modes by pressing the mode button on the soundbar or by pressing the input key on the supplied remote. The Arena soundbar comes with two 2-inch driver units in the soundbar and a 4-inch driver unit on the subwoofer. The soundbar driver units push 10W*2 and the subwoofer pushes out 25W which makes it a total of 45W R.M.S with an input impedance of 4 Ohms *2 on the soundbar and 8 Ohms from the subwoofer. The frequency response on the system ranges from 55Hz to 20kHz.

Talking about the audio output from the Mulo Arena 5000, it sounded clear and crisp at all times. The highs, as well as the vocals, were very crisp. This makes it a very great choice for watching movies and TV. Music sounds great as the subwoofer delivers strong bass and couples well with the soundbar to make the listening experience even more refined. The sound output is good enough to fill a moderately large room without any hiccups. Peak volume levels invite some unwanted distortions,

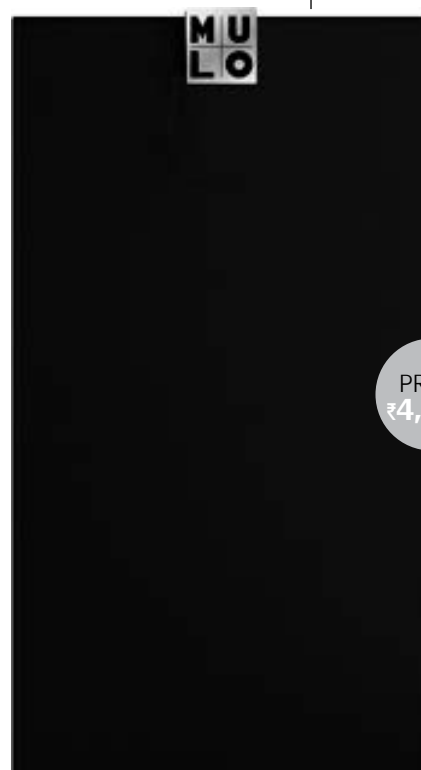
but it is very seldom that one cranks up the volume so high. Since the units are light in weight, it becomes very easy to carry it move it around. **ex**

SPECS

- 2.1CH, Wired Subwoofer
- AUX input / USB input / Bluetooth 4.2
- Digital Amplifier with DSP inside
- 10W*2+25W=45W R.M.S.



Pair it up with



PRICE
₹4,999

10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 100

Rate-O-Meter

80



Reviewed by
Mrinmoy Choudhury

thetechy.com

This is something you will need to decide on your part. Sound requirements are not the same for each and every individual. The Mulo Arena 5000 2.1 soundbar makes a good case of itself. It delivers clear and crisp sound and is aimed both for living room entertainment as well as music. For Rs. 4,999/- the Mulo Arena 5000 makes a very strong case for itself. With a sound output which can give a lot of premium brands run for their money, it balances both the sound and the budget in the best way possible.

2020 JAGUAR XE SE

THE ~~FACE~~ FULLY LIFTED 2020 JAGUAR XE



Ramesh Somani

STARTING PRICE: ₹44.98 lakh (ex-showroom)



ENGINE

2.0-LITRE INGENIUM
TURBOCHARGED PETROL



POWER

250 HP



TORQUE

365 NM



TRANSMISSION

8-SPEED AUTOMATIC



It was the 24th December and I had already planned to go to Aamby Valley for an overnight stay when my team informed me that the all-new Jaguar XE in red colour had just made its way to our Garage. And that it was red in colour on Xmas eve, that was the closest I could have brushed with Santa. The first look of it was fresh, the slimmer LED headlights and taillights fitted very well with the larger front grille and the sculpted bonnet. Ok, it's a facelift, and we won't use the word again and neither compare the new XE with its previous generation. For me, it is a complete new XE which has parked itself right in between the A4, the 3 Series and maybe the A6.

It's become a habit now to slide your phone to the wireless tray and the XE has it, although it charges slowly, it may be because of the low Amp, wish they could have been higher, but does the job. Also, the rotary knob gear selector has been replaced with the gear shifter as seen in the F-Type. I was driving it on the Pune expressway, and let me admit I had touched 180 km/h and mostly was cruising at 140. Sssh! Please don't tell this to anyone as I don't want this to reach the Mumbai traffic cops. At speeds like this when you are on the dynamic mode the sound of the engine seeps in easily through the windowpane, maybe the insulation is not that great, it's a confusing engine sound which you will expect from a sportscar like the F-Type but not exactly the same engine sound, which is the disappointing part.

The pick up had a quick rush of gasoline hitting the chambers at times giving you jerks, and you could feel the charge. It was the 2.0-litre turbo petrol engine that I was driving with the Santa. The Touchscreen was smooth and the connected navigation



with Interactive Driver Display using high-definition, graphics showing 3D maps were spot on and I particularly loved the Red graphics on the Dynamic mode. Another unimportant thing to note is that it lets you connect with your Bluetooth while on the move, and we had two connected while the other one being the Santa. It has an Ice mode, still wondering where can we drive this in India, but with rising global warming just in case, it's future-proof.

The speakers and the sound quality is not something which will appeal to the audiophile and you will always be reminded of the engine noise even when the volume is above conversation levels. What I loved was the almost bucket seats which are rather comfortable and holds your back and the firm steering wheel and premium interiors, it also has Torque Vectoring by Braking technology which means on tight turns, it applies the brake to the inside wheel and directs more rotating force from the engine to the wheel with the most grip.

We had arrived and Santa had a smile, and Jaguar has got something which will take away buyers from the 3 Series and the A4, but would you buy one? It's a Jag!

What we Love?

- The design, exteriors, seats, touchscreen, and the way a streak of light passes through head and taillights every time you lock or unlock.
- The pick-up, power, ride quality and the tech.

What we don't?

- The Insulation letting the engine noise seep in.
- The music system and the rather cramped rear seats, if you're a 6 footer then the legs might have to be amputated after a long drive.

For Comparison

Audi A4 35 TFSI S tronic

- Engine: 1.4-litre Turbocharged Petrol
- Power: 150 hp
- Torque: 250 Nm
- Transmission: 7-speed S tronic dual-clutch transmission
- Starting Price: ₹ 41.49 lakh (ex-showroom)

BMW 3 Series 330i M Sport

- Engine: 2.0-litre Ingenium Turbocharged Petrol
- Power: 250 hp
- Torque: 365 Nm
- Transmission: 8-speed automatic
- Starting Price: ₹ 47.9 lakh (ex-showroom)



2019 BMW Z4 M40i

Having driven the new Z4 for over 500kms on a weekend getaway let me tell you five reasons that make the Z4 an absolute joy for that much needed weekend getaway!

Design

The new Z4 is simply stunning to look at with a two-door convertible profile, simple flowing lines and intricate pair of headlamps and tail lamps, but what draws your attention immediately is the starlike speckled kidney grille in that gorgeous shade of red.

Power Drive

Featuring a 3.0-litre straight-six engine with 340 hp of power and all of it going to the rear wheels, it simply can get you across town in no time with amazing levels of grip coming in from those 19inch alloy wheels. Revving this engine to 6,500 rpm and you're rewarded with an endless surge of power hitting the 100 km/h mark in under 4.5 seconds! That's sports car territory but the ride and suspension tuning make it suitable for cruising more than flat-out performance.

Convertible

With a new fabric roof replacing the old hard top roof design, the new Z4's roof can be collapsed with a touch of a button even while on the move up to 50 km/h. And with the winter-like weather at this time of the year - what better time to put that roof down and experience miles and miles of wind in your hair driving with your partner! And do note, you've got no room for the kids!

Boot

You would think that a convertible design wouldn't leave much boot space, but open the Z4's boot and you'd be surprised. It's a well designed useable space to store one large bag and a few small bags, just enough for that exciting trip you have been dreaming about!

IS IT A PERFECT WEEKEND GETAWAY? SPORTSCAR?





ENGINE

3.0-LITRE, SIX CYLINDER



POWER

340 hp



TORQUE

500 NM



TRANSMISSION

8-SPEED STEPTRONIC SPORT

STARTING PRICE: ₹78.9 lakh (ex-showroom)


Photography: Harmanpreet Singh



■ SHOULD I BUY ONE?



There is no denying the allure of this deep red coloured low slung beauty with its improved dynamics and a sports cruiser attitude. At ₹78.9 lakh ex-showroom, it's got little competition for itself and someone looking for the perfect weekend drive with no room for kids - there seems little to choose from.

 by Roshan Sirohia

THE **WHEELZ**



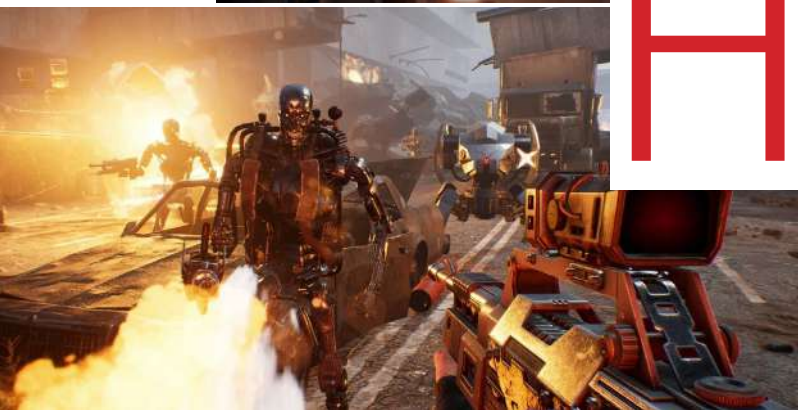
PREVIEW

AND THEY'RE BACK...

TERMINATOR: RESISTANCE



Saurabh Gamare



RELEASE DATE

15th November 2019
(Europe & Australia)

10th December 2019
(North America)



Platform

PS4, Xbox 1 & PC

Hang on, if you are going to judge the latest iteration of the Terminator game based on the recently released Dark Fate movie then you should reconsider. They both are different from each other. When Judgement Day happens, human survivors are battling Skynet's T-800s. The story doesn't revolve around Kylie Reese or John Connor from the Resistance. The year is 2028 and you are in a post-apocalyptic Los Angeles playing the new protagonist Jacob Rivers who is a Private serving in Resistance led by John Conner. For a change, you are playing a soldier from the Resistance and not the infamous T-800 or John Connor for that matter. So you have a different perspective from the soldier's point of view. Look out as Skynet is on the hunt for your Termination. This means you play a pivotal role in the Resistance!

The Resistance is fighting a war against Skynet and other civilians are contributing in different ways by being a part of the Shelter camp. In the beginning, they showed Jacob stumble across other Resistance soldiers who were ambushed by Skynet infiltrators. Jacob is the only survivor from their group who somehow escapes and is on the lookout for Commander Baron. She's one feisty soldier who is fighting from the front along with other Resistance soldiers. It is not like any other FPS game in which you have to finish a particular mission to complete the game. There could be multiple endings to this game. You read that correct! That depends on how you react to each character in the

game. This will also determine your relationship and trust level with the character. That should open up new character backstories for Jacob to explore. From the gameplay, as far as the visual graphics are concerned, they do feel a bit dated, but on the flip side, the storyline seems promising. While progressing your way ahead in the game, you will have these mini-quests that would help you in stocking up your inventory. There is stealth mode where you could possibly go undetected or initiate a stealth attack on the T-800s. Talking about the T-800s they can only be killed with a plasma gun. There are also two types of plasma guns available, the one in the red streak is the weakest which is essentially the phased out plasma gun, whereas the powerful ones have a purple streak. They are the second generation plasma guns. So, don't forget to explore and stock up on those plasma cells, just like regular ammo. You can stock up on other inventories too and improve your weapon skillset. One quick trick you can use on the T-800s is by using the Shotguns to knock them down and utilizing that time to escape. Only plasma guns are capable of killing the T-800s.

For fans who enjoyed watching the first two parts of the Terminator's official film, you would love its storyline. And it somewhat gave me that Half-Life vibe, considering how amazing the whole series was. The game really doesn't have any high expectations which honestly will surprise a lot of people once when it is out for play.

A

Alright, you 30 something corporate slaves, 2020 will refresh a lot of your childhood memories because Raditz and his buddies are going to land on earth to destroy all the Saiyans. Well, you know what to do. Get your PlayStation 4, Xbox 1 and PC ready to take him and his sidekicks on. Not just Raditz, but Vegeta, Frieza, Majin Buu, and all those who might hinder peace on earth. I am talking especially about the overzealous DBZ fans! No matter how many times we rewatch the Anime, every Dragon Ball game will have a different feel to it. When this game was first announced, I thought of all the games that had previously been released and how they didn't match most of the gamers' expectation. This time, however, it strikes a chord with the DBZ fans with splendid add ons over the past games.



RELEASE DATE

17th January 2020

Platform

PS4, Xbox 1, PC

CAN'T DODGE THIS KAMEHAMEHA WAVE

Relive the Cell Saga with Gohan's one hand Kamehameha wave. In my opinion, it is the most epic battle in the whole Dragon Ball Z. Also, you can roam around in the open world completing mini-quests as Kakarot, eat like him, help strangers out and even drive! It is extremely difficult to form an unbiased opinion on this game, just like those corporate slaves, I too spent most of my childhood watching DBZ. Well, honestly, this game doesn't leave any stone unturned, of course, there are a few more details that should come by in the next editions. But this is exactly how I would like the future Dragon Ball games to be. The skill tree on this one is pretty impressive, you need to improve on your skill level for every special move and some are extremely lethal. For instance, Goku's Spirit Bomb needs a lot of KI as well as game experience for it to be as powerful that it can destroy an entire planet. Now, that's what I am talking about! The game doesn't give you everything on a platter, you gotta work your way up the skill tree.

The game evolves during a Battle, alongside the other playable characters. Some favourite side characters like Chiaotzu and Yamcha are playable! Every detail of it is highlighted so beautifully right from the narrator's voice to the background theme for every battle. It will hit you in the feels, leaving a lump in the 30 something corporate slave's throat reminding them of their long lost childhood memories. Hats off to the team at Bandai Namco Entertainment for keeping the game true to its Anime. **ex**



DRAGON BALL Z:
KAKAROT



Saurabh Gamare





AN OBJECT OF DESIRE

ARCH MOTORCYCLE



Mirinoy Choudhury




There are some things money cannot buy, which make it an object of desire. A lot of the other times, money is not a factor, but the exclusivity of a product makes it even more desirable. For those who love motorcycles, will have one machine or the other which they desire to have at any cost.

In 2007 Hollywood star Keanu Reeves met Gard Hollinger. Gard is a custom motorcycle builder. Keanu had reached out to Gard for building a sissy bar for his Harley Davidson, to which he denied. Eventually, Gard agreed to build him a custom motorcycle which took four and a half years to complete. Upon riding the finished motorcycle, Keanu asked Gard if he would like to start a motorcycle making company along with him, later which took the shape of ARCH motorcycles as we know of them now. ARCH is based in Hawthorne, California of the United States.

After they tested the first prototype, Keanu and Gard decided to bring these motorcycles to the world and ARCH came into existence. The first motorcycle to take shape from this company was the ARCH KRGT-1. As of November 2017, ARCH had produced three motorcycles, the KRGT-1, ARCH 1s and the Method 143.

The 'Method 143', is the one we are talking about. ARCH Motorcycles focuses on making high-quality production motorcycles which can be customised according to the needs of a customer. ARCH has partnered with S&S for engines, Ohlins for suspension, BST wheels, Yoshimura exhaust and Michelin for tyres. Coming to the Method 143, it is powered by a 2343cc V-Twin mill which makes loads of torque and

comes with dual riding modes. The engine is mated to a 6-speed gearbox. It has very tastefully machined textures on the body. An aluminium fuel cell and tail section. Moreover, it uses carbon fibre front fender, billet aluminium headlight housing, fork aero-foils, windscreen, air intakes and an aerodynamic belly-pan. Limited to only 23 production units, the ARCH Method 143 is one motorcycle that can be made unique for every individual owner.

While motorcycles, especially premium ones will always be desired by people who love motorcycles, buying a motorcycle from ARCH is something which brings in both the feel of owning a premium object for desire as well as performance. The ARCH Method 143 simply takes the desirability couple of notches higher. 



A LOOK DOWN ON THE GREEN HELL NÜRBURGRING



Saurabh Gamare



The Ring is not for the fainthearted, it is called the 'Green Hell' for a reason. Its name is enough to judder any petrolhead's mind because it is nothing short of paradise, it's safe to call it the Mecca of Motorsports. Since its inception in 1927, the race track has seen a lot of highs and lows, quite natural for a race track that has got gradients of up to 11 percent at the Fuchsröhre corner and up to 18 percent between Caracciola-Karussell corners. It's a race track that requires your thorough attention. Legends have resurrected from a burning fireball and some have died an immortal death. Let me tell you how the Green Hell has etched its presence in almost every racer's heart.

History

The name 'Nürburgring' literally means the Nürburg circuit, and surprisingly the local town of Nürburg is located inside the perimeter of the track. Its name comes from the 11th Nürburg castle. Since its completion in 1927, the track has undergone several major changes, but the basic layout has survived. Initially, it had two tracks, one in the north and the other in the south. The north loop which still exists is universally known as Nordschleife and the extremely unrecognized south loop has been forgotten. Not many know of the south loop aka Südschleife's legend. The Südschleife was once 7.5 kilometres long, but there are now only a few parts of the track that are preserved. It was built at the same time as the Nordschleife. Once it was even more dangerous than the Nordschleife because the corners were surrounded by trees and drivers claimed that

they saw ghosts who crossed their path when they were driving. During 1970 and 1971, the Nordschleife was upgraded, the south loop was more and more forgotten. The south loop's end was nearing when today's Grand Prix track was built in 1984, that destroyed the majority of Südschleife and sadly all of it is forgotten.

The 20.8 kilometres Nordschleife retains most of the original design. It's rather ironic that these two tracks—one very safe, the other quite dangerous—sit adjacent to one another. The safe one being the recently built Grand Prix track. And for some races, including the 24 Hours of The Nürburgring. The two tracks are combined to make a massive 24.4 kilometres long course, known as the Whole Course. In its glory days, the Nürburgring was 28 kilometres long which even included the Südschleife.

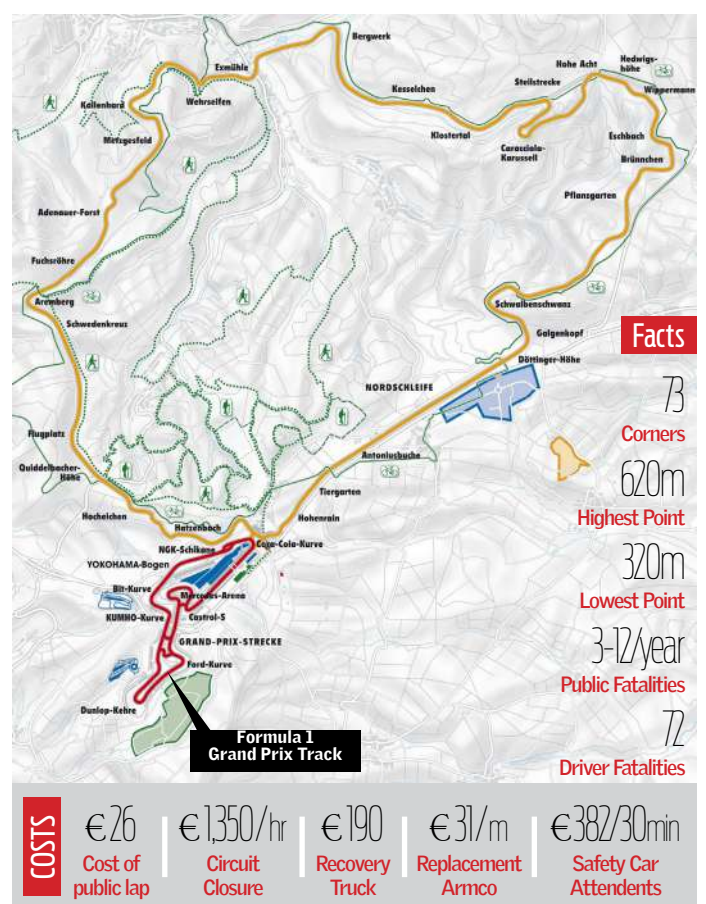




Tragedy and Comeback

Nobody will ever know the actual cause of Jim Clark's death, it will always be a mystery. On the 7th of April, 1968, Clark racing in his Lotus-Cosworth Formula Two car when it skidded off the track and somersaulted into the woods at about 240 km/h during an extraneous Formula Two race. The car had emerged from the

Shrimps Head curve and was racing down the straight when the accident happened. But his legacy lives on for the young generation to take inspiration from. As a tribute to Jim Clark, there is a memorial laid down at the crash site but was later moved to the edge of the race circuit. For ardent Jim Clark fans, it is still possible to access the crash site, which is now lost in the woods.



Niki Lauda's fireball crash in the Ferrari 312 T2 in 1976.



Another incident that dates back to 1976 was Niki Lauda's fireball crash in the Ferrari 312 T2. It had rained before the start of the race. Niki started on rain tyres but lost places to other drivers who had started on slicks. So, Niki pits for a tyre change, since his slicks aren't at the right temperature, he suddenly loses the car's balance due to lack of grip and the Ferrari hits the bank at the side of the track eventually ending up across the track, with his helmet missing, having been ripped off in the impact. The car caught fire as fuel leaked out and Niki was trapped in the burning cockpit. Other drivers bravely tried to help as they came across the incident and did what they all could, but it was thanks to Arturo Merzario, who pulled him out of the flaming cockpit, who saved him. However, Lauda was in a very serious condition, not so much because of the burns, but because of the poisonous fumes he had inhaled that might have proved lethal. Those who believed his racing days were over had not taken into account the Austrian's

“

**Anyone who says
they don't like the
Ring is either lying
or has never been
there.**

-Sir Jackie Stewart

”



determination. Lauda was back on track in record time and only missed out on that year's title by a single point. The following year he was crowned world champion, also winning at the new venue for the German Grand Prix in Hockenheim.

Experienced racing drivers say that the more one drives on the Ring, the scarier it gets. Every time you push your limit and the margin for error reduces. One cannot afford to lose sight of their concentration level for it can be fatal. That's the ring for you. For purists, it's like a pilgrimage that they do not forget to visit every year. Well, even car manufacturers are not shying away from flexing their muscle by testing their spec'd up cars on the green hell, setting lap records every year. It is essentially the proving grounds for all manufacturers. If your car claims to be fast, how fast is it really on the green hell is the question. Luckily, if you ever get a chance to explore the Ring, do not let that opportunity go. It does not matter if you love motorsport or not. We might never have a track like the Ring. And for people who live right next to it, you are one fortunate lot. It is your responsibility to preserve the Green Hell, for its prestigious history, its surrounding nature and the goosebumps that it can give to a motorsport fan who has only admired its beauty from afar. For me, this race track occupies the top spot on my travel list. [ex](#)

#KEEPFIGHTINGMICHAEL



Schumi Winning his 7th World Title

T

here are two kinds of people, one who live the normal life and the other who fly fighter planes and race fast cars for a living. Both these professions are so similar that even a slight error in judgement can cost them their lives. And then there are few individuals who set the bar so high that it would become impossible for others to imitate. In motorsports, there is one individual who has defied all odds, destroyed every possible record that had ever existed in Formula One. It is extremely difficult to not see him in the paddock or even in public after his tragic skiing accident that took place six years ago. Next year on the 3rd of January he will turn 51 and all



FORZA MICHAEL



Saurabh Ganare

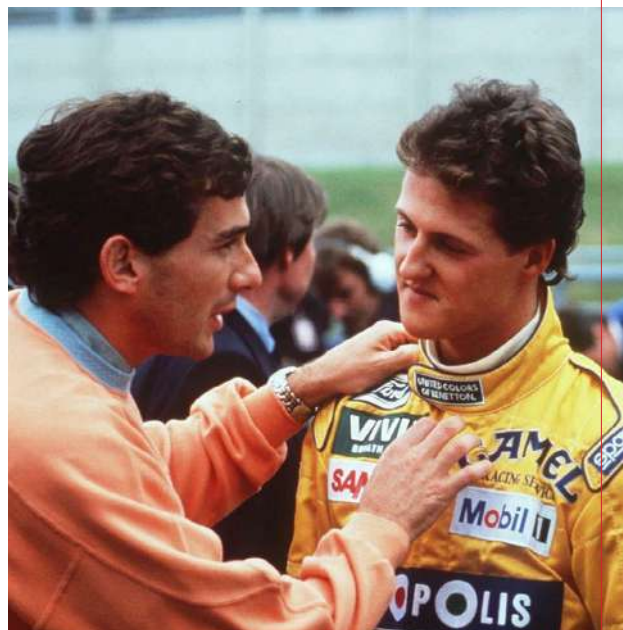
we have are some brief statements from Michael's wife Corinna. We do respect Michael's privacy, after all, we want to see Michael walking down the paddock with a big smile on his face like all other older legends do. In his 51 years, we have seen people name-calling him, undermining his achievements and overshadowing his unadorned personality. But, there was a sensitive, caring and sympathetic side to him. A side that everybody deserves to know apart from his mega achievements in the sport.

Sensitive

Michael was the last person to see Ayrton Senna alive before his fatal crash at Imola in 1994. Michael was



Corinna Schumacher



Young Michael Schumacher

running second and was fighting Senna for victory. Well, Senna and Michael have had a healthy rivalry in the past and on some occasions even crashing into each other. Both of them fought extremely hard. However, their rivalry still remains like an unclosed chapter even after their departure from the sport. People arguing who was the best and who wasn't. Michael after winning the 1994 World Driver's Championship with Benetton, dedicated his first title to Ayrton. His loss affected Michael a lot and

he even considered quitting the sport. But in 2000 after winning the Italian Grand Prix and equalling Senna's record of 41 wins, in the post-race conference, he was asked about his feelings after equalling the record. Michael couldn't hold back his feelings and started sobbing.

Handing over the win

Ferrari did everything they could to make sure their driver takes the top spot in the championship. And it left motorsports fan disgusted when that happened. However, Michael always



Michael Schumacher and Jean Todt



A Gloomy Race

San Marino Grand Prix will always leave a bitter taste in Michael's memory. In 2002, hours after paying his last respects to his dying mother in a Cologne hospital, Michael Schumacher stood on the podium with tears in his eyes as he received the winner's trophy. On Saturday night, Michael and his younger brother Ralf were flown by a private jet to visit their mother. Elisabeth Schumacher, 55, was in a coma and suffering from severe internal bleeding, reportedly after a fall at her home a week earlier. She died a few hours after they left her side. In such trying times, both the brothers showed exemplary willpower and commitment.



vexed out his opinions when he was confronted about the team's decision. In 2003, when Barichello was asked to let Michael through, Michael technically won the race, but refused to take the first place trophy, he instead gave it to Rubens. This was not acceptable to Michael, it was quite evident from his actions, later that year in the US Grand Prix, he let Rubens win. It was a photo finish!

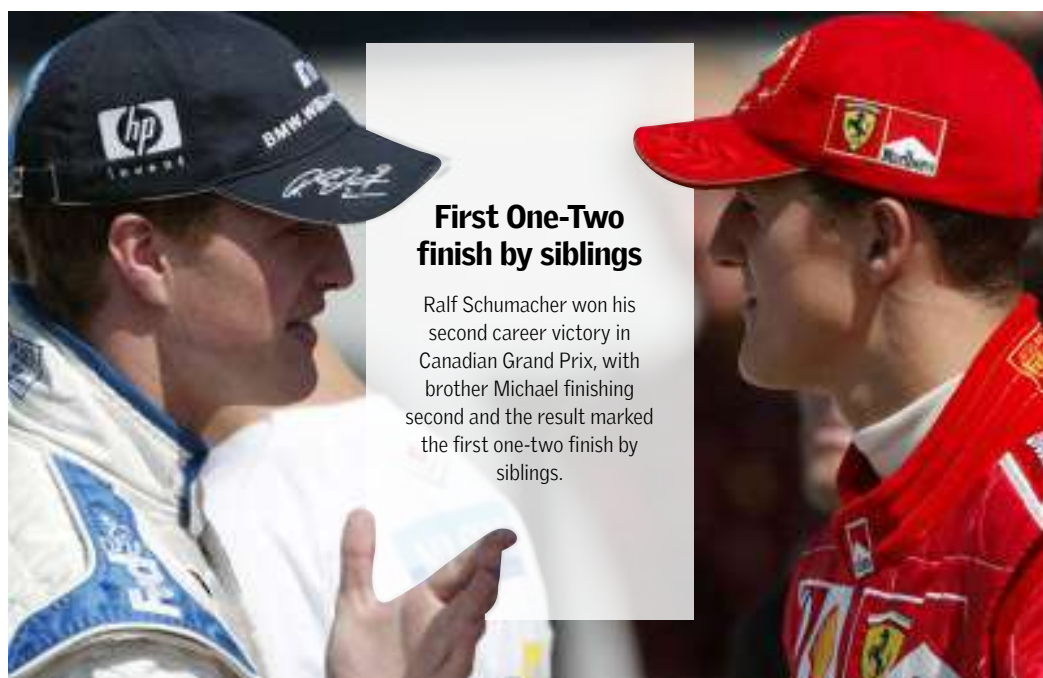
It honestly is not fair to judge Michael for his past mistakes. Off the track, his humility and simplicity



Schumacher and Vettel

was admired by everyone. I am not a person who believes in miracles, if anything I would want to witness a miracle. If not miracles, Michael

is known to fight till the very end and I believe one day we will see him again. Until then, Keep Fighting, Michael! ex



First One-Two finish by siblings

Ralf Schumacher won his second career victory in Canadian Grand Prix, with brother Michael finishing second and the result marked the first one-two finish by siblings.

TOTOK

WAIT WHAT?




ou probably started reading this article thinking it's about TikTok. It's not. It's the new social platform in town. Okay not town literally, but it is the one making the most noise in the market. Why? Nothing huge, it just seems that this app could be a gateway for the United Arab Emirates to spy on its users. Caught your attention, didn't it? Read on my friend, it's going to get a whole lot shadier.

THE REACH OF TOTOK

ToTok is a messaging app that offers free messaging, voice calls and video calls. A fun feature is that a conference call can accommodate upto 20 users. It was introduced this year (Yup, it's brand new!) and was widely popularized Emirati publications. It was accepted equally well by the people because of the government's various restrictions on global apps like Whatsapp and Skype. Talking about popularity, let me lay down some interesting facts. The app saw huge downloads on iOS App Store and Google Play store. By huge I mean, around 79 million downloads which in December amounted up to nearly 2 million daily users. Geographically, countries like the USA, UK, India and Sweden have been amongst the top contenders of maximum downloads.

SO, WHAT EXACTLY IS THE PROBLEM?

The New York Times, one of the most esteemed publications around the globe, ran an investigation on ToTok recently in December wherein they claimed that it is a spying tool for the Emirati government. The app is said to be linked to a company called Breej Holding. This company in turn is said to be the front face of another company called *DarkMatter*. As you must have sensed, we are nearing the shady part of this story. *DarkMatter* is an intelligence Emirati company which is under the FBI radar for cybercrimes. It is also alleged to have links to the CIA and NSA analysts which is not creating a great argument for this app to work as smoothly as it'd like.

First things first, delete the app if it exists on your phone. It's already been taken off from both the App Store and Play Store. Secondly, this could just be a cooked up theory based on a lot of speculations or it could be a multi-layered spyware scandal that will unfold very very soon. Either way, it's extremely important to be a smart netizen in this highly digitalized world. 



Smriti Raizada

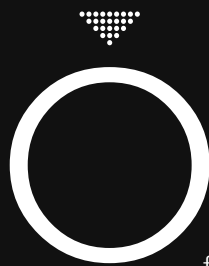


EXCLUSIVE



IT ONLY GETS BETTER!

THE YEAR OF KRITI SANON



ur Exhibit January 2020 cover star Kriti Sanon, is a force to be reckoned with, in both film and fashion. On the cusp of her 20s, she has spent her life in the public eye. Now, the cinema scion is ready to cultivate her own garden. And while most artists follow a career path that is relatively wrought with fluctuation, like a ship soaring above and then violently crashing into waves, Kriti's career had already proven to be a linear climb. Kriti Sanon in a conversation with Krishti Khound, about making a year of her own.



Things move really fast, they spread really fast. It could be something you've put up; it doesn't even take a moment till it's all over the internet. It also makes me realize to not take anything too seriously because it's temporary. Life will move on past anything and everything that comes by, whether it is a moment of joy, success, failure or even a heartbreak. You move past it and tomorrow is going to be a different day.



ex : While stalking you on Instagram, your posts came across to me as genuine and honest. It's a rare gift because as actors you're not able to completely share your truth as they are carefully outfitted to a point where you only see a glamorous puppeteer. Would you agree?

I don't think everyone is the same way. Some people want to maintain their Instagram handle and some don't. For me, it's all about being real. While the glamorous and onscreen part is something that the audience and the fans already see on a daily basis, I use my Instagram and other social media handles to interact with them in a different way, make them a part of my life and to show them another side of my life which is not really visible otherwise. So yeah, I try keeping it real and I think that's how I am as a person. We actors are real people after all and I feel the real side is what's relatable.

ex : Everything is really instant in the world we live in right now. Nothing is tangible, it's all quickfire. Have you firmly entrenched into digital and social media formats?

I have in a way but I'm not someone who is likely to be addicted to it. I'm not someone who has to post a picture about everything that I'm doing. I feel like it depends on everything that's happening at that particular point in your life. Things move really fast, they spread really fast. It could be something you've put up; it doesn't even take a moment till it's all over the internet. It also makes me realize to not take anything too seriously because it's temporary. Life will move on past anything and everything that comes by, whether it is a moment of joy, success, failure or even a heartbreak. You move past it and tomorrow is going to be a different day.

ex : A lot of the actors now have bridged the gap between the celluloid films and OTT platforms, do you see yourself driven by it?

The content that we see now is amazing. And obviously, there is content that can not be restricted to a 2-3 hour film such that when they get developed into a series,

they're a lot more intriguing. If a great opportunity comes my way which makes me want to take it up, I would love to do it. I feel like acting is my job and the medium is something that is not truly relevant. If the work is exciting enough for you as an actor, then that makes all the difference.

ex : Your career is gaining steam with smart choices, awards and the box office clout, does the amount of success come as a surprise or wary you sometimes?

Actually, no. Everything that has happened in my life has been very gradual, it didn't happen overnight. From a graduate in engineering to landing in movies, it was all a process - it happened step by step. I started with a career in modelling, advertisements and eventually I realized my passion for acting and moved to Mumbai. I was giving auditions - from getting a Telugu film to debut in Bollywood. The first few times I went for award functions, it was surreal to be surrounded by all the stars that I'd seen on the screen. There are still some moments when I sort of look back and I am overwhelmed with the fact that I have come this far and how I had never ever thought of this life. It's something that I'm really fortunate and grateful for. But at the same time, I love what I do so much that I can't imagine doing anything else.

ex : From being an outsider to feeling a part of the industry and honing your craft, it's been a great year for you.

Yes, 2019 has probably been my most special year in the industry so far, with the kind of opportunities I've gotten. With 4 big releases from 'Luka Chuppi' to 'Housefull 4', they have been major blockbusters and one of the biggest for me. This year I have also travelled a lot and lived out of the suitcase from one set to the other. It's been adventurous and very exciting as an actor. Also, when your films connect with the audience and they get so much love, it kind of makes you a lot more confident about your craft, your choices and your instincts. The more the number of films I do, the more people I meet, the more friends I make and that in turn just makes me more comfortable in the industry. It starts to feel more like home.



Gown: Rocky Star Shoes: Zara

ex : Fashion in the show business can quite be nerve-wracking at times, do you think what you're going to wear and is it going to turn into a headline?

I don't think about the headlines for sure (*laughs*) but I do put in a lot of thought into what I'm wearing. I want to be happy with my look. There definitely is a lot of effort that goes into it - the hair, makeup, the outfit, how it's going to be photographed. I don't think I feel unsure about my look at any point. I think I sort of decide on wearing something that I'm already comfortable in or that I already feel confident about and that's about it. I don't take it more seriously than that. Though yes, if given a chance, I would love to just get ready in a jiffy and just at a snap of the finger be ready with hair, makeup. The one and a half hour process is a lot of hard work even though the basic assumption of people is that it must be very easy and a lot of fun. But I feel like if I could, I would have made all red carpets pyjama compulsory.

ex : So now, if I had to take some Instagram advice. You are one of the masters. How does someone manage to have so many followers?

I would just say that, first, be real. Don't try and pretend to be someone you're not. Secondly, be relatable. I think for me, I have noticed that whenever I put up something that is fashion related, the impressions on the post are significantly higher. I

can only infer that a lot of people on Instagram (especially me audience!) like to see fashion on Instagram. Having said that, I don't really keep in mind that I have to do a fashion post because of this. I just try being real and having a mix of both; my fashion style and maybe like a weird selfie sometimes. I love to pen down my thoughts and put it out there. It all comes down to being real and you know, having fun while you're at it.

ex : Let's talk about this. Your clothing line 'Ms Taken'. What made you feel that you are ready to become an entrepreneur?

Fashion plays a major role in our industry and I always had an unabashed love for clothes. That's how 'Ms Taken' happened. And I think for me I know this like fashion gives me the freedom of expression. But having said that I don't sort of keep in mind that I have to do be fashion-forward because of this. So when the team came up with this collaboration I readily agreed because it made me believe it. And I'm glad that the brand is doing so well and are available on different sites.

ex : If I ask you to show me your Whatsapp, who is the last person you texted and what was it about, would you?
To be honest, I texted my PR manager to connect me to you (*laughs*).

ex : What was your last Google search about?

I googled about this movie 'Super Deluxe', I have heard so much about it but haven't been able to see it. So I was reading about it online and I'm definitely watching it tonight!

ex : Do you have a liking for cars or bikes?

I'm not someone who is very knowledgeable about cars or bikes I love them both, but if you ask me to choose between a car ride and a bike ride, it would be a bike ride. Oh, but definitely not in traffic (*laughs*).

ex : If you happen to invent your gadget what would it be and how would it be different?

I would like to invent a gadget that would do my hair and make-up in a second. That would be fab! And another one would be to teleport myself to anywhere I want to be, especially to skip all the traffic!

ex : So when you were offered the movie 'Panipat', what were your reasons that you wanted to play the role you did?

It was such a different role from the ones that I have played before. I connected with the story and felt that it is a chapter of history that one must know. It's a story that makes you feel very proud. Plus, the character 'Parvati Bai' was so well written by Ashutosh Gowariker and has so many colours to it. It had a lot of range to the character which really excited me.

“

Fashion plays a major role in our industry and I always had an unabashed love for clothes. That's how 'Ms Taken' happened.

”



ex : After 6 years of being in the industry are you more wide open to your own self-discovery and self-expression? How have you become more of yourself in the past years?

Since the time I have moved to Mumbai and come into the industry, I have started opening up as a person. Back when I was in Delhi, I was pretty rigid with my opinions, I mean I still am, but now I have also become more adjusting and understanding. I understand that there are different perspectives and people can feel differently about the same thing, everything is not white or black; there are greys as well. My right and wrong were too rigid and conditioned. But now, my perspective on life and horizon has broadened a lot which also comes through because of the characters I played, my experiences and the people I came across.

ex : With 2020 kicking in, what is the one resolution that you have always stuck to?

Of not sticking to any resolution (*laughs*). I am so bad at planning so it's best that I do not make a resolution, it's just better to go with the flow. Just enter every new year with a lot of positivity and leave behind all the regrets and things you don't want to carry forward in your life. **ex**

QUICKIES

One thing you regret doing on social media?

Once I posted a picture with a cheetah and it made people feel that they were tranquilised, although they weren't. I just felt a picture can easily misguide the audience, making it more important for me to be careful.

One gadget that would make you lazier?

A robot, I won't move from my bed. Also, if VR is easily accessible then I don't really think I would want to move anywhere.

One beauty advice you would give your 60-year old self?

"Don't forget to love yourself and take care of yourself as you did when you were 25."

A show you are binge-watching?

I have started rewatching 'Friends'.

Song you're currently hooked on to?
'Filhaal'

Photographer: Rohan Shrestha

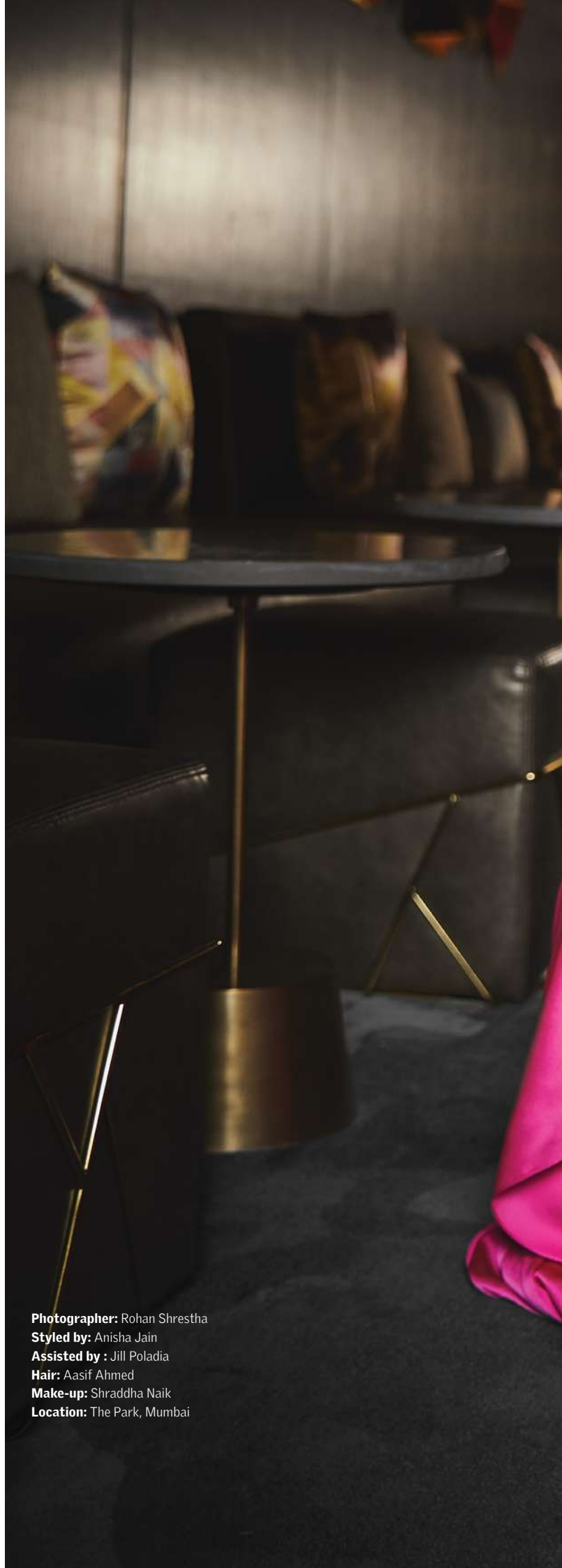
Styled by: Anisha Jain

Assisted by : Jill Poladia

Hair: Aasif Ahmed

Make-up: Shraddha Naik

Location: The Park, Mumbai





“

Don't forget to love yourself
and take care of yourself as
you did when you were 25.

”

#BeTheBetterGuy



If you live by the yardstick of "Rules are meant to be broken" it is a dismal way of going about things in life. They are there for a reason. If we stop abiding by the rules there will be chaos everywhere. In India, we are plagued by road accidents every year. And the worse bit is that it keeps rising. India is an unfortunate victim of a large number of road crash fatalities.

Who will take responsibility for all this? On top of it all, statistics say that three out of four people in the country are hesitant to help injured accident victims on roads due to fear of police harassment, detention at hospitals, and prolonged legal formalities. Even if someone wants to help, these factors stop them from doing so. Well, if people start taking responsibility and start acting sensibly, things will change. The need of the hour is to be a responsible citizen. Let's find out what measures are today's youth taking to be the better guy.



Simrat Kaur Randhawa

If you have a car and you use it to drive to most of the places in your day to day life then you are privileged. But in no way you are entitled. The roads are equally built for pedestrians. 20-year old Simrat Kaur Randhawa recognizes the trouble a pedestrian has to face while crossing the streets. She expresses that the least drivers can do is to stay behind the zebra crossing line when you are waiting at the traffic signal. It also reflects how polite you are towards other people when you go out of your way to give way to the pedestrians. The same can be applied when you give way to the Ambulance that is stuck behind two cars. Be the better guy and stay courteous towards your surroundings, it's the least you can do.



ARE YOU ONE?



Aviral Gupta

Aviral Gupta explains to us how important it is to stay within the speed limits.

And why it is pointless to go beyond the speed limit as it will only amount to nothing. Risking your life for a mere sensation of adrenaline rush is not worth it. You do not have to prove anything to anyone by speeding unnecessarily on the public roads. Over speeding has been a major killer and there are statistics to back that up. Over-speeding has accounted for 64.4 percent of the persons killed in road accidents.

It is in a way also a test of your real character. So, are you being the better guy and driving within the speed limits when nobody is watching?





Zoya Afroz



Zoya Afroz is a young woman in her early 20s who understands the importance of safety whenever she is driving. No matter what, she always ensures that nothing misses out when it comes to driving. First things first, she will wear her seat belts even before switching the car on. Also when she's driving, if her phone rings, she'll not answer it. If the phone rings again, she will stop at the side and call the person back. She explains that it's very dangerous to take your eyes off the road because a lot of things can happen in a matter of seconds. It is best to keep your eyes on the road and not get distracted by a missed call. Zoya admits that she is a bit messy, but her personality just switches whenever she is behind the wheels. We don't know how messy Zoya might actually be, but we do know that she leaves no stone unturned to be the better guy.





When your family welcomes a new car, the teenagers are the ones who are the most excited bunch. But it is also your responsibility to know that it is illegal for your underage teenage sibling or friend to be driving the car. Bhavya Monga lives with her teenage brother who is fond of cars. She knows her brother's obsession with cars, and is also aware of the fact that her brother is one year younger than the legal driving age. Bhavya has to travel outside the city for work. She knows her brother would want to get behind the wheels of her car when she's not around. So, she takes the car keys with her, leaving behind a cute little note for her brother. "Six months more to go for your 18th birthday, and I promise that I will teach you how to drive. Hold on!" Lovely to see how Bhavya doing a fabulous job by taking care of her young brother and at the same time ensuring that she is not encouraging underage driving. Bhavya knows how dangerous the streets can be and understands the traffic laws and regulations.

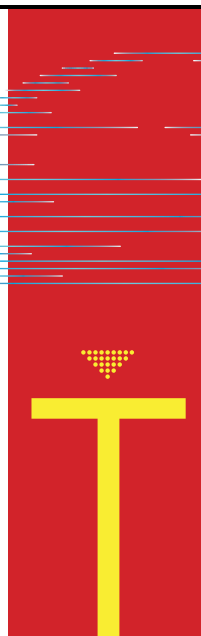
She's indeed a role model for being an ideal elder sister and of course a better guy.


It doesn't cost you anything to be a better guy. This initiative by Hyundai focuses mainly on spreading awareness amongst everyone who owns a four wheeler in this country. Honestly, buying a car is not a big deal in today's world. However, the most neglected aspect after buying the car is lack of proper driving etiquettes. Bad driving habits, and failure to follow traffic rules and regulations will only put you and your loved ones life at risk. One must ensure that they do not overstep in any manner while driving. Our poor record of road accidents is proof that we are failing to be the better guy. These small anecdotes from Aviral, Simrat, Zoya and Bhavya do give us hope that our future generations will not commit the same mistakes that the older generation did and hopefully set good examples of being the better guy. Until then, drive safe everybody! 🚗


Bhavya Monga



CONCEPT CARS THAT DIDN'T MAKE IT



he reason for automobile manufacturers to showcase their concept vehicles to the public is to attract their attention and give them a taste of the brand's future designs. And to tell you the truth, some concept cars were harrowingly bad, while others were magnificent. If we go by a rough figure, a lot of concept cars never made it on the road, but we wish there were some that did! 

 Saurabh Gamare

Ford Indigo

Those who have played the Need For Speed 2 Special Edition and used cheats on it, they know the Ford Indigo. Well, it was the most agile car in the game!

In reality, the car weighed in at a mere 1,043 kilograms, which amounts to an incredibly stupendous power to weight ratio. Its design is quite unique and in simpler terms, you could tell this is as close to you can get on getting an Indy Car on the roads. There were some quirky elements to it apart from the speed

factor, on its front lip, it had thin HID lights and its got those fancy looking scissor doors. Its monocoque chassis was produced by British Reynard Racing Cars. Unfortunately, we will never know how agile this car could have been on a race track or roads.



Power

435 hp



Torque

549 Nm



Speed

0 to 100
km/h in 4
seconds



Engine

6.0 lt
V12 48
valve DOHC





Engine

1.6 lt

four-cylinder,
Rear-wheel
drive



Nissan IDX Nismo

It was in 2013, Nissan gave us hope that they could possibly bring back the classic Datsun 510's design that had striking similarities with their Identity x (IDx) concept car. At the Detroit Auto Show, it sure did look like Nissan took some inspiration from its classic 510, but officially denied any reference to it. The IDX's boxy design is exemplary with sharp edges reminding you that it is from the future. Keep it next to Tesla's Cybertruck and you could tell where Nissan was aiming with this product. Nissan always played it safe by saying that this car was a show car, and we knew this was just going to be another concept car in optimistic Nissan designer's portfolio. Oh, what fun it could have been drifting this small rear-wheeled drive sports car!



Jaguar C-X75

Now, I am not a James Bond fan, but I do genuinely love the cars that are showcased in them. In the movie Spectre, James Bond's DB10 is being chased by a Jaguar C-X75. Yes, this hypercar was first introduced in 2010 on Jaguar's 75th anniversary. Jaguar has had its highs and lows when its XJ220 broke the world record of the fastest car and Jaguar was hounded by the catalytic converter controversy at the 1993 24 Hours Le Mans. However, in 2010, the C-X75 hypercar was ready to beat the likes of McLaren's and Ferraris. Jaguar had partnered with Williams Advanced Engineering team to develop an all-wheel drive, plug-in parallel hybrid electric vehicle. And boy, they really did plan to send this car on the moon with the power it had. Unfortunate that it could never go into production due to shaky finances at Jaguar.



Power

502 hp



Torque

1000 Nm



Speed

0 to 100
km/h in
3.4 seconds



Engine

1.6 lt

twin-charged along
with a supercharger
and a turbocharger



Combined Power

892 hp

(390 hp
from electric
motors)



Engine
6.0 lt
W12



Spyker D12 Peking-To-Paris

Indians love SUVs, this one though is not just any SUV, but an SUV that would have easily scared the living daylights out of your mother in law. Coming from the land of Dutch, the D12 Peking-To-Paris was way ahead of its time. It was first unveiled at Geneva Motor Show in 2006. Well, the name was a mouthful, with Spyker celebrating 100 years since they finished second in a rally that was held from Peking (Beijing, China) to Paris in 1907. Spyker is also known for its aviation heritage, thus, the D12 had some aluminium touches to it. Not just this, it had air suspension, weighed in at 1,850 kilograms and had Volkswagen Group's 6.0-litre W12 engine. Only recently, Aston Martin also showcased its DBX, another Super Sport SUV. Wish if Spyker tries to get this behemoth of an SUV on the road to take on the Urus, DBX, Bentayga and the Cullinan. It would have easily put them in the dust. Unfortunate timing for Spyker!



Speed
0 to 100
km/h in 5
seconds



Power
500 hp

Maybach Exelero

"We want to test some ridiculously fast tyres, can you build a car?" "YES!" this could have possibly been the conversation between Fulda and Maybach. The Exelero is a two-door coupe especially built for testing Fulda's Carat Exelero tyre range. This car was aimed to reach top speeds of 350 km/h so that its 23-inch rims could bear all its brunt. Interestingly, this car was to be developed on the Maybach 57 platform. And for a vehicle to bear such a speed without facing any issues on the road. It was a match made in heaven for both the partners, however, a production model would mean a lot of investment on their part.



Power

690 hp



Torque

1020 Nm



Speed

0 to 100
km/h in 4.4
seconds



Engine

5.9 lt

twin-turbo V12



IS SOCIAL MEDIA MAKING YOU ANXIOUS?



Smriti Raizoda




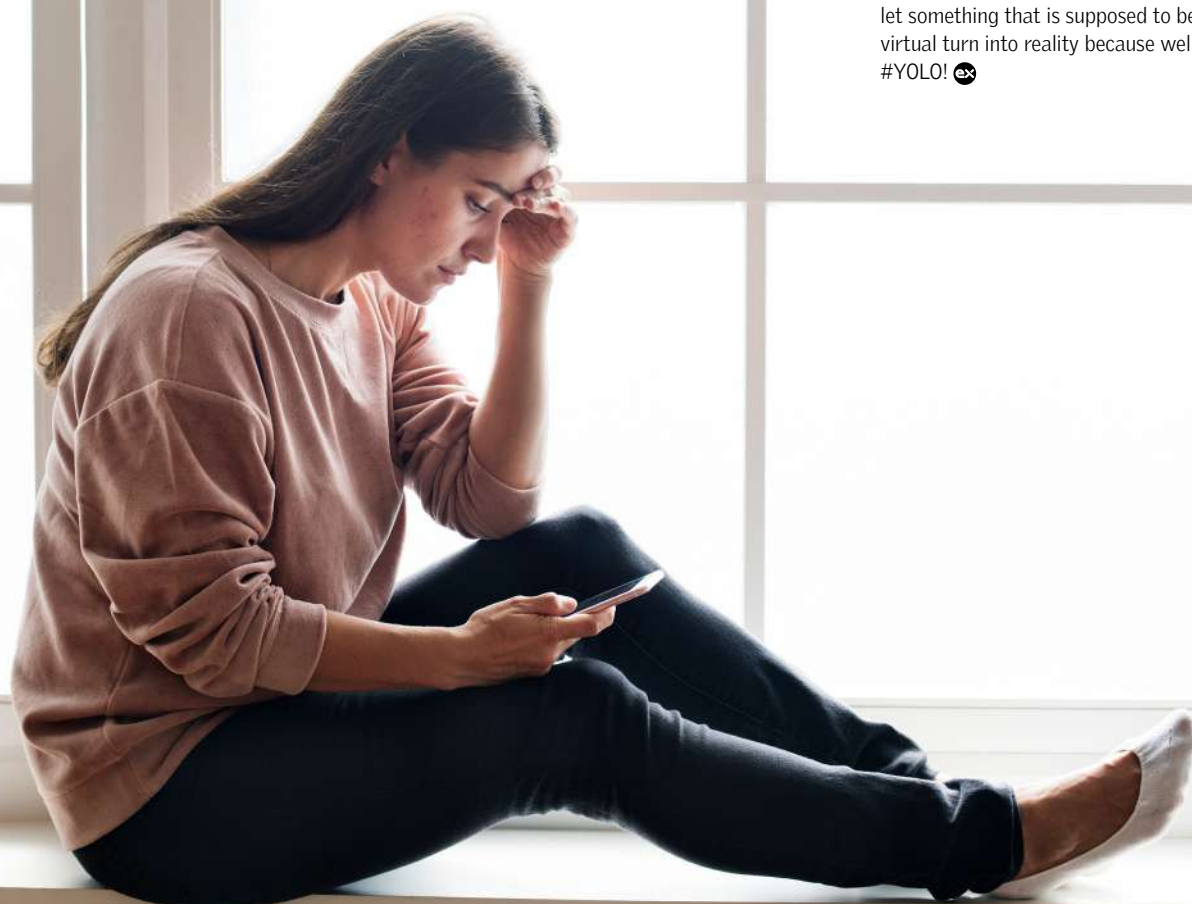
Hey millennials, what's up? There is a 90% chance you're reading this on your phone and not the print magazine because let's admit it, we are absolutely 100 percent addicted to our phones. Nope, don't try to tell me otherwise, I will not believe it. But let's begin by asking the right questions. Why are we so addicted? Heard that voice in your head scream INSTAGRAM!? If yes, raise your hands! No no, not really but know that you're not alone. Enough laughs, I am now going to take you to the dark side. I mean, you're probably already there, I am just going to come meet you and maybe at the end of this, you'd find a way out.

A common term that has come about in context with the 'millennials' is Social Media Anxiety. I mean, if only there weren't enough reasons to cause anxiety already, bring it on social media. SMA can actually be a byproduct of various things. It could either be the anxiety you feel when you are away from these social media platforms, even if it's for a short time. Imagine this, you have to board an international flight and even though you're super excited for your mini vacation, you're dreading the flight. Because there is no internet! And the only way to deal with that discomfort is sleep, so you decide to doze off. If you related to this, take a moment to realize that this is not healthy.

Social media anxiety can also stem from something known as Social Comparison Theory which is when you start comparing and evaluating your self worth based on how other people are living their lives. Go back to all the mornings you woke up checking your phone and seeing stories of your friends in Thailand, or going for parties or buying a new car. It all adds up to feelings of dissatisfaction, guilt and low self-regard. You know I'm right so believe me when I say one more thing - it is NOT healthy.

Another common reason for social media anxiety is not getting enough likes or comments on your pictures. The need for validation and approval of self is leading to a mass destruction - but only inside your head.

What should you do, you ask? Let me tell you a few things that helped me. Stop checking your phone first thing in the morning and stop checking your phone last thing at night. It only causes you to sleep and wake up with negative thoughts and changing this tiny habit will definitely turn that around. Keep taking small breaks from social media - detox in this aspect is as necessary as anywhere else. Social media is just another necessary evil in the lives of millennials. If we can keep the evil at bay, it has insane positives. Don't let something that is supposed to be virtual turn into reality because well, #YOLO! 






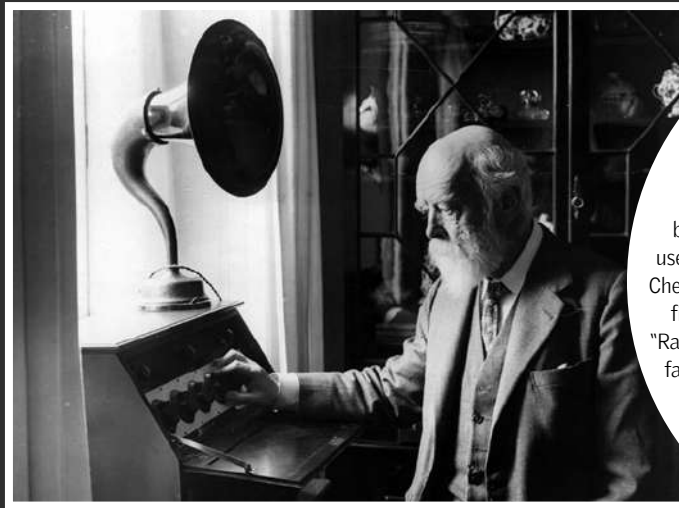
EVOLUTION OF SPEAKERS

Have you ever thought what the world would be like if the audio speaker was never invented? Yes, then it would probably be no Ketty Perry or Lady Gaga songs to listen to on music player because there would be no such music player invented. Neither there would be a television or a phone, for that matter. Before this, you might have never thought about reading this article. The life without speaker would have been so different than today. So how did these incredible pieces of technology come into existence?

The modern speaker was originated as far back as 1861 when German scientist and inventor Johann

Philipp Reis installed an electric loudspeaker in a telephone prototype that he was developing. Fifteen years later, Alexander Graham Bell patented his first electric loudspeaker along with Reis capable of reproducing intelligible speech which is commonly known as a microphone as part of the telephone that he was inventing. In 1877, Bell's design inspired another German scientist, Ernst Siemens. On those days, loudspeakers were driven by compressed air, which moved a thin vibrating membrane across a metal horn. The sound quality was poor, and amplification was almost impossible at low volume. 

The first loudspeaker to be driven by a moving coil – commonly known today as dynamic loudspeakers – was invented by a British physicist named Oliver Lodge in 1898. But it wasn't until Danish engineer Peter Jensen and his business partner, Edwin Pridham, worked together in 1915 that the first practical dynamic audio speakers were invented.



1926

The dynamic loudspeaker had been significantly improved, becoming more similar to the products you see today. The patent for the moving coil direct radiator cone loudspeaker, which became the prominent basis for the technology being used today, was awarded to General Electric researchers, Chester Rice and Edward Kellogg. Their loudspeakers were first sold in 1926 and were marketed under the brand "Radiola". The Rice and Kellogg Radiola loudspeakers were far superior – and understandably more popular – than the earlier products available then because of their ability to lower audio distortion and enhance sound quality. This resulted in a remarkably improved listening experience on the part of the consumers.

TIMELINE OF SPEAKERS

1880

1st Amplification

The easiest form of amplification were the Horns. Thomas Edison, Magnavox, and Victrola created the Horns from 1880 to the 1920's. This was the first louder source of sound



1924

Modern Speaker

Then the Electrodynamics Loudspeaker (the modern speaker) was invented in 1924 by Edward W. Kellogg. Which made the speakers louder than the past installments



2014

Smart Speaker

Finally, they invented a smart speaker in 2014 that gave you the ability to talk to it and give it commands and all that stuff like asking it to play a song then it will play you want it was called the amazon echo created by amazon



1921

1st Loudspeaker

Then the first Loudspeaker was invented in 1921 which was made by Edward W. Kellogg and this loudspeaker was made louder than the first Amplification being the Horn



1999

Bluetooth Speaker

Next, the Bluetooth speaker was invented a loud speaker that was portable small and more convenient than the past ones the first Bluetooth speaker was made in 1999 by Jaap Haartsen



Types of Speakers

Today, you will find that a wide range of loudspeaker types is available on the consumer market. Coming in just about every shape and size imaginable, today's speakers serve a multitude of practical applications, with each type offering a unique set of advantages and disadvantages over the others. Some of the speakers that are commercially available today fall under the following major categories:



Subwoofers

A subwoofer is a speaker type with only one job, to create very low-frequency sound. Booming bass is the subwoofers forte. With a range from 20Hz to about 200Hz, the subwoofer is an omnidirectional speaker. What this means is that it really doesn't matter where you place it. Nowadays, even desktop speaker systems come with some sort of subwoofer. When combined with a quality full surround system, the experience can change the way you watch movies forever.



Studio Monitors

Studio monitors are the speaker of choice for the professional audiophile. It is known for their ability to clearly reproduce both vocals and music. Studio monitors are really well optimized for casual listening or playing instruments. There are two types of monitors, powered and unpowered. The powered monitors are just plug-in and play. Because they are internally powered, they do have a tendency to add a buzz to the speakers. Unpowered monitors need some sort of external source to power them up. They don't have as much buzz as the powered speakers, and don't need an outlet nearby to place them.



Loudspeakers

The loudspeaker is the most common speaker used at home. These loudspeakers are being used at home since the beginning of radio. In the past, the loudspeaker was giant and the only way to get sound from your television or stereo. Today, they even come in small size, it still produce quality sound. The loudspeaker commonly has a woofer, mid-range speaker and a tweeter, thus eliminating the need to buy several different types of speakers to produce a full range of sound. They can be mounted in the ceiling or in the wall, or in a table.





Bluetooth Speakers

The Bluetooth is now one of the most common speakers that offer portability around the house and while travelling. The Bluetooth wireless speaker can connect to your phone or laptop and produce high-quality sound. Bluetooth are becoming more and more advanced, and it slowly replacing the speakers anywhere in your home and play music through all of them and the future worth investing in.



Sound Bar

Sound bar is designed as a center speaker channel that are placed right below the TV. It even improve the volume and clarity of dialogue, while also filling out the frequency spectrum. If you've ever watched a movie with your TV's built-in speakers and wondered why the quiet moments were barely audible, it's because the movie is tailored for a full home theater system with a soundbar. Some sound bars will even include a wireless subwoofer that you can place anywhere in the room.



Outdoor/portable Speakers

These types of speakers are designed to be waterproof and rugged enough to survive a drop. It can even built to withstand heat and humidity, as well as UV rays and the wires are plugged into the speaker inside a weather-resistant enclosure.



CONNECTIVITY



Wired

Most speakers systems are powered by electricity obtained from the wall outlets in your home. As not only the amplifier uses electricity but sound waves are also transmitted through electrical cables. With the new technology already in the market, the future of wires will play a less important role, although some types of speakers will definitely need wires to offers powerful sounds.



Wireless

Speakers that receive their signals via radio waves are referred to wireless. Wireless speakers in this era uses sophisticated latest technology to offer high-quality sounds. Among wireless technology, Bluetooth and WiFi connectivity are widely popular due to its secure connection between the host and the client.



Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is a technology that allows two devices to talk to each other typically your TV, smartphone or iPod. Most of these devices will have built-in Wi-Fi technology which you can be used with wireless speakers. An important feature of Wi-Fi technology is that it can cover a large area with a range of about 120 feet. Placed correctly the signals can cover an entire house. Not all systems are compatible when using Wi-Fi and this should be kept in mind. Some advanced systems provide excellent quality.



Bluetooth

Like Wi-Fi, Bluetooth technology is built into most modern devices and provides an alternative to the connection of audio and speakers. It is one of the most widely used wireless technology amongst consumers. They have a limited range going as low as 10 to 15 feet. Quality is usually good and for the ordinary home user, no loss of quality is detected.

THE 30K BATTLE



REALME X2 PRO VS VIVO V17 PRO

realme X2 Pro

Specifications

- **Display:** 6.5-inch super AMOLED FHD+
- **RAM:** 8GB
- **Storage:** 128GB
- **Processor:** Qualcomm Snapdragon 855+
- **Battery:** 4000mAh

Camera

- **Rear:** 64MP Primary Camera with f/1.8 aperture
- 13MP Telephoto lens with f/2.5 aperture
- 8MP Wide-angle lens with f/2.2 aperture
- 2MP Portrait lens with f/2.4 aperture
- **Front:** 16MP with f/2.0 aperture



Starting Price: ₹29,999/-

Vivo V17 Pro

Specifications

- **Display:** 6.44-inch super AMOLED FHD+
- **RAM:** 8GB
- **Storage:** 128GB
- **Processor:** Qualcomm Snapdragon 675AIE
- **Battery:** 4100mAh

Camera

- **Rear:** 48MP with f/1.8 aperture
13MP with f/2.5 aperture
8MP with f/2.2 aperture
2MP with f/2.4 aperture
- **Front:** 32MP with f/2.0 aperture
8MP with f/2.2 aperture



Starting Price: ₹27,999/-





hat a decade it has been, we have witnessed smartphone companies innovating technologies from bulgy phones to sleekly designed bezel-less smartphones. In the next ten years, we don't know how the technology might take us by surprise. Nevertheless, the coming decade will focus more on the user's privacy. Anyway, before we say goodbye to this decade, Shintu and I got ourselves into a rather epic smartphone battle, one last time. Shintu calls it, The 30K Battle. This is how our conversation unfurled!

DESIGN



While I have used both the phones, the Vivo V17 Pro design aesthetics, build quality, no-nonsense notch display and the most interesting - Dual front cameras won my heart when compared to realme X2 Pro. The super AMOLED display is protected by Corning Gorilla Glass 6 making it tough to break. It even weighs so much that you can kill a person.



I must say the Vivo V17 Pro takes the cake when it comes to the design and personally I prefer notch-less phones. The viewing experience is just fantastic on some of them. I really enjoyed streaming videos on the V17 Pro more than the X2 Pro. Well, I'm afraid, the X2 Pro does not have killing abilities. But, if it does fall on the ground there are chances that the Dual Gorilla Glass 5 could break.

PERFORMANCE



Shintu, I know you would want to surrender on this aspect. Because the Snapdragon 855 plus is staggeringly quick. It loads up games in no time, even when there are background apps running. Coupled with the Adreno 640 GPU, gaming on the X2 Pro becomes smoother and you barely notice any frame drops. Long gaming sessions has a moderate impact on the battery. The superb 50W SuperVOOC Flash Charge zips the 4000mAh battery from 0 to 100 percent in less than 35 minutes. That's crazy! X2 Pro has really surpassed all my expectations!



Yes, Vivo V17 Pro has slightly underpowered Snapdragon 675 processor, which is lagging far behind the realme X2 Pro's Snapdragon 855 plus. But the V17 Pro processor takes care of the Funtouch UI pretty well. It doesn't even lag while multitasking. There are slight limitations when playing high-end graphics games, but it is playable at medium settings. It does have whooping 4100mAh battery that runs the phone for more than a day with medium usage. There is an 18W fast charging, that charges the device quite fast.



CAMERA



This is where Vivo has done something exclusive, Vivo V17 Pro packs six camera sensor, out of which 2 are at the front and rest of them are on the rear side. The main 48-megapixel can capture beautiful, clear pictures packed with details. It is even backed by a 2-megapixel depth sensor to enable portrait mode. Wide-angle sensor and the telephoto lens does what it is intended for, but I feel Vivo could have done much better in this area. Now, the major highlight is the dual selfie pop-up camera. What's interesting is the placement of its wide-angle lens. Now, I can capture group selfie even without stretching my hands.



The level of detail on the 64-megapixel camera is far better than phones that are almost double its price. Its quad-camera setup has an optical lens that lets you capture photos with 20x Hybrid Zoom. It has a fairly decent low light image quality when you select the Nightscape mode. Yes, the selfie camera may not be as good as the V17 Pro but is no less of a competitor. While using Portrait mode, I thought the blurring of background could have been better. Having said that, realme has tried hard to make it an above-average camera performer.

Well, after this intense comparison, we both finally came to the conclusion that the realme X2 Pro does get an edge over the Vivo V17 Pro. The powerful Snapdragon 855 plus on the X2 Pro completely washes out the V17 Pro's Snapdragon 675 processor by a long margin. However, Vivo still amazed us with its pop-up dual front camera setup. Overall, if we have to choose among these, then it should be realme X2 Pro. Hands-down!

GOPRO HERO8 BLACK- 8 THINGS TO KNOW



1

New form factor

The GoPro Hero8 Black ditches the previous generation form factor and comes in an all-new body. The new body is stronger and sturdier but slightly bigger than the Hero7. However, the updated size does not hamper its portability or mounting of its accessories.

2

New Mount

There is the new mount design which eliminates the use of an external case for mounting it on the accessories like a helmet mount or an extension stick. The foldable mount simply tucks underneath the camera when not in use.

3

New views

It is still one camera but now it comes with four angles of view. Narrow, Linear, Standard and SuperView. These provide the required angles of view for different needs like vlogging or action sports capture in the widest view possible.

4

Slimmer but Stronger

The new Hero8 Black is slimmer than its predecessor and measures 28.5mm in thickness. Moreover, it is waterproof up to 10 metres deep and the glass covering the lens is claimed to be twice as strong.

5

Smoother than Before

The Hypersmooth stabilisation got a new lease of life in the Hero8 and its better than ever. With Hypersmooth 2.0, the video stabilisation is smoother than ever. The horizon level correction is an added feature which levels the horizon in the video when you are shooting it. This takes things to a whole new level.

6

Full HD Live streaming

With the GoPro Hero7, you could live stream videos on Facebook and YouTube at 720p. With the introduction of the Hero8 Black, this has been pushed to 1080p or Full-HD for live streaming.

G

oPro has been on a roll with their Hero range cameras and 2019 saw the launch of the GoPro Hero8 Black. The Hero8 Black instantly made waves in the action camera market with a host of new features and mods that make it a very sweet deal. Here are eight features of the GoPro Hero8 Black you should know about:



7

Shoot, Edit, Share

The GoPro application for mobile phones makes it very simple to connect and control the camera from your smartphone. With the Quik app, you can create short videos from the clips you have shot, select from a range of music, themes and edits which merely takes a few touches on the smartphone screen.

8

Additional Mods

Last but, not the least, the GoPro Hero8 Black can now take mods to level up the competition. These add on modular components include a Display Mod to add a front-facing screen, a Light Mod to add lighting and the Media Mod which allows you to add dedicated microphones to capture high-quality audio. These mods make the Hero8 a very versatile camera, especially for content creators and vloggers who do not like carrying a bulk of photo gear.

WATCHES OF THE YEAR



AUDEMARS PIGUET

At SIHH 2019, the brand unveiled the Code 11.59, which immediately became the most talked-about timepiece at the event, for its bold construction. For Only Watch, it will present the Code 11.59 By Audemars Piguet Tourbillon Openworked Unique Piece, a two-tone version that throws into focus the shapes of the case. The central case is constructed of 18k rose gold, whereas the other components are in 18k white gold. The movement is skeletonised and hand-wound and has a rhodium tone, along with a pink-gold titanium tourbillon. The inner bezel is of white gold, and is silver-toned. The watch has a black alligator leather strap.



Kristiti Khound

A

well-designed wristwatch should transcend time, giving information about the present in a package that references the past. The year's best timepieces from a sports watch that combines vintage design cues with an affordable movement to a GMT that's uniquely dressy and simultaneously robust do that and then some: they also prove that although the wristwatch is aging tech, it can still feel fresh as ever.

GIRARD-PERREGAUX

The Laureato Absolute Chronograph For Only Watch will be presented in Geneva. Its broader diameter and taut lines make it a distinguished timepiece. It is lightweight, due to its black PVD-coated titanium case, and water-resistant up to 300 metres. Attired in the blue and dark grey colours of Only Watch 2019, it has an anthracite sunburst dial, blue hour-markers, hands and second hand, edging on the push-pieces in the same shade and a delicately polished and deep azure-lacquered ONLY WATCH logo adorning the screw-in case-back. It has a power reserve of 46 hours.



HERMÈS

Framed by a white gold case, the mechanics of the Arceau L'heure de la Lune Only Watch adopts a light, barely-there role. It is meteorite inlaid, with mother-of-pearl as well. The horse, representing the origins of Hermès, gallops elegantly. At 12 o'clock, the moon is adorned by a Pegasus designed by the "dreamer-designer" Dimitri Rybaltchenko. Entitled Pleine Lune (Full Moon), this portrayal of the winged horse hints at a passage between two worlds, where magic and reality merge.

On the other side, at 6 o'clock, the view of the moon from the northern hemisphere provides a realistic depiction of its surface. The mobile counters displaying the time and date turn weightlessly to reveal the moon discs, while maintaining their horizontal orientation. The Arceau case, with its asymmetrical lugs, designed by Henri d'Origny in 1978, becomes a lunar crater made of meteorite stone. The Arabic numerals have a distinctive sloping font. This unique Haute Horlogerie timepiece is fitted with a matte alligator strap in graphite grey with a blue zephyr calfskin.



BLANCPAIN

A unique piece, inspired by the new Fifty Fathoms Barakuda model, has been created especially for the charity auction in Geneva. The very first modern diving watch, the Fifty Fathoms was adopted by elite military squads around the world, including the German Bundesmarine in the 1960s. They were supplied with Fifty Fathoms models via Barakuda – a company specialising in the production and marketing of technical diving equipment. The new Fifty Fathoms Barakuda for Only Watch faithfully reinterprets the aesthetic codes of this timepiece from the late 1960s, while making the most of the technical innovations stemming from Blancpain's long-standing watchmaking experience. Its black dial is punctuated by broad white hour-markers in Super-LumiNova with blue luminescence. The date – a key element of the original model – returns to its favourite position in a prominent window. It is paired with a tropical rubber strap identical to that of the historical models.

CARL F. BUCHERER

The brand will present a unique diver's watch. This year's given colour is blue, and the vibrant hue adorns the dial, bezel, and rubber strap of the Patravi ScubaTec Only Watch 2019. Water resistant up to 500m, this men's watch has a 44.6mm case crafted from 18k white gold. The silhouettes of eight manta rays – a nod to how many times the Only Watch auction has been held – are on the dial. A unidirectional rotating bezel in white gold and ceramic, the ample use of Super-LumiNova coating, and a helium release valve flanking the case are the numerous safety features that make this special edition of the Patravi ScubaTec a true diver's instrument. The DLC-coated caseback features an engraving acknowledging that the watch was part of the exclusive Only Watch auction. The timepiece is powered by a CFB 1950.1 caliber automatic movement with a power reserve of 38 hours.

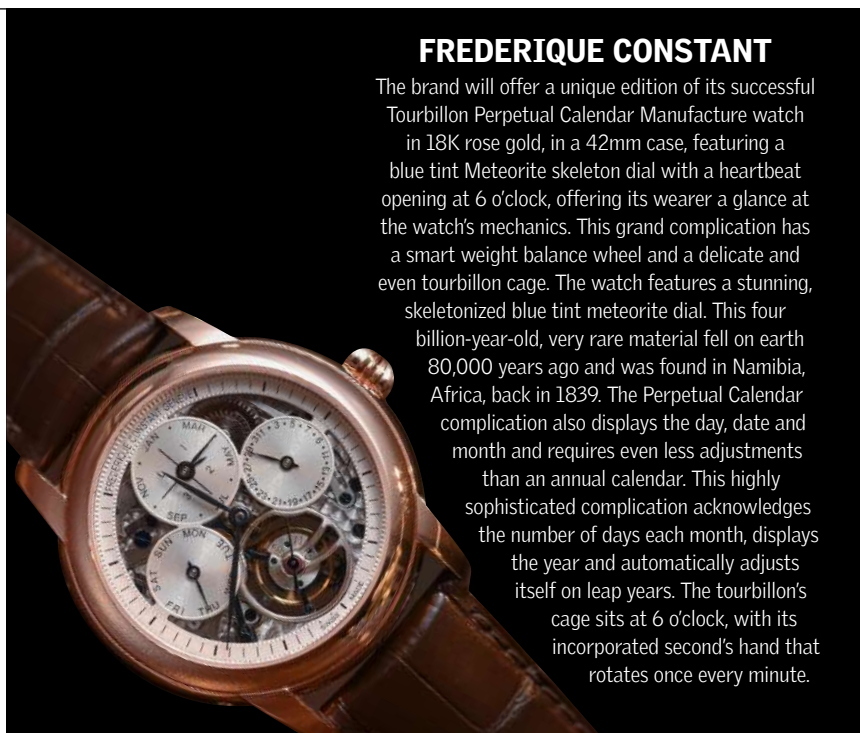


JAEGER-LECOULTRE

On the occasion of the Only Watch 2019 charity auction, Jaeger-LeCoultre is presenting the Master Ultra Thin Perpetual Enamel Chestnut. This white gold piece is instantly charming, with its hand-guilloché enamel dial in a striking chestnut colour. The timepiece's balanced hand-guilloché dial gives pride of place to four counters, including a new display of the perpetual calendar at 12 o'clock. At 6 o'clock, there is a subtle moon phase that simultaneously indicates the moon's waxing and waning phases in both hemispheres. The date counter is featured at 9 o'clock, with the days of the week at 3 o'clock. The full splendour of the sunburst guilloché radiates on the dial, providing the Master Ultra Thin Perpetual Enamel Chestnut with an impression of relief and depth.

FREDERIQUE CONSTANT

The brand will offer a unique edition of its successful Tourbillon Perpetual Calendar Manufacture watch in 18K rose gold, in a 42mm case, featuring a blue tint Meteorite skeleton dial with a heartbeat opening at 6 o'clock, offering its wearer a glance at the watch's mechanics. This grand complication has a smart weight balance wheel and a delicate and even tourbillon cage. The watch features a stunning, skeletonized blue tint meteorite dial. This four billion-year-old, very rare material fell on earth 80,000 years ago and was found in Namibia, Africa, back in 1839. The Perpetual Calendar complication also displays the day, date and month and requires even less adjustments than an annual calendar. This highly sophisticated complication acknowledges the number of days each month, displays the year and automatically adjusts itself on leap years. The tourbillon's cage sits at 6 o'clock, with its incorporated second's hand that rotates once every minute.



IN TALKS WITH



WOMAN IN POWER MANU BHAKER

The 17-year-old prodigy Manu Bhaker scripted history at 2019 ISSF World Cup as she bagged India's first gold medal at the tournament this year in Women's 10m Air Pistol on Thursday and became only the second Indian shooter after Heena Sidhu to win a gold medal Women's 10m Air Pistol at the ISSF World Cup. On course to her triumph, Manu Bhaker broke the junior world record with her total of 244.7. Just two years into the sport, Manu is showing signs of a champion with

huge potential and a great future. Gold in the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast gave her the exposure she so richly deserved. Krishti Khound has had the opportunity to get in a candid conversation with the rising star.

ex : Hi Manu! At 17 you have conquered the world, how did shooting start becoming your keen interest?

Ever since I remember I loved playing different sports and before

shooting I was into boxing, thang ta - Manipuri martial art. I was playing those sports because I love bashing my opponents. I really enjoyed it. After I lost interest in combat sports my dad bought me a 10m air pistol made me promise that I would pursue the sport for at least two years and I have not looked back since. I then had a dream year just two years after taking up the sport. I liked shooting and my father told that he saw a potential in me to become a pro.

ex : Who has been your biggest cheerleader when it comes to shaping you?

I am grateful to all my coaches for their advice and the hours they have put in to hone my technique. My parents who have always stood by me and all the teachers of Universal Senior Secondary School Gorla.

ex : What's the biggest piece of advice you have received about the sport?

Well to always work hard and be honest to your sports. And that you cannot reach on top by pulling others down. I would try and perform to the best of my ability and make a mark.

ex : Talking about your training what kind of regimen do you follow?

I wake up early, go through the routine of yoga and meditation before spending hours on the range which continues for normally 4-5 hours. I now firmly focussing on gaining an Olympic berth for Tokyo.

ex : Tell us about a pre-match or post-match ritual that you follow?

Not a ritual but I prefer listening to music both pre and post-match to keep my calm.

ex : What accomplishment do you consider to be most significant in your athletic career so far?

World cup finals Gold and Youth Olympic Gold. My best performance till date will be sports pistol in the Asian Games, topped the qualification with 593 of the world record. I am looking forward to these big events with hope. I would try and perform to the best of my ability and make a mark. Now eyeing an Olympic medal from the 2020 Games in Tokyo. **ex**

QUICKIES

If not a shooter what would be Manu be?
Martial artist.

Something that you enjoy when you are not at play?

Music, and art.

Your fitness routine?
Gym and yoga.

Your go-to person for every situation in life?
My father.





ROCKSTAR HEADPHONE WITH LIGHTNING CONNECTOR

Sweat & Splash-Resistant | Long Lasting Durability | Tangle-Free Cable



G3H0001btWHT



G3H0001btBLK



TAKE A JOURNEY INTO SOUND

IN TALKS WITH



GLOBAL INFLUENCER NATALIA VODIANOVA

CO-FOUNDER ELBI.IN, GLOBAL SUPERMODEL,
PHILANTHROPIST, INVESTOR



It takes a lot to rise from the ashes, achieve your goals and give back to the world like Natalia Vodianova has. She is a strong, independent woman who has made good for herself by simply believing in herself. She has a story that cannot be restricted to a page, so I won't even try. But the words written here are a ray of inspiration as Natalia divulged into a conversation with Smriti Raizada and gave us new perspectives of how she views the world and how she believes that the only way ahead is to be kind.

ex: Hey Natalia! How and when did the name 'supernova' surface in your life?

I am so glad to be here! It's so funny how that caught on because 'Supernova' is actually a name Mario Testino gave me after I gave birth

to my oldest, Lucas. I was about nineteen at the time and Mario was so impressed that I got back on the runway just two weeks after he was born. Eventually, the whole industry picked it as my official nickname so it came naturally to name my Instagram account @natassupernova.

ex: Young age, as we've heard, was a difficult time for you. Is there a specific moment from back then that led you to turn things around for good?

Growing up in a poor district in Russia meant my childhood came with its fair share of challenges. I don't think there was one specific moment or an incident I can recall, but times were certainly tough. I was very fortunate to have been discovered by a local modelling agency when I was fifteen, while I was helping my mother out at the fruit stand she ran in my hometown.

QUICKIES

A favourite designer you've worked with?

Too many. But Karl Lagerfeld has a special place in my heart.

3 travel tech essentials?

Ziip, which is this amazing device that uses electrical currents to regenerate my skin, something absolutely essential with a long flight.

An unusual app on your phone?

Wannakicks - A very cool AR app that allows you to try on trainers and shoes virtually

A Quote you live by?

Good is the new cool.

What's your favourite holiday spot?

Our home in the countryside, in France.

A book you're currently reading?

Invisible Women by Caroline Criado Perez

How would you describe yourself in a hashtag?

#InTheMoment

I had my first big modelling job when I was seventeen and after that everything changed very quickly. I'm very grateful to the fashion industry because it completely changed my life. It took me away from a life of hardship and alienation.

ex: What's been your driving force behind getting actively involved in social causes?

I think one of the biggest reasons I feel so strongly about social causes such as raising the standards of women's health is because I saw the reality of these issues in my own childhood. Giving back has always been important in my mind because both my family and I had to face these problems. We struggled through so much discrimination and insults, not just because of our socio-economic status, but because of my sister's disability. It affected me a lot

as a child, but I realised even back then the importance of family and making sure you stood by those you love. It is because I've lived through these experiences that I understand their crippling effect both socially and psychologically. It acts as my driving force when it comes to philanthropy and is one of the main reasons I started *The Naked Heart Foundation* so that the deficiencies in the child welfare domain could be addressed.

ex : Beauty is often constricted by societal norms which in turn affects the views of girls who don't 'fit' into that definition. How important do you think it is to break stereotypes in today's world?

When I entered the fashion industry, I was a teenager and I saw other models and how they were judged for things like not having the smallest waist or the right height, or for being from a different racial background. I've learnt over the years that confidence is the real beauty, and by continuing to allow the existence of these stereotypes, the world was essentially draining the self-esteem of aspiring models. I want to say that this has improved in recent times, as the industry becomes more inclusive and celebratory of different body types and individual styles. To a large extent, it is because this is the dominant discourse on social media these days. The diversity in women that girls growing up now see will allow them to accept themselves more easily, to realise their own potential and be confident in the way that they look. But whilst I feel there have been improvements there is still work to be done.

ex : Do you think social media can play a role in providing benefits to the underprivileged in society?

Absolutely. Social media is paramount to empowering the underprivileged and relaying positive messages. It can be incredibly powerful and effective, but at the same time, it can also be very frustrating to see such great engagement in causes that are perhaps meaningless. Five billion likes are clicked every day on Facebook alone, but on top of expressing our appreciation for things we like, what exactly do all those likes mean eventually? That exact feeling of frustration inspired my idea of Elbi: a platform 100% focused on good initiatives, giving people a voice and a purposeful way to make a 'like' really count for other people.

I wondered how I could capture the energy of a 'like' or a 'Retweet' and harness it for good. I strongly wanted those likes to become meaningful, to have an impact in people's lives. So, it came to me - what if alongside the 'like' button, there was a "Love Button" and when you press it, you're saying "I want to help these people; I want everybody to help these people." Then you do just that by putting a little donation on it. That's how I added purpose to those clicks, empowering everyone to take action.

ex : What was the inspiration behind starting The Naked Heart Foundation? Did you face any challenges?

The Naked Heart Foundation is something that's so important to me because it is aimed at building a more inclusive and accepting society in which people with disabilities and

special needs feel integrated and have access to the care they require. For us growing up, it was always a huge disadvantage that we didn't have the money to get Oksana, my half-sister, the care she needed. I went through the pain of being unable to help a loved one and I hope that no one must experience this - hence why I set up *The Naked Heart Foundation* for affected families. It gives them a way to get the support needed.

ex : You're absolutely adored in India. Would you like to give out a message in regard to how we can uplift the situation of kids in need?

India is home to the world's youngest population, and the youth are taking an avid interest in social causes that surround them. Children are the future of this planet and there is a large number of children in India who

require extra care for their special needs. Besides investing in their education and health of children, people need to work together to make this beautiful country an even better place.

ex : It's been a rad year for you and we're rounding up the best of 2019 in this issue. Tell us your favourite moment of 2019 so far?

It's hard to spotlight one single moment, but what I will say is 2019 has been incredible for the 'Let's Talk!' series which has been to different corners of the world. The series aims to tackle the most prevalent issues surrounding women's health-destroying stigmas and taboos in the process. From The Nairobi Summit in Kenya to New Delhi at the SDGs Impact Summit, we have had some amazing discussions and the global response has been truly breathtaking.

ex : What's the one thing you want to accomplish before the year ends?

I have always associated myself with causes I feel personally connected to. There is a sense of empathy which propels my passion for philanthropy. I try to make efforts across all levels to ensure that my philanthropic endeavours meet their objectives. For example, breaking down the stigma and taboo that surrounds periods is something I feel passionately about. For this purpose, Elbi has joined forces with Flo (the largest female health app) users, P&G and Dharma life to take that effect to the grassroots. The mission is to help one million girls in rural India to get access to education of menstrual health and vital period products. We hope that this collaboration secures the support of our subscribers who contribute towards our efforts of eradicating period poverty in India.

ex : What would be Natalia Vodianova's calling in a parallel universe?

I think I would've liked to be a teacher. If I'd had a higher education I feel like that's what I would've done. I love children and I love helping people, so it seems like the perfect fit. But honestly, I love my life the way it is right now. I have an amazing family, who I get to spend time with. I get to meet new and interesting people from different walks of life and I do something that I love without the worries I had as a child. **ex**



ECO LUXURY

Responsible travel isn't just for backpackers pitching a tent in remote locales. With the uptick of quality lodging at the intersection of environmental and social sustainability, it's easier than ever to stay in eco-conscious luxury resorts around the globe without sacrificing on comfortable amenities. The hotel business is inherently not eco-friendly, but there are hotels all over the world working hard to lessen their carbon footprint and operate in a more eco-friendly way.

The hotels listed below all incorporate sustainable practices into their operations and are working to conserve resources, recycle waste materials, and offer guests a greener way to enjoy a luxury vacation. No hotel is 100% eco-friendly, and just because a hotel is listed here does not mean that every aspect of the hotel is sustainable. This is a list of the world's best luxury eco-hotels that have implemented meaningful green practices without compromising on luxury.



Kristi Khound



**Rondon Ridge,
Mt Hagen, Papua New Guinea**

On the upper crust of Kum Mountain in Papua New Guinea sits Rondon Ridge, one of the finest resorts in the country. Dedication to environmental and social sustainability sets this upscale lodge apart. Upon arrival, guests receive reusable water bottles for on-site filtered water. During off-site culture and nature tours, guests explore in an electric vehicle. Apartment-style rooms overlook the spectacular Wahgi Valley and are powered by a zero-emission hydroelectric system producing power from local mountain streams. The resort sustains the community by sharing the clean energy, hiring local staff and sourcing produce directly from neighbouring hill tribe farmers. Deforestation is a burgeoning issue, so Rondon Ridge works hand-in-hand with neighbouring villagers to protect the surrounding forest from logging. Villagers are eager to protect the land in order to reap the financial benefits from tourism.



Cala Luna Boutique Hotel & Villas, Tamarindo, Costa Rica

Eco-resorts may be a dime a dozen in Costa Rica but Cala Luna Boutique Hotel & Villas is an exception. The resort's transparent approach to weaving sustainability into all aspects truly makes an impact. The eco-resort is in a protected nature reserve for sea turtles on a semi-private wild beach. It received the highest sustainable tourism certification from the Costa Rican Tourism Institute. In early 2019, Cala Luna unveiled one of the largest solar energy installations in Central America. The property has 1,400 solar panels which offset 34 tons of energy usage and brings the property one step closer to achieving their carbon neutrality goal. Beyond clean energy, Cala Luna houses an organic garden to supply its farm-to-table restaurant – enjoy fine cuisine, organic wine and fresh-fruit cocktails complete with homemade bamboo straws. Additional produce is sustainably sourced from local vendors. Spacious guest rooms are cleaned with eco-friendly products and equipped with biodegradable toiletries. The open-air spa also uses all-natural ingredients. All of the furniture is produced in-house and the resort staff is mainly local.



Copal Tree Lodge, Punta Gorda, Belize

Surrounded by 22,000 acres of preserved rainforest in the Maa Mountains is Copal Tree Lodge and its 3,000-acre USDA-certified organic farm – the first of its kind in Belize. 70% of the food served at the Copal Tree's open-air restaurant is produced on the farm while other ingredients, such as line-caught fish, are sourced from local purveyors. The resort offers guests hands-on learning about organic chocolate and sustainable farming. The on-site Copalli Rum distillery produces estate rum made from organic sugar cane, canopy water and yeast from the farm. Sustainable regenerative biomass power the stills, supporting full-circle conversion of waste and allowing the distillery to minimize its negative environmental impact. Excess water is used for liquid fertilizer on the farm. To help guests reduce waste, the resort provides aluminum water bottles and containers of potable water in guest rooms and throughout the property. Biodegradable garbage bags, takeaway containers, and straws are used throughout. Guest rooms are adorned with sustainably-harvested wood furniture handcrafted in-house from trees that fell naturally in the wild and the eco-lodge plants thousands of trees annually through its agroforestry program. 





Kristiti Khound

THE BEST BLOGS FOR MEN YOU NEED TO KNOW



There are hundreds of blogs written to grab the precious and frequently distracted attention of the so-called "male reader." As a writer and an avid reader, it feels like I've already checked out every blog that's targeted at men. Most of them are pretty similar, but some are a bit different. In this article, I'll give you a list of my personal favourites for the best blogs for men. For each blog, I have differentiated it from the hundreds that are available on the web. So here are a few blogs that highlight the best posts:



The Art of Manliness

This site is simply too cool to not list it here. Great name, unique vintage style, and the ambition to raise manliness to the level of an art form. A monumental challenge fulfilled well by the authors of the site. Being a gentleman is an art. It's great that someone noticed that. The Art of Manliness features articles written to help men break free from today's stereotypes of what a man is. It also brings a positive sense of nostalgia to our often soul-less times. Many of the articles leverage a very unique angle of advice like 'The Prisoner Workout' or 'How to Shave Like Your Grandpa', as well as practical advice like 'How to Survive an Earthquake: Your 60-Second Guide.' I have a feeling that anything you read on that site will leave you with something you didn't know before.



The Goodmen project

One of the best blogs for men with big dreams. Founded in the U.S. almost a decade ago, it allows men to tell stories about the most important moments and realizations of their lives. They even have a Wikipedia page that says: "The hope was to spark a 'national conversation' around the question of 'What does it mean to be a good man?'" The topics in the conversation start from simple, everyday men's struggle with work-life balance, values, relationships, and branches out to important issues for society at large, such as the environment, LGBT and gender issues, raising children, and the prison system.



The Quintessential Man

A great self-development blog run by an online entrepreneur Andrian, who, with a personal approach, selects a variety of topics valuable for men. Check this blog if you have an affinity for visually pleasing content, graphic design, and unique self-help tips, such as "The Da Vinci Schedule -How to Organize your Day and Week for Peak Performance", or some manly book recommendations.



Dude Pins

I mentioned this blog because I'm aware that some men like it. Dude stuff, beautiful women, pictures you won't find elsewhere, practical tutorials, videos, DIS, fitness advice – now you can pin your favourite stuff from around the Web in one. If you have a few minutes to 'kill', this may be more worth checking than 9gag.



Wingman

The team at Wingman Magazine, as well as guest contributors, want a young man to have a successful dating life, have lots of sex, keep him healthy, make him shine in college, and make his career brilliant. This is all served with LOTS of humour. Not surprisingly, these are the first subjects that grab a reader's attention the most. After all, happy social life is the best fundamental that will help you flourish in other spheres of life.

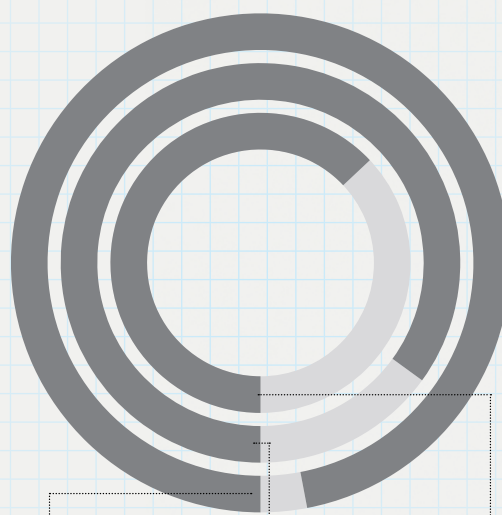
IS SOCIAL MEDIA ADVERTISING STILL PROFITABLE?



Krishti Khound



Why Social Media Marketing is Important



97%

Small businesses use social media to attract new customers

85%

Business owners aren't sure what social media tools to use

63%

Consumers who search for businesses online are more likely to become consumers of brands with an established social media presence

Research

You might probably know this but let me tell you again why your business should have a social media marketing strategy. As we helm onto 2020 we all have a pretty good understanding of social media and how it works, right? But what if I told you 96% of the people that discuss brands online do not follow those brands' owned profiles or that people 55-64 are more than twice as likely to engage with branded content. It's about using them to reach customers. Then it's your job to create

With the introduction of social media, we have a powerful tool at our fingertips that can share pieces of content all over the world in seconds. With this being said, social media marketing increases your brand's awareness. Many small business owners struggle with implementing an effective social media marketing strategy that drives sales.

This demonstrates a huge potential for social media marketing to increase sales but a lack of understanding of how to achieve those results. The consumers are there, itching to become brand ambassadors, but where is your business?

Social media marketing helps to validate your brand and it's no longer optional. It's an essential way for companies to reach consumers, and when done correctly, tells those consumers that their brand is active

and focused on communication. The longer you wait, the more you have to lose. When done effectively, social media marketing can lead to more customers, more traffic, and more engagement. Having a social media presence without an active social media marketing strategy can be just as catastrophic for your business as having no plan at all. Before we get into how to build an effective social media marketing strategy, here is a look at a few of the ways social media marketing can improve your business.

Branding

Displaying your business personality through social media is one of the best ways to connect with your target audience. Your social media channels are just expanded opportunities for your brand's voice, content, and interactions. A new customer may stumble upon your Instagram feed if they're an avid Instagram user or a customer might be more likely to become a repeat purchaser if your online brand presence becomes more consistent and recognizable.

Customer Loyalty

Brands are placing a bigger emphasis on customer experience because of the impact it has on reputation. Brands who engage on social media channels receive higher loyalty from their customers. More than 50% of Americans who follow their favourite brands on social media are more loyal customers than those who don't.

Conversion

Every post, ad, follower, blog post, and email is an opportunity for customers to convert. Whether you're a B2C or B2B company, social media can be a very effective tool for gaining new leads and moving people through your sales funnel.

Humanization

Faceless corporations are a thing of the past. These days, consumers care not only about what they buy but also the type of company they're buying from. Social Media has a 100% higher lead to close rate than outbound marketing. With this advantage, you can practice rapid response to build a connection with a customer, rather than putting them through the automatic recording steps via telephone.

Customer Insights

Have you practised social listening? Social media allows you to gain valuable insights about your customers' interests and behaviours. Check out reviews or comments to see what people think of your business. Look at engagement rates on each social media post to

measure what types of content generate the most interest. Track conversions through your purchase or lead ads to find out what type of audience benefits the best from your product or service.

Customer Service

The best place for customer care lies in social media. Before brands got involved, it was created solely for communication, and that is still its core foundation. Customer interactions allow for the public opportunity to make complaints right. It's also a place to enhance your relationship with them further by following them back, recommending additional products, and creating an open line of communication.

Inbound Traffic

Last but not least, the reason that is most likely to lead to ROI: increased inbound traffic. Without social media, your leads are limited to people who are familiar with your brand and people who find you by searching ranked keywords. By increasing your social media content frequency and expanding your social media channel presence, you are adding another path back to your site. And as a result, you'll receive higher traffic, as well as more conversions.

Social media is a long term approach, meaning, you won't be reaping these benefits overnight. But if you can effectively see why social media marketing is important, then get ready to dive into why creating a social media marketing strategy only enhances these benefits. 




ELEVATED ESSENTIALS FOR MEN IN

2020



Krishti Khound

We couldn't possibly talk about big fashion trends without talking about men's fashion trends. As we wrap up the last bit of 2019/this decade, we're naturally already looking to the future. And especially for us fashion folk, we're specifically looking at 2020 men's fashion trends (because we're proactive, overachievers like that). Whether you're looking for yourself, for someone else or just out of sheer curiosity, we've got the low-down on what next year's biggest trends in menswear are. You will recognize some of these trends as they're all either stemming from street style, the red carpet, women's top fashion trends—heck, some are even hot off the runway. Others, however, are nostalgic comebacks that we would've sworn would never come back into style. Either way, there's no sense in denying these menswear fashion trends. They're happening whether or not you like them. Whether you need a wardrobe update or you're just searching for a bit of styling inspiration, check out the top men's trends from S/S FW 2020. 



Cuban Collar Shirts

Feel the summer breeze in a stylish Cuban collar shirt. With a distinctive collar and short sleeves, they're an easy way to jazz up an outfit and make a real statement. You can choose to wear them with a bold print or keep it plain in a solid colour. These shirts look extra cool in bright shades like yellow, blue or green. Complete the look with chinos and sunglasses, and you'll be donning the summer sun in style.



Over the Knee Shorts

Achieve the ultimate casual feel in a pair of over the knee shorts. These are a great way to keep yourself mostly covered but stay cool in the summer heat. Whether you rock these bottoms with a bold pattern or you keep it hot in a bright colour, you can't go wrong in these statement pieces. Complete this look with an open shirt and fresh kicks.



Shield Sunglasses

Protect your eyes from the sun in the coolest way possible with these shield sunglasses. Not only are they a fresh alternative to the traditional eyewear, but they look like they've been taken straight out of Blade Runner. Futuristic and sleek, these are the best accessories of the season. Wear them oversized for maximum impact, or keep them small and colourful for a powerful punch. Whether you choose bright tones or something subtle, these shades will be your favourite way to complete any outfit.



Monochromatic Suits

Not all tailoring has to be tight, so why not let loose with some relaxed suiting? From something subtle to extraordinarily over the top, wearing a formal outfit in a casual setting never looked so good. Pair the ensemble with sneakers and a white T-shirt for a laid back feel, and keep the blazer buttoned up. It's best to avoid wearing an office shirt with this, as you may look like you're in your dad's clothes. The most important accessory you can wear with this is confidence. Rock it, and you'll be getting compliments all day!

Oversized Blazers

Take it back to the '80s with an oversized blazer. Large and in charge, put a twist on the essential suit jacket by taking it up a few sizes. Whether it be a pinstripe or something one colour, this is a great way to put a retro spin on a modern outfit without looking too formal. Choose a fit that's slightly bigger than the regular fit or go all out with something massive. Pair it with a basic T-shirt or a funky button-down and jeans, and you're going to be strutting down every street in style.



Cross-Body Bags

Keep your belongings safe and sound with a super stylish crossbody bag. Whether it be a messenger-style or something small and neat, these are a great way to secure your stuff and do it fashionably. If the strap is too long for your liking, tie a small knot in it, and you'll have a unique addition to your collection. This is a great way to jazz up an outfit and is a practical way to do it.



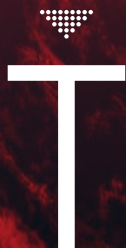
CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL



Krishti Khound



#exhibitcares



The world as a small number of people are saying will end by 2050. That's approximately 30 years of life we are left which is just about 10,950 days. And then maybe we won't be able to undo the irreversible climate breakdown. And like Greta Thunberg quotes "Our house is on fire" and if that's not enough to wreck your nerve and make you accountable for your actions to take a step nothing can. We are facing a disaster of unspoken sufferings and we cannot solve the crisis without treating it as a crisis. If the world doesn't figure out ways to cultivate far more food on less land, we'll need to convert nearly two Indias' worth of forests, grasslands, and other ecosystems to agricultural fields, according to a new study led by World Resources Institute researchers. That, in turn, would increase annual emissions by 15 billion tons of carbon dioxide and equivalent gases—far exceeding the 4 billion tons permissible under models that hold global warming below 2°C.

Some of the broad goals include reducing food loss and waste; planting more frequently on existing cropland; conserving peatlands, which release huge amounts of carbon dioxide when converted to farmland; reducing methane emissions from livestock, which occur mainly in the form of cow burps; and decreasing climate pollution from fertilizers, which account for nearly 20% of agricultural emissions.

The forests that were once the norm in India were gradually given ways to these concrete buildings due to constant development. However, it's time to be thankful for the various citizens who are passionate about saving our world has found a place on it. It is not about plantation but also nurturing a sapling it is about using resources carefully. Trees can't be classified as fast-growing according to region but commonly grown trees all over India.

The Exhibit family have taken a pledge to save your own life and join a global movement of people fighting to protect our planet. One of the best things you can do is to keep yourself informed – the more you know the better. Here is a list of things that can make your voice heard:

Travel responsibly

Transport represents 23% of global energy-related CO2 emissions. But the demand for transport is only going to increase. We have already found alternative ways of powering vehicles, such as with electricity, but in order to do it on a wide scale, we need much more efficient batteries and much more efficient battery-charging technology. They say they have discovered new materials offering an alternative to battery power and proven to be between 1,000-10,000 times more powerful than the existing battery alternative, a supercapacitor. The

new technology is believed to have the potential for electric cars to travel to similar distances as petrol cars without the need to stop for lengthy recharging breaks of between 6 and 8 hours, and instead recharge fully in the time it takes to fill a regular car with petrol.

Eat sustainably

Food production is a major driver of wildlife extinction. What we eat contributes around a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions and is responsible for almost 60% of global biodiversity loss. Farming animals for meat and dairy requires space and huge inputs of water and feed. Today, one of the biggest causes of forest loss is the expansion of agricultural land for animal feed production, such as soy. And producing meat creates vastly more carbon dioxide than plants such as vegetables, grains and legumes.

Power generation

We already know that nuclear power is a way of producing electricity free of carbon emissions, but we have yet to harness it in a way that is truly safe and cost-effective. We may be closer to an answer, however. Fusion produces zero greenhouse gas emissions, emitting only helium as exhaust. It also requires less land than other renewable technologies. Fusion energy is inherently safe, with zero possibility of a meltdown scenario and no long-lived waste, and there is enough fusion fuel to power the planet for hundreds of millions of years.

Volunteer for your world

Volunteering can be expensive if you don't know where to look. But it doesn't need to be this hard to do good. Often local nature reserves or parks are looking for regular volunteers, which can give you practical conservation experience as well as helping to restore nature in your local area. Or if you think that would be daunting you can just plant a seed at your home. Yes, that what the Exhibit's plantation drive is about.

We have listed a few plants that grow faster in Indian soil and all the perks it has:

Neem: Azadirachta indica,

commonly known as neem they can grow in most dry, subtropical and tropical climates. Neem trees also grow wild in the Siwalik hills, Carnate and Deccan regions of India, and they are cultivated throughout the country.

Peepal: The peepal tree, *Ficus religiosa*, also known as the "bodhi" tree, is a deciduous tree that is native to India. The stem should generate its own roots in 2-3 weeks time. Make sure to keep the soil wet.

Areca palm: The areca palm is a medium-sized palm tree which is an indoor plant, can grow up to 20m in height.

Nimboo: Dhauranjo or Indian Elm is a large deciduous tree, growing up to 18 m tall. You can just plant this tree on a weekend and enjoy it for the rest of your life. With very little attention and care, your American Elm will grow 3-6 feet each year.

Lal Chandan: Red Sanders or Lal Chandan Ped is a light-demanding moderate sized tree growing up to 8 m tall with a trunk 50m 150 cm diameter. It is fast-growing when young, reaching 5 m tall in three years even on degraded soils.

Semal, Shalmali: *Bombax ceiba* (Hindi name – Semal or Shalmali) grows to an average of 20 meters, with old trees up to 60 meters in wet tropical weather. This tree has a straight trunk and its leaves are deciduous in winter.

Babool, Babul: Babool is a tree 5 m 20 m high preferring sandy or sterile regions, with the climate dry during the greater part of the year. The crown is somewhat flattened or rounded, with a moderate density. The branches have a tendency to droop downwards if the crown is roundish.

These are a few trees that provide maximum oxygen and grow record for the fastest growing plant. They can be found in a nursery right in your locality or you can swiftly order them from Amazon.

Today we have used more than 100 million barrels of oil every single day but there are no rules to keep that oil in the ground. We cannot expect to change the world by playing by the rules because it's time that the rules have to be changed. We have to let them know that the change is coming and we are here to take responsibility. 🌱

Natasha Mudhar is the Global Chief Executive of Sterling Global, the multi-disciplinary, international business consultancy with a robust communications backbone, established in 1995. Natasha also runs The World We Want, a global impact enterprise of which she spoke extensively to Smriti Raizada and in the process, left us with a thought to ponder over.

ex : Could you tell me in layman language, how technology is going to help us change the dreaded future that the world is heading towards?

Technology is an incredible knowledge tool which has the power to bring people together from all sectors of the world like never before. I call it the 'global village', which aligns us all on the information highway with communication despite the distance between us geographically. We are living in an era in which technology is at its most advanced, and today it opens up new possibilities for vital conversations around the world. Digital technology has the power to accelerate positive social change by helping people, organisations and communities.

ex : A worldwide goal of attaining a Green Economy is in talks. With striking differences that India's economy portrays - how do you think that can be achieved in India?

As the second most populous country, the world cannot achieve its targets if India doesn't achieve theirs and this accounts for all global issues. An important factor which can help India achieve a Green Economy is the 600 million young people who live there. With the under-25's more conscious about the world in which we live in, more technologically-savvy and educated, they are no doubt the future for India and the emphasis is on them to innovate and drive forward this new agenda.

ex : If you could change one thing at the snap of your fingers, what would it be?

To have all 17 SDGs achieved. Although the world can never be perfect, millions of lives will be



TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE FT. NATASHA MUDHAR

changed for the better and will help set the world up into an exciting new era in which issues such as sexism and no access to basic sanitation are a thing of the past.

ex : Describe the kind of world you want?

I want a world that is dedicated to thriving on both purpose and profitability, in which there is constant multi-sector collaboration on critical impact projects with the purpose of creating and establishing social impact. With governments, organisations and other key institutions all accountable, we will have a greater push to eradicate the most critical issues threatening the future of our planet.

ex : What drove you to start the enterprise - The World We Want?

Ever since Sterling Global was started more than two decades ago, we have prided ourselves on always

bringing brands closer to their purpose. Whether it is organizations or individuals that thrive on both purpose and profitability, we have found this to be a truly unique venture. This is where the inspiration and 'light bulb' moment for launching WWW - The World We Want came from. On a personal note, I have long been an advocate for instigating social change across the world and, addressing issues such as poverty, all forms of inequalities, environmental degradation and peace and justice and felt that WWW would provide the perfect platform to address these ongoing social issues.

ex : How would you describe India's position amongst its contemporaries when it comes to achieving SDGs with the use of technical advancement?

The country has been making great technological strides in recent years and its is in a fantastic position to overtake many other countries and has become one of the most attractive countries for investment. In fact, India has already built and developed the world's first national digital infrastructure, which has arguably overtaken many other leading nations such as the UK and US. Much of this can be due to the 2009 Aadhaar project which helped put forward a technological solution which has paved the way for innovations in banking, mobile infrastructure and other technological developments. Therefore, if it keeps encouraging technology to be used as a tool for change, then there is no doubt that it will remain one of the highest in the world.

ex : What role does the media play in fuelling young leaders?

With greater connectivity and exposure, the world is being made more aware of the most challenging issues. This helps to shape perception and inspire action. The youth are particularly connected with the media, and social media, so this is certainly a good vehicle to get them involved in the discussion. The participation of the youth in turning advocacy into action and driving developments in sectors such as education, gender equality, climate and economy has never been more requisite

ex : What would Natasha Mudhar's calling in a parallel universe be? Moon walking.

QUICKIES

If you could invent an app, it would be:

Extend the hours in a day.

A favourite book:

The Innovator's Dilemma by Clayton M Christensen

A gadget you're currently hooked on to:

Bose wireless noise cancelling headphones.

A show you recently watched:

The Family Man

What are you looking forward to in 2020:

Launching Goals United, a unique concept spotlighting SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities to utilise the power of sports to unite an entire global population.

Describe yourself in a hashtag:

#WorkInProgress

AMERICAN SENSATION IN MUMBAI

HIP HOP TYGA

sunburn

Finally made his way to the 13th season of Asia's biggest electronic dance music festival, Sunburn Arena the multi-talented American platinum rapper, singer, songwriter, actor, and television personality Tyga which was hosted at MMRDA Grounds on the 29th of November for his much-anticipated Mumbai maiden performance. Before the crowd even filed into the arena, chants of excitement burst at the seams from every attendee young and old. Joining him as support acts on stage was the notorious Gully Gang hip-hop squad comprising of Shah Rule, DEVIL, MC Altaf, DJ Proof, Joel D'Souza and Spin Doctor, Loka.

West Indies musician and T20 cricket legend, Dwayne Bravo showcased his fervent flare as he emerged onto the stage as a special act performing his all-time global hits such as 'Champion', 'Asia', 'Run Da World' and 'Love You Baby' and also previewed his brand-new wedding song 'Chamiya'. Joining him on stage was Bollywood actress Sunny Leone who was also in attendance. Tyga brought nostalgia to the arena, driving the crowd wild with his most popular party hits from 2011 to 2019.

His experience as a performer, with unparalleled stamina and energy, reiterated that he is a seasoned veteran on the stage. Tyga certainly rapped with energy. He also showed off his footwork, getting fancy at times – it added to the vibe of the night. Tyga wasted little time on speaking to the crowd in between songs, and instead kept the energy high by rapping songs back to back to back with consistent articulation. Speaking of fans, the self-proclaimed 'Fan of a Fan' frequently sang directly into phone cameras, delighting concertgoers. He brought his signature hedonistic party vibes, as pole dancers twerked on stage and on songs like 'Ayy Macarena', 'Taste', 'Swish', 'About You', 'Ayo', 'Rack City',

'Faded', 'Far Away' and 'Still Got It'

Karan Singh, COO, Percept Live states, "There is an unprecedented demand for hip-hop in India and we will continue to deliver top of the line acts as part of our 2019-2020 calendar."

While Tyga has worked with the likes of Justin Bieber, Chris Brown, Rick Ross, Drake, Lil Wayne, Bow Wow, Nicki Minaj and Wiz Khalifa, in recent months, the Grammy-nominated artist was targeted by the public eye for his relationship with Kylie Jenner and Blac Chyna. Tyga currently has over 31 hits on the Billboard Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart and has sold 638K

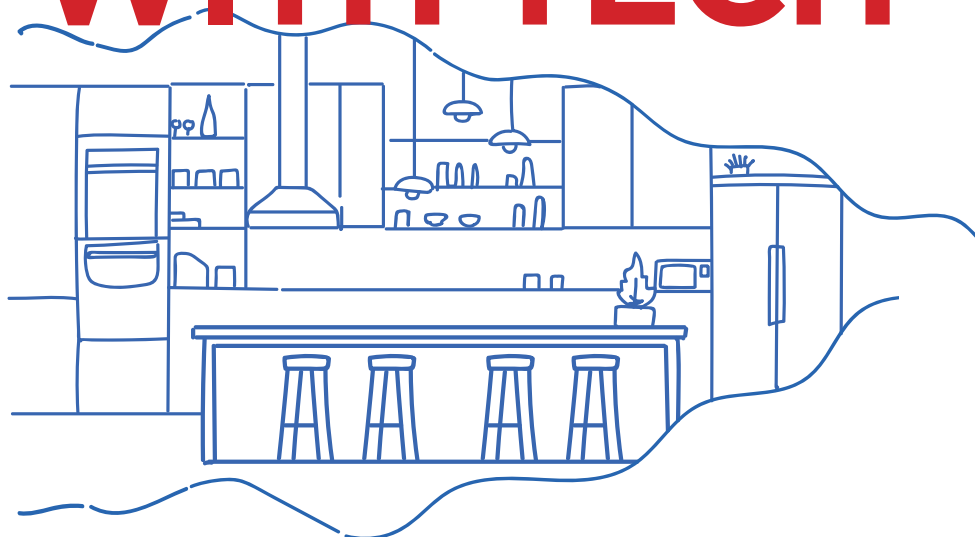
albums, 12.2 million digital songs and 1.4 billion on-demand streams. His RIAA-certified accomplishments include 4x platinum "Rack City," 2x platinum "Faded," and five additional gold records. He recently flipped a 90s dance classic on "Ayy Macarena", rapping over production that heavily samples the track. The song serves as the follow up to "Mamacita" alongside Carlos Santana and YG, and the rapper likely has even more new music on the way after signing a multi-million dollar deal with Columbia Records just last month. Over the summer of this year, Tyga released *Legendary*, with a deluxe edition featuring songs by Ty Dolla Sign, Takeoff, G-Eazy, and Rich The Kid. 🎧



LEVEL-UP YOUR HOME WITH TECH



Smart home gadgets let you do things such as turn your lights on from your smartphone, stream music to a speaker using Alexa, lock your doors remotely, clean your house, and much more. But the best smart home devices are about more than just convenience. They can also help you know if someone's trying to break-in or notify you when there's some other emergency. Here are the recommended Smart gadgets essential for building a Smart home.



iRobot Roomba 966

The iRobot Roomba 966 is one of the smartest robot vacuums out there. It is one of the unique home essentials that acts like a meticulous little helper and keep the house dirt-free. The robot is easy to use in general and can be controlled using smartphones. Like the rest of the Roomba family, the Roomba 966 is a disk-shaped device with futuristic design. The Roomba 966 can start cleaning with the press of a CLEAN button. The moving pattern is random and it will head straight unless it clashes with the wall. It will feel ineffective as we watch, but given some time, it will clean the entire area. One of the smartest features is it can dock itself whenever the battery is low. It smartly navigates to the dock automatically for charging. The iRobot Roomba 966 is the best products that will smartly keep your house clean all the time.



Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K

Amazon's best streaming stick yet, the Fire TV Stick 4K does exactly what the name suggests. It's cheaper than a Fire TV but still gets you high-end features like 4K streaming, HDR10+ and Dolby Vision. There is an option of using the Fire TV remote on a smart device. There's no doubt that the Amazon Fire TV Stick is one super speedy device and the user interface is simple and intrusive. It gets you access to services including Prime Video, Netflix, Zee5, Hotstar and more - a very solid selection for India.



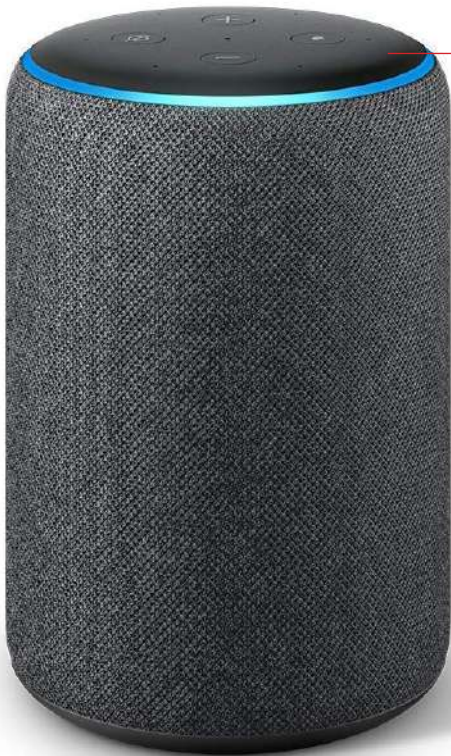
Fanzart Shimmer

A smart home is not smart if you own a traditional fan which is not smart and still looks like a product from the past. The Fanzart Shimmer Fans is an ultra-modern ceiling fan, which looks stylish and equipped with Bluetooth speakers and an LED light kit. The fan comes with 4 retractable blades. Turning the fan on creates a centrifugal force which deploys the blades to circulate air within a room. When Switched off, the traditionally intrusive Fine Acrylic blades automatically retract and conceal, and visually the unit transforms into a slim, modern light pendant. This fan has Multicolor LED options along with 10W built-in Speaker, that will allow you to set the tone of your party with the simple touch of a button.



Amazon Echo (3rd generation)

Of the huge range of Amazon Echo speakers out there, it's the standard third-generation Echo that gets our pick. Echo 3's main selling point is, of course, Amazon's Alexa, who is still our chosen assistant. There are three colours of fabric finishes to choose from - plus it's smaller, and definitely more pleasing to the eye than the plastic first generation. You still get 3.5mm line out, which means that you can wire an Echo 3 up to your existing speaker system, or connect via Bluetooth.



Philips Hue

Hue bulbs are still the best around, with white temperatures between 2200K and 6500K and coloured bulbs packing 16 million colours. They're fast and responsive, and some of the quickest to turn on and off in our testing. The fittings are fairly universal, as well. To get the purest Hue system, you'll need the Philips Hue Bridge, which offers the most complete control over your bulbs, colours, brightness and schedules. It's possible to use Hue bulbs without the Bridge, either using a different hub or the new Bluetooth bulbs.





Legrand Classe 300 IP Smart Door Phone

It is always important to secure your house with smart security right from the door lock. The Legrand's IP based video door entry phones can help you deal with door security. These IP door phones from Legrand- Classe 300 Door Phone System virtually allows you to access/control your door phone from any location in the world; all you need is an internet connection. While it provides security, it does combine modernity and innovation. The door can be controlled from both inside and outside the home, able to manage calls, answering machine, open the gate, activate the camera or operate the timed garden lights- everything with a simple touch.

Havells Freshia AP-58

Air Quality In India is degrading at an Alarming Rate. 15 out of the 20 most polluted cities are in India— as found by WHO(World Health Organization). That's why Air purifier is a must for smart home. Havells Freshia AP58 air purifier is our choice as it sports a maximum CADR(Clean Air Delivery Rate) of 500 cubic meters per hour and gets a nine-stage air filtration process. The filtration process on the device includes a pre-filter, a cold catalyst filter, activated carbon filter, antibacterial and HEPA filter, UV and anion generator, a humidifier and finally, some antibacterial balls to remove pathogens from the water stored for humidification. There is a display as well to show current indoor air quality levels. It works well in an area of up to 624 sqft.





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Abhinav Jakhhar

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

There are some truly exciting cars coming to India in the year of 2020, here's a peek at some that have got us really excited!

AUDI Q8



The German automaker is bringing its flagship 'Q' to the mix very soon! Audi is all geared up to launch the Q8 in India on January 15th 2020. Visually, the Q8 differentiates itself with the help of a coupe-inspired roofline and frameless doors! How cool is that?

Expected Price: ₹1-1.5 Crore

LAND ROVER DEFENDER

Will the all-new Defender fill the boots of its acclaimed predecessor? Only time will tell. For now though, we cannot wait to have a look Land Rover Defender on the streets of India. The Defender is expected to launch in the country by mid-2020.



Expected Price: ₹ 50-60 Lakh

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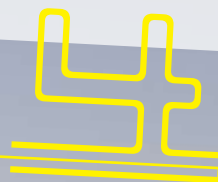
PORSCHE TAYCAN



Porsche's brand new electric storm is set to descend on Indian shores by mid-2020. The much-awaited Taycan is Porsche's all-new, completely electric, luxury sports saloon.

Expected Price: ₹ 2-2.5 Crore

BENTLEY FLYING SPUR



One of Britain's premier luxury carmakers Bentley is all set to launch the 2020 edition of the Flying Spur in India. The launch in India is expected to be around mid-2020. Also, expect the Flying Spur to be bigger and better in almost every way, a true treat for the senses.

Expected Price: ₹4-4.5 Crore

BMW 8 SERIES GRAN COUPE

BMW's all-new 8-series family will be making a trip to India soon. However, the first to arrive will be the 8-Series Grand Coupé, a four-door sports saloon which looks stunningly beautiful. Expect it to hit Indian roads and turn heads all around the country by mid-2020.

Expected Price: ₹1-1.5 Crore

A silver Jaguar I-Pace is shown from a front-three-quarter view, driving on a racetrack. The car is sleek and modern, with a large black grille featuring the Jaguar logo. The license plate reads '402 KBS'. The background shows a blurred racetrack with green and red curbs. There are yellow decorative line art elements in the top left and top right corners of the image.

JAGUAR I-PACE

Expected Price: ₹1-1.5 Crore

The British automaker is all set to launch its first all-electric model in the Indian market. The I-Pace rivals the Audi e-tron and Mercedes-Benz EQC in the international market. The Jaguar I-Pace also has the honour of being the 2019 World Car of the Year!

AUDI Q2

Audi's smallest SUV is also set to hit to Indian shores in the coming year. The Q2 is expected to launch in India by late 2020. In terms of size, the Q2 is just a tad bit shorter than the Creta. Furthermore, it's based on the brand's MQB architecture.

Expected Price: ₹ 25 - 30 Lakh



MERCEDES BENZ GLB

Mercedes-Benz will be bringing their much-talked-about GLB SUV to India by the end of 2020. Interestingly, the GLB will sit between the GLA and GLC but will come with 7-seats, which will be a big positive in the Indian market.



Expected Price: ₹ 40 - 45 Lakh

SECOND TIME LUCKY



Abhinav Jakhar



Let's be honest. Buying a new car can be an expensive proposition. It's always tempting to look at what you are getting for that same amount in the used-car market. For example, let's assume that you have a budget of ₹ 5-6 lakh. In that amount, the best you can do at that price is a hatchback, compact sedan or MPV, at best. Dig a little deeper on the plethora of used car buying websites and voila! There is a range of D-segments sedans like the Corolla, Cruze, Civic, etc. along with premium hatchbacks and even some

compact SUVs. For an enthusiast, this is a proposition considered most exciting, to say the least. The idea of surfing through websites, checking out used cars can make one stay up entire nights (guilty, as charged).

Nonetheless, there are certain checks and precautions one should take while buying a used car, especially in the online space. To make things a little simpler, we've listed a number of things to take care of before buying that car.



Set a Budget

It's crucial that you set the right budget before purchasing a pre-owned car. That's because buying a car too expensive or too cheap can turn out to be a nightmare in the long run. Either way, setting the right budget and not budging from it is the right way to go forward. Some part of your budget should also be reserved for 'doing up' the car once it has been purchased. For example, getting a thorough cleanup done from the inside and outside is a necessary expense.

Research Research Research

We can't stress this enough. It's imperative that you take your time in selecting and viewing used cars for your purchase. There are a lot of options to choose from - online retailers, physical dealerships, trusted mechanics, friends, etc. Each of these options has its own pros and cons. Careful consideration has to be made according to the vehicle that is on sale and who's selling it. Online research, especially, can be extremely overwhelming and addictive, for some at least. Setting up a mental research period is a healthy practice. However, if you do come across that perfect car, there's no harm in just sealing the deal.

Take a Test Drive


Even in an extraordinary circumstance, like finding the 'perfect' used car, one has to take a test drive. On the surface of it, things may seem perfectly normal. Always dig a little deeper to find faults, if there are any. We would also recommend taking along a trusted mechanic on your test drives, to ensure that the car is performing well mechanically and electronically. Additionally, it helps form that first bond with your new car, so it's important to notice even the subtlest of details and how they make you feel.

Check the Paperwork

This is one of the most important parts of buying a pre-owned car. Make sure that the car has a valid registration certificate, valid insurance and Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate. You should also make sure that the RC is in the name of the seller or his immediate family, with relevant or supporting documents. The same goes for insurance and PUC, be sure to check the dates on all three documents.

Another bit of paperwork which helps in the purchase is service records, which some responsible owners keep diligently. We would recommend buying a car which has these service documents. Another aspect to take care of is the transfer of the RC and insurance. In the case of dealers and certified online sellers, this process is relatively easy. However, if you plan to get this done yourself, it's crucial to get the relevant RTO forms and get them duly signed by the seller.

Bargain and Buy

This will happen irrespective of us suggesting it or not. However, we would push for bargaining with the seller as there is a certain amount of margin over the true price of the car that everyone keeps. After you have reached an agreement on the amount, it would be wise to close the deal, there and then. Making the final purchase can be difficult, given that there are so many other options to choose from in the market. Nevertheless, closing the deal when you find a suitable pre-owned car is just as good as buying a new car. In fact, even more so since for enthusiast, this may be the only way of owning a dream car from their younger days. 

FOUR WHEELS OF INDULGENCE





It's sad to think that the next generation of petrolheads may not get to admire the beauty of some Indian automobiles of yesteryear. Take, for example, the Hindustan Contessa. When it came along in the mid-80s, cars looked like they belonged to the 1950s. There was, however, one exception to that rule - the Maruti 800. Regardless, the Contessa was aimed at the elite, who wanted the car as a status symbol. Young Indians who had money to spend went out and splurged on a Hindustan Contessa, a true symbol of class and luxury, at the time. Once it was launched, it competed with the Rover SD1-based Standard 2000 and Fiat 118NE.

A Little Bit of History

The Hindustan Contessa was based on the Vauxhall Victor FE, specifically, the model sold abroad during the mid and late 1970s. An important thing to remember here is the fact that a car launched during the 1980s in India, had already been discontinued in the UK by 1978. Nonetheless, we were glad to have the Contessa, even though it initially came with a BMC B-Series engine, made by the Austin Motor Company. This engine came mated to a primitive four-speed gearbox. It was also used in the hugely popular Hindustan

As a part of this agreement, Hindustan Motors would locally manufacture Isuzu's 1.8-litre, four-cylinder petrol engine at Uttarpara in West Bengal.




Ambassador. However, after coming to their senses, Hindustan Motors entered an agreement with Japan's Isuzu Motors.

As a part of this agreement, Hindustan Motors would locally manufacture Isuzu's 1.8-litre, four-cylinder petrol engine at Uttarpara in West Bengal. It was only the second Indian-made car in the country to have independent front suspension. It was the first car to come with servo-assisted dual-circuit front disk brakes. All these changes culminated into an updated Contessa, which was launched in 1987 and christened as the Classic 1.8GL. Through most of its life, the Contessa remained pretty much the same structurally. A few updates during its life span included features like power windows, power steering, air conditioning, bigger bumpers, etc.

Then came the 1990s. The decade that, undoubtedly, changed the entire nation. Hindustan Motors updated the Contessa yet again. This time around they added a 2.0-litre, Isuzu 4FC1 diesel engine and later on, in 1996, a turbocharged version of the same engine also came to the scene. But by then, it was already too late. There was a wave of FDI which came swept the seemingly unprepared Hindustan Motors out to sea. Practical, compact, fuel-efficient became bywords in

the Indian automobile industry. For Hindustan Motors, this was the beginning of the end. However, it wasn't over just yet. Government officials still relied on the Hindustan Ambassador and Contessa. Although the Ambassador was able to hold on till 2014, the Contessa's production was stopped in 2002.

Cult of Personality

Although the Hindustan Contessa was not around for a long time (relatively), it made a significant impact in the mind of many Indians at the time. It was a car squarely aimed at the elite in an attempt to make them feel special. And to some degree, it worked. Even today, most individuals from that era look at the Contessa as a cut above the rest. That's because it was made by one of the largest automobile companies in India. What further added to its popularity was the fact that for some time, it was believed that it would replace the Ambassador. However, that was not to be. The Ambassador not only survived for longer, but it also created a much greater impact than the Contessa. Be that as it may, there's no denying that Contessa will definitely pop up every time one thinks of cars which made a difference in the mind of the consumer. It wasn't about being practical or going with the flow with the Contessa, it was the kind of car you bought to make a statement. That's what it was then, a statement to the masses - you have arrived. 

GAMING

PC BUILD



Mrinmoy Choudhury



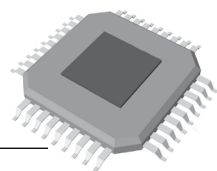


2019

has ended and it has been an exciting year, especially with computers and gaming. With several new components which have hit our shores, we are listing some of very capable products for putting together a gaming PC.

We have kept a flexible budget and have included some of the best components for building this gaming PC. The PC is aimed towards handling 4K gaming and whatever else thrown at it with ease. We are also aiming at 144 Hz gameplay as well as VR Gaming handling capabilities, enough firepower to allow very smooth gaming. The components are chosen to facilitate any changes so that the user does not have to make a host of changes if the processor is changed. The components should be compatible with each other and not hinder the performance when connected to a high refresh rate monitor.

This build is not aimed towards casual gamers, so the keyboard and mouse and monitor should suit the needs of high-end serious gaming. Moreover, the budget for the build has not been considered so that the system can handle each and every other task which comes in its way. Here are the components which have made it into our list.



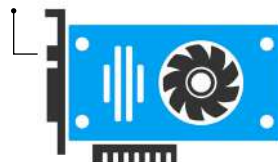
CPU

Intel Core i7 9700K Desktop 9th Generation Processor:

The Intel Core 7 Intel Core i7 9700K Desktop 9th Generation Processor is a versatile CPU allowing you to game, record, stream and carry on most of the demanding tasks without being compromised. This Unlocked and Overclockable CPU from Intel has a base operating frequency of 3.6 GHz and an overclock potential of up to 4.9 GHz. It features 8 threads which will allow more of multi-tasking as well as provide a smooth gaming experience. This CPU features Solder Thermal Interface Material which is said to maximize the heat transfer between the processor core and the cooler allowing for the much smoother operating experience.

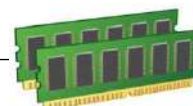
Graphics Card

Zotac GeForce GTX 1080 Ti AMP Extreme Core 11GB GDDR5X: Since the focus is on heavy tasks and gaming, the graphics card is the one which will bear a lot of the load. We have selected the Zotac GTX 1080 Ti AMP Edition Core. What makes this card the right choice is the higher clock speeds both at stock and boost settings along with its very competitive pricing. The GTX 1080 Ti from Nvidia is based on their Pascal architecture. It is equipped with 11GB of GDDR5X memory. It is also VR ready and can easily drive a VR headset. It seamlessly handles all 4K game titles. With 144 Hz fps refresh rate, it can be used for professional gaming where speed is the key. Moreover, it can handle every other title that is thrown at it with room for more.



The SSD

XPG SPECTRIX S40 RGB PCIe Gen3x4 M.2 2280 Solid State Drive: No build is complete without Solid State Drives. SSD's are faster than traditional HDD's as they have no moving parts like an HDD which allows very fast data read and write times. The XPG SPECTRIX S40 RGB SSD features next-generation flash memory making it most suited for gamers and professionals. This SSD also features RGB lighting with programmable lighting effects. You can set up various patterns, pulsating speeds and lighting intensity with XPG's RGB control application.

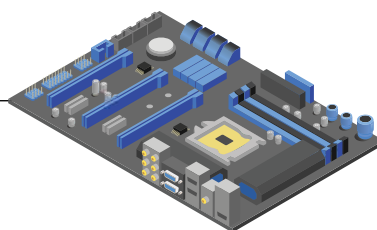


RAM

G.Skill Trident Z RGB 16GB DDR4-2400MHz: There cannot be more stress on the word RGB as it has taken a prominent place among most of the gadgets we use in our daily lives. The G. Skill Trident Z RGB DDR4 memory is exactly for those who like it lit. The RAM features RGB lighting and produced a soft glow that renders a fantastic look to the overall aesthetics of the PC. The memory performance of the G. Skill Trident Z is also good with speeds ranging from 2400 to 3600 MHz which makes it a perfect choice for a demanding build. Two 8 GB sticks should be able to handle most of your heavy tasks.

Motherboard

GIGABYTE Z390 Aorus Elite: If you are looking for a motherboard which really complements the processor of your choice, the Aorus Elite from GIGABYTE will fit right into your bill. The Z390 Aorus Elite supports both 9th as well as 8th generation of Intel processors which support the LGA 1151 socket type. The Aorus Elite comes with a non-ECC, unbuffered DDR4 support and has four DIMM slots which will allow maximum memory support. The addition of the USB-C on this motherboard makes the deal even sweeter. The Aorus Z390 also has Gigabyte Smart Fan 5 which uses thermal sensors to maximize cooling efficiency even during overclocked speeds. Moreover, it has all the support for gamers including PCIe slots which can support gamer's needs.





Storage

Now with a PC this capable, you do not want to choose a slow storage device. Hard disk drives operate very slow when compared to solid-state devices. This brings in the need of having an SSD storage. Consider having the best of the lot, especially if the PC you are building needs fast storage solutions for faster turnaround times. Consider using the multiple M.2 slots with something from the Samsung 970 Evo series of solid-state drives. Alternately you can choose SATA storage and a 7200 rpm HDD to suit your heavy storage requirements.



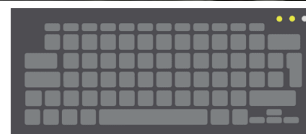
Cooling

Corsair Hydro Series H115i PRO RGB 280mm Liquid CPU Cooler: For demanding situations like gaming or rendering, the CPU is expected to work at the highest loads possible. Higher loads not only mean performance but also generates a lot of heat on the CPU. This need to be dissipated out of the system as fast as possible. For most cases, copper and aluminium heat sink coolers will be enough to handle the heat. However, for this demanding build, we have selected the Corsair Hydro Series H115i Pro RGB 280mm Liquid cooler. This liquid cooler has RGB lighting on the pump head, not only making it look cool but also delivers close to no noise performance. At lower temperatures, the fan is completely turned off by the system which makes it even more quite.



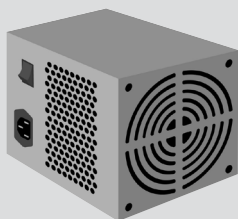
CPU Case

Corsair Carbide Series SPEC-OMEGA RGB Mid-Tower Tempered Glass Gaming Case: The final piece of the puzzle, A cabinet to fit in all the powerful goodness that we have gathered so far. The Corsair Carbide Series SPEC-OMEGA RGB mid-tower case comes with a Tempered Glass window. As it is the case with most of the computer components these days, RGB lighting and transparent windows on CPU cabinets are trending. This cabinet is spacious enough to fit all the components inside without any hindrance while maintaining the cooling as well as looking stylish.



Keyboard and Mouse

Gamers and non-gamers alike, a combination of a rugged keyboard and mouse brings a whole lot of difference to the gaming setup. The HyperX Alloy Origins gaming keyboard comes with RGB lighting and mechanical key operation providing you precise feedback. It comes in a full aircraft-grade aluminium housing and stays stable when keystrokes are raining. The detachable USB-C type cable makes it easier to move around. With the HyperX NGENUITY software, you can choose custom RGB lighting effects. It also allows you to have three settings for height adjustment. A mouse at most of the times is a thing of personal choice. People who use a mouse to work or game will have specific needs, which also includes a superior handling experience. If you rather enjoy a cable-free experience, it is best to get the Corsair Harpoon RGB Wireless mouse. This wireless gaming mouse claims a responsive experience and has a better rubber padding on the sides with a very ergonomic design. It packs a 10,000 DPI sensor which is responsive and accurate, both in wired as well as wireless modes. It connects to the PC using a 2.4 Hz dongle; it can also pair with most of your devices using Bluetooth which makes it a great mouse for travelling as well.



Power Supply Units


Cooler Master MasterWatt 750 Semi-fanless Modular Power Supply: The Cooler Master MasterWatt 750 is a modular power supply unit which makes routing cables inside very easy and clean. It is rated at 750 Watts which is enough to drive the power-hungry components we have assembled so far. Even when operating under full-load, it is very silent as it features a semi fan-less design which ensures no noise and quieter performance.

• To top everything off, gaming also needs some serious sound output. We suggest the HyperX Cloud S gaming headset will handle all the gaming needs. •

M

y prediction for 2020 is "less is more" and like for many 2020 is a rough the was most times that when one is the one who is responsible for the outcome of the most awaited year of the decade. A self-directed year-end review can be done in a few different ways. You can break down your year in quarters, review past goals, or review the main areas of your life, such as career, finances, health, personal development, and relationships. Make sure your plan of action has a way to measure your progress. Its time to set smart goals. And leave space for the unknown. It's okay to move into 2020 not knowing the answer to everything. One mistake people make when reviewing the year is only focusing on what they want to improve instead of also celebrating their accomplishments.

It drains our energy to focus on where we derailed and try to course-correct, putting us in a compromised mental state of doubt and fear of failure. Once you identify them, double down on the skills you learned in the prior year. Make sure you either give yourself a chance to continue practicing that skill or search for opportunities that allow you to learn, grow, and excel at that skill. Most people accomplish way more than they think, and putting pencil to paper can be really eye-opening. So many people resist celebrating accomplishments. As though you are not allowed to, especially if it involves something that is not fully complete. This vision of oneself and accomplishments can lead to a negative spiral, that you never accomplish anything, [and] thoughts of not being good enough.

Keep track of all the good things you do throughout the year. Then, at quarter-end or year-end, you'll have oodles of examples to bring to your manager's attention regarding things you've accomplished. Companies are in business to earn profits. That's the bottom line you need to start with when you want credit for your accomplishments. So as you're documenting what you do, be sure to include a note about how it made a difference to the bottom line. But be your own performance advocate. 



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Krishti Khound



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TECHNOLOGY

HAS MADE OUR LIVES EASIER

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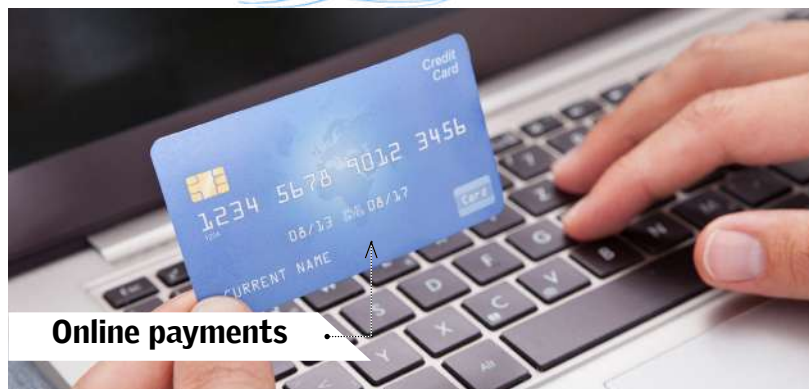
ach and every single day, technology is changing very rapidly and all of this has made human lives much easier. As technology leaps ahead with all its might, rapid advancements are now impacting human lives in a much more positive way.

From making calls and sending instant messages to taking care of personal health, technology has come a long way and has been integrated with human lives to make living simpler. Lets dive into the topic and see how tech has made our lives easier.

Improved health care



Before technology became mainstream, healthcare has always been a difficult affair. Without technical help and modern instruments, doctors have found it very difficult to treat their patients. From the past two decades, technology has been at the forefront of effective healthcare. With the invention of various instruments and gadgets which can monitor things like heartbeat, oxygen levels and other human vitals, doctors can focus more on improving the health of the patient rather than just trying to keep them alive. Similarly, robots and being incorporated in surgeries for better precision and emergency situations. With the advent of wearable technology, the overall healthcare industry has taken several leaps ahead of the time which also has made the doctors lives easier.



Online payments

Well since the time technology has taken shopping to our screens, online payments have been in practice. However online payments also attract a lot of scammers and hackers who take the opportunity and dupe people of their money. With time and technology, the security of online payments has gone up a lot. You will find companies using secure servers and several levels of encryption to keep your payment safe and free of scams. This makes online purchases really simple and far less complicated especially when millions of online payments are processed worldwide on a daily basis.

Online movies and entertainment



On any given day, on any given mode of transport, you will come across many people who use their time of commute for entertainment too. With the rise in technology, entertainment has moved out of our televisions and surfaced online. Several entertainment portals and website now have thousands of hours of movies and tv series playing. Subscriptions which are also quite affordable attract a lot of people who wish to spend some time on their personal entertainment. Services like Netflix, Hotstar and Amazon Video has been very popular in India since the time of their arrival. Movie theatres also see lesser footfall as most of the new movies find their way into online entertainment portals not too long after their initial release.

Easy Advertising


Technology has undoubtedly made advertising a lot easier and the reaches far and wide too. There are now numerous ways you can promote a business. Social sites like Instagram and Facebook have now incorporated advertising into the social lifestyle of people. For business owners, online websites have become a very important part of owning a business. Moreover, you ask your friends and relatives to provide you with initial support by sharing it with their friends and relatives. With new features being integrated into Google services, shop owners can update their services, products and even prices of the available products extending their overall reach, while customers can leave feedback and ratings on the same.



Evolution of Smart Cities

It is not only the TV's and phones but entire cities which have become smart now. Eco-friendly and connected cities have now become a reality. Smart cities are the future of technology at its best. Smart cities are planned and use the convenience of technology and knowledge to make it better. Smart cities use technology to gather data on electricity and water usage along with a host of other information. Moreover, smart cities are adopting internet connectivity and providing free accessible internet in all corners of the city and transportation hubs like airports and railway stations.


AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH

 Abhinav Jakhar

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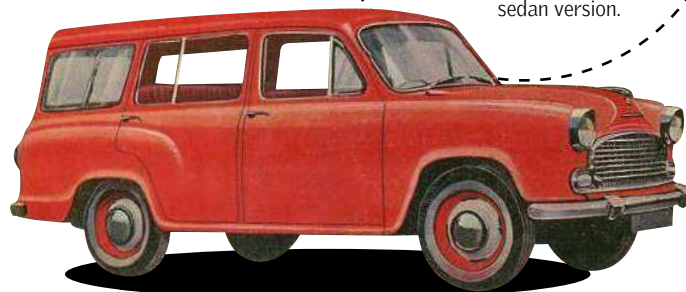
More often than not, I find myself thinking of alternatives to the SUV craze in the world. It's not that I don't appreciate the pros of an SUV, it's just that as far as on-road manners go, there is very little that comes close to a conventional sedan or hatchback. However, a large boot space, comfortable seating for four or five passengers and a go-anywhere ability are undeniable boons to have in a comfortable family car. Mind you, we're not talking about seven-seaters here, just five-seat family cars with a big boot.

So, what's a good alternative then? First, let's consider the parameters. The car has to have seating for five, a large enough boot for your weekend getaways or a big cute doggo and has the ability to go anywhere, at least tackle the highways with ease. Dare I say, the estate car! Yes, I know that the estate car formula has been tried many times over the years but the crucial fact is - it's still around.

Before we get into some of the estate cars which are available in the Indian market today, we take a look at some of the estate cars of yore, which are sure to stir up some fond memories. 

Hindustan Ambassador Station Wagon

The Ambassador doesn't really need any introduction. It sold from 1958 to 2014, which is an astonishing feat in itself. However, during the 1970s, Hindustan Motors introduced an extended version of their already existing sedan version.



Fiat Padmini Safari

The Padmini Safari is believed to have started the station wagon or estate car trend in India. It was manufactured by a company called Starline Motors, located in Mumbai. It was not officially manufactured by Fiat India but still caught the fancy of many buyers looking for that extra space. The modified Padmini was launched back in 1973.



Sipani Rover Montego

For a very brief time in the 1990s, British automaker Rover tied up with Sipani Automobiles Ltd, which was based out of Bengaluru. The Montego was an international model which came with amenities like a sunroof and self-levelling suspension. It was introduced in 1993 and was discontinued in 1997.



Tata Estate

Launched back in 1992, the Tata Estate was an attempt to introduce an alternative to the sedans available at the time. It came equipped with features like power steering, power windows and a tachometer. However, it failed to capture the imagination of the public and was relegated to pages of history.



Opel Corsa Swing

Although GM's entry in the Indian market came with Opel Astra, it was the Corsa that got the station wagon treatment. The Opel Corsa was launched back in 2000 but the car came along with the estate version of the sedan in 2003. The sedan looked compact and well-designed and the same can be said for the Corsa Swing.



Maruti Baleno Altura

Launched in 2001, the Baleno Altura was the estate version of the Baleno, which was Maruti Suzuki's offering in the sedan segment, alongside the Esteem. Like the Corsa Swing, the Baleno Altura also was well-designed. Maruti Suzuki discontinued the Baleno Altura in 2007.



Fiat Siena Weekend

Fiat launched the Siena-based station wagon back in 2002. It was called the Siena Weekend and was designed by one of the greatest automobile designers of all time - Giorgetto Giugiaro. It looked well-proportioned and came with a good set of engines as well. Fiat even launched a slightly altered version of this car called the Siena Weekend Adventure.



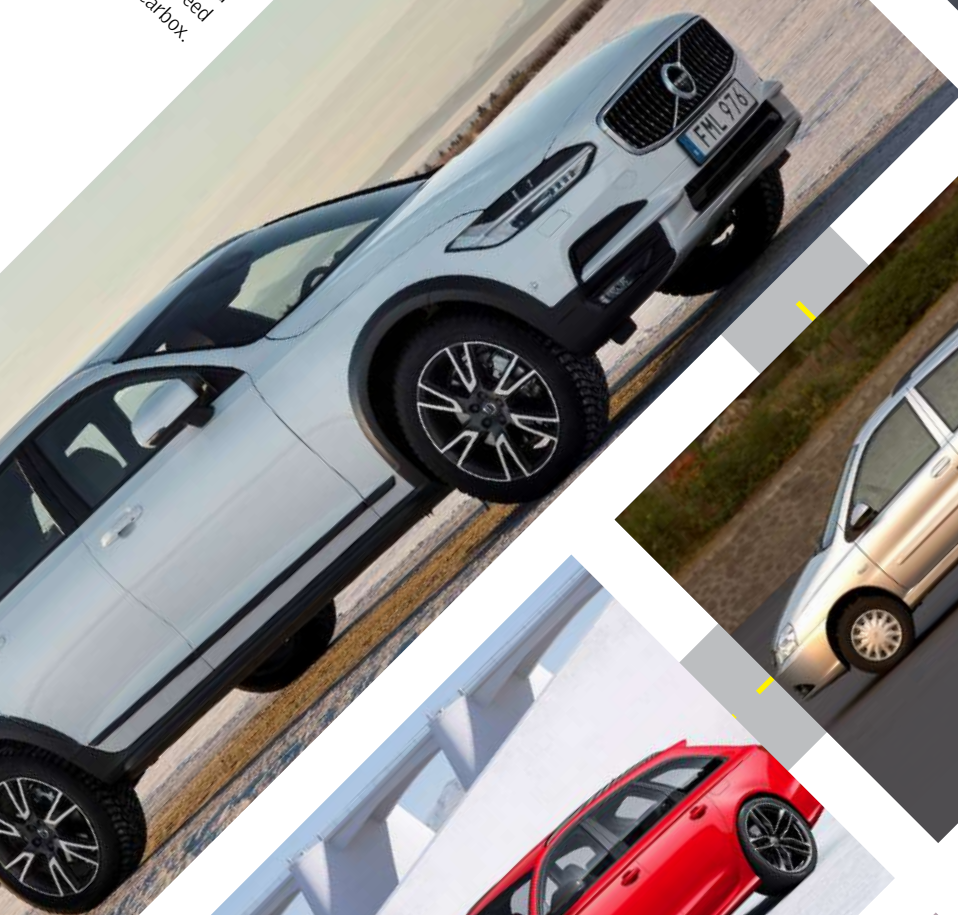
Audi RS6 Avant

A 4.0-litre V8 twin-turbo TFSI petrol engine which produces 560 hp and 700 Nm of torque and 0-100 claimed time of 3.9 seconds, on an estate? Yes, this happened and Audi's performance station wagon was one quick car. Sadly, it was discontinued in late 2018.



Volvo V90 Cross Country

We've finally reached the part of the list which includes station wagons currently sold in the country. The Volvo V90 Cross Country was launched in 2017 and currently costs ₹65.31 lakh (ex-showroom). It is built by a company which is arguably one of the best makers of the station wagon, worldwide. It is powered by a 2.0-litre turbocharged diesel engine which produces 235 bhp and 480 Nm of torque and comes mated to an 8-speed automatic gearbox.



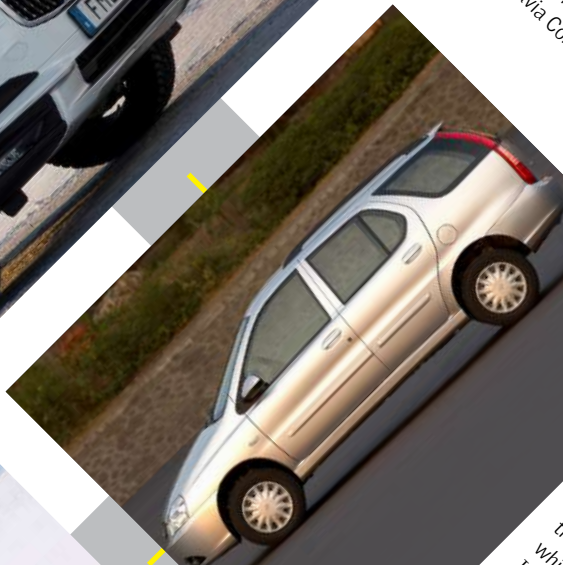
Skoda Octavia Combi

Skoda had first entered the Indian market back in 2002 with the Octavia. This turned out to be a great move on their part as the Octavia was a definite success in the Indian market. Soon, Skoda launched the estate version of the sedan called the Octavia Combi. That wasn't it though, they even made a Skoda Octavia Combi vRS version!



Tata Indigo Marina

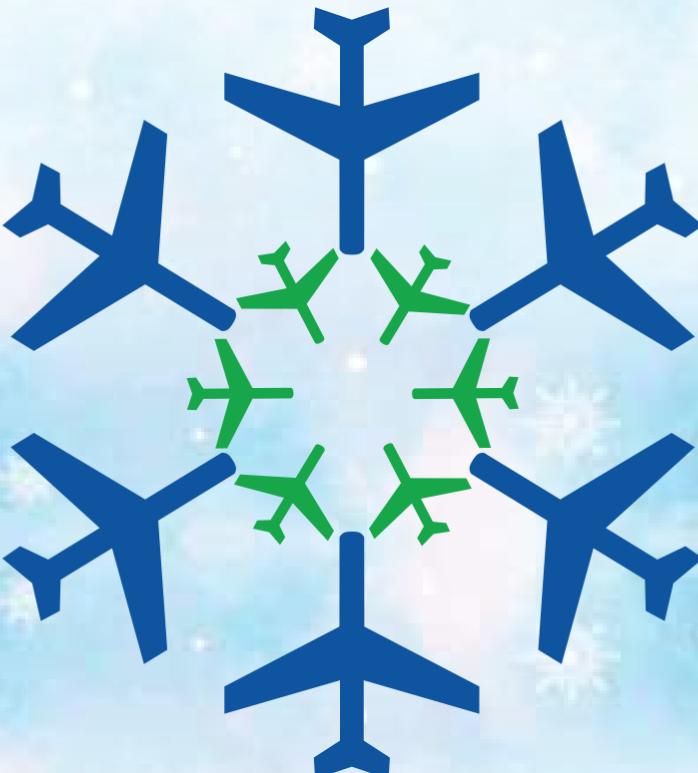
Tata had come up with a whole new range of products around the early 2000s, which included the Indica-based Marina station wagon. It didn't do as well as the Indica hatchback but it was an ambitious attempt from Tata Motors. It was discontinued in 2010.



Mercedes-Benz E-Class All-Terrain

Launched in 2018, the E-Class is the only competitor to the Volvo V90 Cross Country. The E-Class All-Terrain is powered by a 2.0-litre turbocharged diesel engine which produces 192 bhp of peak power and 400 Nm of torque. This engine comes mated to a 9-speed automatic gearbox.





MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR

PHOTO●WALK

WHAT TO DO?

A

Photo walk or a Photography walk makes the most sense when a number of photography enthusiasts come together and follow the same route taking pictures in the process. However, a photo walk is more than just walking around with your camera and taking images of whatever you see. Photo walks are often based around a theme and attendees are instructed to shoot images which stick to the theme.



Minmoy Choudhury



If you are interested in photography, especially if you love taking pictures on a smartphone, a smartphone photography Photo walk is something you need to experience. Not only you get to meet many other like minds and have a good time talking and interacting about photography, but also get a hands-on experience of shooting in various conditions, especially the streets.

Here in this article, we cover some essential tips that can help you enjoy the make the most of a Photo walk.



Have a Specific Theme

While some Photo walks will have a preset theme of photography to be followed, a number of times, it will be you who will decide a theme for yourself and shoot the images accordingly. A theme is basically a restraining order for your mind which allows you to focus on a particular type of images instead of shooting everything you come across on your way. By the end of the walk, you will have images which can be related to each other and have a constant approach to the subject saving you a lot of effort. For example, for a theme of 'Rectangle', you will shoot images which have the shape in it like doors, windows, billboards etc.

Simple Equipment

A photography walk is not going to be complete without proper photography equipment. Here in this article, we are discussing smartphone photography which makes this whole point a lot easier to follow. You just need a decent smartphone with a decent camera. As it is with most of the smartphones now, the cameras have just evolved to be mind-blowing in terms of performance being extracted from such a tiny little sensor. You do not need to have the best smartphone in the world as even a budget smartphone offering these days can challenge some flagship purely on the basis of the image output.



Step Out of Your Comfort Zone

It is rightfully said that new experiences will come your way once you step out of your comfort zone. This stands true in most of the cases with us humans. While it seems like an interesting idea to stay back home at the weekend, enjoying your favourite shows on Netflix and devouring your favourite snacks, stepping out to fuel your creativity is also a good idea. It is a major problem with us humans as we tend to adapt to our situations and surroundings and do not wish to change any of that unless it is really necessary. The idea is to go out, whether you like it or not and go do things that you like. Doing things you like will not only help you with practising but also uplifts your mental state of mind for better creativity.

Do Not Regret

The heading seems like we are talking about failures, which are. Creative processes are connected to people's minds. Do not worry much if you do not come up with the number of images you had expected. It is very important to focus on learning than focusing on the final results. Rome was not built in a day and so will be your creative mind. Even great professional photographers will find it difficult to shoot at times. That said, it does not really affect their minds nor do they get depressed and give up. The idea is to be consistent rather than producing results each and every time.

Research

Before you attend the walk, take time to research the location and the route you will be visiting for the walk.

This will give you a fair idea of what is around your location, directions, landmarks and things around the route which you can use and incorporate in your images. Not only this, you can research all possible places around like a coffee shop, public restrooms etc which will further ease your walk leaving you will no worries, allowing you to focus on the images.

Be Wary of The Environment

Your environment plays a very vital role in your photo walk. Using the environment in your images adds to the visuals. For shooting street portraits, the surrounding environment plays a huge role. You cannot just tell a story about a street performer by just shooting a close-up image of his face. Having his background, his instruments and a view of the place he is performing adds much more visual information the image which can tell the story without even the use of any word.

'Photo' Walk regularly

Photo walks are easy to organize, especially if you know a bunch of interested candidates. Spread the word and see how ten people will get twenty more. This is the reason why you should organize or attend more of these walks, at least once a month. Eventually, you will have more patience and your observation skills will also improve. Explore different locations for your walks each and every time. Repeat the locations after a certain period of time and see how much of a difference your images show. Research and explore different localities of your city and see where you get the best images. Soon, you will come to a point where you will be limited by your smartphone camera which essentially means, it is now time for you to upgrade to a new camera.



TECHNOLOGY AND HEALTH

THE RELATION

The healthcare industry has been slowly but steadily adopting technology on its forefront. It is highly likely that due to the slow nature of the industry and the very sensitive information of medical situations, the healthcare industry has always maintained caution. Nevertheless, the healthcare industry has toiled hard to catch up with technology and significant changes have been adopted in the way doctors treat their patients.



In recent times, there has been a substantial increase in the number of hospitals and medical institutions which have moved to maintain electronic health records. With the wide range of digital technologies in the rise, the health sector has seen a massive improvement. Here are a few examples of how technology can be directly related to healthcare.



Minmay Choudhury



Use of 3D printing services

3-D printing is a very innovative process which has not become quite mainstream. Small scale 3-D printing is not a big deal as many companies have come up with small, reliable and effective 3-D printing machines which have been proved to be very effective. This has been beneficial to the healthcare industry too. Printing of synthetic skin, implants and prosthetic body parts. Not only this but 3-D printing is also being used to print complex body parts for practising procedures.

Computers have been very quickly adopted in the healthcare industry as they proved to be a valuable aid to healthcare professionals. Computers have simplified the diagnosis process which helps physicians quickly determine the state of a patient and the required treatment. For example, computers can access x-rays and suggest suitable diagnostics. Similarly, for the development of new drugs and medicines, computers play a vital role in gathering data and analyze it in real-time. This serves as a second opinion to the professionals.

Computer- aided medical assistance



Better connectivity among Physicians

With the rise of technology various platforms have evolved which allow a wider social sphere to be formed. This wider sphere of connectivity has helped doctors and physicians to maintain contact as well as sharing related information quickly over the air. Health-based apps also help them share their latest findings and follow up with people and patients online. This reduces the time needed for critical information to reach from the doctor to doctor or doctor to patient.



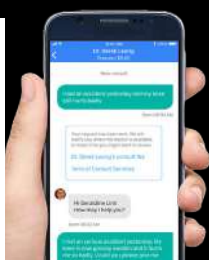
Find your most trusted healthcare providers



Multiple services in one single platform



Easily schedule an appointment



Receive consult from your doctor on your phone



Request a homecare visit at anytime



Remote Health Examination

It is how we go to a doctor and sit on the chair next to him and allow him to examine. Well, an in-home health chair is similar, without you having physically go to the doctor. It helps you gather related data and vitals and send the information to the doctor for examination. This technology, however, is in a pre-stage but with the advancement of technology, cheaper solutions will be developed which is likely to become mainstream in the future.

Lesser risk and faster recovery

The advantage of technology cannot be ruled out even in the case of recoveries. As much as safety has been a priority with the incorporation of technology, several innovative procedures like laser treatments, no blood surgical procedures etc are more preferred and have become less life-threatening. The risks have reduced a lot and the recovery times have decreased. Although human bodies are still the same when it comes to physical recovery, technology has reduced times need to heal, especially with modern techniques which sometimes require less or almost stitching.



While technology has developments on each and every kind of industry, there is no better way technology could have helped in the healthcare sector. The above points are just a mere fraction of how tech has influenced and improved the present with the promise of a brighter future.

W

hile the '90s kids were busy learning and growing up, the era then, saw a number of technological breakthroughs, especially with gadgets. In those times, resources and technical know-how was limited. However, science and technology do not really wait for anyone and with all the research being done at that time, several gadgets launched at that time gained a huge amount of popularity.

The 90s are still considered as one of the best times, especially of the generation which was born then. Let us turn the pages back and have a look into the most popular tech which is now Retro. 📺

RETRO TECH REVISITED



Mirimoy Choudhury

Nokia
3210



While mobile phones had gained quite some popularity, mobile handsets were not as compact and stylish as they are today. The end of the 1990s, Nokia had launched one of the most radical and popular handsets of all time. The Nokia 3210 offered an internal antenna, which is way advanced for the time, customisable ringtones and interchangeable body panels and of course the unforgettable 'Snake' game. Some people still hold on to these phones while the internet is busy making memes about Nokia's tough build quality and a surreal battery life of day after day. The feature phones of the 90s lost to the next generation of touch screen phones which did make these phones look like retro tech.

Portable
Television



This piece of retro-tech might seem small, but it was a huge thing when it was conceived. Some of you might just have experienced one while your grandfather was trying to sort the fuzzy picture. The portable televisions were a chunky piece of gadgetry then but allowed you to watch TV practically anywhere. All this without internet of Wi-Fi connectivity. However, the picture quality was not really up to the mark but sure the technology was. Sony and Panasonic were among the first companies to bring the portable televisions.

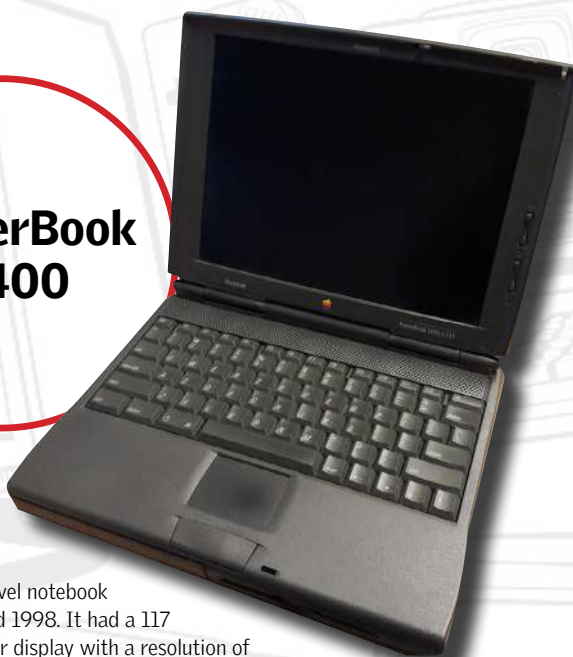
Remember the Floppy Disk?

Well, zip drives sort of bridged the gap between floppy disks and Compact discs. They were prominently used for a brief amount of time. By the end of the 90s CDs and USB sticks gained more popularity because of the more space they offered making the zip drives obsolete.

3 Zip Drives



4 PowerBook 1400



The Powerbook 1400 is the grand-daddy of what we know as the Macbook today. The Apple PowerBook 1400 was an entry-level notebook which was sold between 1996 and 1998. It had a 117 MHz processor, an 11.3-inch colour display with a resolution of 800 X 600 and 12 MB of RAM. One could also opt for a CD drive. The PowerBook carried a hefty price tag, considering the price of electronics in those days, the entry-level PowerBook was priced at \$2499.

5 Portable CD Players



Remember the Sony Discman? For most of the '90s crowd who were interested in music, have surely had a portable CD player for listening to music on the go. Portable audio cassette players were already popular but post the 1980s, they slowly started losing out to the portable CD players which could hold more number of songs and had better audio quality. One of the most remembered ones is the Sony Discman which was a CD playing version of their popular Walkman.

The '90s were also the time when the analogue to digital transition was taking place at a massive rate. However, 20 years ago, it was not the case. Cameras still used film to capture images. In the year 1999, Nikon introduced the D1 DSLR camera to the world. Launched in 1999, it was one of the first serious digital cameras for the professionals. It came with a 2.7-Megapixel sensor. The Nikon D1 carried a price tag in the \$5000 mark but did not fail to impress the pros.

6 The Nikon D1



BEGINNERS GUIDE TO MIRRORLESS CAMERAS



irrorless cameras started off as micro four-thirds cameras quite a few years back. They are pretty much new and only a handful of people were convinced enough to buy and use mirrorless cameras. With sensors which are smaller than APS-C sensors, mirrorless cameras were less capable when compared with DSLRs.

In recent years, mirrorless cameras have seen a host of changes and with more and more technical advances, mirrorless cameras are as good as DSLRs in performance, if not better. What makes mirrorless cameras more of a first choice now is the smaller and more ergonomic shape, less weight and equally good performance.

For many first time buyers, mirrorless cameras seem to be an interesting proposition, not because of its capabilities, but because of its capabilities, but crop sensor mirrorless cameras are very small in size posing to be less intimidating than the full-fledged DSLR counterparts. However, with mirrorless cameras, there are a few more things to know before deciding to buy one. In this article, we will be sharing some important tips for beginning with mirrorless cameras.



Mirrinoy Choudhury





Image Quality

When buying a new camera, the first thing a buyer would consider is the sensor resolution. As for micro four-third mirrorless cameras, the sensor size is smaller than an APS-C sensor as well as much smaller than the 35mm full-frame sensor. This, however, has changed a lot. Camera makers have now become much more aggressive with mirrorless cameras. This has led to mirrorless cameras getting bigger APS-C and full-frame sensors with much higher resolutions resulting in top-notch image quality along with an increase in the low-light performance. Similarly, higher resolution sensors also help capture high-quality video output. So, essentially, a smaller looking mirrorless camera will not really give you a bad image output as these small looking cameras have become very capable when it comes to capturing highly-detailed images.

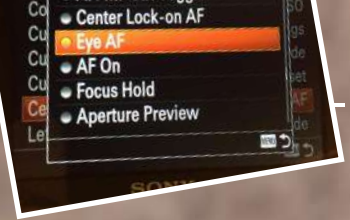


Limited Lens Systems

A major challenge with the mirrorless camera system is the lens systems. Mirrorless cameras initially, had a limited number of lens available for their respective systems. Moreover, the lenses could not be used with other systems because of their cross-compatibility issues. However, with more and more brands coming into the full-frame mirrorless cameras, lens systems have been developed and most of the lenses and focal lengths available for DSLR cameras are now available for mirrorless cameras as well. One thing with the mirrorless lenses is the initial cost which is on the higher side. To make things easier for people who are upgrading from their full-frame DSLRs, lens adapters have been developed to allow DSLR lenses to be used on mirrorless cameras which makes it a whole lot easier for someone who has already invested in a lens system previously. Third-party lens manufacturers like Tamron and Sigma have also launched mirrorless specific lenses to allow people to have more choice when buying mirrorless cameras and lenses.

Aesthetics and Ergonomics

Aesthetically, mirrorless cameras look very close to the analogue film cameras which were in use until a decade ago. The smaller form factor for the same full-frame camera was instantly applauded and professionals soon moved to mirrorless cameras for the ease of use and portability. In the ergonomics department, mirrorless cameras are sleeker, have all the controls and are easy to operate in all kinds of scenarios. A lot of the professionals have made the switch to mirrorless cameras for stills as well as videos. This improved versatility along with aesthetics and easy ergonomics make the mirrorless cameras a very solid choice for professional work.




Autofocus

Autofocus on mirrorless cameras was a major concern until a few years ago. The choppy focus and not so functional autofocus systems made shooting a tad bit difficult. However, this has completely changed now as mirrorless camera systems are now being made with solid AF systems in play. Not only this, things like face detection and eye detection are being added to the mirrorless AF systems to make them as fast as DSLRs, if not faster. Major camera players who have also forayed into the mirrorless camera business have incorporated the AF systems from their high-end DSLRs and trickled it down to their mirrorless cameras providing the same reliability in focusing just like DSLRs.



Pricing

It is very surprising that entry-level mirrorless cameras are available at very affordable prices. Take for example the newly introduced Fujifilm X-A7 in India which is available at a very reasonable cost, which is sure to attract a lot of buyers. Things like a flip-out rear LCD screen and microphone input jacks make a huge difference as mirrorless cameras are being used by a lot of content creators to shoot videos and images as well. Coming to the full-frame entry-level mirrorless cameras which considerably have a similar cost to the entry-level full-frame DSLR cameras. Some mirrorless cameras do cost more than pro DSLRs as they pack more features, better AF systems and higher resolutions. This makes mirrorless cameras expensive in some cases as well as inexpensive for others. It depends upon the features and specifications you are looking for and how much you are willing to spend for this upgrade.

The present gives us a fair idea of how mirrorless cameras will eventually take over the DSLR market and take over a massive chunk of the sales of DSLRs. With the advent of technology and the need for smaller and more capable cameras, mirrorless cameras will be widely used in the time to come. 





Since the time motorcycles saw the face of the earth, racing has been in the core of this industry. Racing has been one of the most technically challenging processes which test both the man and the machine and their limits. Motorcycle racing has been there for a long time and has several forms of racing in existence.

Flat Track racing also known as Dirt Track racing dates back to the early 1900s. The goal for flat-track racers is to wrestle their bikes around an oval-shaped flat track which is devoid of any tarmac. The flat tracks have long straights and very tight bends. The rider leans his bike making almost 180-degree turns at very high speeds. A lot of forces

SLIDING SIDEWAYS: THE FOUNDATIONS OF FLAT TRACK RACING IN INDIA

which work on the motorcycle and keep it upright are the same forces which try to throw the rider off the bike when running a flat track. The riders use the rear brake to lock the wheels and while keeping the throttle pinned, they take the turns sliding sideways on the rear tyre while keeping the front wheels in the direction they want to go.

Flat track racing is crazy and bonkers. The riders carry insane speeds down the corners and battle the curves to maintain traction. It is all about precise steering, sliding and keeping the rear end planted when everything else is trying to take you down. Professional flat track racing will see riders come inches close to each other while turning.

Flat track racing is one of the most popular motorsports formats in America. It is bifurcated into Mile-ovals, Half-mile ovals, Short ovals



Minmoy Choudhury



and TT races. As the popularity of the sport grew, Flat track racing crossed borders and gained a lot of popularity all over the world. Flat track racing is much as fun to watch as it would be to race.

In India, the current state of motorsports is healthy, and the number of people have given up the streets in favour of training on the tracks. As the motorsport culture is expanding, various forms of racing like Desert Races, Himalayan rallies and Motocross events which see a lot of enthusiasts and professionals taking part. However, this is the situation with the other formats of racing and not Flat Track.

It was a year ago when Harley Davidson first brought Flat Track in India just for an experience. It was held at the John Singh Speedway in Shahpura near Jaipur. The two-day experience was preceded over by Marco Belli, who is internationally known for his Flat Track skills. Harley Davidson had custom Flat track motorcycles built for this experience and all of it had seemed to leave a very lasting impression over the motorcycling fraternity. Clearly, there is a huge gap in this specific form of motorsport which needs to be plugged.

Fast forward 2019, The Royal Enfield Rider Mania 2019 in Goa saw an exciting announcement from the brand. They seem to be serious about the future of motorsports in India. The folks at RE are driven by passion, something which we witnessed when we joined their team for the Astral Ride in the month of September 2019. This is one major announcement that has sowed new seeds of excitement in every biker's mind.

It was on the stage when Mr Vinod Dasari, CEO, Royal Enfield, pulled off the covers from the Himalayan FT411, a purpose-built flat track motorcycle for their new venture 'Slide School'. There was a brief pause in my head processing the information and the visual that I just saw. A Royal Enfield flat tracker motorcycle which looks straight out of the oval.



So what is this FT411 all about? Well for starters, the Himalayan FT411 is based on the company tried and tested Himalayan which is powered by a 411cc engine and hence the nomenclature FT411. The FT411 comes with very minimal changes to the motorcycle. While the heavy bits like lights, rear footpegs, mudflap, indicators, front brakes and instrument cluster have been stripped off in favour of weight loss, the bike actually sees minimum mechanical changes. The rear section of the FT411 is a custom made piece which bolts on right and looks simple to convert, while the seat is just a piece of foam which is glued onto the bolt-on section. The wheels have been swapped for 18-inch flat track specific tyres and a free-flowing exhaust from S&S which shows up from under the tail of the motorcycle.

Coming to the Slide School initiative RE has taken which they promise to deliver soon. The Slide School will be organised in association with Bangalore based Big Rock Dirt Park (an adventure park) where the first session of the Slide School will take place. With RE now

The Himalayan FT411 is based on the company tried and tested Himalayan which is powered by a 411cc engine and hence the nomenclature FT411.

ready with its FT 411 motorcycle, flat-track training is soon going to be accessible to a lot of interesting riders as RE is going to bring the Slide School to all major cities.

While flat track still has to grow up from the roots and expand itself as a trending form of motorsport in India, Royal Enfield has taken the first step to deliver this experience and training to the masses. With more and more people living the 'moto' lifestyle now, it is to be seen how long it takes for this sport to become mainstream in our country. Till then, I can look at the pictures of the FT 411 and count the number of days before I get to swing a leg over it. 



WHAT'S

TWITTER



Smriti Raizada



Trump - 0, Greta - 1

Kind of a low blow for Mr. President, the one and only Donald Trump, to take a jab at Greta Thunberg, the girl trying to save our one and only planet. But that's okay, she gave it back to him subtly by changing her bio as per commands of the 'leader' we all 'look up to'. This came in after Mr. President's wife, Melania Trump last month put out a tweet about how children deserve privacy. Need for some conversations over dinner at the Trump household? I think so!

We Are The Champions! #YNWA

As Firmino scored the winning goal against Flamengo, Liverpool was crowned champions of the FIFA Club World Cup! With You'll Never Walk Alone reverberating at the field, Twitter exploded with the Reds celebrating their first ever cup FIFA #ClubWC!



Baby Yoda for President!

This holiday season, social media is tripping on its cutest trendstar, Baby Yoda. There is no official account of this little one yet but that did not stop it from being one of the most talked about thing on internet. To a point where it garnered more interaction per story than any 2020 USA candidate running for President! I vote Baby Yoda for President, let's make this a thing, shall we?

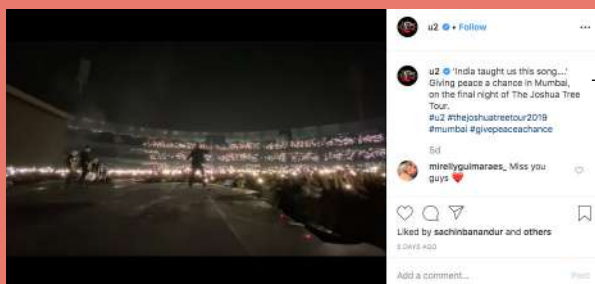




TRENDING?



INSTAGRAM



You too, U2!

The Irish band, U2 performed in India for the first time ever. This was amidst the CAA protests in India but the iconic band, led by frontman Bono, themed the entire show around peace. The concert was part of its 2019 The Joshua Tree Tour which was the album that made it big for the band. The audience included the likes of Hrithik Roshan, Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone and so many more. Thank you for an unforgettable memory etched in our brains, hope U2 had as good a time as we did!

Ruling the World - Suman Rao!

From Reita Faria to Aishwarya Rai, from Priyanka Chopra to Manushi Chhillar; India has always been a stand out at the biggest beauty pageant - Miss World. Miss World 2019 saw Suman Rao as the 2nd runner up and proudly so. With support and cheers from the entire industry, Suman is set to be a part of the Beauty with a Purpose project to give way to her new found influence.



Taking Instagram by a Storm-i!

If we're talking about what's trending, how can we not talk about the Kardashian-Jenner clan. Especially about the cutest member of the family, Stormi Webster, as she twinned this christmas with her mother, Kylie Jenner. I don't think anything lit up the internet like this picture right here. On that note, hope you had a Merry Christmas!

BONUS!

What was Meme-ing?

If you're seeing this for the first time, there is about a 100 percent chance that you are not on social media! While I feel that's great, this is so ridiculously absurd, that you can't not know about it! The concept art is called 'Comedian' was the but of all memes in the December of 2019!





JUMP INTO THE WORLD OF GRATITUDE

Do not underestimate the power of gratitude. It starts from a small thank you and ends in a huge pool of being thankful. Oh boy, the things you'll find to be grateful for every day will literally blow your mind. Write it down in your journal or make small voice notes. It won't take more than 10 minutes but the impact it will start having on the way you look at the world is immeasurable.

THE POWER OF DAILY INTENTIONS

You can strive to be better only when you make small changes everyday. A daily intention can act as a focus point around which you can center your priorities, to-do lists, and basically your entire day. Let each intention be limitless so you can work on it with each passing day and add on new ones! Trust me, it WILL make a difference - one day at a time.

YOUR BRAIN IS BORED

Your brain constantly needs to be exercised just like your body. Yup, I know most of you are thinking how your body doesn't get exercise too but that's all the more reason to start using your biggest asset. Problem solving is not just an entrance exam subset, it is an aspect of everyday life. Solve puzzles, play Sudoku or just take up any activity that will help your brain to not get bored.

THAT HOBBY IS STILL WAITING!

Do you remember what you wanted to be while you were growing up? Does it bother you that you're not pursuing it anymore? Good. Turn that feeling around by taking it up NOW. I know there are 9-5 jobs that you must attend to but it is equally important for you to know that there is nothing better than doing something you love, setting deadlines for yourself and taking a break from your routine work.

MORNINGS ARE THE MOST PRODUCTIVE

I know you've heard this just about a million times but I'll say it for the million and oneth time. I was struggling to write this article for two days after which I decided to wake up early on a Sunday and just get at it. Voila! 30 minutes and done. It's all about increasing your productive hours and mornings are the answer to that mystery.

INCREASE YOUR PRODUCTIVITY QUOTIENT IN 2020



Smriti Raizada



Beginnings are exciting, aren't they? And what's a better start than a whole new goddamn year. It's been a while since I have felt this determination to explore new opportunities and the 'new me'. About 365 days. Oops! But in these past 365 days, I have learnt and processed and finally come to a conclusion. If you want to make the most of your time, you need to know where the change needs to begin. I'm going to share with you a few things that turned my life around for the better and hopefully they'll do for you too. Once you start, of course!

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NIKKOR 18-140mm VR Lens

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(WEDDING AND PRE WEDDING)

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FIRST RUNNER-UP

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