

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

WHERE IS THE INVENTION & INNOVATION?

When was the last time you were enthralled with any new tech innovation? Are all the problems solved yet? Let's Airbnb, let's Uber it, let's google it, what's next? Indeed Cryptocurrencies and NFTs are all good, but they are not really solving any significant problems. When did the last excellent smartphone innovation happen? Flip phones and fold phones - yes, different form factors and promising but this invention I saw several years back at the CES. When the new iPhones are announced, the upgrades are minimalistic so much that if you have an iPhone 12 series and unless you want a flaunt factor, there is no real need for an upgrade to the iPhone 13. Android smartphones from Samsung, Vivo, and Oppo, Oneplus make changes mostly around camera, RAM & resolution upgrades and maybe some surface material improvements. Is anyone really thinking about profound inventions? Something like a smartphone that doesn't need to charge for 30 days is a good starting point or a solar-powered one.

Robotics innovation though promising, has not pushed the boundaries and really can't do much more than dance and get a can of coke. What about medical innovation? A deadly virus like Covid can paralyse the whole world and suck everything out of us; what were the world scientists doing. Last time the deadliest invention happened was when nuclear bombs were invented, which resulted in giving destructive powers to heads of states to bring the countries to an end. What if Vladimir Putin loses it entirely and does a nuclear strike on Ukraine, whose only fault is that it gave up its nuclear arsenal and doesn't possess those weapons of mass destruction, to have a counterthreat ready. Where is the invention which can save the world from an accidental nuclear explosion? Are we really working on it or waiting for another pandemic type phenomenon.

The dark web and digital currency are both a reality. A parallel universe exists in the dark web even before we got acquainted with Meta Verse. Oculus VR, invented by Palmer Luckey, which Facebook later acquired, has opened a string of norms where Digital land, digital avatars, and all sorts of virtual-real world thighs are happening, so much so that Facebook changed its name to Meta. Just like bitcoin in 2008 made cryptocurrency a reality and opened the flood gates of the token and NFT industry. But its 2022 and in the last decade, nothing which can change the world for good and make living more beautiful has come out. It's symbolic that iPod has taken a bow giving way to the streaming industry, and storing music is historical. As long as it progresses, technological changes are good. Just like iPod did its job and changed the way music was consumed, we need technological breakthroughs that can change a lot of things, make the air we breathe better again, keep check on global warming and provide drinkable water to all. Just the basic things we need!

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Enjoy the issue!!

WHAT IS METAVERSE & THE TOP COMPANIES THAT HAVE INVESTED BIG IN IT?



REVIEWED

ASUS TUF GAMING F15

Reviewed by: Ritwick Jaiswal

he ASUS Tuf Gaming lineup is known for good mid-range gaming laptops on the go, and this year's extension brings powerful under the hood specifications assorted with a solid design. Now since the Intel 12th Gen CPU series is widely available, the new Tuf F15 uses the 12th gen CPU hardware and Nvidia's GeForce RTX 30-series graphics.

The starting price of Asus TUF Gaming F15 is around ₹90,000 in India. However, the model which I am using as my daily driver is the one with a 12th Gen Intel Core i7 processor and an Nvidia RTX 3060 GPU and costs ₹1,40,990.

DESIGN:

Firstly where the laptop caught my attention was when I picked it up. I was surprised by the weight of this laptop. The Asus TUF F15 weighs about 2.2kg and is 24.95mm thick, which is a lot of weight but it seems evenly balanced which makes the laptop seem much lighter than it actually is.

The first look at the laptop makes it extremely clear that the laptop is specifically designed for gamers. The RGB Backlit keyboard with static, breathing, colour cycle and the highlighted-transparent WASD keys give the laptop a very refreshing look. The TUF Gaming F15 packs a desktop-style keyboard and you get an additional number pad, a rarity in a 15-inch laptop.

The laptop is MIL-STD 810H test certified, which means it offers some military-grade drop protection. However, I did not dare to drop the machine because I was too worried!

In addition, there are numerous ports and connectivity options on the Asus TUF Gaming F15, including HDMI 2.0, three USB 3.2 Type A, Thunderbolt 4, a 3.5mm audio jack, and a port for RJ45.

SPECIFICATIONS:

First things first, Asus TUF F15 has a 15.6 inch Full-HD IPS display with a 300Hz refresh rate and 16:9 aspect ratio. The display of TUF Gaming is a great companion for gaming and watching 4K content or streaming shows on OTT platforms. The screen also features 300 nits of brightness and a 3ms response time.

Coming to the battery life, the new TUF Gaming laptop packs a large 90Wh battery and comes with a 240W power adapter. Overall, the battery life is not insane but surely above-average.

Asus TUF Gaming has a decent sound quality and the volume is high enough for the things to be audible in a room.

PERFORMANCE:

Asus TUF Gaming F15 is equipped with a 12th Gen Intel Core i7 -12700H CPU paired with 16GB of DDR5 RAM and up to 1TB of NVMe SSD storage. It features Intel Iris Xe integrated graphics or a discrete Nvidia RTX 3060 laptop GPU with up to 140W power.

I downloaded a few games like halo Infinite and Apex Legend and ran both of them on Ultra settings. The laptop managed 130 fps on average with no lags. The colour quality seemed good enough, although I wish Asus gave UHD display considering the price tag. The subtle design elements such as the palm resting area seemed to enhance the gaming experience.

GOOD	BAD	UGLY
A GOOD	AVERAGE	NO
Gaming Machine	Battery Life	UHD DISPLAY

THE

KEY SPECS:

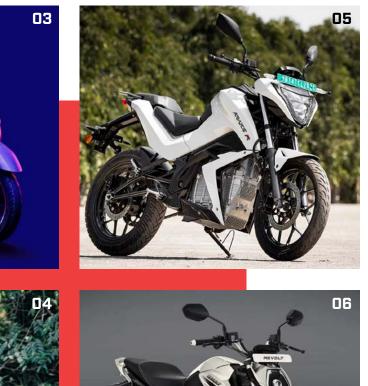
Intel 12th Gen CPU Nvidia RTX 3060 GPU - gaming 15.6 inch Full-HD IPS display - screen 1TB of NVMe SSD storage





Starting at a price of Rs 1,04,990, Asus TUF Gaming F15 is a great gaming solution, content making machine and offers a good keyboard layout. In addition, the heat dissipation on this machine is fantastic. Considering the current market prices of computer components, this laptop offers great value for the hardware it packs while dressed decent enough to be a board room presentation machine and an excellent gaming PC when no one's watching!

EV TWO-WHEELER PETROL PRICES Words by: Aparajit Shastri





03. BAJAJ CHETAK

One of the biggest manufacturers in the two-wheeler industry wasn't going to be left out in the EV era. Bajaj has launched its first EV offering and given it the bold name Chetak, which was one the most popular scooters ever to be sold in our country. The design of the bike is perhaps its biggest forte. The dials are digital and the bike does feel premium overall. Being an EV it does become expensive and costs Rs 1 lakh (ex-showroom), but compared to its rivals, this price would be a bargain.

The Chetak gets a 3kwh battery that produces 5 bhp and 16 Nm of torque. It also gives a range of 85-90 kms and is offered with two driving modes. This scooter comes loaded with Power Modes from a safety point of view. From a Comfort perspective, Chetak has a Digital Console Type, Digital Odometer, Digital Speedometer, and Remote Start-stop.

04. TVS iQUBE

TVS is known to make some incredible motorcycles and scooters such as the

Apache, Jupiter, and now even the RR310. So you can imagine the surprise we had when news broke about TVS creating a fully electric scooter. Naturally, the first question that popped up was if the iQube retains the pedigree that TVS offers with its other twowheelers. At the heart of the iQube is a 3kW hub motor sourced from Bosch, and it produces 4.4kW or 5.9bhp peak power and 33Nm, which is pretty impressive. TVS claims to accomplish the o-40kph dash in 4.2s and hit a top speed of 78kph, but during the week, I was able to take the scooter up to around 82km/h when on a full charge. Just like every electric vehicle, the TVS iQube offers all its torque instantly, so zipping around traffic and even the short bursts of acceleration at the traffic lights keep you satisfied while riding the scooter.

05. TORQ KRATOS

India's electric two-wheeler industry is still at a nascent stage, and the vision to drive the nation electric is now being shouldered by the new-age startups. One such aspiring and ambitious startup with a strong foundation and backing is Tork Motors. The Kratos features the signature split trellis frame with the battery pack nestled within to make it a compact and maneuverable motorcycle. Their racetrack experience has inspired them to use high-strength steel tubes for the frame to provide an unmatched ride experience.

The Kratos and Kratos-R come with a host of features like multidrive mode, reverse mode, front storage box, battery indicator, safe home feature, crash alert, and an anti-theft system. The e-bike also features a digital instrument cluster USB charging and uses regenerative braking for efficient energy consumption. The Kratos delivers max power of 10bhp and torque of 28Nm, whereas the sporty Kratos-R produces 12bhp of power and 38Nm of torque. Both bikes get single-stage gear reduction with a chain drive system. Kratos can go 0-40kmph in 4 sec, and on the other hand, Kratos-R does it in 0-40kmph in just 3.5 sec.

06. REVOLT RV400

The Revolt RV400 is the country's first AI-enabled electric motorcycle with a design on the lines of street naked motorcycles. It gets a muscular tank and beefy tank extensions along with a fairing that covers components like the motor and battery. At the rear, it uses a bolt-on subframe with a one-piece seat. Braking is done by a single disc at both ends along with CBS. Suspension duties are handled by inverted forks upfront and a mono-shock at the rear.

Apart from the LED headlights, the RV400 packs a full-LCD instrument console and 4G connectivity. It also features onboard diagnostics and over-the-air updates. Riders can also pair their smartphone with the bike and the Revolt app gives them access to travel history, battery health, range, and nearest swap station. For added security, it's also equipped with geofencing and keyless operation. The Revolt RV400 even gets speakers for an artificial engine sound.Revolt Motors has two motorcycles on sale – The RV400 and the RV 300. While the RV 300 offers a 60 volt, 2.7k2 battery that provides a claimed range of 180kms in Eco, 110kms in Normal, and 80kms in Sports.

The RV 400, on the other hand, is powered by a 72 volt, 3.24kW battery pack which offers a claimed range of 150kms in Eco, 100kms in Normal, and 80kms in Sport which is lower than the RV 300. It provides better performance with a top speed of 80km/h. Both batteries take 3 hours to charge from 0-75% and take approximately 4.5 to charge from empty to 100%.

This bike comes loaded with Combi Brake System ABS - An antilock braking system from a safety point of view. From a Comfort perspective, RV 400 has Digital Odometer, Digital Speedometer, Self Start Only Start Type, and Digital Tachometer.

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MERCEDES BENZ

For the past 70 years, the Mercedes-Benz SL-Class has represented the brand with its timeless legacy and elegance. The SL's success stories began with the 300 SL race car in 1952 when it started winning numerous international races. These victories provided the initial spark for the 300 SL Gullwing (W 198 I, built from 1954) and 190 SL (W 121, from 1955) production vehicles.

The design and engineering innovations of each SL model put it at the forefront of its time. But customers have also benefited greatly in the long-term from the purchase of an SL sports car. And why? Because the models of the 1950s and later generations have long since been regarded as vintage cars of value or coveted modern classics.

The SL sports cars have always sold exorbitantly well, particularly in terms of exports. By the end of the 1950s, the 300 SL gullwing coupé and the 190 SL roadster had already set quite a standard for international sales, although later SL models were also able to match the success of the sports car's first generation.

Later model series of this gorgeous car – the W 113 'pagoda' and the R 107, R 129, and R 230 – brought the SL-Class seamlessly into the new millennium.

"SUPER LIGHT" (SL-CLASS)



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MOH

Ritwick Jaiswa

Words by:

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VOLVO

Drive the Future

XC90 Petrol Mild-Hybrid



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VOLVOCARS_IN GREY/2333/22