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REVIEW:

Apple AirPods

Lenovo
Yoga Book

A SHADE SMARTER



Go Live



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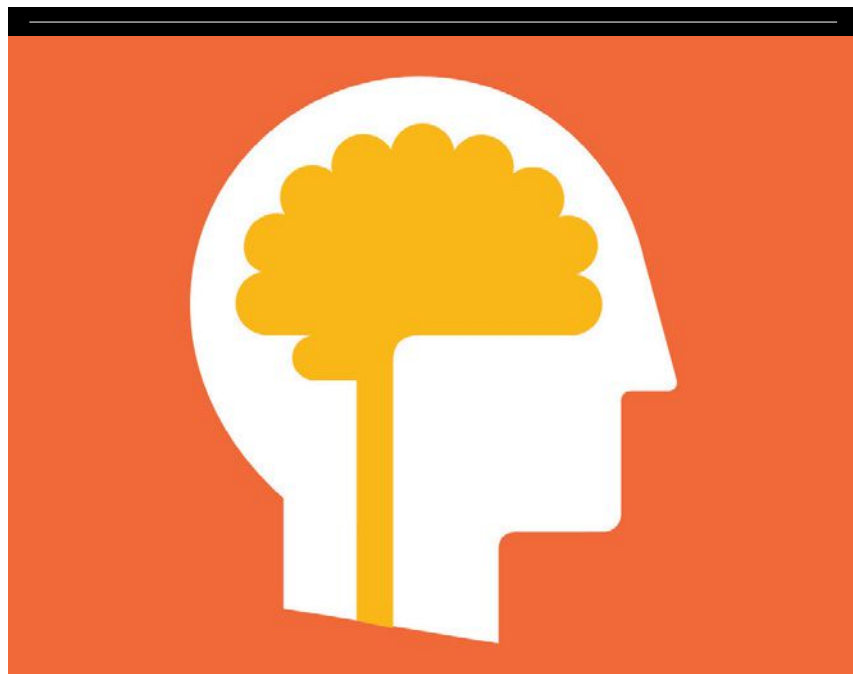
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INOTHEA NEWS



BOSE LAUNCHES SOUNDTouch 300, LIFESTYLE 650, LIFESTYLE 600 SYSTEMS

Focusing on home entertainment, Bose has announced the launch of SoundTouch 300 SoundBar, and Lifestyle 650 and LifeStyle 600 home entertainment systems. The Bose 650 is a 5.1 channel system with four new OmniJewel satellite speakers, including high-excursion transducers positioned in opposing fashion for dramatic output. Measuring 4.7cm x 14.7cm x 4.7cm, these are the smallest satellite speakers in the history of Bose. The speakers work with a slim centre channel and bass module for omni-directional sound. The Lifestyle 650 home entertainment system is priced at Rs 3,99,999, and the Lifestyle 600 is priced at Rs 2,99,999. The SoundTouch 300 is a good looking sound bar measuring 97.8cm x 10.8cm x 5.7cm, offering powerful sound. It is WiFi -and -Bluetooth-enabled with near-field communication for easy pairing. It also supports streaming from the Internet, radio, and other streaming services. The sound bar is equipped with PhaseGuide array, which can send signals to the left and right of a room to enjoy separate channels of a soundtrack or song even when multiple speakers are not placed. The proprietary QuietPort technology ensures deep, clean bass at any volume. The SoundTouch 300 soundbar is priced at Rs 69,999 and the optional bass module can be purchased separately for Rs 69,999.

APPLE IOS 10.3 BETA

The latest Apple OS update is here. The highlights of the iOS 10.3 beta are 'Find My AirPods' support added to the 'Find My iPhone' app, and Siri learning cricket score for Indian Premier League and International Cricket Council. With the former, users can find misplaced AirPods (one or both) using the 'Find My iPhone app'. This works if the AirPods are within the Bluetooth range of any of the iOS devices signed into iCloud account. In case the AirPods are out of range of all iOS devices, Find My iPhone can still show the time and location where the AirPods were last connected.

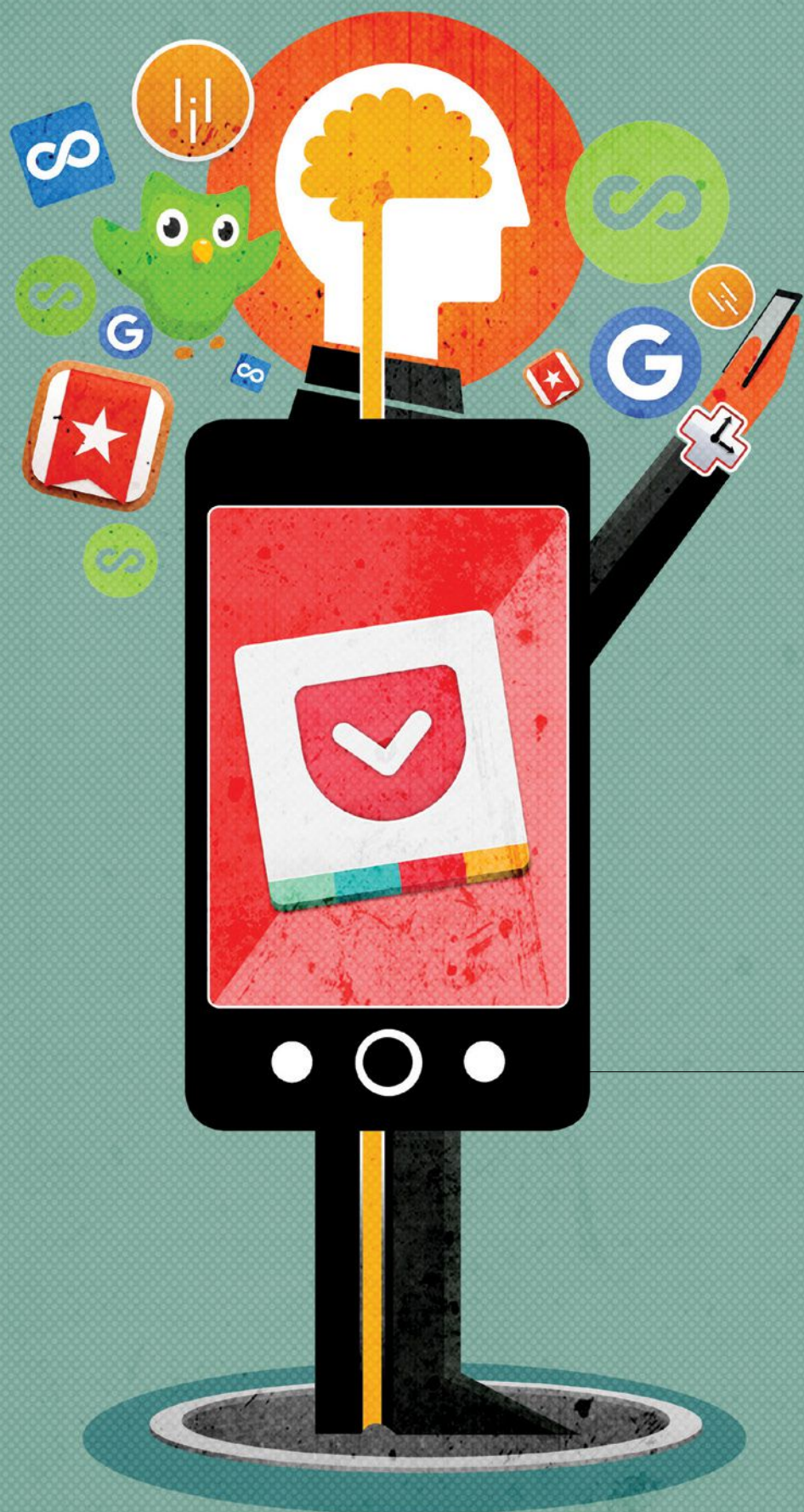
With the iOS 10.3 Beta, Siri can also get cricket related scores and statistics. Among other highlights – SiriKit domains expand with support for paying and checking status of bills with payment apps and scheduling with ride booking apps; 3D Touch on weather icon in Maps to get hourly forecasts, chance of rain and daily high and low temperatures; tapping the iMessage app icon now displays iMessage apps.



AIRTEL PAYMENTS BANK

The country's leading mobile phone operator, Bharti Airtel, has launched Airtel Payments Bank in all the 29 states of India. It promises to be a paperless and simple-to-use bank, with the user's registered Airtel mobile number doubling up as the account number. To register for Airtel Payments Bank, one has to submit one's Aadhaar card number and the biometric (fingerprint) scan for authentication. Airtel has over a 250,000 banking points (Airtel retail stores) where one can deposit and withdraw money. While there is an app in place, Airtel is not restricting it to smartphones. Feature phone users can also access Payments Bank service through USSD and IVR in 12 languages. They can check the last few transactions, transfer funds and much more. Airtel also plans to enable a virtual debit card for its Payments Bank.

Airtel Payments Bank will not charge any processing fee from its customers and merchant partners for digital transactions. It will offer customers an interest rate of 7.25 per cent per annum on deposits in savings accounts. Airtel also plans to offer one minute of Airtel mobile talk time for every rupee deposited at the time of opening a savings account. One will also receive free personal accidental insurance of Rs 1 lakh with every savings account opened.



Get A Shade Smarter

Tricks and hacks to learn a new skill, manage your time and tasks better, and get an edge in your work life. BY NIDHI SINGAL

Ever find yourself staring at a cluttered desk – post-its strewn all over, magazines doubling up as coasters – juggling phone calls and incessant emails, as numerous unread tweets and the lukewarm coffee crave for your attention? If this gave you a sense of déjà vu, your work life is about to get better. On your desktop and smartphone, the very sources of chaos, lies the panacea for most of your professional woes. Be it managing time more efficiently, giving your brain a little boost or staying updated on developments across the globe, there are several apps and websites to help you get by a busy day with ease. You could also learn a new language or imbibe a new skill by enrolling for an online course, while at work, and get an edge over your peers.

Here are a few apps to up your smarts at work



WUNDERLIST: This is one of the best task manager apps available for Android and Apple smartphones, Windows 8, and even MacOS. Use it to organise your personal and professional tasks – set due dates, reminders, share your to-do list, shopping lists, manage work projects, delegate tasks, start conversations with the team, share feedback, or plan a holiday. This app allows for work collaboration – keeping all team communication under one hood, eliminating the need to exchange emails – helps you meet deadlines, and makes daily chores a breeze. The Wunderlist for Business comes for \$4.99 per user/ month.



LUMOSITY: Shake off the lethargy and sharpen your concentration without a hint of caffeine! Lumosity is a fun brain game app, available for Apple and Android devices, that trains one's core cognitive abilities. It has over 50 cognitive games designed by scientists and game designers. After recording certain details such as your age and gender, it starts you off with a 'Fit Test' flexibility, attention and memory, and then stacks your score against those of similar age. A training programme is then customised for you – daily work-outs targeting different cognitive skills every day, insights,

tracking tools and recommendations. Choose your package or pay \$11.95 per month per user.



RESCUE TIME: If you get distracted easily, this time management tool is for you. It puts a reality check on how much you have actually accomplished versus how much time you have 'spent' online. It runs in the background, and tracks the time you spend in a currently active tab or window of your browser, giving you an accurate picture of how and where time was spent through the day. It blocks distracting sites if they are up beyond a specified time and alerts you when you spend more than the stipulated time on a certain activity – all customisable. There is a premium version of the tool that can log the time spent on offline activities such as calls, meetings, and even commutes. The app works across Mac, Windows, Android, and Linux. While RescueTime Lite is free, RescueTime Premium is priced at \$6.75 per month.



COURSERA: This online education portal offers a range of courses and boasts of affiliations with universities such as Yale, Stanford and Nanyang Technological University, among others. With over 2,000 courses offering specialisation in subjects such as arts and humanities, business, computer science and data science, it also serves as a personal development and language learning platform.

Coursera claims to have over 20 million registered learners worldwide. Coursera is also available as an app for Apple and Android devices. While a majority of its courses are free, some are priced in the range of `1,972 to `4,012.



SIMPLILEARN: This certification training provider addresses the needs of students and professionals, helping further their career goals. It has professional trainers for over 400 courses in the disciplines of cyber security, cloud computing, project management, digital marketing, and data science, among others. It also has vendor courses – Amazon Web Services Certification for acquiring cloud skills, for example. Simplilearn offers a combination of online classes, instructor-led live virtual classrooms, project work, and 24/7 teaching assistance. The app is available for Apple and Android devices. Courses are priced between `999 and `1,14,426, based on the duration.



DUOLINGO: We all have cherished the desire to learn a new language at some point. You can do so for free, at the time and place of your choice. On Duolingo, you start off by associating words with pictures. From basic verbs, phrases, and sentences, you move up levels as you get more proficient. The app gives you access to real articles and translations, sends daily reminders for study, offers tests, and tracks your progress. Choose from Spanish, French, Portuguese,

Dutch, Irish, Danish, Swedish, Russian, and many more languages.



HABIT LIST: This is your best buddy if you own an iPhone, wish to get rid of old unhealthy habits, and embark on a better routine. Habit List has an intuitive interface that keeps you motivated and helps you focus. You can make a list of all the things due for the day or days ahead, and the app will ensure you get it all done – whether it is consuming three litres of water in the day or taking the stairs instead of the lift on specific days. It tracks your progress towards the goal and provides reminders too. Price: `300.



GOOGLE NOW LAUNCHER: An intelligent launcher that puts Google Now on the homescreen of your smartphone. This voice assistant software can make your life easier – whether by booking you a table at a restaurant or searching for information online. The more you use, the more it learns and adapts to your behaviour. It's free for Android and iOS.



POCKET: For those of us hard-pressed for time, this is one useful app, and is free, too. It bookmarks articles that we wish to read later, without missing out on them. It saves everything at one place so you can find them easily. It is compatible with over thousands of apps and is available for free on iOS and Android devices.

@nidhisingal





LIVE and Kicking!

The live feature on social media and content sharing platforms is all the rage. Here's a dummy's guide to go LIVE.

BY NIDHI SINGAL

Candace Payne, a mother of two from the US, became a sensation on Facebook after she posted a live video donning a Chewbacca (a character from the Star Wars franchise) mask to share her joy with friends on the "internet webs". The video, uploaded in May 2016, which shows her wearing the mask with childlike enthusiasm and laughing hysterically, has garnered over 165 million views on Facebook – the most watched live video on the social networking site.

Live videos have taken the social media and video sharing platforms by storm. Whether at a party or a protest march, people are sharing the moment through live videos. The popularity of live videos can be attributed to their ease of use. It negates the need for a video camera set-up or technical know-how. A smartphone, or any device with a camera, and internet connection are all you need to become a live star. Bloggers and celebrities are recognising the 'live' feature as a powerful tool to connect with their fans and followers, and garner more following.



Go Live, Win Fans

Build anticipation; let your audience know in advance when you plan to go live

Put a catchy headline and video description

Respond to comments in real time

End the video with a closing line and request audience to subscribe/follow you

Although there are a host of apps that support live videos, here are the most popular ones to get you going:

FACEBOOK LIVE

Contrary to popular perception, Facebook was not the first to launch live videos. It was Periscope, now acquired by Twitter, which made live videos popular on Twitter. But Facebook made a big splash with its own version, Facebook Live. It is really simple to use: to go live, you need to tap the top of your News Feed or Page. The Live Video option appears even under the status update bar. Add a description about the video, if you wish. When connected to the server, the Go Live option appears at the bottom. You can select who can view the live session – friends, public, friends, or even restrict views. As soon as the live video option has been selected, the timer starts. Tapping on the Finish icon ends the live video. Facebook now offers options by which one can add masks, doodles and filters to the live videos.

YOUTUBE LIVE

The most popular video streaming channel, YouTube, also offers a live streaming option. But this one takes more than a few taps. One has to follow a few steps to get going: first sign into your YouTube account, click on your YouTube channel's profile picture at the top right, and then on the Creator Studio button. Enable live streaming from here after confirming that your channel is verified, and that you have no live stream restrictions in the last 90 days. Once the channel is enabled, going live is relatively simple. You can either use Stream Now or Events (to create an event). Stream Now, in beta stage, is a quick and easy way to go live – start sending content, and it will automatically start and stop the stream for you at the right time. Events offers greater control of the live stream. You can go live instantly using Events as well as either Hangouts on Air or select Custom to use encoding options. Under the advanced settings, you can select Live Chat, enable slow mode, automatically block spam messages, select category, optimise for less buffering, and more. Events can be scheduled for later as well. Using

Google Hangouts, one can broadcast for up to eight hours. YouTube also offers analytics for videos.

TWITTER LIVE

Earlier, users would broadcast live on Twitter by installing the Periscope app. With Twitter Live, users don't need to install a separate app, and can go live straight from the Twitter app. Powered by Periscope, live video on Twitter allows people to share videos with an audience through a tweet. The live option is available to iOS and Android users through an app update. While creating a new tweet, a 'Live' icon appears next to photo and video icons. Tapping on it will direct you to a new page (Periscope) where you enter the same account details as Twitter. Give a title to the video, tap on the 'go live' icon and start broadcasting. Once the broadcast is on, users can access options such as 'Ask to Follow', 'Ask for Share', 'Share Broadcast', 'Start Sketching', 'Hide Chat', and 'Flip Camera'. Tap on 'End Broadcast' to stop the video broadcast. The live videos will be automatically posted as a tweet. One can also save the live video on the phone. Those watching the live video on Twitter can interact with the broadcaster by commenting and sending hearts to show their support.

INSTAGRAM LIVE

Image sharing platform Instagram, too, has introduced the Live Video feature that can be used to connect with followers in real time. But once the video ends, it will no longer be visible on Instagram. Tap on the camera icon on the top left of the screen or swipe right from anywhere in the feed to the launch camera, a live option appears at the bottom which can be tapped to start the live video. As soon as you go live, all your followers will be notified; the number of viewers appears on the top right of the screen, and comments appear at the bottom. There is also an option of turning off comments. To stop the live video, use the 'End' icon on the top right and confirm. Although this feature was officially launched in November last year, it is now being rolled out to users globally, and will be launched in India soon.

TEST BENCH



A *Class*

Apart

**BAG IT OR
JUNK IT:**
*An innovative
laptop that
can turn into
a tablet and a
sketch pad*

L

enovo is known to come up with interesting devices under its Yoga series which score high on innovation and utility – be it adding a built-in projector to a laptop or launching a tablet that can be hung on the wall. Its latest offering, the Yoga Book, is a hybrid – a combination of a touch tablet and laptop, minus a physical keyboard.

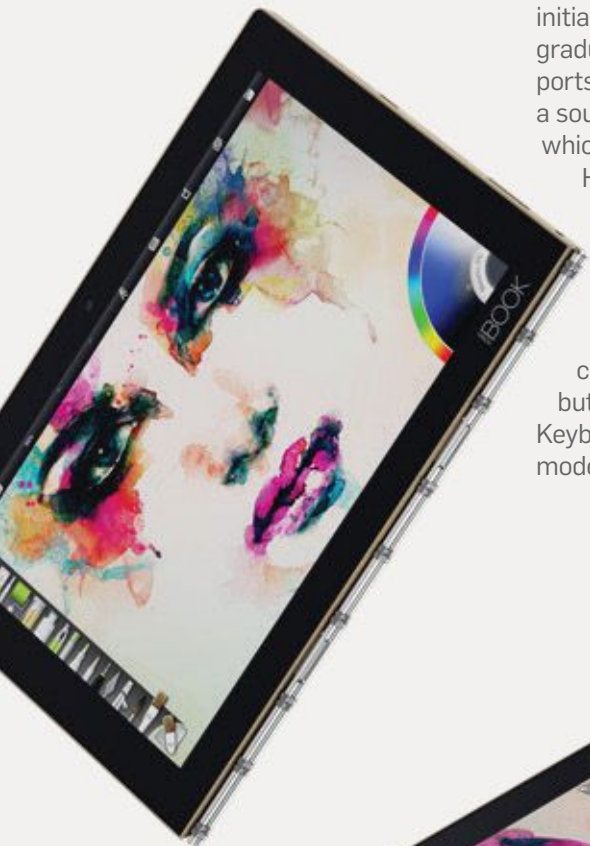
The Lenovo Yoga Book is a striking looking laptop – carbon black body with a 360-degree rotating hinge in silver renders it a sleek look. For a laptop, Yoga Book is super slim and weighs 690 gms. It has a 10.1-inch screen with 1,900 x 1,200 pixel resolution, backlit LED capacitive IPS panel offering rich colours. The traditional physical keyboard has been replaced with what Lenovo calls a 'Halo keyboard'. This capacitive full-touch flat surface has a built-in holographic keyboard, and doubles up as a touchpad for sketching or taking digital notes. Typing on the touch keyboard was a challenge initially, but I got a hang of it, and gradually enjoyed using it. It supports haptic feedback and lets out a sound alert for every key press, which can be turned off from the Halo keyboard settings under

Control Panel. Although multiple presses at the same time are not registered, it works smoothly for Windows shortcut commands. There is a small button at the top to turn off 'Halo Keyboard' and activate the sketch mode.

Lenovo has added a compatible stylus, with 2048 levels of pressure sensitivity, which can be used to sketch in Microsoft Paint or OneNote. There is a real pen along with ink refills that can be used to work on the paper book pad that comes with the device. This book pad attaches to the surface magnetically, and anything one scribbles or sketches on it is replicated on OneNote.

This is a Windows 10 hybrid laptop powered by Intel Atom processor with 4 GB of RAM and 64 GB ROM, offering 128 GB expandable storage. There is a SIM tray slot on the side with LTE support. While it is good for entertainment, browsing, and day-to-day operations, the processor cannot handle heavy-duty apps.

Also, its super sleek form factor has come at the cost of traditional ports. There is a microUSB port for charging, a mini-HDMI port, and an audio jack, but USB, full HDMI and LAN ports are missing. Speaker grills on the side with Dolby sound offer clear and loud output. The battery back-up is impressive – powered by an 8,500-mAh battery, the laptop lasted for over 11 hours.




LENOVO YOGA BOOK

₹49,990

Plus: Design, Halo Keyboard

Minus: Inadequate connectivity ports, processor

Works Like Magic



At first glance, the AirPods look funny. These Bluetooth earphones look similar to the EarPods, but are wireless. I was impressed at how comfortably they snuggled into my ears, and remained so even while walking or moving my head from side to side.

AirPods come neatly placed in a magnetic case which not only carries them, but also keeps them charged. The case can slip into your jeans pocket (however skinny). Each AirPods weighs 4 gms and the charging case weighs 38 gms. The connectivity of the Apple AirPods is far superior to other Bluetooth headphones. As soon as I took them out of the charging case, the AirPods detected my iPhone 7 Plus for pairing (iPhone's Bluetooth was turned on). A pop-up appears on the

phone and on hitting connect, the AirPods get paired with your iPhone, and also get linked to your iCloud account. This enables hassle-free pairing with all Apple devices on the same account, including Apple Watch on WatchOS 3 and iPad on iOS 10. The experience is incredibly seamless and simple within the Apple ecosystem. There is a circular button at the rear of the charging case that comes handy while pairing the AirPods with Android devices, and Apple devices not running on the latest OS (iOS 10).

There is a beep every time you snap the AirPods on. Each has a microphone, and can be used for answering calls and listening to music. There are no controls on the buds for changing tracks or controlling music, but



BAG IT OR JUNK IT:
Impressive wireless earbuds for a
connected Apple ecosystem



APPLE AIRPODS

₹15,400

double tapping the bud brings Siri into action. Double-tap can be used to answer and disconnect calls, too.

Powered by the W1 chip, each AirPods has dual beam-forming microphones, dual optical sensors, motion-detecting accelerometer

and speech-detecting accelerometer. The superior hardware can detect when the AirPods are in the ears. As soon as the AirPods are taken out, the music pauses. One need not wear both the buds to answer a call or listen to music. Be prepared for a surround sound experience with good bass, and an even better sound quality than the EarPods. Each AirPods offers almost five hours of music playback or up to two hours of talk time. The charging case stores power for a couple of charges. As soon as I inserted the AirPods back into the case, the charging would start. A fifteen-minute charge juiced up the AirPods to last a couple of hours. The case can be charged using the lightning connector used to charge an iPhone or iPad.

**BAG IT OR
JUNK IT:**
*A worthy
successor
to the Redmi
Note 3;
undoubtedly
the best
smartphone
at this price.*

Improved

B



REDMI NOTE 4

₹12,999

Plus: Design,
performance

Minus: None

eing a successor to India's best selling smartphone (online) is tough. Redmi Note 4 was announced by the company in the second half of last year, but has been launched in India only now, almost a year after the launch of the Redmi Note 3. It takes the perfection of Redmi Note 3 to a new level. Here is the detailed review:

DESIGN: Though it has similar dimensions and weight, the Redmi Note 4 still is better in aesthetics and design. It weighs 165 gms, measures 151x76x8.3 mm, and has a unibody metal body, with a 2.5D glass with round edges at the front. The 5.5-inch display with

1,920x1,080p resolution looks bright, offering rich colours and crisp text. While the sunlight legibility is good, it also has a reading mode. There are other modes for colour and contrast – automatic contrast, increased contrast, and standard. Below the display are the regular Android keys – multitasking, home, and back. However, the placement of the sensors, earpiece and front camera above the display are much more symmetrical. The speaker grill from the rear has been moved to the bottom, with five drill

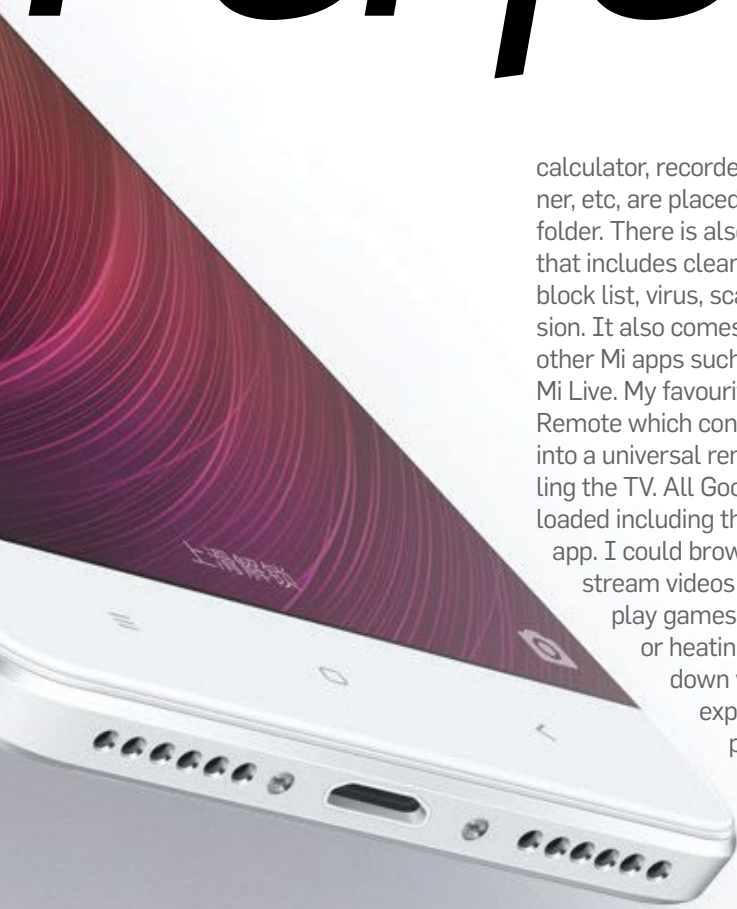
holes on each side of the micro USB charging port (which has also been moved to the centre now). Audio port and IR blaster are on the top, volume control and power key on the right, and SIM tray on the left. The rear mounts the camera module followed by the LED flash and fingerprint scanner which is quick and accurate. It is more comfortable to hold than the Redmi Note 3.

PERFORMANCE: The device runs on MiUi8, built on Android Marshmallow. All apps are neatly placed on the home screen. Apps such as

second space on the phone; activating it quickly rebooted the phone and a switch icon appeared on the home screen.

PROCESSOR AND STORAGE: Unlike the variant launched abroad that has a MediaTek chipset, the Redmi Note 4 in India runs on Qualcomm Snapdragon 625 processor. It will be available in three variants – 2 GB RAM with 32 GB storage, 3 GB RAM with 32 GB storage, and 4 GB RAM with 64 GB storage. Our review unit had 4 GB RAM with 64 GB internal storage, of which only 51 GB was

Perfection



calculator, recorder, compass, scanner, etc, are placed under the tools folder. There is also a security app that includes cleaner, data usage, block list, virus, scan, and permission. It also comes loaded with few other Mi apps such as Mi Store and Mi Live. My favourite one was Mi Remote which converts the phone into a universal remote for controlling the TV. All Google services are loaded including the Google Duo app. I could browse the web, stream videos on YouTube, and play games without any lag or heating issues. Swiping down within the file explorer opens the password page to access hidden files. Under Settings, there is also an option to create a

user accessible. It also supports expandable memory of up to 128 GB, but through the hybrid slot which can be either used as a secondary SIM slot or memory card slot.

CAMERA: The 16-MP camera on the Redmi Note 3 was superb. Xiaomi has added a 13-MP camera with a 77-degree wide-angle five-piece lens with f/2.0 aperture, and dual tone lens to the Redmi Note 4. The camera app is neat and offers a host of settings. It instantly locks focus and is quick to capture images. The images captured had a fair amount of detail, and colours looked natural. Images captured in HDR mode looked better. Redmi Note 4 does a pretty decent job in low-light too.

BATTERY: Its 4,100-mAh battery worked for over a day and a half despite heavy usage.

Reader's
digest

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