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WHAT'S NEXT

## India

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# WELCOME

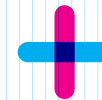


## Millennials have made fitness the new revolution and fitness tech the beacon of hope.

Thanks to step counters, many of us are being forced to walk our way to the parking lot instead of Ubering it, just so we can manage to get within a shade of 10,000 steps a day. But modern-day fitness tracking is a lot more than counting steps, as we found out during the course of this edition's cover story. Apple Watch may have stolen the show from many but there are hordes of options out there that may be more suited to your needs. Whether you want your wrist whirled or your feet buzzed, there's an appendage for every appendage.

Our audiophile friends over from sister mag *What Hi-Fi* coerced us into putting some of the best and newest 4K tellies and sound bars on the test bench and so we did. Emerging from the media room all Grand Toured out, we obviously headed right for the new **Mercedes E-Class** that is just a staggering car compared to its predecessor. More power, tech, comfort, refinement and crucially, more space, it is now the luxury car to be driven in. Whatever your vice is, our completely refurbished **Buyer's Guide** will ensure that just your money is well spent and not you. Take a look inside and let us know what you think!

Nishant Padhiar, Editor / [nishant@haymarketsac.com](mailto:nishant@haymarketsac.com) / [twitter.com/nishantpadhiar](https://twitter.com/nishantpadhiar)



## OUR LOGOS EXPLAINED...

The bearer of this accolade has gone up against its peer(s) and emerged victorious.



A gadget sporting this badge is a five-star product, and the one we would buy, if we were us.



## ...and a word about prices

Generally, we show the manufacturer's recommended price. Two exceptions:

- Asterisk marked prices (\*) are indicative prices and subject to change depending on geographic location.
- All prices in the **Top 10s** are the best we could find at the time of printing.

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**Raheja Xion, 4th/5th Floor,**  
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**Byculla (East), Mumbai 400 027.**

**Editorial**  
**Editor** Nishant Padhiar  
**Deputy Editor** Yatish Suvarna  
**Senior Correspondent** Kaizad Billimoria  
**Features Editor** Megha Monga Anand  
**Features Writer** Infancia Cardozo  
**Editor, Stuff.tv/in** Farhan Kapadia  
**Staff Writer** Khumail Thakur  
**Jr. Staff Writer** Ali Akbar Merchant  
**Editor Special Projects** Vaibhav Sharma  
**Sr. Art Editor** Sahaya Johnson  
**Deputy Art Editor** Kritika Dayal  
**Senior Designers** Sukhdeep Singh

**Marketing**  
**Sr. Manager** Kunal Marjadi  
**Executive** Jayson Lobo

**Advertising**  
**Group Head** Harvinder Pal Singh  
**National Head** Amjad Khan  
**Managers** Ashok Kumar (Bengaluru)  
**Assistant Manager** Jasman Nunes  
**Advertising Coordinators** Sonal Jain

**Production Manager**  
Prasad Gangurde

**Distribution and Sales**  
**General Manager**  
Gilbert D'souza  
**Head-Circulation**  
Satish Kumar (North),  
P Vijayakumar (South)

**Manager Circulation**  
Saravana D (South),  
Ashok More (West),  
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**Assistant Manager Circulation**  
Yogesh Sanap, Anil Raghav, Tapan H  
**Circulation Coordinator** Rajesh Sallan  
**Manager Subscription**  
Mahesh Malusare

**Contact**  
**Mumbai** Raheja Xion Bldg., 4th/5th  
Flr., Opp. Nirmal Park, Dr. B. Ambedkar  
Marg, Byculla (E), Mumbai 400 027.  
Tel: 022-23787500/23787400

**New Delhi** A2/9, Lower Ground Floor,  
Safdarjung Enclave, Africa Avenue Road,  
New Delhi 110 029  
Tel: 011-46020600, 46020634

**Chennai** MHV Pinnacle, First Floor  
8/27 Govindu Street, T Nagar  
Chennai 600 017.  
Tel: 044-65446363  
Telefax: 044-42123230

**Bengaluru** No. 811, 'A' Wing,  
8th Floor, Mittal Towers,  
M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560001  
Ph: 080 - 2559 3775

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**Stuff (UK)**  
**Global Editor-In-Chief** Guy Cocker  
**International Director** Alastair Lewis  
**Head of Partner Development,**  
**Europe & ROW** David Ryan  
[david.ryan@haymarket.com](mailto:david.ryan@haymarket.com)  
**Head of Partner Development, Asia**  
Lisa Vernall  
[lisa.vernall@haymarket.com](mailto:lisa.vernall@haymarket.com)  
**Partner Account Manager** Luc Higham  
[luchigham@hotmail.com](mailto:luchigham@hotmail.com)  
**Partner Account Manager**  
Giuseppe Messina  
[giuseppe.messina@haymarket.com](mailto:giuseppe.messina@haymarket.com)  
**Managing Director** David Prasher  
**Chief Operating Officer** Brian Freeman  
**Chief Executive** Kevin Costello  
**Chairman** Rupert Heseltine

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haymarket

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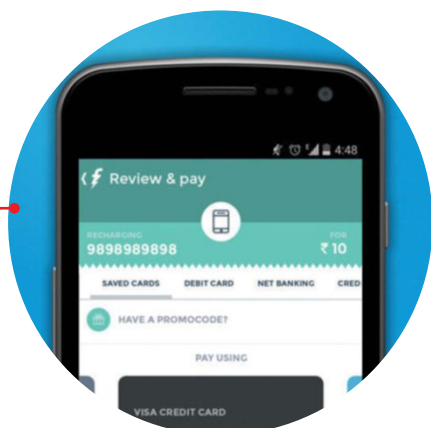
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Sd  
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# H O T S T



HOT  
FOUR  
#1

## SPORTS. ILLUSTRATED. LAMBORGHINI HURACAN SPYDER RWD

This may be the ultimate makeover car. Owning it grows hair on your chest instantly. Putting its roof down facilitates the production of enzymes that boost ego. Using your right foot on the throttle pedal will release pheromones in the air via the extremely intoxicating exhaust to surround you with new best friends instantly. So, you see friends, the Lamborghini Huracan Spyder RWD is not just a car, but in fact, an exercise in physiological transformation. The surgical tool in question has also undergone certain key changes to ensure it remains more perky than perilous. Bigger air intakes, special Pirelli PZero rubber and tweaked weight distribution.

**As hot as... a matador in Victoria's Secret**  
₹3.45cr / [lamborghini.com](http://lamborghini.com)



### Keeping it nicer n' light

Extensive use of aluminium and carbon fibre in the chassis keeps the Huracan agile. Even the brakes have been redesigned to shave weight and aid in cooling.



U

F

F

15 PAGES  
OF THE BIGGEST  
STORIES FROM  
PLANET TECH



### Howling w/o turbos

Not many of these exist so savour the specs. A naturally aspirated 5.2L V10 that churns out 580bhp and 540Nm of torque, 75% of which is felt as low as 1000RPM!



### WHY ANYONE NEEDS A 580BHP RWD SUPERCAR?

Why does anyone need a car that is good for more than 85bhp on our clogged streets will always remain a mystery, but that doesn't mean the Italians should stop luring us.

And there is no greater lure than a convertible supercar that transforms itself in 17 seconds from a pulsating horizon-hugger to a ballet under the

open sky. Lamborghini claims to maintain the perfect centre of gravity of the Huracan with the light weight soft-top. Fold it down and the roof fins give it a secret NASA-project look more than a street legal supercar. Tech like deactivation of five cylinders at low speeds and LDF or the Lamborghini Doppia Frizione only makes it sexier pub talk.



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### Crabby partners

Don't let the lobster get lonely. Add a matching footrest for ₹1.9 lacs or a complementary beverage table for ₹1.6 lacs. Just ensure the drink isn't a Black Dog.



HOT  
FOUR  
#2

## CRUSTY THE CHAIR GAMUT HI-FI LOBSTER CHAIR

We're yet unsure what amuses us more – the fact that someone designed a chair for music listening or that someone is a duo named Lund and Paarmann. Nevertheless, it is a thing of beauty this and even lustworthy if you're an audiophile who isn't allergic to shellfish. Originally made by a Danish furniture company, Gamut has sprinkled its own magic material around the crustacean's

insides to absorb and diffuse sound right around your ears so you can hear every bit of John Lee Hooker's raspy voice. It does come in various finishes depending on your decor but if you have one of these in your room, be prepared to wrestle for the sweet spot. Oh, please use in the sweet spot for Lund's sake!

**As hot as... burnt orange**  
₹4,10,000 / [gamutaudio.com](http://gamutaudio.com)

HOT  
FOUR  
#3EXHAUSTIVE  
SONICS  
PORSCHE DESIGN  
911 SOUNDBAR

There are very few things in the world that come close to what you could derive from driving a Porsche sports car. So much so that you would want to take the car home and dine with it, bathe with it, enjoy a romantic candlelit dinner with it. Even play a game of Monopoly with it. While all of the above may or may not be possible, the kind folks at Porsche Design have ensured that, at the very least you are able to sink into blissful sonics emanating from a speaker system constructed from the original rear silencer and twin exhaust from a 911 GT3. Feel that tingle at the back your neck? We went through that too. Here, take all our money Porsche!

**As hot as... burnt rubber left behind  
on the tarmac**

₹ tba / [porsche-design.com](http://porsche-design.com)

## AWW

Capable of a sound output of 200 watts, this supports DTS TruSurround, Bluetooth, and that remote looks rather neat.



91199911919999...

While you would be better off having your soul ripped off you as the 3.8-litre six-cylinder engine propels you into the future as nought to 100 kmph is dealt with in under 3.5 seconds. We would be better off going the whole hog with the flat-six and see what a top-whack of 315kmph feels like!







HOT  
FOUR  
#4

## A CONSOLE'S NIGHTMARE?

### CORSAIR ONE

The heat is intense, you are low on ammo and if you lean right from the shielding water tank, enemy crosshairs await you. The airships overhead, ready to rain down plasma don't help the situation. But you are confident and decide to take on the odds. A quick strafe right and you are able to spot the enemy sniper by the time you take cover behind an ammunition crate. But it's too late, not for you, but for your teammate who decided to follow suit and perishes, giving you just enough time to take out the sniper. Chances are, you own a console. Chances are, you will ditch it for the One. Chances are, the Corsair One will support VR gaming apart from offering super-slick graphic prowess that ensures you a lag-free gameplay. What's real is that Corsair is no longer a part of the game, it is the game.

**Ashot as... a crosshair blinding your retina**  
₹tba / [stuff.tv/in/corsair](http://stuff.tv/in/corsair)



### YOU SAY HELLO, I SAY...

It's all the fault of your parents, encouraging you to be popular. Get a decent tribe of family and friends, they said – you'll never want for anything. Except for some bloody peace! The constant calls about trivialities like "coming home" or "when are you coming to pick us up from school because it's cold". Sheesh. You have to get yourself this \$799 Navdy head-up display, which connects to your phone via Bluetooth and shows calls, texts, notifications, navigation and trip data. Gesture control lets you dismiss it all while barely diverting your eyes from what's important in life: the road. Shut up, Casey F.



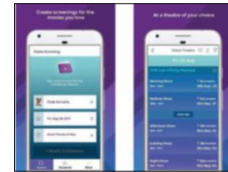


## NEWS FEED



### CARE FOR A DRINK?

They say old is gold. We say old is classy. So, why don't you sit yourself down with a nice little hat, pipe in hand and a glass in the other? Just make sure the glass contains the Glenmorangie Bacalta Private Edition. They even had a virtual tasting of it. How drunk were they?!



### WANT TO BOOK THE ENTIRE THEATRE?

Head over to vkaao.com or install the app, pick the movie you want to watch, pick the cinema and the time, decide whether you want to make this public (or keep it private if you want this to be an invite-only thing), and that's it. Thank PVR for the service.



### REVV IT UP BRO

Yea, do it. It isn't your car anyway. Delhi-based Revv cars extends its service to Mumbai, Chennai and Jaipur. Prices start as low as ₹49 an hour. So, if you want to go for a little spin, check out revv.co.in. That was a terrible rhyme.



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#### AUTHORISED PARTNERS :

• **Ahmedabad** - STUDIO-Y : 9898006681, • **Bangalore** - Ninja Communication : 9901900100, • **Chandigarh** - A.B. Enterprises : 9855332288, • **Chennai** Ex-File Trading : 9840042818, • **Delhi** - SwissVoice India P. L. : 9811126877, RCA : 9810004376, • **Gurgaon** - City Circuit : 9811761318, • **Kolkata** Mohata Electronics : 9831480000, • **Ludhiana** - Sagar International : 9872655507, • **Mumbai** - Trisha Corporation : 9820298130, • **Pune** - V i a n e t 9890048555, • **Raipur** - Alfa Mobile : 9826839617, • **Rajkot** - Tanishq Enterprises : 9879500070 • **Vadodara** - Shrinathji Agency : 9925100091

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### Raising the stakes Vivo V5 Plus

Two front cameras? You heard that right. Vivo, in a very welcome fit of insanity, has kitted out the V5 Plus with 20MP+8MP cameras at the front. That means your selfies can now have that dreamy, shallow depth-of-field effect you'd normally need a proper camera for. Mad, aren't they? Then there's the 16MP rear camera, a 5.5in Full HD display, an octa-core Snapdragon 625, a fingerprint sensor, and a 3055mAh battery. And finally when you're bored of taking selfies, just hit play – there's a 32-bit AK4376 DAC inside!

₹27,980 / [vivo.co.in](http://vivo.co.in)

### Max your heart GOQii Health Band

GOQii's health care tracker is not just another wearable device. The fitness tracker allows you to consult with cardiovascular specialists via the GOQii app. Thanks to a partnership with Max Hospital, GOQii enables you to share your health and heart rate data via the GOQii tracker with a GOQii Doctor for his analysis. Based on the sent data, you will then receive inputs on how to maintain good heart health and sidestep heart diseases and conditions.

from ₹2999 / [amazon.in](http://amazon.in)



### B(RIDGE) the gap OKINAWA RIDGE

It's a scooter, it's a hybrid, it's a scooty – it's all of the above, only better coz it's eco-friendly! Good looks, alloy wheels, tubeless tyres – it's got all that a regular scooter has, plus the added advantage of being eco-friendly. So, if you want to impress that lady of yours, take her riding on the Ridge and you're sure to earn some brownie points for thinking about the environment. Achieving a 55kmph on the roads we drive on isn't too bad either for an electric two-wheeler! We're looking forward to the upcoming models which claim to cover almost 200 km once fully charged.

₹43,702 (ex-showroom, Delhi) / [okinawascooters.com](http://okinawascooters.com)

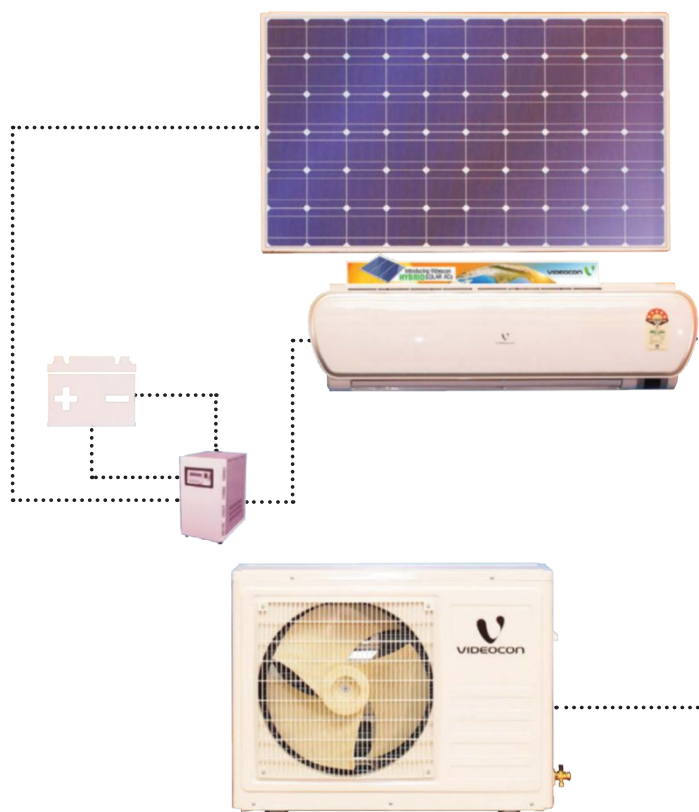


## Going green

### VIDEOCON SOLAR AC

While we're on the subject of being eco-friendly, what if you were told that you can go green, cut your electricity expenses and beat the heat at the same time? We'd say it's a darn good deal and you should grab one of these Green Air Conditioners from Videocon with your eyes shut. The summer months are a bummer, so stop worrying about the hefty price cool air comes at and kick those obnoxious electricity bills in their backside.

₹99,000 onwards / [videoconworld.com](http://videoconworld.com)



## Gobig or go home

### SAMSUNG C9 PRO

Here's something for the person who responds to any new gadget with a look of scorn otherwise reserved for cafes with abysmal portions. The Galaxy C9 Pro takes care of those 'I want more' mutterings with ease – It's got an octa-core Snapdragon 653 processor, 6GB RAM, a 6in Full HD Super AMOLED display and 64GB storage (expandable up to 256GB). You'll also find 16MP cameras at the front and the rear. And keeping all those maxed-out specs powered up is a 4000mAh battery with USB Type-C and fast-charging.

₹36,900 / [samsung.com/in](http://samsung.com/in)

## I spy with my little eye

### PORTRONICS SEESAW

Afraid to go on a vacation because you don't quite trust your neighbours to look after your home for you? Enter

SeeSaw, the latest Wi-Fi enabled camera from Portronics, which will do the job for you. SeeSaw is an attractive compact HD camera which has two-way audio functionality. All you need to do to watch live footage from the camera is hook up a free app. It has a 1MP camera which can capture video in 1280×720p resolution with CMOS sensor.

₹3999 / [amazon.in](http://amazon.in)







### Superzoom this SONY CYBER-SHOT HX-350

No, the point-and-shoot camera isn't dead (and yes, smartphones still have a long way to go). In fact, it's coming back better than before. Case in point: Sony's new Cyber-Shot HX-350. It's a proper prosumer camera and it's got a 20.4MP sensor, 5-axis image stabilisation, a Carl-Zeiss Vario-Sonnar lens with 50X optical zoom, DSLR-style controls, an electronic viewfinder, 24fps, Full HD video recording, in-build photo editing, and a 3in LCD. The perfect, no-fuss vacation accessory which could persuade us to leave our DSLR at home? You bet!

₹28,990 / [sony.co.in](http://sony.co.in)

Where do you go?

### MAPMYINDIA ROVER BIKE

Once fitted on your bike, the connected device lets you see in real time where your bike is round the clock. Every time your bike moves, it is securely monitored through a companion app. Besides live tracking, you can also see an animated replay of your previous rides. The app also lets users upload documents like driving license, bike registration certificate, insurance documents, PUC certificate, service documents, and other information like name of the bike, make, model, year of manufacturing etc. If you ride, this is a must.

₹3990 / [mapmyindia.com](http://mapmyindia.com)



### Handy-dandy BOSCH GLM-50 C

Remember 'Home Improvement'? Sadly, that old sitcom is also an accurate look at the average *Stuff* staffer's handyman skills. But we may have some help now – the Bosch GLM-50 laser measure. No more climbing rickety ladders. Nope, this Bluetooth-enabled laser measure has a backlit colour display and can measure length, area and volume – while you stand in a safe place. It also connects to your phone via Bosch's apps, which makes it perfect for those of us brave enough to try out home remodelling on our own!

₹14,000 / [flipkart.com](http://flipkart.com)



### Still teething?

## ORAL-B PRO 2000, PRO 600

The Oral-B PRO 2000 and PRO 600 both have criss-cross bristles at a 16-degree angle. They also have a visible pressure sensor, which lights up to alert you when you're brushing too hard, since applying too much pressure can lead to harmful over-brushing and weaken tooth enamel. When you've spent 30 seconds on a zone in the mouth, the brush alerts you by vibrating that it's time to move on to another zone. Like you wish your ex would.

from ₹3800 / [amazon.in](https://www.amazon.in)



### Where'd my earphones go?

## BRAINWAVZ AUDIO KRUDUL DUO

Can't figure out where to put your earphones when you're not listening to them without making your workspace look cluttered? Brainwavz has the answer to your woes. Its latest earphone management system that comes in two parts stores your earphones on either your monitor or any vertical surface. The Krudul Duo attaches to your monitor for a cleaner and tidier workspace, while the Krudul Vertical, as the name suggests, attaches to any vertical surface around the house thanks to a self-adhesive 3M VHB tape.

₹1199 / [amazon.in](https://www.amazon.in)



### Marathon man

## ASUS ZENFONE 3S MAX

We're really glad the whole trend of making devices slimmer at the cost of battery life has gone the way of the dodo. In fact, we'd rather have something that doesn't send us into a major panic half way through the day. Something like the Zenfone 3S Max. It's got a 5000mAh battery, an HD display, 3GB RAM, 32GB storage and an octa-core Mediatek processor. And yup, there's even support for a microSD card (via a hybrid SIM slot) if you're the type who likes lugging a tonne of music along.

₹14,999 / [asus.com/in](https://www.asus.com/in)





### Mid-segment Boom

#### INTEX AQUA SUPREME+

The under ₹10,000 mobile phone segment is in for some serious intra-industry race for survival. The options and looks keep getting increasingly better. Intex's latest introductions in the segment – the Aqua Supreme+ is tempting enough for one to indulge in a second phone. An impressive looking, light weight handset, it has a 5in screen that you can easily slip in your pocket, without making your pocket too bulky. The new user-friendly feature 'Indus Swipe' acts as a translator and is capable of translating text from English to a preferred regional language. The 2GB RAM and 13MP rear camera are quite a catch for the price.

₹9490 / [intex.in](http://intex.in)



### This one's for EDM lovers

#### EVIDSON AUDIO AUDIOWEAR B2

Evidson Audio's Audiowear B2 earphones claim to produce aesthetically and acoustically clean sound. Their customised 9.2mm dynamic drivers deliver powerful rich bass and vivid highs. Neodymium magnets ensure consistent response across the entire frequency curve. The earphones have an impedance rating of 15.8 Ohms, frequency range of 20Hz-20kHz, 106dB sensitivity at 1mW and noise isolation of 24 Db. Blah, blah, blah. Just buy them.

from ₹1299 / [amazon.in](http://amazon.in)

### Classic redefined VANS CLASSICS - THE ICONS COLLECTION

A brand like Vans is like Jack Nicholson. Mature yet good looking, old yet relevant; and something that identifies with style. Having been around since the 60's, it's important for a brand like Vans to keep reinventing itself and be identifiable in current context. Other than their classic styles, the Spring 2017 collection has a stylish and colourful palette, and their latest launch specific to skateboarding uses fashion and technology to its advantage.

from ₹6999 / [vans.co.in](http://vans.co.in)



# Mini Mighty

Portable Companion

Available at  
**amazon.in**

300Mbps USB  
Wi-Fi Range Extender

**TL-WA820RE**



Coverage  
Control



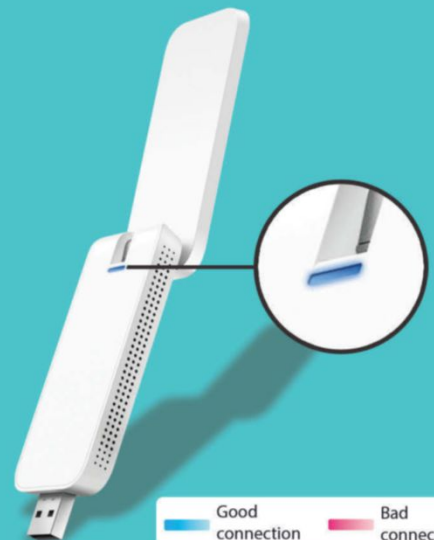
Access  
Control



300Mbps  
Wireless Speed



Compatible with  
any Wi-Fi Router





## Thunderbolt and lighting LACIE 6BIG/12BIG THUNDERBOLT 3

LaCie, Seagate's storage brand has announced the LaCie 12big Thunderbolt 3 and 6big Thunderbolt 3, which is aimed at helping video professionals handle Ultra-HD footage. Both feature Seagate enterprise-class drives with 256MB cache and 7200RPM for superb accessibility, reliability and robust performance. Thunderbolt 3 speeds of up to 2600MB/s for LaCie 12big and 1400MB/s for LaCie 6big slash time off nearly every post-production workflow task.

from ₹2,60,900 / [lacie.com](http://lacie.com)



## Don't be a noob, ya? NUBIA N1

Nubia's latest phone, N1 boasts of a 5000mAh battery, which provides 1.9 days of endurance for heavy users and about three days of endurance for normal users. It comes with Smart Power-saving technology that allows to save power while gaming, navigation, social communication and browsing the net. There's screen power-saving technology to save on juice as well.

₹12,499 / [nubia.com/in](http://nubia.com/in)



## A new Avenger on the horizon

### BREITLING AVENGER

Following on the success of its 24-hour version watch, the manufacturer has now brought out a 12-hour version that's not only good looking but lighter to boot. The 50mm case is made out of material that is apparently 3.3 times lighter than titanium and 5.8 lighter than steel but is yet significantly harder. It has exceptional resistance to scratching, traction and corrosion, thermal stability, along with anti-magnetic and non-allergenic properties. Also available in all black, this watch has a yellow dial.

₹POR / [breitling.com](http://breitling.com)



Get this on your dash

### BLAUPUNKT DVR 3.0 FHD

We'll never really know why Russia has so much dashcam camera footage, but if the trend catches on in India, here's a product that may just head the trend. Blaupunkt DVR 3.0 FHD is the newest digital video recorder in Blaupunkt's product portfolio. It's a digital video recorder that sits on your dashboard and helps you learn where you went wrong while learning to drive and it can also record an accident. The footage can be used as evidence in case you're witness to an accident.

₹12,490 / [amazon.in](https://www.amazon.in)



Vibrating directions

### SYGNAL SMART T-SHIRT

First Google Maps, then smartphones, shoes, and now a T-shirt that vibrates to give directions – by 2020 we won't get away with cracking Indiana Jones's jokes anymore. Welcome to the future! The SYGNAL t-shirt can navigate, count the calories burnt, floors climbed and the steps you take, but it sure won't be the same as the Golden Compass. Pair it with your Android or IOS and get your daily dose of vibrations without ever having to ask for directions. Even though it may take a little getting used to initially, wear it too often and you'll get used to the shaking shoulders and forget your regular tees altogether. Beware – don't get hooked on to the vibrations – it's easy to, if you know what we mean!

₹4999 / [fueladream.com](https://www.fueladream.com)



### Tango Charlie Cheesecake Tango Wellness Motivator

Not sold on the idea of fitness trackers? How about a low-priced one to get you started? We took one look at the Tango Wellness Motivator and fell in love with its range of vibrant colors. The sleek tracker claims to be accurate and precise and is CE certified. The product provides 24 hours activity data including step counts, calories burnt, distance travelled and sleep monitoring. Additional features include in-built automatic exercise timer, target goal and a high-resolution and sunlight-readable display.

₹4990 / [amazon.in](https://www.amazon.in)



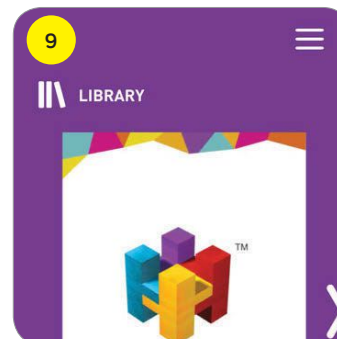
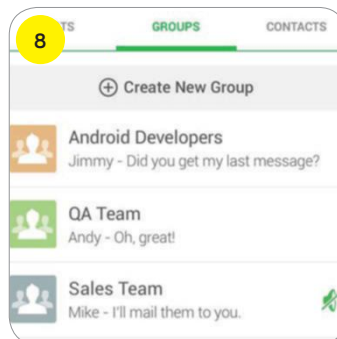
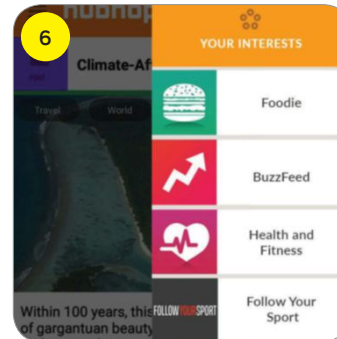
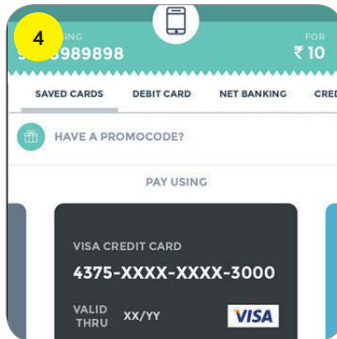
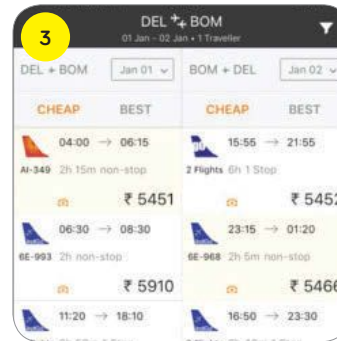
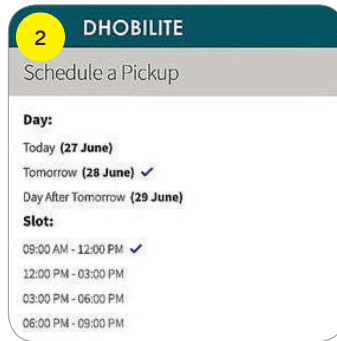
# ↓ APPS

## This month's mobile must-downloads

### APP SPOTLIGHT

**GLORIFIRE**  
₹free  
Android, iOS

The Glorifire app helps schoolchildren who aspire to innovate and build startups. It's a social learning platform that brings ideators, peers, mentors and funders in one place, which makes it easy for the students to take their ideas to fruition. So, if you have a budding entrepreneur within you and you happen to be in school. You need to download this.



### 1 Colour Touch

₹free / Android, iOS

Need to colour your mansion but don't trust your shady painter who says 'Aapka shade mil jayega sir.'? Download this app from British Paint, choose the shade you like and collect it from a dealer next to you. Sorted.

### 2 Dhobilite

₹free / Android

Yup, the washing machine is a good option for dirty laundry, but you can't shove everything in there. Certainly not the expensive stuff. Get the app and you get professional service right at your doorstep.

### 3 Ixigo Flights

₹free / Android

Need to go for that annoying colleague's wedding in a different state but flight's too expy? This app lets you compare prices from a lot of websites. It also has auto web check-ins and delay alerts with much more.

### 4 FreeCharge

₹free / Android, iOS

As if NFC wasn't enough, here's another payment option made available by FreeCharge and ToneTag. You can now pay by soundwaves. Yes. We wish earning money via sound was as easy as spending it.

### 5 Fitnapp

₹free / Android, iOS

Get fit by taking a nap. Download fitnapp and it's possible. Okay, in your dreams. This app provides access to multiple fitness studios so that you don't get bored of just one kind of service. Wake up.

### 6 Hubhopper

₹free / Android, iOS

You'd wish that read Pubhopper, but try and focus for once. Hubhopper aims to bring the content creators/publishers and consumers under one common platform so that the right content reaches the right user.

### 7 Selfie on tilt

₹free / iOS

Your front camera seems like it could use a cataract operation? Don't worry, with this brilliant app you can still click selfies with the back cam with ease. Hold the phone tilt it to one side and straighten. Done.

### 8 Flock

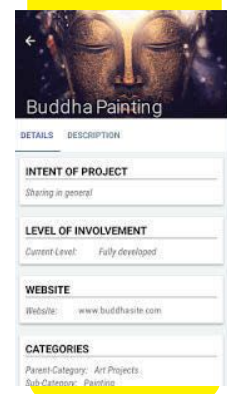
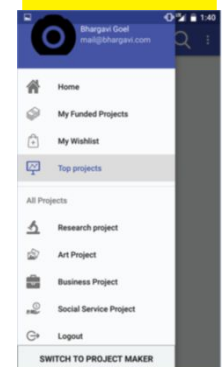
₹free / Android, iOS

No, we won't say what the Flock. Oh Flock it. Now, Whatsapp is good for planning that odd Goa trip, but not for serious work chatter like 'What you doing for lunch.'. Get Flock for that kind of serious work communication.

### 9 GoPhygit

₹free / Android, iOS

Here's a cool app that lets you into the world of Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality combined. Still in its early stage, so don't expect a lot. But it sure does sound promising. Try it for some AR and VR fun.



COME!  
PLAY!  
SHOP!

# COME EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF THE BIGGEST SOUND AND VISION EXPO

From the most exotic and uncompromising Dolby Atmos surround sound systems to pocket-friendly Bluetooth speakers and headphones, the **What Hi-Fi Show?** is the culmination of all things audio, video and fun!  
Come, experience what the world's finest home-entertainment products sound like...

3-5 MARCH, 2017 (FRI-SUN)  
THE ST. REGIS HOTEL, MUMBAI | 11 AM - 7 PM

**WHAT HI-FI?** **SHOW**  
SOUND AND VISION 2017

GIVE A MISSED CALL ON 80800 20909 FOR YOUR INVITE



Show Supporters



Radio Partner



Outdoor Partner





BEST FOR  
**CYCLING**  
P30



**WRIST**

**ASSESSMENTS**

Whether you're on two feet, on two wheels, or just had too many chocolates over Valentine's, there's a fitness tracker out there for everyone

BEST FOR  
**RUNNING**  
P28



BEST FOR  
**SWIMMING**  
P32





# RUNNING



## HITTING THE WALL

If you're using GPS and the heart-rate monitor while playing music, TomTom reckons you'll get up to five hours on a full charge. In our experience it's closer to four. This is certainly no stamina champ.

## ▼ THE PRO CHOICE

### TOMTOM SPARK 3 CARDIO + MUSIC

₹21,999 / [stuff.tv/in/tomtom](http://stuff.tv/in/tomtom)

Sometimes the only way to get yourself out of bed for your morning run is to turn it into a Rocky montage. Enter TomTom's Spark 3, which is particularly suited to music-loving pavement pounders.

Getting *Eye of the Tiger* onto its 3GB memory is hardly the slickest procedure (although it's definitely worth it), but once the tunes are there and you've got a pair of Bluetooth headphones hooked up, you can start tracking your runs with the built-in GPS and heart-rate monitor. You can set specific objectives for each part of your run, such as fat burning, how many calories you want to crush, or what distance you want to cover. It's certainly no Apple Watch in terms

of design (the greyscale screen could be brighter and has just 144x168 pixels) or functionality (it doesn't do phone notifications), but that simplicity equals better battery life. There's no touchscreen, so a 4-way button underneath the screen controls all the functions, with vibration feedback to confirm selections – handy when you need to skip an accidentally loaded ballad in mid-run.

Once back home you can sync up your activities to the TomTom MySports app, which keeps track of all your workout data including duration, calories burned, heart rate and a map of where you actually ran.

**STUFF SAYS** Tough but tuneful, perfect for routine jogs ★★★★★



## JBL REFLECT MINI BT

Bluetooth earphones used to be unwieldy lumps of plastic that would weigh down anyone trying to run while wearing them. JBL's Reflect Mini BTs have all the wireless smarts in a lightweight pair of buds with a reflective cable, so even if you can't hear the passing cars or incoming joggers, they should be able to see you.

₹6164 / [amazon.in](http://amazon.in)



## DOMYOS MUSCLE + FITNESS LEGGINGS BLACK

Some people might be put off wearing tights to go running, but consider one thing: Superman wears them all the time. And quite aside from any comic book associations, these leggings will keep your muscles warm while giving you a stylish look for your cross-training.

₹1299 / [decathlon.in](http://decathlon.in)



**BEEFED UP**

This Fitbit's monochrome OLED screen is four times bigger than the ridiculously simple screen found on the original Charge, which makes it a whole lot easier to read at arm's length.

**CLEVER COUNTER**

There's no need to pre-warn the Vivosmart when you're about to embark on a severe calorie cleanser. It automatically detects what kind of activity you're doing to ensure it records the right movements.

## ▼ ALL-ROUNDER

**GARMIN VIVOSMART HR+**

₹ 20,990 / [stuff.tv/in/garmin](http://stuff.tv/in/garmin)

The Vivosmart HR+ isn't the best-looking fitness band, even in the natty purple colour seen here. It's packed with sensors, though — like an optical heart-rate monitor for getting you up off the sofa, and GPS to track your routes. That simple screen can show off a huge amount of data, its battery is good for all-day tracking, and it sticks smartphone notifications on your wrist.

Stuff says ★★★★★

## ▼ TWO IN ONE

**FITBIT CHARGE 2**

₹ 14,999 / [stuff.tv/in/fitbit](http://stuff.tv/in/fitbit)

Fitbit's Charge 2 isn't just a glorified pedometer. This 24/7 tracker has a built-in optical heart-rate monitor, making it more accurate than most, and it can also work out your VO2 Max score. You'll have to bring your phone with you if you want to use GPS to record your route, and it's not waterproof; but if you don't want to switch between a day-to-day fitness band and a dedicated running watch, the Charge 2 is worth a space on your wrist.

Stuff says ★★★★★☆

**UNDER ARMOUR SPEEDFORM GEMINI 2 RECORD EQUIPPED**

If it's your feet that are doing the running, doesn't it make sense for them to do the tracking too? These smart trainers have a Bluetooth pod sealed inside the right shoe that records distance, speed and pace, with GPS mapping data included if you take your phone.

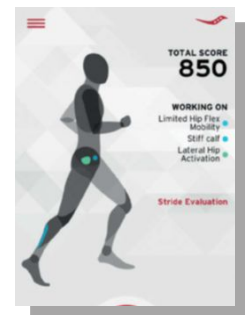
₹ 5690 / [frugoindia.com](http://frugoindia.com)

**SUGOI HYDROLITE JACKET**

When you're bounding along in the dark, if you're not wearing the right kit you can be harder to spot than an agoraphobic rat. A jacket that reflects car and bike headlights is the answer — and Sugoi not only has underarm vents to keep you from overheating; it's also got a zip pocket.

₹ 4242 / [amazon.in](http://amazon.in)

## ▼ THE APP

**SAUCONY STRIDE LAB**

Follow this app's evaluation exercises and it'll churn out a custom programme to make sure you're running properly. Because apparently it's not just about putting one foot in front of the other.

₹ free / iOS

▼ THE PRO CHOICE

## SUUNTO SPARTAN SPORT

₹60,319 / [amazon.in](https://www.amazon.in)

The Spartan shares its name with an ancient group of Greek warriors for a reason. It's a no-nonsense sports watch built for serious athletes — even if it does come with a funky blue strap.

With real-time lap tables plus power and speed, as well as heart rate (as long as you wear the bundled chest strap — there's no on-board HRM), it's packing more information here than any Sunday cyclist could need. In case you need even more precise tracking, it'll play nicely with Suunto bike sensors and BLE power meters as well. Basically, if you're not doing time trials, this is probably overkill.

It's built to last too, with a super-tough steel bezel and mineral crystal glass

protecting the touchscreen. Don't expect Apple Watch-rivalling clarity and colour, though: it's a decidedly low-res affair with only a few muted colours.

You won't need to find a pocket to stash your smartphone, as it has GPS on board. Even for long-distance rides, it should survive the duration without running out of juice — in training mode, it'll keep ticking for 16 hours with GPS enabled.

And it will drop digital breadcrumbs as you cycle — so you can see where you've come and make it home without getting lost. Having to wear a chest strap to track your heart rate can be a pain, but for sheer flexibility and accuracy, the Spartan Sport is certainly tough enough.

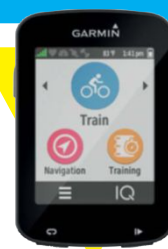
**STUFF SAYS** Serious tracking that'll outlast your longest cycle route ★★★★★



### ELINKA POLARIZED

Previous attempts by ambitious companies to cater for your ears as well as your eyes haven't always gone well, but unlike those really cheap Chinese specs, these offer up some decent features. With Bluetooth on board, the Elinka will blurt out your favourite tunes while making you look cool.

₹2603 / [amazon.in](https://www.amazon.in)



### GARMIN EDGE 820

Garmin's latest cycling computer doesn't just record your ride on its 2.3in screen; its new GroupTrack feature means you can use it to check up on other riders using Garmin Connect — up to 50 at once. It'll hook up to speed, cadence and heart-rate sensors, so you can tell if you're more Chief Wiggum than Millid Soman.

₹43,990 / [flipkart.com](https://www.flipkart.com)

## CYCLING



### ALL FAIR GAME

Bored of cycling? The Spartan Sport has presets for 80 different sports. They're more variations on a fitness theme than parkour to kabadi, but with hiking and ski touring among them, it's got you covered.



## ▼ ROAD COACH

**MOOV NOW**₹ 5299 /  
flipkart.com

The Moov Now's not just a tracker, it's a trainer. Strap it to your ankle and it can work out how fast you're pedalling, how much effort you're putting in and, if you've paired it with a heart-rate monitor, what it's all doing to your ticker. Combined with route info, it'll use the data to feed coaching tips into your ears or to your phone screen if it's lashed to your handlebars, adjusting in real time based on how hard you're working.

Stuff says ★★★★★

## ▼ DATA KING

**GARMIN VIVOACTIVE HR**₹ 23,990 / stuff.tv/  
in/garmin

Part fitness tracker, part smartwatch, Garmin's Vivoactive HR is an excellent all-rounder. Using a combination of built-in GPS and an optical heart-rate sensor, it will measure time, distance, speed and calories. But it's when you add separate speed and cadence sensors that its cycling skills start to show. Even so, without those it's still a very capable gym buddy.

Stuff says ★★★★★

**BEE LINE**

Turn-by-turn directions can be more annoying than a back-seat driver. If just knowing you're heading vaguely in the right direction is enough for you, BeeLine's smartphone-powered compass shows which way to point your front wheel and how far you've got to go till you get there, with an e-paper display.

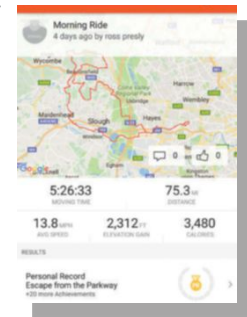
₹ 8257\* / beeline.co

**ZACKEES**

When cycling in the dark, the closer you can get to resembling a jumbo jet coming in to land, the better. These cycling gloves have pads between the index finger and thumb which, when touched together, activate a bright flashing light. The summer pair is fingerless, while the winter ones are touchscreen-compatible.

₹ 6348\* / zackees.com

## ▼ THE APP

**STRAVA**

It's all very well racing against yourself but there's only so much bragging you can do in the mirror without things getting a bit Travis Bickle. Strava's community is the No.1 place for comparing your stats.

₹ free / iOS, Android

**GOING UP**

The Vivoactive HR has a barometric altimeter, which you won't find on some of Garmin's more expensive trackers, so it can tell you exactly how many flights of stairs you've climbed.

**KEEP ON MOOVIN'**

Wear it all the time and the Now will track your steps and monitor how well you sleep; but those are probably its weakest features, with that data relatively difficult to track down within the app.



# SWIMMING



## GP-YES

There are few things more enthusiasm-sapping than hanging outside your house in your running gear waiting for your watch to talk to a satellite... the Series 2 locks on in a matter of seconds.

## ▼ THE PRO CHOICE

### APPLE WATCH SERIES 2 NIKE+

₹32,900 / [apple.com/in](http://apple.com/in)

Not making the original Watch waterproof was a bizarre move but the Series 2 suffers from no such aquaphobia, with both pool and open-water swims available to select from the Workout app.

The accelerometer does a brilliant job of counting strokes and lengths when pool swimming, and the speedy built-in GPS sensor produces almost exactly the expected distances outdoors. Water will interfere with the signal, though, so you'll need to let it have regular air — you might want to stick to front crawl.

The only part of the Watch Series 2 that isn't sealed off from the H<sub>2</sub>O is the speaker — because physics — so the port will fill up when submerged. But, thanks to

a neat trick we'll call 'spurt mode', you can digitally wring out your Apple Watch by twisting the digital crown. Your Watch will spit out any liquid that's inside the speaker, leaving the sound unmuffled.

Open the Activity app and you'll find calories burned, distance travelled, average speed, average heart rate and even a map, colour-coded to immediately show you the parts of your session where you were over or under your average by 10%. You don't need this snazzy Nike+ edition of the Watch to do any of this, but it will get you some exclusive faces and a special strap with air holes that make it more flexible and more comfortable to wear when you're giving it 110%.

**STUFF SAYS** The best smartwatch is now amphibious ★★★★★



## BRAGI THE DASH

These earphones are both waterproof and totally wireless, so you won't risk getting tangled up in cables while you're focusing on your strokes. They'll track your lengths and breaths but, more importantly, there's a music player built in, so you don't need to take your phone in for a dunking.

₹32,095 / [tanotis.com](http://tanotis.com)



## SPEEDO FASTSKIN LZR RACER X RACING SUITS

The drag caused by swimming in those baggy boardies might make you feel like you're working harder but it only slows you down. To achieve quicker times you'll want Speedo's compression cossies, which help you slip through the water like a greased-up penguin.

from ₹26,376 / [amazon.in](http://amazon.in)



**MOOV ON UP**

Using the data the HR collects, Moov's app can give you an indication of your fitness level and estimate your V02 Max. A six-hour battery life means it should last about a week before it needs recharging.

**WRISTER  
MOTIVATOR**

The Flex 2 does a great job of motivating you to reach your 10k steps a day, or letting you snooze for eight hours a night without coming across like a nag. Oh, and it'll do phone notifications.

▼ **HANDS-ON**▼ **DIVE BUDDY**▼ **BUDGET BUY**▼ **THE APP****FITBIT  
FLEX 2**

₹ 9499 / [stuff.tv/in/fitbit.com](http://stuff.tv/in/fitbit.com)

Whether you wear Fitbit's Flex 2 on a wristband or stowed in a pendant hanging around your neck, it'll take note of pretty much everything you do, from sleeping to calories burned – but it's the submersible skills that we're interested in here. It's the first waterproof Fitbit, tested down to 50m, so you can jump straight in the pool (or sea) and it'll automatically get to work monitoring your strokes and wirelessly sending your stats to the app.

Stuff says ★★★★★

**MOOV  
HR**

₹ tba / [welcome.move.cc](http://welcome.move.cc)

Moov thinks your best heart is in your head. That might sound stupid but your temple, with its thin skin and lack of moving parts, is ideal for taking your pulse. The Moov HR slips inside a special swimming cap (or sweat band if you're on dry land) to hold it in place while it records BPM changes. If you want to monitor distance or strokes you'll need to pair it with a compatible fitness band or smartwatch, but for amphibious ticker tracking it looks like a keeper.

Due This Month

**ARENA COBRA ULTRA**

What are you scared of? It's just a bit of water. It won't hurt you. Unless it's full of chemicals, of course. Which it most probably is. Arena's race-friendly goggles will keep your eyes from stinging, and they'll also minimise drag and give you as wide a field of underwater vision as possible.

₹ 2899 / [frugogindia.com](http://frugogindia.com)

**WITHINGS  
BODY CARDIO**

There's only so much tech you can take into the pool without weighing yourself down, but Withings' latest smart scales are worth stepping onto once you've dried off. They track your weight, BMI and more, but it's their ability to work out the 'pulse wave velocity' of your arteries that makes them stand out.

₹ 48,948 / [amazon.in](http://amazon.in)

**MYSWIMPRO**

Packed with swimming workouts tailored for different strokes, distances, speeds and more, MySwimPro has guidance for all levels. Just don't forget to put your phone down before you dive in...

₹ free (IAPs) / iOS, Android

# MORE SPORTS

## ▼ THE FOOTBALLER

### PLAYERTEK

from ₹14,000\* + ₹700\* / month / [playertek.com](http://playertek.com)

Most GPS trackers for football are only available to actual teams. You know, ones that don't just put the fattest bloke in goal and stop every 15 minutes for a vape break. But just about anyone can sign up for PlayerTek, although you might not get the most out of its sports channel-style stats if you're the kind of player who puts the 'mess' in Messi. Wear the GPS pod while you play and after the final whistle it'll give you an Opta-esque heat map of your game (that you can compare with actual Premier League players), plus stats on the distance you covered, your top speed and intensity, with 5-minute breakdowns to see exactly how badly you flagged after the hour mark.

### ▼ NOW ADD THIS



#### ADIDAS COPA MUNDIAL

Brightly coloured boots will only attract unwanted attention from hairy centre-halves, but if you want something less conspicuous that doesn't mean you have to raid lost property. Copa Mundials are classics and you'll remain under the radar to all except the most cultured boot connoisseurs.

₹17,429 / [amazon.in](http://amazon.in)

## ▼ THE GYM BUNNY

### ATLAS WEARABLE WRISTBAND

from ₹13,678 / [amazon.in](http://amazon.in)

You think that flimsy little fitness band is going to be able to keep up when you hit the gym and start pumping iron? No, if you're lifting serious weights, you need a serious tracker to spot you. The Atlas will identify your workout and collect stats on things such as velocity, reps, rest time and how many Schwarzeneggers you could eat for breakfast. It'll send feedback to your phone's screen and guide you towards reaching your goals, so you can keep an eye on how you're doing without having to get a personal trainer to spit all over your face.

### ▼ NOW ADD THIS



#### MATADOR DROPLET WET BAG

Putting your stinking gym kit in your bag with your laptop is a surefire way to get a table to yourself in Starbucks, but it's not a good way to make friends. Pack a Droplet bag, however, and you can keep it separately stinky without having to carry an additional bag. ₹1000\* / [matadorup.com](http://matadorup.com)





## ▼ THE EXTREME DUDE

**NIXON MISSION**₹56,100 / [amazon.in](#)

There's not a lot of point in counting steps when you're surfing six-foot waves or carving through powder at 3000m above sea level. So while Nixon's Mission isn't like most fitness watches, if your sport of choice is gnarlier than a quick jog around the block it might be a better match. There's no heart-rate monitor, so you can't find out exactly how much you scared yourself, but the Trace Snow and Trace Surf apps use GPS to track your on-piste or in-the-water activities, plus there's a thermometer, altimeter, barometer and compass on top of the usual gyroscope and accelerometer.

## ▼ NOW ADD THIS

**GOPRO HERO 5 SESSION**

The only thing better than riding giants is having the footage to prove it. GoPro is still the go-to name for filming in gnarl-o-vision and the Hero 5 Session is the most mobile of the range. Despite being barely bigger than an Oxo cube it's tough and waterproof, and still shoots in 4K.

₹26,550 / [amazon.in](#)

## ▼ THE GOLFER

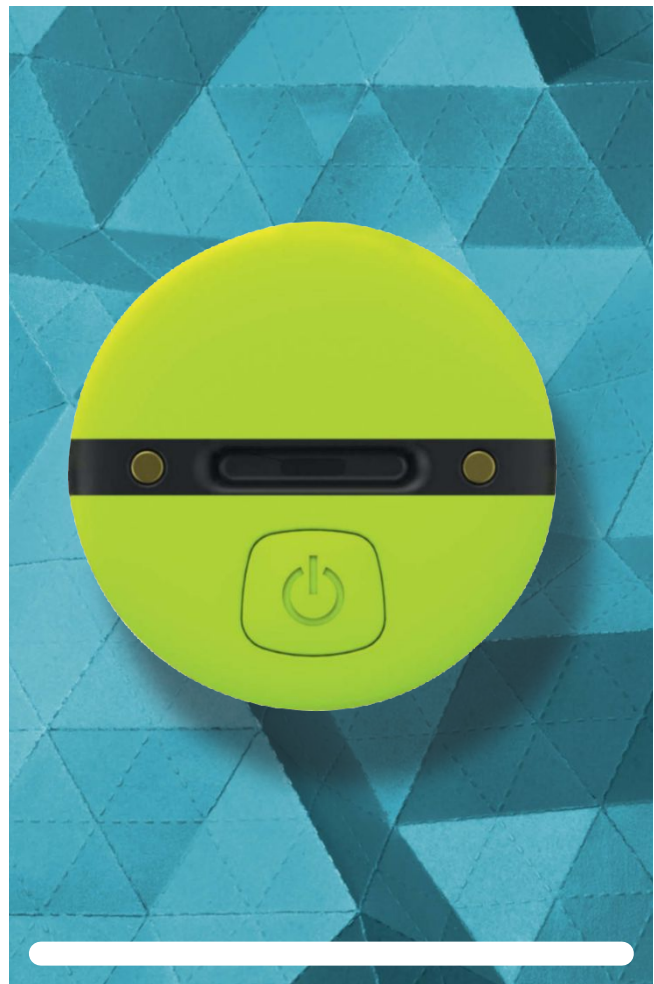
**ZEPP GOLF 2**₹12,084 / [amazon.in](#)

Golf's hardly the kind of sport to get your pulse zipping but it's a good way to accidentally walk a few miles every weekend. While you're doing that you might as well try to get good at it, and a Zepp 2 sensor riding on the back of your glove should help. It tracks your swing in 3D, measuring club speed, club plane, tempo and backswing length, while your phone in your pocket monitors hip movement. Course Mode tracks hole by hole and allows you to build consistency from round to round, with the app offering tips on where you can improve, so when you hit the driving range you'll know exactly what to work on. You'll become Tiger Woods in no time, although womanising finesse isn't included.

## ▼ NOW ADD THIS

**BUSHNELL NEO ION**

Who needs a human caddy when a watch can do the same job? Bushnell's GPS watch includes yardage info for over 35,000 courses around the world, plus it'll detect which one you're teeing off from and automatically advance for each hole, calculating shot distances as you go.

₹18,019 / [amazon.in](#)

# Head for the bar

You don't need a truck-load of speakers and cables to get your home cinema into shape

## BEST ON A BUDGET Q ACOUSTICS M3

₹43,000 / babblergroup.com

How do you make a good thing even better? If you're Q Acoustics, and that good thing is the superb Media 4 soundbar, you stick an HDMI port on the back and give it a new name. The M3 is the new entry-level model from a company used to pumping out much more expensive speaker systems – and that means you can expect a sleek design and great sound quality for your cash.

### What's the story?

With a streamlined, modern look, the M3 won't look out of place under any TV, be it a supermarket special or an OLED stunner. It's slim enough to sit beneath your telly and not block your remote control, but you can also bolt it to a wall if you fancy.

There's still room inside for a dedicated subwoofer and

separate stereo speakers, even if they've shrunk a bit since they first showed up in the Media 4. At least you won't need an external subwoofer, which helps to keep things tidy.

### Is it any good?

The addition of an HDMI port really keeps setup simple, and lets you piggyback a set-top box or games console to the soundbar if your TV is running low on free sockets. And it supports Audio Return Channel, meaning it'll sync up to let you control everything with one remote.

Just keep in mind you don't get 4K support at this price. If you've got a UHD TV and want to hook up a 4K Blu-ray player or console, you'll need to skip the soundbar and plug straight into the telly. Otherwise, you get digital optical, a pair of analogue inputs and a 3.5mm socket for plugging in your portables. Don't like cables? Good job there's aptX Bluetooth too.

Audio quality will make or break a soundbar, and here it's definitely more make than break – if you like a serious bit of bass, that is. Speech is clear enough, and a real step up from your tinny TV speakers, but there is a boomy nature to the sound.

This muddles high-end effects like squealing tyres, bouncing bullet casings and shattering glass (if you're not testing soundbars with the *Fast & Furious* films, you're doing it wrong). Still, it fills the room with sound and has plenty of presence.

The M3 has a lot going for it: it looks great for the cash, has a handy HDMI socket, and pumps out some impressively powerful sound. There may be a few shortcomings, but nothing to complain about for the price.

**Tech** Total power output 80W  
HDMI Yes Bluetooth Yes Wireless subwoofer No Dimensions 1000x90x125mm Weight 4kg

**BUTTERY BASS**  
New for the M3 is a bass-boosting 'MovieEQ' mode, which ramps up the rumble. Pity this is the one thing the M3 doesn't need more of – best stick to standard stereo mode.

**STUFF SAYS** The emphasis is very much on bass, but this is an ultra-affordable option that gives your TV a sonic leg-up and doesn't look half bad doing it ★★★★★



## PAIR IT WITH...

**Bosch**  
Violent yet beautiful, menacing and stunning in equal measure. No, not Titus Welliver's moody detective, but the city of LA as portrayed by *Bosch's* fantastic cinematography. Season 3 will be arriving shortly.

NOW WATCH THIS



## OOH, YOU'RE A CARD

The credit-card-sized remote you get with the M3 is all too easy to lose down the back of the sofa. It's basic, but the soundbar isn't exactly overflowing with functions anyway.

## 4 A BIT MORE...

The M3 is a tweaked, updated version of Q Acoustics' Media 4, which costs just a bit more and has a more rounded sound. The M3 is still a great budget buy, though.

NOW HEAR THIS



## The Nice Guys

This brilliantly dark '70s throwback has a suitably retro soundtrack to go with it, full of classics from Kool & The Gang and Al Green. You'll be bopping along in no time, until Ryan Gosling's girly screams make you pay attention to the bizarre plot.

## PANASONIC TX-50DX750

₹2,21,330\* / amazon.in

Who'd have thought you could snap up a 50in 4K telly that'll do HDR video for a little more than two lacs? A year ago, that was pretty much unthinkable, but now you can waltz in off the street and snag one of these beauties.

## LCD system's sound

The DX750 might not have all the fancy flourishes of pricier TVs, and it doesn't have that one-time holy grail of Panasonic telly tech, a plasma panel (it makes do with energy-friendly LCD instead). But in pretty much every other way, this is a bit of a bargain.

OK, so you still aren't getting ultra-deep blacks here, but the DX750 isn't far off. Pop on *The Dark Knight* and Batman doesn't look as grey as a pavement for once — a real problem on some LCD TVs. HDR also works a treat. It's not the night/day difference you get with UHD Premium TVs, but the key here is subtlety: you won't get blinding lights and psychedelic contrast, but you will get really nice shading.

It's a hard-hitter that ultimately comes up short against the best, but the DX750 is an impressive effort.

## STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

This is a not-far-off-the-top-tier TV that won't make your wallet weep

NOW ADD THIS



## GOOGLE CHROME-CAST

₹3399 / store.google.com

This tiny puck streams content straight from your phone to the big screen with just a few taps. Chromecast was simple before, and it's even better now. Sure, your TV will probably have Netflix built in already, but can it also play *Clash of Clans*?

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

\*Price for Indian equivalent model Panasonic TH-55DX700D

**WHERE'S THE REMOTE?**

Just like any other Sonos speaker, there's no dedicated remote control. The iOS or Android app handles everything in a brilliantly simple, hassle-free way.

BEST FOR UNDER ₹1 LAC

# SONOS PLAYBAR

₹99,999 / [stuff.tv/in/sonos](http://stuff.tv/in/sonos)

Think multiroom audio, think Sonos – it's been the go-to speaker specialist for kitting out our homes for years. And that includes giving the TV a much-needed audio boost, thanks to the Playbar. This isn't just a simple soundbar: being a Sonos, it does a heck of a lot more besides that...

**What's the story?**

With minimalist styling and a fantastic build, the Playbar really does look fantastic, either sitting on a TV stand or wall-mounted underneath it. It's chock-full of neat touches, such as the accelerometers that can tell whether the Playbar is laid down or on an edge and adjust the sound accordingly.

There's also an IR repeater built in, so that signals from your

remote still get to the TV even if the Playbar is blocking the telly's sensor, and a pair of Ethernet sockets on the back mean your other components (such as your smart TV) can piggy-back the Sonos network to get to the internet. Just remember that if you can't hardwire the Playbar to your router, you'll need to get some powerline adapters.

**Is it any good?**

It's a shame the only way to hook up the Playbar to your TV is with an optical cable. It's simple, yes, but it's not as neat as systems with multiple HDMI inputs and a single HDMI output for video. Optical outputs on TVs aren't as common as they used to be, now that HDMI 2.0 has taken over, but as long as your telly has one you won't have to worry about your soundbar not supporting 4K video.

Anyway, once you are plugged in, the Playbar brings a massive

improvement over even the most powerful-sounding TV speakers. The width of the soundstage it creates is mighty impressive, and there's detail, weight and tonal balance that a TV on its own simply can't deliver. The drivers behind the grille are angled upwards – and while that means you get a big, atmospheric sound, it does sacrifice just a little bit of impact and directness. But that's a minor flaw in what is an otherwise excellent delivery for both, music and films.

If you want a simple, elegant soundbar that will hugely improve your television's sound – and then ply you with all-you-can-stream music until your ears burst – the Sonos Playbar really is the only logical choice.

**Tech** Total power output Not stated **HDMI** No **Bluetooth** No **Wireless subwoofer** Optional **Dimensions** 85x900x140mm **Weight** 5.4kg

**YOU'RE SURROUNDED**

Slap down some extra money on the Sonos Sub and the Playbar becomes a 3.1 system. Then add a couple of Play:3s and you've got a full wireless 5.1 surround sound setup.

**STUFF SAYS** An excellent performer on its own – and if you can afford it, Sonos's multiroom magic will even turn this soundbar into the basis of a full surround sound system ★★★★★



## PAIR IT WITH...

### STREAM BROTHER

Essentially this is a full Sonos player in a wider chassis. It'll stream all the music on your computer, iPhone or iPad, and connect to internet radio and streaming services.

### DEEPWATER HORIZON

Mark Wahlberg takes the main role in what is basically *The Towering Inferno*, only on an oil rig (and based on something that actually happened).

Those explosions are going to look amazing on 4K Blu-ray.

NOW  
WATCH  
THIS



### SAMSUNG UA55HU7200

₹2,36,500 / [stuff.tv/in/samsung](http://stuff.tv/in/samsung)

At this price, it's not exactly bargain-basement levels of cheap, but it's affordable enough to be attainable by many mere mortals. What's more, its performance is decidedly god-like. The UA55HU7200 is also really pretty, but not in the overly showy way you might expect. This is Samsung after all — a company seemingly obsessed with 'floating' displays and stands that look like Klingon bat'leths.

### Smart hubba hubba

You get nothing so try-hard here. This is shiny and handsome, but it will blend in nicely with your living room furniture and you don't need super-wide shelves to make room for it. The HU7200 is relatively modest, sitting on a simple pedestal with a smart brushed-metal effect. It's so down-to-earth that it doesn't look like a Samsung TV at all. Well, apart from the supremely thin bezels. That's very Samsung.

Right in the middle is the On TV page. Here you'll find live TV as well as thumbnails of programmes on other channels. There's a content recommendation service based on what you like.

### STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

If you have space for the stand and like its looks, this is the TV for you

NOW  
ADD  
THIS



### OPPO UDP-203

₹74,999 / [stuff.tv/in/oppo](http://stuff.tv/in/oppo)

You can play lossless hi-res files up to 24-bit/192kHz and multiple DSD formats all thanks to a 32-bit/384kHz DAC on the inside. What about popular music formats? Well, they are supported too. The delivery is rich and full of detail when you play the Weeknd's *Starboy*.

STUFF SAYS  
★★★★★

NOW  
HEAR  
THIS



### HELL OR HIGH WATER

How do you make a dark and brooding modern western, where horses and pistols at dawn have been replaced with car chases and assault rifles, even more dark and brooding? Get Nick Cave to do the soundtrack, naturally.

SONOS

PAIR IT  
WITH...



#### A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

The upcoming Netflix reimagining of Lemony Snicket's children's novel series is guaranteed to erase the Jim Carrey film version from your brain. Why? Because Neil Patrick Harris, fake nose and all.

#### TAKE CONTROL

The Kubik One launched a few years back with a truly dreadful remote – not good when there's no app to take its place – but this updated version has a much slicker zapper.

NOW  
WATCH  
THIS

### SAMSUNG UE49KS7000

₹2,41,900\* / [samsung.com/in](http://samsung.com/in)

The KS7000 might be Robin to the more expensive KS9500's Batman, but that still means it gets to hang out in the Bat Cave. This junior member of Samsung's elite SUHD squad is still a potent TV contender, and might actually be the sweet spot in the range. 4K? Check. HDR? Check. One of the best smart TV systems out there? Yep, it's got that too.

#### Better than being there

It looks impressive before you even switch it on, thanks to a 'boundless' frame (Samsung speak for a very thin bezel), but the picture really is punching above its weight. Everything looks pin-sharp, sure, but it's the subtlety that really drops jaws. There's enough definition to count the individual raindrops on a windscreen, plus the clarity to make out the accompanying condensation. HDR video goes even further. Instead of simple solar brightness and abyssal blacks, you get fine increments of shade.

You'll have to spend a lot more to get a better TV than this – what Samsung has pulled off here is nothing short of spectacular.

#### STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

Remarkable picture quality and TV smarts for your cash

NOW  
ADD  
THIS



#### SONY PS4 PRO

₹38,990 / [stuff.tv/in/ps4pro](http://stuff.tv/in/ps4pro)

It's not the PlayStation 5, but it will handily beat the box you've already got in your entertainment center, as it packs a lot more processing power inside its redesigned shell. No doubt, it's a much bigger upgrade than the Xbox One S is over the standard Xbox One and will surely be a tantalizing proposition.

#### STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

★★★★★

\*Price for Indian equivalent model Samsung UA55KS7000K



#### HIGHER CALLING

The microUSB port comes in handy for hooking up to a PC or Mac to play high-resolution, 24-bit/96kHz music. There's also aptX Bluetooth for higher-quality streaming.

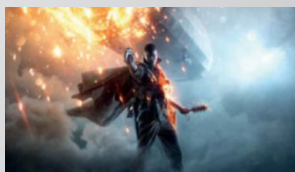
SOUNDBARS

BEST FOR UNDER ₹2 LACS  
**DALI**  
**KUBIK ONE**  
₹1,05,000 / [stuff.tv/in/dali](http://stuff.tv/in/dali)

#### PICK YOUR POSITION

'Neutral' mode gives the least bass, and is best for wall-mounting. 'Bass Boost' is the other extreme, while 'Bass Enhance' is our top pick for when it's sitting under your telly.

#### NOW HEAR THIS



#### BATTLEFIELD 1

World War 1 has never sounded so epic. Rain hammering down on the trenches of the Somme, anti-aircraft batteries shooting biplanes out of the sky... *Battlefield 1* will give your soundbar a real workout.

It's normally the TV that takes centre stage in any home cinema setup, but with one of these underneath, it might be tough to pick a winner. The Kubik One is probably the best-looking soundbar around, with an eye-catching red grille you can swap out for other-coloured alternatives whenever you fancy. Because a lime green or petrol blue soundbar goes with every room, right?

#### What's the story?

It looks like a high-end lifestyle

product, and to be fair, if you're going to charge ₹1,05,000 for a soundbar, it had better look the part. There's more to the Kubik One than a pretty exterior, though. The chassis is a single aluminium piece that staves off unwanted resonances. Oh, and it'll play nicely with an optional wireless subwoofer if you fancy kicking things up a notch. Not that

you really need to...

Dali knows a thing or two about making great-looking, great-sounding loudspeakers, and that Danish heritage comes through in the Kubik One. It's a riveting listen. The scale of sound is immense, effects pinging around with punch and precision. There's ample low-end heft, and plenty of nuance and texture to every ounce of detail.

The sound is impressively clear and controlled amidst the bold dynamics, and we couldn't tear ourselves away from listening to it. This is not the kind of discreet performance we expect from a soundbar – it's wholly captivating. There's no virtual surround sound either, just a beautifully direct stereo presentation.

#### Is it any good?

As long as you make sure your TV is tall enough not to get cut off by this soundbar's tall form (the Dali stands 16cm high), it's a dream

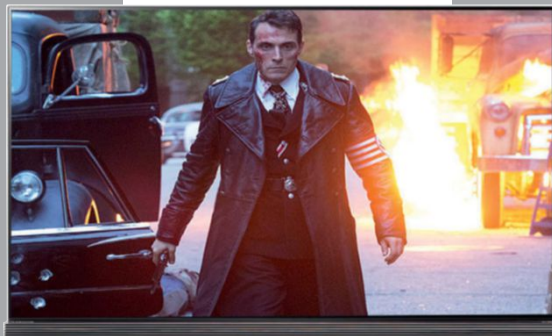
to use. That's partly down to the simple setup: you get two optical inputs and one analogue input, and that's it. That means no HDMI, so more cables to add to your home cinema setup, but it also means no worries about 4K compatibility.

There's no distracting LCD screen, and no great array of buttons, settings and dials to fiddle with – just a single blinking LED to let you know it's picked up your remote control presses, and a few basic controls on the soundbar itself. It's delightfully simple, so if you've got the cash to splash, this is one talented system worth investing in.

**Tech** Total power output 100W  
HDMI No Bluetooth Yes Wireless  
subwoofer No Dimensions  
160x980x100mm Weight 9.6kg

**STUFF SAYS** Gorgeous looks and fantastic all-round performance, all from a single box that can be tonally tweaked and colour-matched to suit your home perfectly ★★★★★

PAIR IT  
WITH...



#### THE MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE

What if the Allies had lost WW2, leaving half of the USA ruled by the Nazis and the other half by Imperial Japan? You'd have a great plot for a novel, said Philip K Dick. And, said Amazon much later, a daring basis for one of its original series.

#### DOUBLING APP

You'll have to load two apps: MusicCast streams audio and helps you set up the YSP-5600 on your home network, while Home Theater Controller switches sound modes.

NOW  
WATCH  
THIS

### LG OLED65E6T

₹6,29,900 / lg.com/in

NOW  
ADD  
THIS



#### TATA SKY+ TRANSFER HD

from ₹9300/  
subscription

The new Tata Sky boxes come with built-in Wi-Fi to make it easier to access on-demand programming. One of the most interesting parts about Transfer HD is that it allows streaming/transferring recorded content directly to Android/iOS devices anywhere, anytime.

**STUFF SAYS**  
★★★★★

This is everything that absolutely

blew us away in the fantastic OLED TV, turned up another notch and given an even slicker design. The OLED panel delivers perfect blacks, and can even handle HDR content at a whopping 800 nits – that's almost bright enough to require sunglasses. And in case your new Yamaha YSP-5600 fancies a night off, it has a soundbar built into the stand.

#### Pic of the bunch

Good? Oh, it's a little more than good. It has easily the best picture quality from any TV we've seen in the past year. That OLED panel can go blacker than King Joffrey's heart, and plays nicely with both HDR10 and Dolby Vision. It's virtually futureproof, but can handle old-school features like 3D too. Remember 3D?

Feed it an Ultra HD Blu-ray and there's a chance you'll never want to set foot inside a cinema ever again. LG's WebOS is still the best smart TV system out there, and it's overflowing with inputs, streaming services and apps. And all from something thinner than a pencil.

#### STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

A superb specimen with one of the best pictures we've ever seen

#### SPOTI-HI-FI

You also get Bluetooth and AirPlay streaming, Spotify Connect and internet radio, plus you can turn it into a multiroom system if you've got any MusicCast-supported speakers.



MONEY NO OBJECT  
**YAMAHA**  
**YSP-5600**  
 ₹1,50,000 / [in.yamaha.com](http://in.yamaha.com)

**HOOK ME UP**

Ultra HD Blu-ray players and 4K games consoles can all pass through the YSP-5600's four HDMI inputs, unlike a lot of lesser soundbars. They're tucked away at the back.

**NOW HEAR THIS****SICARIO**

Taut, tense and deeply compelling, this brutal look at America's war on drugs and its effects on Mexican border cities has a suitably atmospheric Atmos soundtrack to keep your heart pounding right to the end.

**Dolby Atmos is like being wrapped in a super-snug duvet... If that duvet was made from sound instead of feathers. It completely surrounds you, even throwing height channels into the mix for an even more immersive and cinema-like experience.**

**What's the story?**

The fact that Yamaha has done all that from a single box, without

also having to stick speakers into your ceiling is nothing short of brilliance. The YSP-5600 has multiple speakers that bounce soundwaves around your room, with some upward-firing drivers that add in support for Dolby Atmos soundtracks.

How many speakers, exactly? A ridiculous 46. That's including two woofers for some low-end grunt, and 12 height channels from six upward-firing drivers on each side. They bounce sound off the ceiling at just the right angle to

make it seem like it's coming from above. This is basically a 7.1.2 surround sound system, in a single bar that sits under your telly. Wow.

**Is it any good?**

Setup is a little more complicated than a regular soundbar, because you've got to calibrate this one so it knows exactly where to angle all its speakers for the bouncing. That means plugging in the dreaded setup mic – but don't panic. It takes about a minute, and is as easy as tapping a few buttons on the remote.

You'll also have to find some room for this thing – it's chuffing massive. It's so big, in fact, that it will almost definitely block out the bottom of your screen, unless you sit it on stilts. No problem if you've already wall-mounted your telly, but not ideal for anyone with an AV cabinet as shelves will block the upward-firing speakers.

Still, once you've got over any

placement woes and stuck on an Atmos-enabled film, you'll be amazed at just how well the YSP-5600 spreads sound around your room. It really does feel as if it's coming from beside, behind and above you. Raindrops in particular really do seem to fall from the sky, which is impressive when you're on the sofa beneath a nice white ceiling.

A little more subtlety in the dynamics would've been nice, but otherwise it's difficult to fault the Yamaha's sonics; you really won't need the optional subwoofer. So if authentic surround sound is a must, and multiple speakers are an absolute no-go, this is the ultimate one-box alternative.

**Tech** Total power output 128W  
 HDMI Yes Bluetooth Yes Wireless subwoofer Optional **Dimensions** 213x1100x92mm **Weight** 11.7kg

**STUFF SAYS** Stunning multi-dimensional surround sound from a single soundbar – this wondrous device proves Yamaha and Dolby Atmos is a potent combination ★★★★★

# Pixel blast: The best 4K TVs for gaming

Got a fancy new console for Christmas? You're gonna want to upgrade to one of these tellies...



## Samsung UE55KS7000K

₹2,41,900 / [samsung.com/in](https://samsung.com/in)

If you've thought about getting a 4K telly, then you've no doubt had a look at Samsung's KS7000 series. These TVs are the cheapest you can buy that come with the all-important UHD Premium seal of approval for HDR, 10-bit colour depth and loads more good stuff.

Better still, their picture quality is stuffed full of

clarity and detail. Playing *The Last of Us* on one of these things is absolutely sensational.

More expensive TVs will give you an even better viewing experience but, for the price, it's hard to knock Samsung's entry-level 4K set.

.....  
**STUFF SAYS ★★★★★**

**Rupee for rupee, this is an unbeatable 4K TV deal**

### JARGON BUSTER

#### HDR

While 4K is your TV's resolution, High Dynamic Range is the contrast it's capable of. Think deep blacks and dazzling whites.

#### INPUT LAG

The time a TV takes to respond to your console's instructions. The more powerful a set is, the quicker it can update its pixels.

#### NITS

A measurement of light output, not those pesky hair-crawlers. Most UHD Premium TVs are at least 1000 nits bright.

#### PANEL BIT DEPTH

You want a 10-bit depth, which means your TV can reproduce 1024 shades for every primary colour.



4K  
CONSOLES  
RATED■ PlayStation  
4 Pro

Sony's latest machine is the best you can get for 4K gaming. Even though most titles are upscaled, they look fantastic.

★★★★★



## ■ Oppo UDP-203

You can play lossless hi-res files upto 24-bit/192kHz and multiple DSD formats all thanks to a 32-bit/384kHz DAC on the inside.

★★★★★

■ Tata Sky+  
Transfer HD

The Tata Sky boxes come with built-in Wi-Fi, have 500GB available, with more than 45 channels of HD. It has a slick app to boot.

★★★★★



## Panasonic TH-40DX650D

₹69,400 / [croma.com](http://croma.com)

Even though 4K TV prices have dropped considerably in the last year, these screens still don't come cheap... unless you settle for this Panasonic.

At just 40 inches in size, the TH-40DX650D won't give you the full impact of UHD, and it doesn't support HDR either. But if those shortcomings aren't

deal-breakers or you're actively looking for a smaller set, then this is the one to get.

Whether you're playing the vibrant *Ratchet & Clank* or enthralled in the murky world of *Shadow of Mordor*, colours are pretty much spot-on.

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

An ideal purchase if you've limited space for a new TV



## LG OLED65E6T

₹5,79,900 / [lg.com/in](http://lg.com/in)

Money no object? This is the TV your lifetime's worth of skulduggery deserves. A 65in OLED with the UHD Premium seal of approval, it's an absolute stunner. The glass panel itself is only millimetres thick, while picture quality is mesmerising.

There's a precision on offer here that's rare, even for a 4K HDR TV. Hooking

up a standard PS4 or Xbox One would be doing it a disservice – it demands 4K. Turn on Game Mode for a 33ms response time. It's slower than the Samsung on the left, but OLED means minimal motion blur and deep blacks.

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

The TV of your dreams and ours – shame it's so pricey



## LG OLED55B6T

₹2,79,900 / [lg.com/in](http://lg.com/in)

We love LG's OLED TVs, but they're expensive. Really, really expensive. While this B6 model won't crop up in your local Croma any time soon, it is LG's only UHD Premium TV available for under three lacs. So, sell a kidney and you'll have yourself a sensational gaming setup.

What makes OLED so special? Contrast. There's

no muddiness when dark and bright colours interact. The thought of playing *Resident Evil 7* in 4K and HDR on this thing is enough to give us heart palpitations. Anything lurking in the shadows is guaranteed to have us leaping out of our skin.

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

If you can afford to go OLED, this TV is a treat



## Panasonic TH-65DX700D

₹2,21,330 / [amazon.in](http://amazon.in)

From pizza to *The Witcher 3*, sometimes bigger really is best. While that's not quite the case with this Panasonic, it still offers plenty of TV for your cash. At a whopping great 65in screen size, you'd expect nothing less.

Alas, what you get in terms of scale isn't quite matched in subtlety. So while blacks are almost as good as what you'd

get from an OLED set, the TX-65DX750 gets a bit carried away when dealing with shadows and juggling them with bright light. Still, you'll likely be too immersed in the epic landscapes of *Battlefield 1* to notice these shortcomings.

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

For sheer scale, we can't sniff at this Panasonic

# GAMESPOTTING



## GIGABYTE AORUS GA Z270X-GAMING 9

Building a gaming rig? Turn your attention this way. Launched recently in India, Gigabyte's new Aorus motherboard range might be what you need. Creative Sound Blaster certified audio, 4-way graphics support, Thunderbolt 3, and yes, an EKWB integrated hybrid waterblock. Fess up, mate, you're drooling, aren't you?

[aorus.com](http://aorus.com)



## PLAYIZZON SACHIN SAGA

Bollywood and cricket? Playizzon seems to have tapped into some sort of national consciousness. You'll be pleased to know there's a new cricket game on the way (Sachin Saga) but if you can't wait, try the Warm Up edition, *Cricket Unlimited 2* or check out their Salman Khan games – *Being Salman* and *Bajrangi Bhaijan*.

[playizzon.com](http://playizzon.com)

## GAME MELA

Game Mela has teamed up with some of the biggest names around – Blizzard, Steam, Google, Sony PlayStation and Microsoft Xbox – to make for a one-stop gaming resource. Head over to their website to find out where their closest iCafe gaming centre is, or buy new game codes and fill up your Steam wallet.

[gamemela.com](http://gamemela.com)



## ASUS ROG STRIX GL553

Republic of Gamers' new portable gaming machine is the stuff dreams are made of. A 15.6in Full HD display, a seventh-gen Intel processor, Nvidia GTX 1050Ti/1050 graphics, up to 32GB DDR4 RAM, Gigabit Ethernet and a keyboard with 30-key rollover. Time to pester your boss for a new laptop? Of course.

[rog.asus.com](http://rog.asus.com)



## NOVA PLAY

A social network for gamers? You heard that right. Nova Play lets you form your own gaming clans, gives you the chance to win gaming goodies through contests, and even sells games online. But what will really float your boat is its tie-up with e-sports giant ESL. So, stay tuned for some proper gaming action!

[novaplay.in](http://novaplay.in)



Missed out on the India Gaming Show? Poor you. You might as well turn in your geek card. We were there, and we gotta say, it was a helluva experience. Live gaming action, contests, cosplay, e-sports competitions, and above all, product displays featuring the coolest gaming gear and apps!



#### THE FALLEN: APOCALYPSE

Ever wondered when you'd see a desi-as-aloo-tikki game? Well, Studo Trinetra reckons they have what it takes to take on the big guns. But while you'll have to wait for this fantasy-meets-horror experience, Studio Trinetra also has an amusement park demo out for the Oculus Rift. Go check that out.  
[studiotrinetra.com](http://studiotrinetra.com)



#### SAMSUNG QUANTUM DOT CURVED MONITORS

Rejoice, dear gamer, as Samsung's Quantum Dot tech has made it to gaming as well. Available in two sizes – 27in and 24in – the new Quantum Dot curved monitors boast of advanced motion blur reduction technology for a 1ms response time, AMD FreeSync support and a 144Hz refresh rate.

[samsung.com/in](http://samsung.com/in)



#### SONY PLAYSTATION PS4 PRO

There was a rather long queue to check out Sony's newest bits o' kit, but we totally understand. After all, the PS VR is surprisingly comfy (pretty vital for a VR headset, as you can imagine) while the PS4 Pro pushes the specs up a fair bit for better stable frame rates and some clever 4K upscaling.

[playstation.com](http://playstation.com)



#### PIERCING BLOW

Korean developer Zepetto's Piercing Blow was another one of the big draws at the India Gaming Show. Available on Steam, this multiplayer FPS boasts of over 100 million users from across the world. It's fast. It's furious. It's got a never-ever-gets-old establishment-vs-rebels story. What's not to like?

[eu.fps-pb.com](http://eu.fps-pb.com)

# E-asily the best

20 years of capturing the consciousness of the corporate czar has made the E-Class a force to be reckoned with. Mercedes-Benz has brought the perfect successor to India.

₹1.15b / mercedes-benz.co.in

No one ever complained about cramped knees in an E-Class before but Mercedes-Benz India has taken a huge gamble and given their target audience something they didn't know they needed – a longer wheelbase E-Class. That's right. You get an additional 184mm between the front and rear wheels and most of it is used to accommodate longer limbs. But it's not just the stretched sides that Merc is on about.

This is an all-new design inside-out and sits between the sportier C and the statelier S, both in concept and execution. Its 5 metre length seems to magically make valets smile and security guards open up gated communities, yes we tried it! But it's on the inside that it makes you feel that you have really arrived. With a design that borrows cues from both, the C and S-Class models, it has a language all of its own. Modern, fluid and luxuriously built, it raises the bar in this class and even embarrasses more expensive options.



## 1 One engine to rule them all

Mercedes has promised two engines, including a petrol and a diesel but come launch time, only the V6 diesel-powered E350d will be made available. A refined and punchy motor that is smooth and almost clatter-free. The E200 petrol will join the party later.

## 2 More space per car

Space is nothing without control. It isn't a superhero quote but one that seems to fit the E350d. From the rear seats, you can control the front passenger seat, side window blinds, rear windscreen blind and the sunroof. All by lifting just a fingertip, of course.

## 3 Riding on a cloud

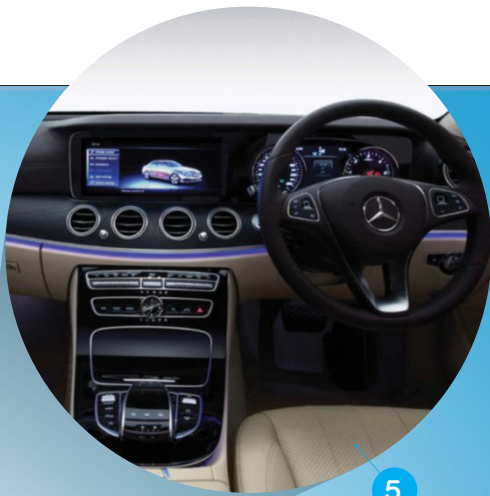
Thanks to the slickly named Air Body Control, the E350d rides almost like the S-Class or even better on some surfaces. This trick air suspension maintains ride height even with a full load. We found the Sport setting to be the best for comfort and luxury.

## 25 hours with the Mercedes E350d

- Good
- Meh
- Evil







5



2

3

#### 4 Cruise missile

The composed ride and the sharp steering make for a fine executive sedan that can split time between the owner and the chauffeur. High speed stability is staggering and the air suspension soaks up road imperfections without a whimper. Triple digit speeds are effortless.

#### 5 Quieter than a king's tomb

Diesel has never felt this refined. The E350d cocoons its occupants from the mechanical ramblings under the bonnet and outside the large windows. We measured a noise level drop of a massive 20dB inside the cabin, leaving no traces of the big, bad city outside.

## Tech specs

**Engine** V6 turbo-diesel **Power** 258bhp @ 3400rpm

**Torque** 620Nm **Transmission** 9-speed automatic,

RWD **Top speed** 250km/hr **0-100** 5.9secs

**Wheelbase** 3079mm

## This is how E roll...

The E350d comes with (almost) all the latest gizmos and goodies Mercedes-Benz has to offer



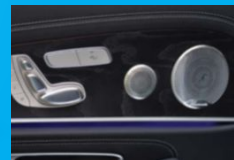
#### ■ Hi-def CarPlay

Crisp graphics are shown on an all-new 12.3in HD screen but multiple input methods make things a bit of a mess. We would've preferred a touchscreen over the rotary dial, touch pad and steering controls.



#### ■ Personal valet

Merc's Park Assist system makes the others seem a generation or two older. It's completely automated with no manual inputs required for steering, throttle or brake. Just gotta keep the faith.



#### ■ Germanic sounds

Like in the S-Class, only less ornate and less...er... rotating, 13 speakers and 590-watts bring Arijit to life and he can be set-up to sound closer to the driver or others. It's good enough but not the best.



#### ■ The money seat

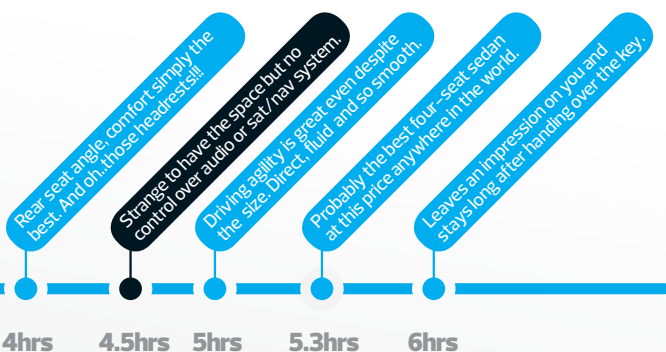
Now this may well be the best back seat in this segment or even one above. They support you with orthopaedic precision and can be reclined. And those pillowy headrests. Ooooh...



An important car like this cannot be seen uni-dimensionally and that's exactly where it excels. In key areas such as space, comfort and ride quality, it emerges as the new class leader by a mile. I can't forgive tech omissions like rear-seat infotainment controls and a touchscreen, but its all-round goodness more than makes up for it. @nishantpadhiar

## STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

The E350d is so good, it makes buying the S-Class seem indulgent. Its blend of luxury and comfort is unbeatable



# Triple Threat

We ride Triumph's latest around the Spanish countryside and on the Catalunya Grand Prix circuit!

₹tba / triumphmotorcycles.in

It's been a couple of days since we got back after riding what without doubt is one of the best handling bikes on the planet right now. We still get goosebumps thinking about how staggering Triumph's new Street Triple RS is.

The Daytona-derived 765cc engine is all new and packs a wallop of punch precisely when you require it and someone might as well write a book about the mid-range torque.

Handling, we repeat, is unreal, thanks to the all-new gullwing rear swingarm which improves longitudinal torsional stiffness. This ensures maximum stability even in the trickiest of situations. You can enter and dart out of corners as precisely as you plan to. If you make a mistake and carry in more speed than you can handle, more often than not, the Street Triple RS will forgive and ensure you reach the pits without any broken bones. The chassis is an engineering marvel, balanced perfectly for both the road and for track riding.



## 1 Engineering Triumph

The all-new 765cc Daytona-inspired engine offers up to 16% more power compared to the outgoing bike and with 123PS of peak power @ 11,700 rpm, there is power to feast on in every gear. Oh, and the exhaust note is an absolute delight to the ears.

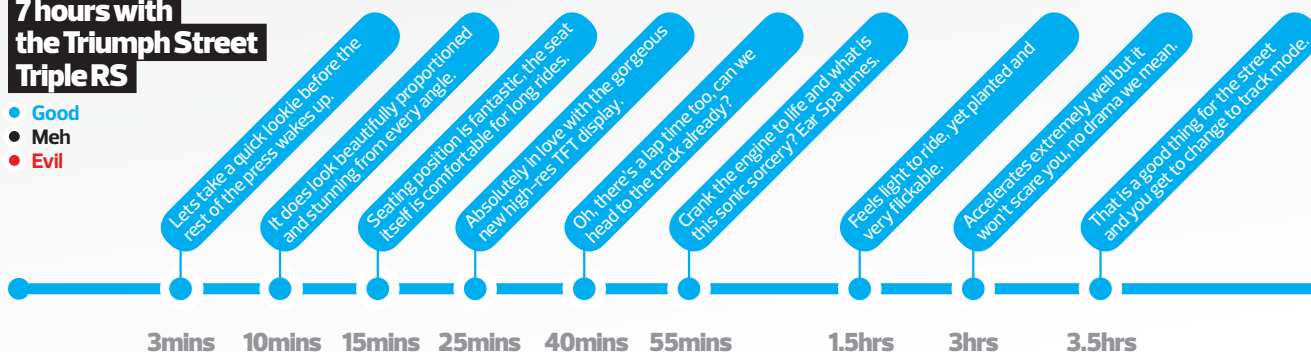
## 2 Road? Yes. Track? Of course!

What makes the Speed Triple RS an absolute thriller to ride is the new ride-by-wire throttle that is mapped with up to five riding modes which you can choose from. All new gullwing rear swingarm lets you flick the bike around a track effortlessly.



## 7 hours with the Triumph Street Triple RS

- Good
- Meh
- Evil







### 3 Stop Gun

Scrumptious acceleration means nothing if you are unable to stop effortlessly. The Brembo M50 4-piston radial monobloc callipers on the front and a single piston sliding caliper on the back offer spectacular stopping power under the toughest of conditions.

### 5 Flick to shift

Quick shifts ensure grin-inducing overtakes on the road but are supremely important on the track. With the quickshifter on the Street Triple RS, think clutchless upshifts that are up to 2.5 times quicker than a standard clutch upshift. Heaven? Yes.



### 4 High-res Display

The 5in, full-colour TFT display unit onboard the Street Triple RS is a treat to work with. Both the regular and the high contrast modes are easily readable in noon-level beating sunlight and working the lap-time is unbridled fun.

## Tech specs

**Engine** 765cc, Liquid-cooled, 12 valve, DOHC, in-line 3-cylinder **Power** 123 PS @ 11,700rpm

**Torque** 77 Nm @ 10,800 rpm **Gearbox** 6-speed

**Suspension** Showa 41 mm upside down big piston forks (BPF), 115 mm (front), Öhlins STX40 piggyback reservoir monoshock, 131 mm (rear). **Tyres** 120/70 ZR17 Pirelli Diablo Supercorsa SP (front), 180/55 ZR17 (rear)

**Standard Equipment** Quickshifter, Riding modes – Rain, Road, Sport, Track and Rider, Lap timer **Seat height** 825mm **Weight** 166kg **Fuel Tank** 17.4 litres

## Tracking it

The Triumph Street Triple RS is a charmer on the road, but on the track, it's simply phenomenal.



After riding around some of the most spectacular roads on the Spanish countryside, Triumph invited us to the hallowed Catalunya Grand Prix circuit and told us to give it our best shot for the rest of the day, onboard the Street Triple RS. What ensued was lap after lap of the bike asking us to push faster and lean harder. You can twist the throttle straightaway as

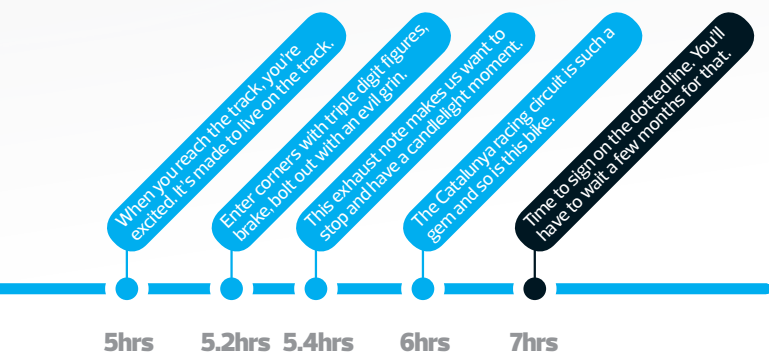
you exit the corner and there will be no drama, with the bike reaching 100 kmph before you can say "Good God, that's quick". Safe to say 200 kmph comes up effortlessly too. The handling is on supreme God mode levels and in spite of our unfit bodies wanting to stop, we took a few extra laps just because the bike was so much fun to ride.



This bike is simply one of the most beautiful machines I've ridden when it comes to both, looks and engineering. It can go around the track all day long and yet is effortless to ride in the city. The built-in tech ensures maximum safety even when you do make a mistake and that exhaust note is music to the ears. @yatish\_suvarna

## STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

The Street Triple RS is an unbeatable combination of speed, razor-sharp looks and God-like handling



# The luxe life

Can this 'Deluxe' Zenfone win us over with its big-screen charm? Time to find out...

₹49,999 / [asus.com/in](http://asus.com/in)

Remember the Zenfone 2? It made a heck of a splash – you paid a lot less than what you'd normally have expected to for something with that level of performance. Still, it had its flaws. It was a bit plasticky, the camera was sub-par, the battery life was average, and the display wasn't bright enough. The Zenfone 3 series seems to take care of those complaints, and nowhere is the improvement more visible than in the flagship of the range, the Zenfone 3 Deluxe. It's got pretty much everything a flagship buyer would want: A tasty metal body, an AMOLED display with excellent outdoor performance, a superb camera, expandable storage, decent battery life... it's got all that, and it's also blazing fast. So, what's the problem here? Well, it loses out on the 'value' proposition that made its predecessor such a steal, and at its current MRP, seems overpriced, especially when you compare it to competition like the OnePlus 3T.



## 1 Back in black

The 5.7in Full HD AMOLED display, protected by Gorilla Glass 4, is sharp, vibrant, and bright. We love it! Yes, it's 'only' Full HD and not QHD but you won't notice the difference in daily use. The lower pixel count helps save power, too.

## 2 Fits like a glove

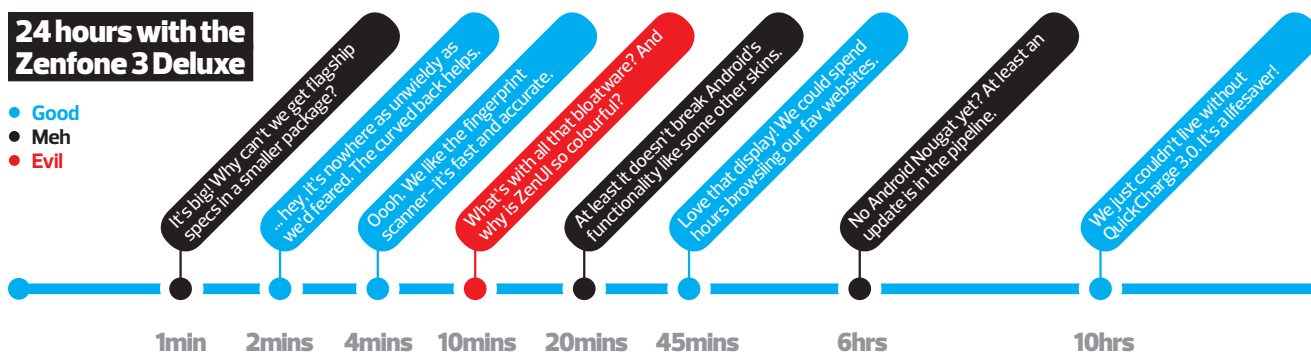
Despite its massive display, the Deluxe doesn't feel unwieldy as one would have imagined. The curved back and rounded edges also help making it easier to use. Meanwhile, the metal body looks absolutely smashing.

## 3 Powerhouse

Our review unit came with a Snapdragon 820 and 6GB RAM. Yup, you won't have any issues with the performance. Also, the 64GB storage and microSD slot means there's enough space for all your games and movies.

## 24 hours with the Zenfone 3 Deluxe

- Good
- Meh
- Evil





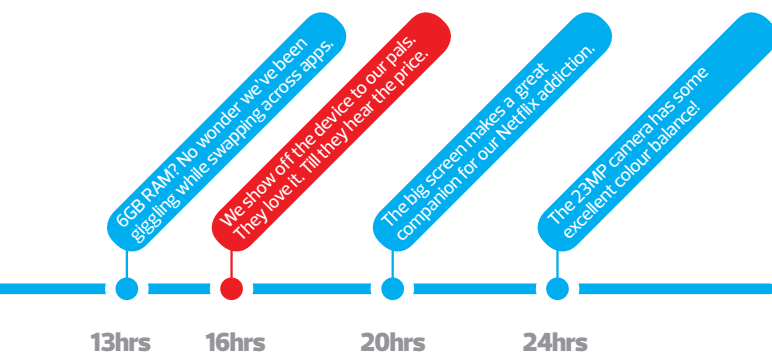


#### 4 Juice it up

The 3000mAh battery might seem a bit on the smaller side considering the screen size, but we managed a full day's use. Even then, streaming video really gobbles down the juice, but at least there's Quick Charge 3.0.

#### 5 Snappy happy

It might not beat the best in the business, but the 23MP camera is quite accomplished. Daytime snaps are fantastic, the OIS is adept at ensuring crisp shots in low light, and there are enough special modes to play with.



## Tech specs

**Screen** 5.7in 1920x1080 AMOLED

**Processor** Octa-core Snapdragon 820 @ 2.15GHz

**OS** Android 6.0.1 **Cameras** 23MP rear, 8MP front

**Storage** 64GB, expandable by up to 128GB

**RAM** 6GB **Battery** 3000mAh with USB Type-C

**Dimensions** 156.4x77.4x7.5mm, 170g

## Staying Zen

AMOLED screen and a Pixelmaster 3.0 camera on one hand, and ZenUI on the other. It's love and hate, folks!



### Say, what?

Asus's ZenUI skin has some nifty features – tap to wake and lock screen gestures, but it's a bit too colourful for our tastes. Just give us stock Android and we'll shut up!



### Pixel peepers

Ignore the megapixel war and the camera is quite nice. No, it won't beat a Google Pixel in the low light noise stakes, but it focuses fast and the OIS + EIS combo works well.



### AMOLED magic

We've always loved the contrast of AMOLED and this display's no different. Only VR addicts will be disappointed as the Full HD res isn't enough for use as a headset.



### Rock on!

The single speaker is rather ordinary and gets a bit shrill at high volumes. But plug in a decent set of cans and the support for 24bit/192kHz high-res audio will make your day.



It's gorgeous, has a fantastic display and camera, and in general, gives every bit of that 'premium' look and feel you'd expect from a flagship.

So, what's the problem? Well, ZenUI isn't the prettiest skin around, but that's still something we could get used to if the Zenfone 3 Deluxe wasn't priced way above the competition. [@taoofdudeism](#)

## STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

This gorgeous device excels pretty much everywhere, but is let down by a rather steep pricetag

# The escape Pods

Apple is keen to free us from the tyranny of cables since killing off the iPhone's jack socket, but are its AirPods capable of leading a wireless revolution?

₹15,400 / [stuff.tv/in/apple](http://stuff.tv/in/apple)

The AirPods are the most Apple product in absolutely ages, for better and for worse.

Yes, the AirPods look like a pair of Apple EarPods with the cable snipped off and yes, that looks a bit daft. But they deliberately hark back to the earbuds of the original iPod – which, it's fair to say, changed the direction of consumer electronics and the fortunes of what had been until then a computer company.

But while they nod to the past, the AirPods are also stunningly futuristic. Apple's constantly claiming it's reinvented stuff, but for once it's not arrogance or hyperbole. The AirPods are an undeniably huge step forward for headphones. The W1 chip is ushering in a new dawn for wireless cans, and the AirPods could go a long way to soothing the pain left by the cull of the headphone jack.

But that's not to say they're perfect. A divisive design and a reliance on Siri could leave many of us resisting hard as Apple tries to drag us into a wireless future.



## 1 The ugly stick?

That Apple has managed to cram some truly astonishing wireless tech into such a small device is little short of mindblowing, but the way the inch-long arm extends from the bud gives the whole design a distinctly 'pendant earrings' appearance.

## 2 Snug as a bud in a lug

The fit is pretty amazing – at least, it is for us. They're actually slightly bigger and more rounded than the wired EarPods, and they sit perfectly and comfortably in the ears. They're surprisingly secure in there, even when running or cycling.

## 3 Post-'tooth

Thanks to the revolutionary W1 chip, wireless setup is so quick and intuitive that it makes standard Bluetooth look archaic. You can still use the AirPods as standard Bluetooth headphones, should you want to connect them to a non-Apple device.

## 16 hours with the Apple AirPods

- Good
- Meh
- Evil







#### 4 Music to our ears

Apple's own earphones aren't exactly renowned for amazing sound, so we were pleasantly surprised with what the AirPods have to offer. No, they're not incredibly detailed or subtle, but for most music most of the time, they're really very listenable.

#### 5 Keep talking

There are no buttons on the AirPods, and that's both a blessing and a curse. On one hand it contributes to the tiny size of the buds, but on the other it means you're heavily reliant on Siri if you don't want to keep digging out your phone.

## Tech specs

**Sensors** Dual beam-forming microphones, dual optical sensors, accelerometers for motion and speech  
**Connectivity** AirPods: Bluetooth; charging case: Lightning connector  
**Compatibility** iOS 10 or later  
**Dimensions** AirPods (each) 117x41x18mm, 4g; charging case 54x44x21mm, 38g

## Gift from the Pods

Apple aren't content with creating 'normal' wireless buds, so they've given the AirPods some nifty tricks



#### Just in case

The carry case can keep your AirPods juiced up while you're not using them. The AirPods will handle five hours of constant music, but the carry case holds another 19 hours of charge.



#### Ask a Siri question

To activate Siri you just double-tap either of the AirPods. This is simple enough, but then you have to wait a second or two for the Siri sound effect before you can issue your instruction.



#### Open for business

Bluetooth headphones can be a faff, but with the AirPods all you need to do is open the carry case. Then an AirPods window appears on your iPhone; press a button and you're connected.



#### Play it by ear

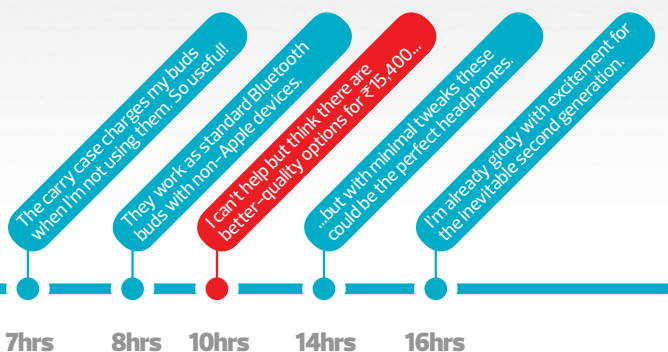
To pause your music, you simply have to take one of the buds out of your ear. Pop it back in and your music resumes. Holding a bud in your hand can fool the sensors and restart the tunes, though.



If you're an audiophile, you won't get enough of scoffing at the AirPods. Although, to be honest I am one and for their size, tech and innovation, it would be unfair to complain. They're supremely addictive while travelling just because of the sheer convenience of design. Siri is virtually useless though for Indian accents so think hard before you drop ₹15,400 for pair of buds. @nishantpadhiar

## STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

They make you look daft, but tech-wise the AirPods are ushering in a new dawn for wireless headphones



# Tech anorexia

Having something light weight on the lap is a great feeling, specially when it looks and feels so bloody hot...

from ₹1,77,990 / in.msi.com

Oh, a slim laptop again! Must be underpowered and pretty much useless. Or so you would think. We don't blame you for judging so quickly. Slim laptops are usually underpowered, but not this one.

A 15.6in beauty, the GS63 comes clad in a lovely black aluminum fascia, and that brushed look on the lid is sure to get a squeal out of even the manliest of gamers. The design is a fresh take on the previous GS60 with a few noticable changes made.

Yes, it is slimmer for one, but the GS63 also sees some other aesthetic changes like the red accents that run along the rear vents. There's the addition of an odd orange-red power light that sits at the centre of the top heat vents and the red lining along the border of the touchpad.

MSI also plastered the back with a soft-touch material. And to top it all, you pay what you did for the previous 6RF offering with upgraded innards. Enough touching now. Let's talk business (touches one last time).



## 1 Thin and strong?

The aluminum chasis on the GS63 lends it quite a sturdy build. It feels pretty strong and seems like it can withstand some abuse. But the same can't be said about the lid. A quick little push at the centre made it bend. Yikes.

## 2 Touch it at least

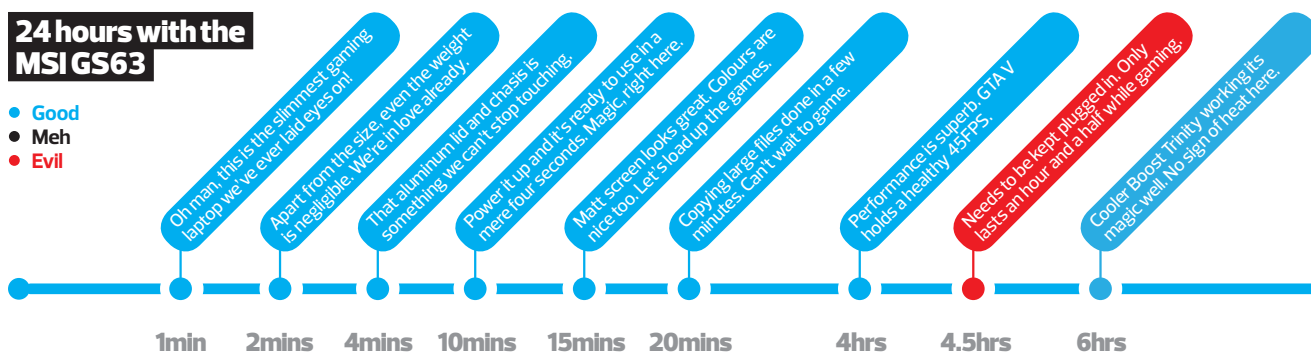
I've probably touched and felt this laptop up more than one with a touchscreen. You just can't help it. It looks and feels like a million bucks, or actually the ₹1,77,990 you pay for it. It is prone to fingerprints though.

## 3 What's on display?

While the 15.6in display serves up quite a vivid colour palette, we wish it were a tad brighter. Although the matte finish is superb and games like the *Witcher 3* and *DeadRising 4* look absolutely stunning on it.

## 24 hours with the MSI GS63

- Good
- Meh
- Evil







## Tech specs

**Screen** 15.6in 1920x1080 IPS  
**Processor** Core i7 7700HQ @ 2.8GHz  
**OS** Windows 10 **Graphics** Nvidia GTX 1060  
**Storage** SSD 1x M.2 SSD Combo (NVMe PCIe Gen3 x4 / SATA) HDD 1x 2.5 SATA HDD  
**RAM** 16GB DDR4 (upto 32GB) **Battery** 3-Cell, 65 Whr  
**Dimensions** 380x249x17.7mm, 1.8Kg

## What about the rest?

The GS63 impresses on a lot of fronts and saddens as well. Here's a clear picture...



### On the dot

You also get the option to upgrade to the new NVMe M.2 SSDs and significantly go crazy looking at the transfer speeds you'll achieve with MSI's X Boost function.



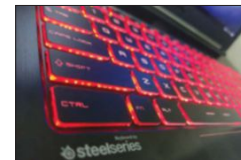
### What's that?

That's something you'd be asking yourself a lot if you plan to use the external speakers of the GS63. As expected, the sound is disappointing and could have been better.



### You don't last long

The big hit is the battery life here. If you really stress the machine, it'll give you a run time of a bit more than an hour and half. So, make sure you don't forget your charger.



### Steel the show

The SteelSeries keyboard has always performed well and it doesn't let down here either. The SteelSeries engine has its back for customisability, which is flawless.

### 4 To the HQ

The processor planted on the GS63 is the new Core i7 7700HQ. It performs like nothing we've witnessed before and completely obliterates the previous gen competition sloths. All this at the same price of the 6RF. Brilliant.

### 5 Gone in 60

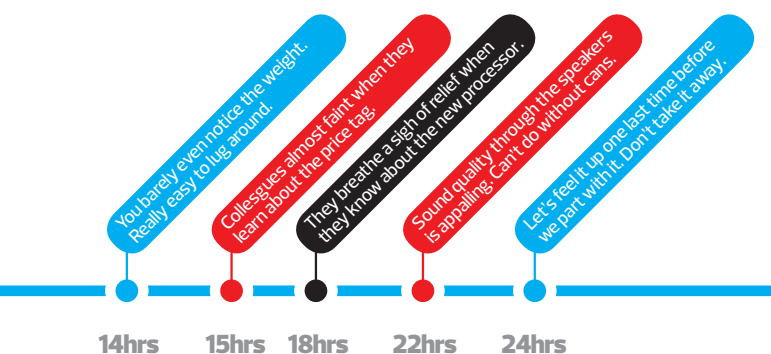
The Nvidia GTX 1060 GPU is a capable one and with 3D Mark scores of over 3600 in Time Spy and 11,723 in Fire Strike, it is up there with the rest of the competition. This equals to a healthy dose of FPS levels.



While it packs in enough grunt to give a mid-spec desktop a run for its money, the GS63 isn't exactly flawless. The battery life and poor external audio is what brings it down and is a deal breaker for many. But the upgrade to the processor without a change in price is what will make it win. @kaizzzad

## STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

If portability with glorious grunt is what you're after, no one does it better than the GS63VR 7RF



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# The power of positive shrinking

It looks like one of Canon's ace DSLRs, only seen from slightly further away... so how does the M5 compact system camera measure up?



₹81,995 (body only) / [stuff.tv/in/Canon](http://stuff.tv/in/Canon)



**C**ompact system cameras are the future of photography.

They're fast and lightweight, and look amazing when sat next to a chunky old DSLR. Until now, though, Canon's CSCs have all been a bit... rubbish. Not so the new EOS M5.

Canon's first properly serious foray into CSCs is essentially a baby EOS 80D. That doesn't mean it's a DSLR in nappies, just

that it's got the same sensor and image processor that made the 80D such a hit with semi-pro snappers. Well, that's not a bad place to start.

It's fair to say that those with a fondness for Fuji and Olympus's retro stylings won't be immediately smitten with the M5, but it's got enough curves to give it a likeable look.

There's a selection box of dials and buttons dotted around the body, giving you a clue that this

isn't a CSC aimed at beginners (as if the price hadn't told you that already). All the buttons you're likely to use regularly are grouped together on the right, in easy reach. DSLR owners will feel right at home here.

You'll find automatic and fully manual modes, plus everything in between. And one of the great things about this camera's design is that you can customise pretty much all of the buttons and dials to suit whatever

settings you're likely to want to change with any regularity. Altogether it makes for a very fluid way of working, and you can switch settings quickly and easily.

And for the first time in an M-series camera, the EOS M5 gets a viewfinder. This is great news for anyone who hasn't grown up using a phone screen to compose snaps. So is this the mirrorless camera that Canon fans have been praying for?

### 1 Mount rush less

Just because the EOS M5's got detachable lenses and the word 'Canon' on it, don't be fooled into thinking you can attach any of your DSLR lenses. The EOS M mount is smaller – but an adaptor is available. Avoid using really large lenses, as they make the camera feel very unbalanced.

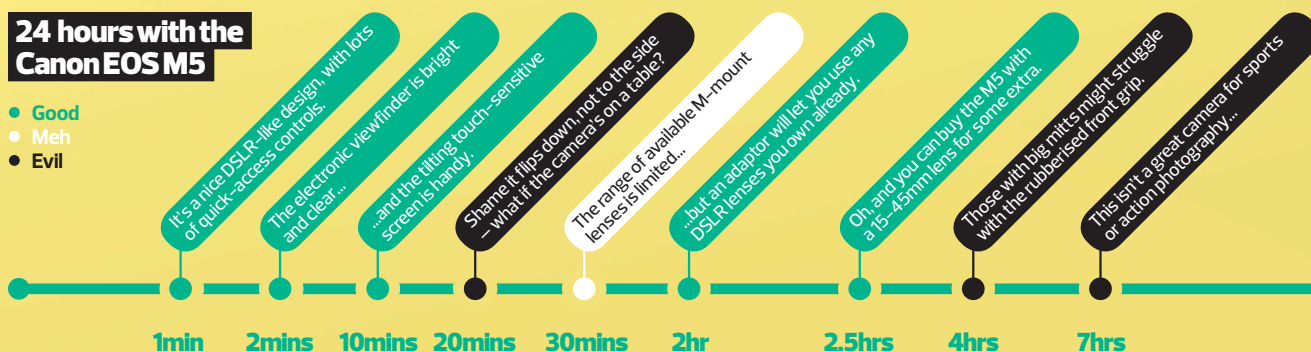
### 2 OK with no 4K?

One area where the EOS M5 loses ground on its rivals is video. Full HD recording at 60fps is nice and all, but Panasonic's Micro Four Thirds cameras have been shooting in 4K for a while now. If movie-making is key, the Lumix DMC-GH5 could be a better bet.



### 24 hours with the Canon EOS M5

- Good
- Meh
- Evil





### 3 Zoom with a view

The viewfinder may not be the biggest around, but it does have an impressively high resolution and provides a good view of your scene. One small issue: colours in it look more saturated than they do on the rear touchscreen, or when you check the actual shots on a computer screen.

### 4 Rigorous screening

That rear screen switches off when you bring your eye up to the viewfinder, but has a clever system whereby you can still use it to set the autofocus point. In itself nothing new, but the ability to assign just part of the screen to this task? Brilliant. No more nose-based AF accidents.



### 5 Snap shot

Canon has done a great job of improving focusing speeds, something its previous CSCs really struggled with. It's much faster... but still not as quick as other system cameras. For fast-moving subjects, you'd be better off with the Fuji X-T2 or Olympus OM-D E-M1 MkII.

### 6 Still got it

The 49-point autofocus system works well enough when you're photographing things that don't move. Determined to track moving subjects? Switching to Servo mode will yield decent results with anything moving in a reasonably predictable and not too rapid way.

## Tech specs

**Sensor** 24.2MP APS-C **AF points** 49  
**ISO range** 100–25,600 **Built-in flash** Yes  
**Connectivity** Wi-Fi, NFC, Bluetooth  
**Display** 3.2in 1.6m-dot touchscreen, OLED 2360k-dot electronic viewfinder  
**Video** 1920x1080 @ 60fps  
**Dimensions** 116x89x61mm, 427g

## The whole shooting match

With the same sensor and brain as the much-loved EOS 80D, we're expecting some very nice images...



#### ■ Succour punch

No big surprises here: the M5 is capable of producing some excellent pictures. Directly from the camera, images have that satisfying punch and vibrancy that Canon has become known for.



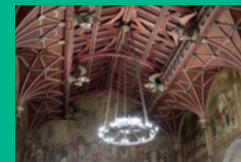
#### ■ Fine and dandy

Detail is well resolved, but you can push the camera further by using the 'Fine Detail' picture style setting – something you can choose from either the quick menu or the main list.



#### ■ Decent exposure

Automatic white balance gets it right most of the time, with just a tendency to be a little cool under artificial light. All-purpose metering performs well, with balanced exposures in most conditions.



#### ■ ISO tonic

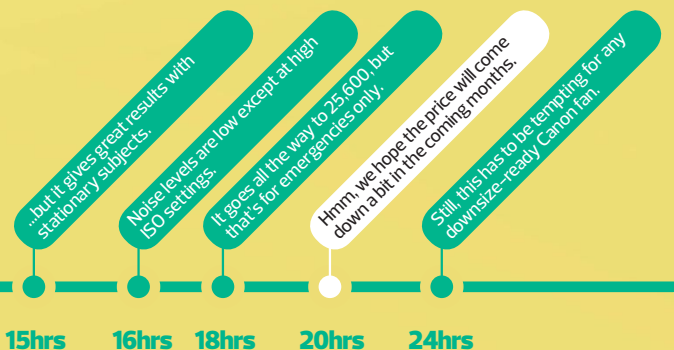
Noise only starts to be noticeable at ISO 3200, but you can still use these shots at smaller printing and web sizes. Only use the very highest ISO settings when you absolutely have to.

It's great to see Canon finally taking CSCs seriously, and coming up with something that competes with big rivals from Olympus, Panasonic and Fuji. The M5 is more than capable of taking some very nice images... but at this price, unless you're already invested in Canon, it's hard to recommend it over more established rivals.

@stuff\_india

## STUFF SAYS ★★★★★

A lovely little CSC from the camera giant, that's slightly overpriced for what it offers





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Indie Awards



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# One small step...

A concept conceived originally for the visually challenged in the world wants to challenge the vanilla tech of today. Will it win?

₹4999 / lechal.com

■ You may not have heard of the brand and well, most certainly may not have seen it either. Why? That's because like your true character, it is hidden inside your sole. Elizabethan era puns aside, it works via two nifty little pods that fit under a special insole sold by LeChal. These little pods provide the haptic feedback.

■ The LeChal app that you've got to download either on your iPhone or Android is pretty easy to use. It's intuitive and not at all complicated. You need your Bluetooth and Location to be on for it to work, which is a bit annoying if you just want to quickly check your stats.

■ Setting up your profile and syncing the pods with the app is monkey-proof. Once done, you are ready to navigate hands-free. You can download a map through the app, which then lets you use it offline and saves your data. You can choose route options to avoid tolls and highways too. LeChal has made it very intuitive and easy, just like it should be.

■ Enter a destination and you get different route options. Select the one you like best (the road not taken, in terms of traffic) and off you go. The pods vibrate at 250m, 150m and just when the turn arrives so you make sure you don't miss it. Now here's the tough part. It takes getting used to in the beginning and you will miss a few turns at first, but use it for a month and you're more likely to reach your destination in style.

## Tech specs

**Pod material** Aluminum 7075 T6 Anodized Plastic

**Sensors** Motion, Capacitative touch

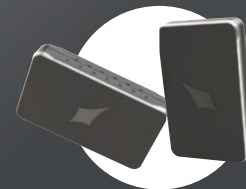
**Battery Life** 13 Days (Tested on heavy use)

**Compatibility** Bluetooth 4.1 and newer, Android 4.3 and above, iOS 8 and iPhone 4s and above

**Buckle material** ABS

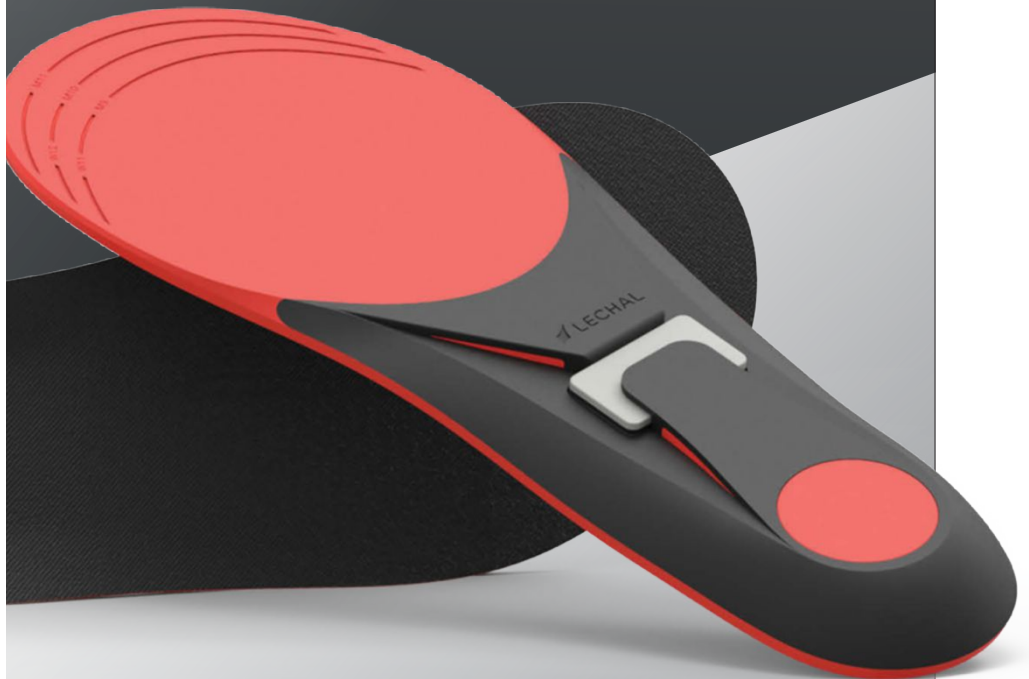
**Insole material** TPU, PU, Micro fabric, Anti-bacterial coating

**Water resistant** Yes



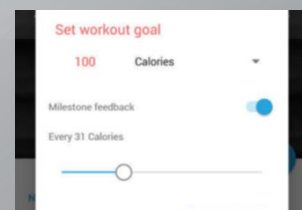
## Take charge

The pods that do all the work come with their own charging dock and take just 3 hours for a full charge.



## Cut your sole

The insoles you get have grooves that you can cut to fit your shoe size. The thing is that the insole itself is pretty thick which makes it difficult to use with casual slip on shoes. However, we have word that LeChal is developing thinner ones.



## Keep it fit

The fitness mode is a winner here. It calculates calories, distance travelled, counts steps and can connect with other users. It even has a 'Cycling' mode that works really well and you can set milestone feedback too. Brilliant.

**STUFF SAYS** While not flawless, these pods offer a great new way of navigation ★★★★★

Should I give up my band and get these funky pods instead?

@kaizzzad



You surely could do that, but why not use both? While the LeChal pods put forward a pretty great effort on the fitness front, the main feature they get right is the navigation. These won't replace your fitness band/watch, but once you're used to it, you won't need to keep looking at maps to know when to take that turn. This is especially great for bikers. Just remember to turn the vibe intensity up.

# Get Hexed

One look at the Tata Hexa and it instantly mesmerises. Good reason to take it for a drive then.

## Quite the looker!

As we drove the Hexa around, people driving cars that cost more than twice as much slowed down and paid attention. The Hexa looks pretty hardcore from all angles.



### ■ Almost an SUV?

Well TATA has clearly aimed for that as far as the looks and capabilities go. We love the front design with the clamshell bonnet, stretched back headlamps dialing in the aggression quite nicely. More SUV cues follow with the wrap-around black cladding.

### ■ Stress-free modes

One of the cooler bits about the all-wheel-drive Hexa we received for review is the rotary controller for selecting one of the four drive modes. It is located at the base of the centre console and lets you choose between Comfort, Dynamic, Rough and Auto.

### ■ Powers through?

While the new 2.2L Varicor 400 engine doesn't feel lacking once it crosses 1500rpm, the long-throw gear box was a bit of a letdown. You'll hate it for its rubbery feel. Then comes the finicky clutch to spoil the party further. We will pick the Automatic next time!

### ■ Hulk-like handling

The Hexa will ensure you feel every bit of its 2.2 ton+ weight, especially at low speeds, where turning the beast requires John Cena's arms. Where it does score is at off-roading. The inclusion of Hill decent control helps things along nicely.

## Tech specs

**Engine** 2.2 litre VARICOR 400  
**Power** 156PS@4000  
**Max Torque** 400Nm@1700-2700  
**Top Speed** na  
**Acceleration 0-100 kmph** 15.59s  
**Transmission** 6 Speed manual / 6 Speed Automatic  
**Wheels** 235/55 R19  
**Fuel Tank Capacity** 60 litres  
**Boot Capacity** 500 litres  
**Price** from ₹11.99lacs / hexa.tatamotors.com



## Internal Affairs

Tata has paid a lot of attention to both, comfort and safety. While six airbags ensure that you walk out unscathed in the unfortunate event of a crash, it is the seats that you will end up loving even more. The quality and finish is simply superb and overall these seats are meant for cross-country drives.

**STUFF SAYS** It may not be perfect but the Hexa impresses on many fronts ★★★★★☆

## Should this be my next big car?

@Yatish\_suvarna



Tata's new vehicle impresses on a ton of fronts. Agreed it feels bulky to drive around and has its niggles when it comes to overall refinement with regards to gearshifts and the way the clutch feels, it still manages to create an impression with its cruising prowess, looks and the overall interior. Once you take it off-road, it charms you with its rock-battering capabilities too.



# Slices competition?

There is a new budget smartphone and it looks familiar. Should we pay attention?

₹11,999 / [stuff.tv/in/zte](http://stuff.tv/in/zte)

■ This one is for the lot (which includes some of us too) who hate charging their smartphone every six hours. The ZTE A2 Plus packs mega-awesome 5000mAh battery that should last you for two days. We easily managed that with normal use that included clicking pictures, playing games, browsing the web and more.

■ The phone is built quite nicely and doesn't feel cheap. We like the way the metal back wraps around the phone but having said that, the ZTE A2 Plus looks like every other budget Android smartphone out there.

The 5.5in Full HD display tops out at 401ppi and is bright while offering a decent viewing experience. However, viewing the lunch picture you just received from your grandma as you walk to her home at noon might be a bit of an issue.

■ While we are on the subject, the other tiny issue is the Octa-core MediaTek MT6750T processor clocked at 1.5GHz mated with 4GB RAM, which feels sluggish when you open multiple apps and stress the phone a bit.

## Techspecs

**Screen** 5.5in Full HD display  
**Processor** 1.5GHz MediaTek M6750T, Octa-core  
**RAM** 4GB  
**ROM** 32GB (expandable up to 128GB)  
**OS** Android 6.0  
**Fingerprint** Scanner Yes  
**Camera** 13MP rear, 8MP front  
**Battery** 5000mAh  
**Dimensions** 155 x 76.2 x 9.8mm (HWD)  
**Weight** 189gm



## ■ Back up please!

That 13MP camera+LED flash combo on the rear looks neat but shots taken in daylight lack punch and look pale overall. Things get worse as the light dips. Don't buy this phone if clicking pictures is a priority. We mean it.



## ■ The good bits

The Blade 2 Plus offers 32GB internal storage but you can add another 128GB via a microSD card. Another good bit about the phone is that you can use it to charge other devices thanks to its reverse OTG feature!

**STUFF SAYS** Apart from battery life and build quality, there's little that impresses ★★★★★

Is this a good phone for a rough 10K budget?

@yatish\_suvarna

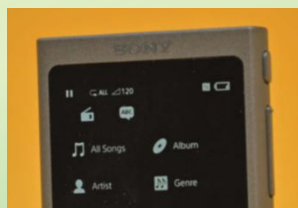


The ZTE Blade A2 Plus offers fantastic build and for me one of the most impressive features on it is the 5000mAh battery. That is a practically useful feature for me. However, that's that. Everything else on this smartphone is passable. If I were to place it on the desk with four other budget devices, you would not be able to tell the difference. Buy this only and only for its amazing battery life.

# Temple for golden ears

Sony hasn't forgotten about the Walkman. It has just improved it with hi-fi steroids!

₹1,32,970 / [stuff.tv/in/sony](http://stuff.tv/in/sony)



■ **Chinks in the armour**  
The 3.1 screen of the NWA-35 might feel small because it is. Even if you discount the real estate, you can't get past that this is just a music player and nothing else, yet feels sluggish in operation and response.



■ **Amped up to 11**  
Rechargeable Li-Ion batteries, optical and balanced connections, gain control and DSEE-HX aim to set your music free. While some of it is placebo, the power and resolution is real with tons of connectivity.

■ Let's get this right off the bat. The music on your smartphone is most likely of worse quality than the 80's Sony Walkman the NWA-35 harks back to. Designed to bring the legend to the millennials, with a new-gen twist. Hi-Res Audio is the next big thing in the world of music and Sony has just treated us to its entire ecosystem. Well, minus the software of course.

■ Oversized 70mm drivers on the MDR-Z7 deliver a mighty punch but unlike Beats, won't tear your head off. Its even-handed tonal balance is what makes them so listenable for extended periods of time. Detachable cords can be swapped for audiophile-grade Kimber Kable too and for reigniting dead brain cells, try on the PHA-3 amplifier!

■ Those gigantic headphones aren't going to sing on their own. The PHA-3 provides the necessary power and connectivity to use it on the go. Yes, you could bring a suitcase full of hi-fi gear in the metro if you don't mind the fuss and staring, but at least you will be grooving to the Flea's bass lines in 24bit/96kHz resolution.

■ No Android OS or iOS in sight need not be a deal breaker. But it does rear up its ugly head here. Slow response times and reliability issues aside, the NWA-35 music player offers a compelling reason for the audiophile to ditch his or her smartphone (for music). 16GB of on-board storage can be expanded with a micro-SD card and loads of customisable sonic tweaks.

## Tech specs

**Headphone type** Closed-back  
**Impedance** 70ohms **Frequency Response** 4Hz-100kHz **FM** Yes  
**Weight** 335gms (MDR-Z7)

**STUFF SAYS** Superbly balanced and entertaining, Sony deserves a pat on the back★★★★☆

Will I be able to hear (and justify) a Hi-Res audio collection?  
Nishant Padhiar



For the past five years, I haven't bought a CD and for the past one year, I've been consciously trying to rummage through the internet for Hi-Res versions of new music or even older classics. They audibly offer more detail, resolution and dynamics than their 16/44 CD-quality counterparts and if you're moving up from MP3, it might just shock you how much more "music" was there in your music!



# Pro tien shake anyone?

The HTC Desire 10 Pro is injected with quite a bit of it, tech wise. But, will it be enough?

₹26,490 / htc.com/in

■ This new HTC smartphone packs a lot into its pretty frame. However that price tag looks a wee bit shiny for a phone that is offered in the budget range. Will it be able to win us over? Only the next few lines will be able to tell. Let's take the HTC Desire 10 Pro for a walk. Shall we?

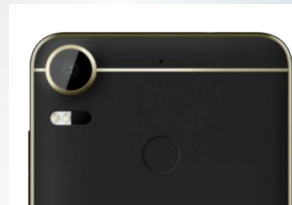
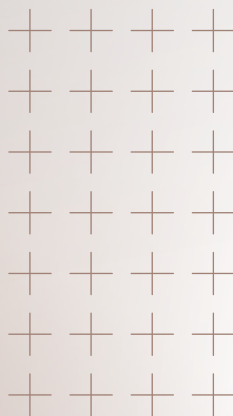
■ As you pick up the device, it feels genuinely nice, inspite of a plastic back. It is non slippery to hold and we quite love the build quality at play here. It is a neat symphony of plastic, glass and a hint of golden touch around the bezel. It's not too heavy to hold either. Whic his a good thing.

■ The 5.5in Full HD LCD display tops out at 400ppi pixel, offering a crisp visual experience when you indulge in watching HD movies, play games or read the latest news on the browser.

■ Powering the Desire 10 Pro is a 1.8GHz octa-core MediaTek MT6755 Helio P10 processor mated with 4GB of RAM. These do a decent job of handling day to day events without a fuss, however we did experience a bit of lag when multi-tasking within apps while having half a dozen open in the background.

## Tech specs

**Screen** 5.5in Full HD display  
**Processor** 1.8GHz MediaTek Helio P10, Octa-core, 64-bit  
**RAM** 4GB  
**ROM** 64GB (expandable up to 2TB via microSD)  
**Fingerprint Scanner** Yes  
**Camera** 20MP rear (with laser AF), 13MP front  
**Battery** 3000 mAh, **Dimensions** 156.5 x 76 x 7.9mm (HWD)  
**Weight** 165gm



## Cam Carnage!

The trick bit we spoke about earlier comes in the form of a 20MP camera on the rear with laser auto-focus and an f/2.2 aperture and a 13MP snapper on the front. Overall picture quality is natural with the imagery handling exposure quite well.



## Sto-rage

There's 64GB of storage onboard and you can expand it to 256GB via a microSD card. That certainly comes in handy when your music collection is massive and you movie binges over the weekend or like to watch one while travelling to work.

**STUFF SAYS** Packs a punch overall, but that price tag is a huge let down ★★★★★☆

Should I just  
buy it for the  
cameras then?

@yatish\_suvarna



This is a pretty phone and packs a ton of features. You can expand the storage to 256 gigs via the microSD card, the fingerprint scanner makes unlocking the phone a breeze and the 20MP rear and 13MP front camera combo is very likeable. However for the price the Desire 10 Pro is offered at is absurd. Especially when you can throw in a few bucks more and buy the unbeatable OnePlus 3. So no.

# App:roved

FOR  
SYNTHY  
SLICKERS

## ● ARP ODYSSEY

Regular readers know the drill: Korg releases a new iOS synth, we're smitten. This time it's the 2015 recreation of 1972's ARP Odyssey duophonic synth that's been turned into an app, with sliders aplenty and an arpeggiator to die for. Some presets are tremendous to the point that you can hold down a few keys and consider yourself a master composer. Plus, the cheekily named Popkorn 2017 preset plays a take on the riff from Hot Butter's cult hit.

Stuff says ★★★★★  
₹2300 / iOS

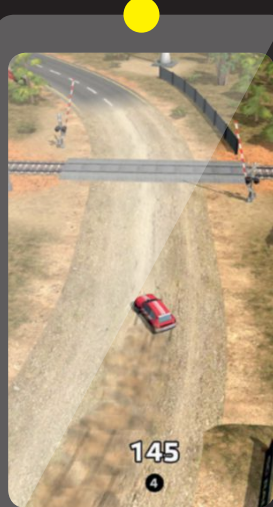


FOR  
RAGGED  
RACERS

## ● Go Rally

Although this one has 'Rally' in the title and you're bombing around rally tracks in a rally car, *Go Rally* feels more like a trials game. Bite-sized races and windy courses demand that you learn and memorise every section of track to drift and turn at just the right moment. It's fast and fun, if a touch soulless (and the post-race comments from opponents are moronic). Still, we love the track designer, where you can scribble out a tortuous route and inflict it on the world.

Stuff says ★★★★★  
₹400 / iOS, tvOS



FOR  
TENACIOUS  
TUBERS

## ● Mini Metro

Dealing with the real London Underground might make you want to hack off your own arm with an Metro card, but *Mini Metro* is a delight. You draw lines between stations, ushering geometric passengers to their destinations. Their movements generate an ambient soundtrack, and it's all rather blissful... until the passenger numbers ramp up. Then it becomes a tense, fraught game of quick thinking. At that point, you'll be wishing for delays for once.

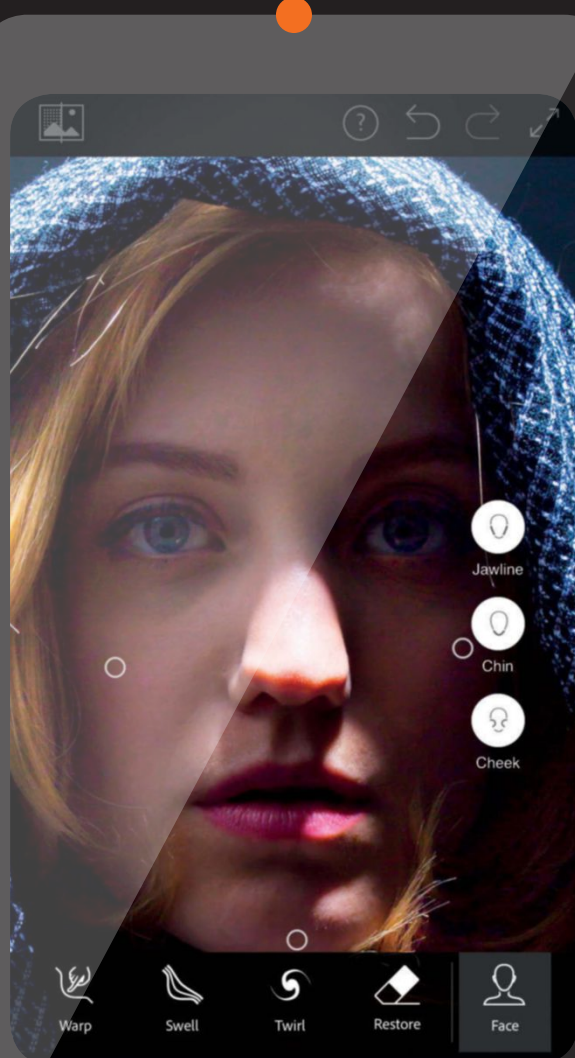
Stuff says ★★★★★  
₹370 / Android • ₹400 / iOS

FOR  
FLAWLESS  
FACES

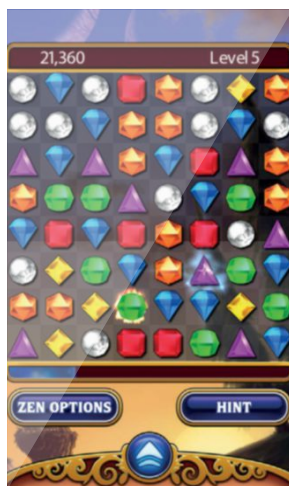
## ● Photoshop Fix

Having been around for a year on iOS, another of Photoshop's Mini-Mes makes it to Android at last. There's a lot of 'seen it, done it' about the app, until you venture into the often excellent healing tools for removing blemishes, and Liquify. With the latter, you can select various features to muck around with. Want your eyes to pop? Done. Fancy a new jawline? Easy. Virtual nose job? Sure. And unlike such changes in the real world, these ones are free and easily reversible.

Stuff says ★★★★★  
₹free / Android, iOS







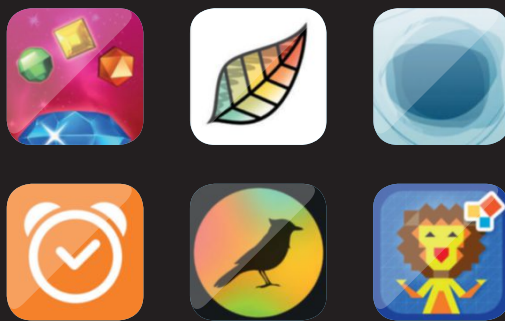
### ● Bejeweled Classic

No, we haven't lost our minds. This frenetic match game has a Zen mode lurking within, which makes it impossible to lose and adds chill-out options. The mantras are toe-curling, but the ambient soundtrack and breathing regulator prove surprisingly effective, at least if you nuke the ads.

**Stuff says** ★★★★★

₹free (IAPs) / Android, iOS  
₹322 / Windows Phone

# Mini meme



## APPS TO HELP YOU RELAX

Social media. Notifications. Emails. News. Games. AARRRGH! For once, have your smartphone help you chill out a bit rather than add to your stress levels

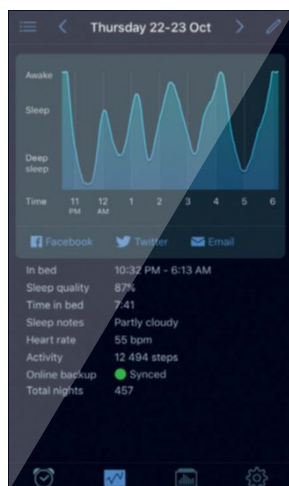


### ● Pause

Stick some headphones on and Pause will immerse you in a world of crashing waves and birdsong as you slowly follow a pulsating blob around your phone's display. The idea is to make you slow down a bit, focus on something simple, ignore whatever else is going on, and then drift into a meditative state for 10 minutes of relaxation.

**Stuff says** ★★★★★

₹120 / Android, iOS



### ● Sleep Cycle

Relaxation long-term can be improved by getting a good night's sleep. Sleep Cycle analyses your snoozing patterns by monitoring movement and figures out the optimal time to wake you. The result is feeling less groggy and distinctly more relaxed on waking. Pity it can't help with the rest of your day.

**Stuff says** ★★★★★

₹free / Android  
₹free (IAPs) / iOS

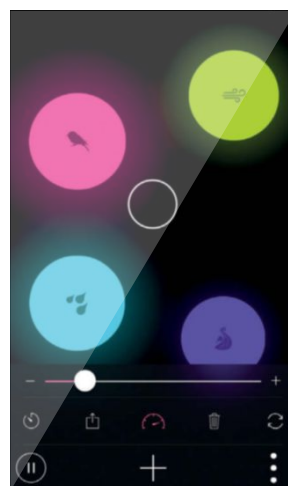


### ● Pigment

Colouring books fill newsagent shelves as adults rediscover the joy of 'keeping inside the lines'. Pigment is the only digital take to really get things right. The art is pin-sharp – even when zoomed – while the toolset is varied and surprisingly tactile, with a rainbow of colours. And keeping inside the lines? The app can even help with that.

**Stuff says** ★★★★★

₹free (IAPs) / iOS

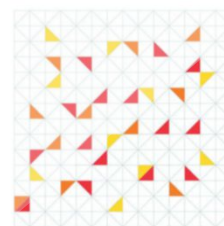


### ● TaoMix 2

Despite being all about noodly generative audio, TaoMix 2 has a veneer of cool. You plonk noises onto a jet-black canvas, each of them represented as a neon disc. A circle is then placed on screen to mix the soundscape, or nudged to make the audio subtly shift over time. Not a fan of the sounds? Just buy more, or record some of your own.

**Stuff says** ★★★★★

₹free (IAPs) / iOS



### ● Zen Studio

Zen Studio is supposedly for kids, but we'd argue it's a great relaxation aid for people of any age. You select a canvas divided into triangles, choose a colour, and tap away. Each splash of colour generates notes, a melody of sorts being composed as you fashion an angular masterpiece. Your imagination on the blink? Try the template tutorials.

**Stuff says** ★★★★★

₹free (IAPs) / Android, iOS

₹3999 (Xbox One, PC) / [stuff.tv/in/game-reviews/halo-wars-2](http://stuff.tv/in/game-reviews/halo-wars-2)

# Halo Wars 2

No one expected much from *Halo Wars* eight years ago, but it was actually pretty great. And you can kind of say the same for *Halo Wars 2*

**E**xpanding the series from the first-person perspective of a single, super-powered soldier to the top-down view of entire battlefields helps to properly showcase an immense scale of warfare, while proving that a real-time strategy experience can be built from the ground up for a console and controller.

*Halo Wars 2* streamlines and condenses the strategy experience without totally losing the sensation of engaging in

massive battles for sci-fi supremacy. Building onto and upgrading your base is a breeze, and there are controller shortcuts for selecting large groups of units for all-out assaults or retreats. Imparting the basics is key, especially for a genre that isn't hugely prolific on consoles, but *Halo Wars 2* takes hours to get particularly interesting. Luckily, once it does, the back end of the campaign packs a bit more excitement.

That said, RTS fans are likely to

pour their time after whipping through the 7-8 hour campaign. Whether in 1v1, 2v2, or 3v3 arrangements, *Halo Wars 2* offers a handful of competitive modes, whether you're trying to wipe out the opposing force entirely or battle for control of points on the map.

On the other hand, *Halo Wars 2* introduces a new mode that's better suited for fans of 10-minute fragfests. Blitz mode is a smart new spin on RTS multiplayer, keeping a strong competitive

edge while tightening up matches and implementing card mechanics. It's addictive and clever, and with matches that can last a handful of minutes instead of potentially an hour, it's a real game-changer for RTS action. *Halo* still works very well as a real-time strategy experience and proves once again that this RTS detour isn't a half-hearted or half-baked attempt to extend the brand. It's a legitimately strong console strategy game.

@stuff\_india

**STUFF SAYS** Blitz mode makes this an Xbox RTS worth the return visit ★★★★★





Comfortable console  
RTS play

Late missions  
are strong



## RTS on your TV

Collectible card games are all the rage on mobile, from *Hearthstone* to *Clash Royale*, as the cards themselves add strategy while being simple and easy to understand, and the hunt of obtaining new cards and building a prime deck is absolutely enthralling. *Halo Wars 2* taps into all of this for Blitz, and it works pretty splendidly.

You'll build a deck of unit cards, earned by playing campaign missions, leveling up your player profile, or buying in-game packs with real money, and then enter battle to try and spend the most time in control of three points on the condensed map. Casting new cards requires energy, which drips in slowly unless you claim pods that drop into the map — so there's a constant tug-of-war between defending your points, amassing energy, and deciding when to pull the trigger on casting a devastating card.

Kudos to Creative Assembly for bringing a bit of mobile mentality into *Halo Wars 2* and coming up with something more approachable for casual players, while still being intensely competitive and fun.



# WWE 2K17

The WWE franchise has slowly shifted its weight from a fun mash 'em up game style to a more fleshed out wrestling sim packed with smart gameplay tweaks.

₹3999 (PS4, Xbox One, PC)/  
gamestheshop.com

Insanely detailed character customisation and facial morphing.



Largest roster in the franchise history.



A variety of game modes and options add to the richness of what a WWE game is capable of, slowly drifting away from what some might call a dumb wrestling game.

The Universe mode for example, lets you take full control over your WWE experience. From creating your own shows and matchups to tweaking intro videos with a powerful video editor, right down to an insanely detailed facial morphing system for your character. These little tweaks and additions are not a drastic change from the previous game, but they do a fine job of tuning the overall quality of the game over the past few years, placing the franchise back on its feet.

Another thing that might give you a feel of the 'entertainment' from the E is the cut promo feature that lets you talk smack and choose what you say on the stage while a meter gauges you based on the crowd's reaction. It's more like an RPG multiple dialogue selection that seems

true to WWE, but some of the dialogues might be a bit off from what an actual wrestler would say.

Get in the ring and you'll immediately find the gameplay to feel fluid and consistent. By offering snappier target switching and better camera angles, the minor and major reversal chances during matches feel incredibly immersive, adding a great impact to the character's strikes and slams.

Tired of the ring? Take a walk backstage and you'll be surprised how fun it can be. Different rooms and things let you whack-a-wrestler with anything. There's a lot of interactivity with the environment and enough room to go around hitting your mates with stupid things.

A variety of game modes and clever new features are worthy of a try, but it's all pointless if you're clearly not into such games. Hardcore WWE fans will have something to stick to for many days to come. The same cannot be said for a non-wrestling fan.

**Khumail Thakur**

**STUFF SAYS** A great wrestling game with heaps of customization for WWE fans ★★★★★



# Hitman: The Complete First Season

Agent 47 returns to his bloodlines in a sandbox playground that makes killing incriminatingly fun

₹3499 (PS4, Xbox One, PC) / [stuff.tv/in/game-reviews/hitman](http://stuff.tv/in/game-reviews/hitman)

**M**ost games these days either give you an overwhelmingly vast open world to explore or confine you to a relatively linear path, but Hitman takes a third approach and is all the better for it.

It's open enough to be considered a sandbox game, in that you can explore its six locations at your own pace and in your own way. But at the same time there's only one real objective to each level.

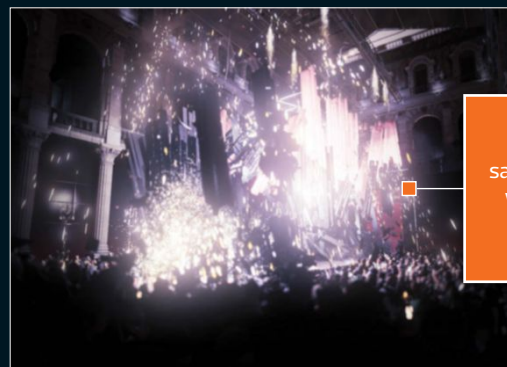
That objective is of course to kill your targets – preferably unnoticed – and escape alive. At the start of each level – or location – you'll be given your targets and some intelligence, then let loose to get the job done however you see fit. Whichever approach you take though, you're going to need to discover the key 'opportunities', usually via eavesdropping or locating an item or area. These opportunities essentially offer paths to your target – and sometimes even to their outright demise. Experimentation is encouraged, and there's a brilliantly

broad and often darkly amusing range of ways to take out the bad guys and gals. The important thing is that the AI goes a long way to building your immersion and forcing you to get crafty, but it never feels unfair. And while the game shows off its graphical splendour, you can show off your craftiness.

IO Interactive's objective is to keep these levels fresh through community challenges and rotating special events. For 'contracts' challenges, you're unable to save. It's all up to you, and since these characters are not always scripted to walk into an empty room, or under a dangerously loose chandelier, they can be significantly harder to kill without witnesses.

Like Agent 47's trademark, impeccably pressed suit, the new Hitman game simply fits. There's nothing baggy, or in bad taste, and nor is there anything over the top: it's a classic, tailored cut. But that's not to say it's quite perfect. Criticism here is that we would have loved to see more of it. All killer, no filler indeed.

@stuff\_india



A real sandbox... filled with deadly traps.

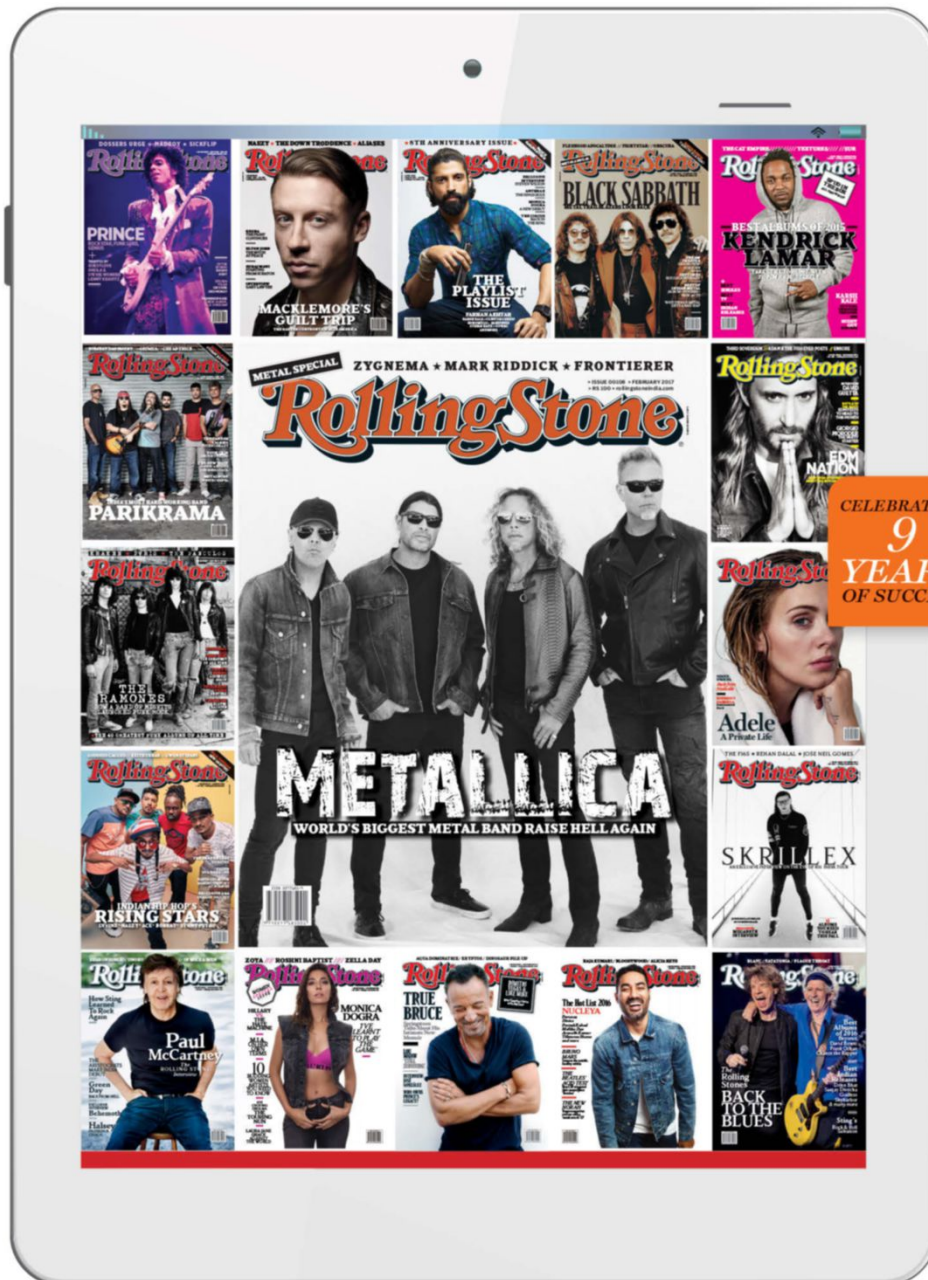


Gorgeously designed and detailed environments.

**STUFF SAYS** A pure assassination sim with plenty of replay value, but we want more ★★★★★

# Rolling Stone

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**Stuff**

# PROJECTS

MAKE. DO. UPGRADE.



p76  
**BETA YOURSELF:  
BACK TO  
SCHOOL**

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too old to learn.  
So, do it the  
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# BETA YOURSELF BACK TO SCHOOL



Don't just think all the Internet's good for is Twitter flamewars and funny GIFs... **Vaibhav Sharma** finds out you could get an entire education from the comfort of your desk

## GLAD GRAD

The Internet's for more than cutsey pics of puppies

■ **EdX** One of the 'biggies' of online learning, this MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) provider offers courses from the world's top universities – in everything from Robotics and Artificial Intelligence to Philosophy. Even better, you could earn college credit.

■ **Coursera** Want to learn about Buddhism's link with modern psychology? Or delve deep into Game Theory? This should be your destination (over 100 courses on offer). Ditto if you want to earn a complete Master's degree from a university.

■ **NPTel** You'll find Indian universities offering courses elsewhere as well but if you



want to learn about stuff like 'CMOS Analog VLSI Design' from an IIT professor, head over to our homegrown, government-backed MOOC provider – NPTel.

■ **Udacity** The mainly tech focused Udacity is a great place to pick up skills in demand with the hottest startups. With courses and nanodegrees like App Monetisation and Self-Driving Car Engineering, this could be your ticket to Silicon Valley.

■ **FutureLearn** Who said you need to pay to learn at an

accredited university? FutureLearn has several UK (and other) institutions on board and offers free courses (some even with free certs) in everything from languages to management.

■ **MIT OpenCourseWare** The legendary Massachusetts Institute of Technology has decided to open up its treasure trove of study material to the world. It's free (as in free beer) and with actual, real-life MIT courses on offer, it's probably the best destination for anyone who wants to be a real-life Tony Stark.

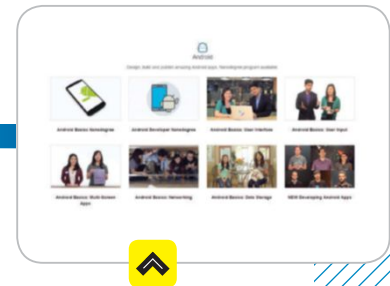


## ELITE LEAGUE

How do you get to the next level? Just learn from the best

■ **MasterClass** Want to learn screenwriting from Aaron Sorkin? Cooking from Gordon Ramsay? Acting from Kevin Spacey or Dustin Hoffman? That's right, you can pinch yourself but this isn't a dream. MasterClass has a list of 'instructors' best described as legendary. Courses are delivered over video and cost just ₹6026 each. A small price indeed considering who your teachers will be. You also get unlimited, lifetime access to every chapter / video in your course, are enrolled into an online community with other students, get access to free tools, and can even get your queries cleared by your guru!





## GOOGLE THIS

Feeling lucky? Well, Google does know everything

■ **Google Primer** No need to hire a fast-talking marketing guru – Primer teaches you everything about taking your startup online.

■ **Android Nanodegree** Want to write your own Flappy Bird rivalling app? Udemy's Android Nanodegree should get you started.



## CROWDSOURCE IT

We've all got something to teach. Even that guy

■ **Udemy** With courses on everything from writing to design, Udemy gives you access to the skills of experts from all walks of life. Oh, you're an expert, too? Why not start teaching a course?

■ **University of Reddit** Reddit might be the site responsible for more lost hours at office than anything else, but it's also a fount of knowledge. No, you won't get a degree, but you can learn about pretty much anything.



## SCHOOL OF ROCK

'Cos air guitar won't take you to the stage at Wacken

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■ **GuitarJamz** Perfect if you get bored with theory and just want to get started playing your fav songs.



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leapt straight  
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and into our  
rankings.

**UPDATE**

Time changes  
everything, including  
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## Smartphones

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1

HOT NEW

HOT BUY



## OnePlus 3T

from ₹29,999 / [oneplusstore.in](http://oneplusstore.in)

This phone is just like the OnePlus 3, aside from its higher price and a few little extras that don't really change how it is to use — or, crucially, where it sits relative to its pricier rivals. In other words... no other smartphone offers a better bang for buck than the OnePlus 3T even with the slight bump in price.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**  
It's not quite as bargain-tastic any more, but the 3T still packs great performance

2

HOT BUY




## Samsung Galaxy S7

₹43,400 / [samsung.com/in](http://samsung.com/in)


The Galaxy S7 looks a lot like the old S6 but has been improved all round, not least with an excellent camera. The Edge edition offers enhanced battery life, but pound for pound this model is actually the better buy. It sets a high bar for Samsung's competitors, in the market in the market, for the money.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**  
An imperious update of our favourite phone from 2015


- 3




**Apple iPhone 7 Plus**  
★★★★★ from ₹72,000 / [apple.com/in](http://apple.com/in)  
The new 7 and 7 Plus look almost identical to last year's models, but we'd bag the Plus for its dual cams.
- 5



**HTC 10**  
★★★★★ from ₹52,990 / [htc.com/in](http://htc.com/in)  
This handset barely puts a foot wrong and has the battery life to survive the most impromptu pub trips.
- 7



**LG G5**  
★★★★★ ₹52,990 / [lg.com/in](http://lg.com/in)  
The first smartphone to do modular design in a big way — the scale of the G5's ambition is breathtaking.
- 9




**Google Nexus 6P**  
★★★★★ ₹39,999 / [amazon.in](http://amazon.in)  
The 6P gets the Nexus series back on the rails. Camera? Design? Software? All top-notch.

- NEW 4



**Huawei Honor 8**  
★★★★★ ₹29,999 / [huawei.com/in](http://huawei.com/in)  
The Honor 8 is a no compromise smartphone at an amazingly attractive price.
- 6



**Apple iPhone 7**  
★★★★★ from ₹60,000 / [apple.com/in](http://apple.com/in)  
Forget the headphone furore; the iPhone 7 is a slick update packed with worthwhile new features.
- 8



**Lenovo Moto G4**  
★★★★★ from ₹12,499 / [motorola.in](http://motorola.in)  
Showing every other big phone maker what can be offered at low costs. The No1 budget phone.
- 10



**Apple iPhone SE**  
★★★★★ from ₹39,000 / [apple.com/in](http://apple.com/in)  
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# THE BIG QUESTION

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## NORDVPN

from ₹803\*/month / Android, iOS

Ready to use a virtual private network to guard yourself from identity thieves and sinister surveillance? This one works across your laptop, phone and even games consoles. There's a monthly fee, but it'll keep your data totally private and protect you from dodgy public



Wi-Fi. After all, do you want your personal information being auctioned off like stolen goods on eBay?

Once you've downloaded it, NordVPN will route your traffic through more than 50 countries

to shake off the spies. How's that for a world tour? It's also far less limited than the freebie options out there. You can pipe unlimited data through it, and connect six different devices simultaneously to the same account. And if you have a fancy router, you can VPN-up your whole home.

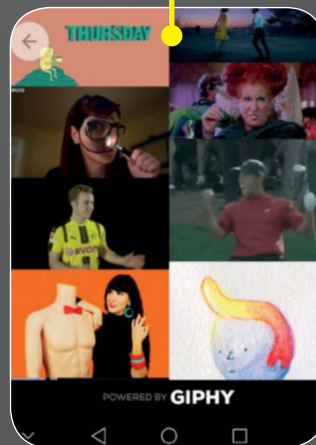
If you're really worried about your internet provider spying on you, NordVPN even has a 'killswitch' that cuts off your access if the service goes down, so there's no danger of getting caught with your pants around your ankles. Virtually speaking, of course.

## SIGNAL

₹free / Android, iOS

Like WhatsApp, Signal uses end-to-end encryption, but it takes privacy and security to MI6 levels by not logging any of your messages' metadata.

Signal can also act as your default SMS messages hub (if you're still sending those) and, as a crafty bonus, routes calls and texts through your data connection, so you won't have to use up any of your allowance. It might be tricky to convince your WhatsApp contacts to migrate, but the Android app's ability to handle unencrypted SMSs means you won't be completely cut off from non-Signallers.

**THE TRUSTY TEXTER**


## CODE BREAKER



### 1 What is a VPN?

A virtual private network connects you to a server and encrypts the connection so your activity can't be monitored. This isn't just useful for trying to hide your location – it also stops you from being hijacked by rogue Wi-Fi.



### 2 How do I choose?

The security of a VPN depends on the strength of its encryption – and its business model. The best ones use 256-bit encryption, and we suggest signing up to a paid service rather than a free one that might be looking to sell your data.



### 3 Are there downsides?

Not many, but using a secure VPN will affect your internet speed. With great power comes a little inconvenience and extra fuss. The most important thing, though, is to make sure the VPN provider you use is trustworthy.

**THE FULL MONTY**


## TAILS

₹free / Windows, Mac, Linux

Forget internet security apps; how about a whole secure operating system? This Linux package (tails.boum.org) routes all your activity through anonymous browser Tor and is so effective that Edward Snowden used it to dodge the NSA. It's not exactly everyday software, but is a great way to shop for presents without later being bombarded with ads for the same products.

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HOT  
BUY

## Apple iPad Pro 9.7

from ₹49,900 / [apple.com/in](http://apple.com/in)

The iPad Pro 9.7 takes everything we loved about Apple's original 12.9in Pro tablet, makes it a lot more portable, and then even adds in a few cool extras of its own. It's expensive, yes, but quality comes at a price.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Incredible power, superb features and flawless design: the iPad Pro 9.7 is pure tablet perfection

1

HOT  
BUY

## SoundMagic E10C

₹3199 / [soundmagicheadphones.in](http://soundmagicheadphones.in)

With the SoundMagic E10Cs you get fantastic sound for the money, a quality cable and plenty of ear tips. The E10Cs prove that it is possible to improve on something good without hammering up the price at the same time.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A phenomenally good pair of headphones, plus the remote now works with every phone

2



### Apple iPad Air 2

★★★★★ from ₹28,900 / [apple.com/in](http://apple.com/in)

The iPad Air didn't really need to be thinner, but that doesn't mean 6.1mm isn't mighty impressive.

3



### Apple iPad Mini 4

★★★★★ from ₹28,900 / [apple.com/in](http://apple.com/in)

This is the mini tab we've been patiently waiting for. It's 1.4mm thinner and 32g lighter.

4



### Samsung Galaxy Tab S2 9.7

★★★★★ from ₹38,500 / [samsung.com/in](http://samsung.com/in)

Slimmer and faster with a brilliant screen and serious stamina, the Tab S2 makes for a versatile tablet.

5



### Microsoft Surface Pro 3

★★★★★ from ₹58,990 / [microsoft.com/en-in](http://microsoft.com/en-in)

At last, Microsoft has delivered on the promise of the tablet-cum-laptop hybrid.

2



### Bose QC35

★★★★★ ₹29,363 / [boseindia.com](http://boseindia.com)

An excellent pair of noise-cancelling cans – and now they're wire-free, too.

3



### AKG Y50BT

★★★★★ ₹7,990 / [harman.in](http://harman.in)

Proof that good wireless sound doesn't have to cost the Earth. These serve up truckloads of detail.

4



### Bowers & Wilkins P5 Wireless

★★★★★ ₹22,900 / [headphonezone.in](http://headphonezone.in)

The brand's first foray into wireless brings luxury for your ears inside and out.

5



### Audeze Sine

★★★★★ ₹34,990 / [headphonezone.in](http://headphonezone.in)

For iOS addicts, who want the best sound around without burning too big a hole in their pockets.

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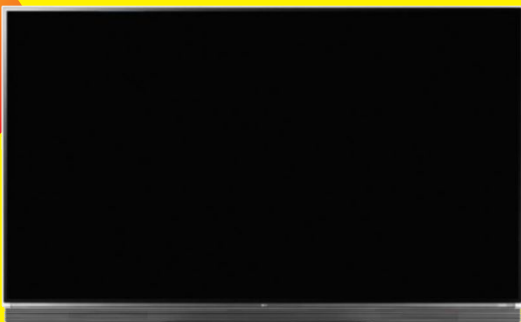


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HOT  
BUY

1



## LG OLED65E6T

₹5,79,900 / lg.com/in

Any cinephiles dream telly, the new-generation LG E6 4K OLED is a screen that is almost perfect in theory. Infinite blacks, a billion colours and the ability to adapt to every movie, thanks to Dolby Vision. The webOS adds a dose of fun to the user experience, and the Harman Kardon soundbar is outstanding.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Packed full of tech, with jaw-dropping performance to send you into TV reverie

HOT  
BUY

2



## LG OLED55B6T

₹2,79,900 / lg.com/in

A gorgeous 4K, HDR Dolby Vision-supporting OLED TV (future-proofed to the hilt), this set is sensational. Packed full of tech with a jaw-dropping performance, this LG B6 does plenty to justify its prohibitive asking price. And you know what? It justifies itself well enough!

Stuff says ★★★★★

A real winner, and significantly cheaper than some of its rivals

3



### Samsung UA55KS7000K

₹2,41,900 / samsung.com/in  
With not only 4K and HDR capabilities, this set boasts of 'Quantum Dot' technology.

5



### Sony KD-55X9300D

★★★★★ ₹2,64,900 / sony.com/in  
You get full 4K, HDR package you want in a set that's large but not enormous.

7



### LG 55EG960T

★★★★★ ₹3,09,900 / lg.com/in  
The telly you want for its vibrant colours and deep blacks.

9



### LG 55UF950T

★★★★★ ₹2,09,900 / lg.com/in  
A quick and responsive TV set with design and picture quality to boot.

4



### Samsung UA48J6300AK

★★★★★ ₹1,04,900 / samsung.com/in  
A TV that excels across the board. The curved display gives it an unrivalled style.

6



### LG 55EC930T

★★★★★ ₹2,69,900 / lg.com/in  
A superb specimen of technology and design, with amazing picture quality.

8



### Samsung UA55KS9000K

★★★★☆ ₹2,99,900 / samsung.com/in  
Proving there is plenty of life left in LCD's, this set delivers on performance.

10



### Philips 65PUT8609/98

★★★★☆ ₹3,75,500 / philips.co.in  
Expensive 4K TV with a twist: nine projectors extend the screen onto the wall.

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# HOW TO BUY A TV

You're ready to invest in the greatest glowing rectangle of them all: a new telly. Here's how to navigate the minefield of acronyms and jargon...

## JARGON BUSTER

### HDR

Stands for High Dynamic Range. Compatible tellies will deliver great subtlety and detail.

### OLED

These screens have self-illuminating pixels, creating stunning contrast... at a price.

### Input lag

This measures (in milliseconds) how long the TV takes to respond to signals.

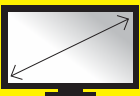


## TV GUIDE

### 1 Size it up

Big can look brilliant, but you will need to put some distance between yourself and your new TV, otherwise you'll start to pick apart the picture. With 4K TVs you can sit a little closer.

● Get this: **Sony KD-65Z9D**  
₹5,04,900 / [sony.co.in](http://sony.co.in)



Optimum viewing distance is 1.6x your screen size (HDTV)

### 2 Judging panel

Now that plasma has been consigned to that big recycling bin in the sky, there are only two TV technologies battling for supremacy: LCD and OLED. The latter is limited to 55in or 65in sizes, and you can expect to pay a premium compared to the LCD equivalent. However, OLED's wafer-thin designs, deep blacks and wide viewing angles could swing your decision.

● Get this: **LG OLED65E6T**  
₹5,79,900 / [lg.com/in](http://lg.com/in)

### 3 Time to 4K out?

There's still life in Full HD tellies – they're a good shout if you're after an affordable second screen for a bedroom or kitchen. But if your budget is north of ₹1lac and your sights are firmly set on 4K, it's a no-brainer. Although the leap in quality from HD to Ultra HD isn't as huge as the jump from SD to HD was, you can still see a real difference.

● Get this: **Samsung UA50KU6000KMXL**  
₹1,15,900 / [samsung.com/in](http://samsung.com/in)

## EXTRA FEATURES

### 4 Curved or flat?

If you need to squeeze your set into a corner of a room, the curve can help slot it into place. Quality is affected by seating position though. If you're going to be sat straight in front, right in the curve's sweet spot, it looks amazing. But if your seats are flung out to the four corners of your room, images can appear distorted.

● Get this: **Samsung UN659000KXZL**  
₹3,99,900 / [samsung.com/in](http://samsung.com/in)

### 5 Be smart

As with smartphones and tablets, different TV manufacturers use different operating systems for their sets. The Firefox OS system used by the majority of Panasonic's 4K TVs is clear and concise, not to mention quick and responsive. You'll also need to check the basics, such as which on-demand and catch-up services are supported.

● Get this: **Panasonic TH-65DX700D**  
₹2,21,330 / [amazon.in](http://amazon.in)

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HOT BUY

## Apple Watch Series 2

from ₹32,900 / [apple.com/in](http://apple.com/in)

Last year's Apple Watch was already the best smartwatch to date; now it's found its focus. The Series 2 devices come with an array of upgrades – more power, a brighter screen – along with a greater emphasis on fitness functions without a phone in tow.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Apple's small tweaks and renewed sports focus add up to make the Series 2 a watershed wearable

1



HOT BUY

## Garmin Vivoactive HR

₹23,990 / [garmin.co.in](http://garmin.co.in)

Garmin has a frankly bewildering array of fitness trackers and outdoorsy GPS watches, but the Vivoactive HR is the one you really want. It's packed to the gills with long-lasting, easy-to-use and rewarding fitness cleverness. Probably all the fitness watch you'll ever want – and more.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Not super-stylish, perhaps, but crammed with sensors, sports and stamina: a fab all-rounder

2



### Pebble Time Steel

★★★★★ ₹15,999 / [getpebbleinindia.com](http://getpebbleinindia.com)

A long-lasting smartwatch that's blissfully easy-to-live with.

3



### Fitbit Blaze

★★★★☆ ₹15,999 / [fitbit.com/in](http://fitbit.com/in)

Almost as much a fitness tracker as it is a smartwatch, the Blaze delivers on its promises.

4



### Garmin Vivomove

★★★★☆ ₹14,990 / [garmin.com.in](http://garmin.com.in)

Free up a space on your wrist – this is everything you need from a fitness watch.

5



### Samsung Gear S2

★★★★☆ ₹22,900 / [samsung.com/in](http://samsung.com/in)

The rotating bezel is a genius bit of design. Needs more apps, though.

2



### Moov Now

★★★★★ ₹3,999 / [moov.cdn](http://moov.cdn)

Moov wants the Now to become your new workout guru. This tracker is well qualified to be one too.

3



### Apple Watch Nike+

★★★★★ ₹32,900 / [apple.com/in](http://apple.com/in)

It has identical specs to the standard Apple Watch Series 2, but it gets Nike-flavoured exclusive faces.

4



### Jawbone UP3

★★★★★ ₹11,999 / [jawbone.com](http://jawbone.com)

The UP, like your puppy, will integrate into your life, urge you to move and help you sleep.

5



### Fitbit Flex 2

★★★★☆ ₹9,499 / [fitbit.com/in](http://fitbit.com/in)

The cheapest Fitbit you can buy is also its only water-resistant tracker.

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HOT BUY

NEW

## Apple MacBook Pro (2016)

from ₹1,29,900 / [apple.com/in](http://apple.com/in)

Beautiful, compact, and a pleasure to work on – even without a fancy touchbar at the top. It has a truly gorgeous screen and, also the brilliant second-gen butterfly keyboard. In fact, you're better off sparing your wallet and forgetting about the Touch Bar. It's just not worth the extra cash.

Stuff says ★★★★★

The standard Pro is beautiful, compact and a pleasure to work on

2



HOT BUY

## Dell XPS 13 (2015)

from ₹1,33,990 / [dell.co.in](http://dell.co.in)

The original XPS 13 was already a great lightweight laptop, but now Dell has given it a Windows 10 refresh. If the last one was the thinking person's Ultrabook, this is that and a whole lot more. With improved battery life and performance, it's hard to beat.

Stuff says ★★★★★

An excellent Windows 10 Ultrabook, small in size and great in stature

NEW

3



## MSI GS63VR 7RF Stealth Pro

★★★★★ from ₹1,77,900 / [in.msi.com](http://in.msi.com)

This sleek VR ready laptop would appeal to gamers as well as creative professionals.

NEW

5



## HP Spectre 13

★★★★★ from ₹1,46,990 / [hp.com/in](http://hp.com/in)

Until recently the world's thinnest laptop – but this machine still has serious power to spare.

7



## Apple MacBook (2016)

★★★★★ from ₹1,06,900 / [apple.com/in](http://apple.com/in)

The 2016 version is skinny and fab to work on, with an amazingly dazzling screen.

9



## Asus Predator 15

★★★★☆ from ₹1,76,690 / [asus.com/in](http://asus.com/in)

It's totally worth carrying around a 3.6kg lappy once you see how good the performance is.

NEW

4



## Asus ROG GX700 VO

★★★★★ from ₹4,12,900 / [asus.com/in](http://asus.com/in)

A high performance monstrosity for those with unlimited supplies of cash.

6



## Acer Aspire Nitro V15-Black Edition

★★★★★ from ₹1,10,000 / [acer.com](http://acer.com)

Busting the norm of not being able to game in 4K on the go. Yes, you read that right!

8



## Asus ROG G751

★★★★★ from ₹1,33,999 / [asus.com/in](http://asus.com/in)

The G751 is for the loud and proud gamer. While its design is brash, the performance is epic!

10



## Apple MacBook Air 13in (2015)

★★★★☆ from ₹80,900 / [apple.com/in](http://apple.com/in)

If portability and decent battery life is what you need, this MacBook is still a great choice.

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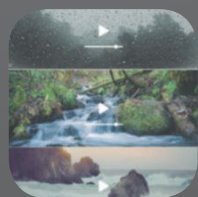
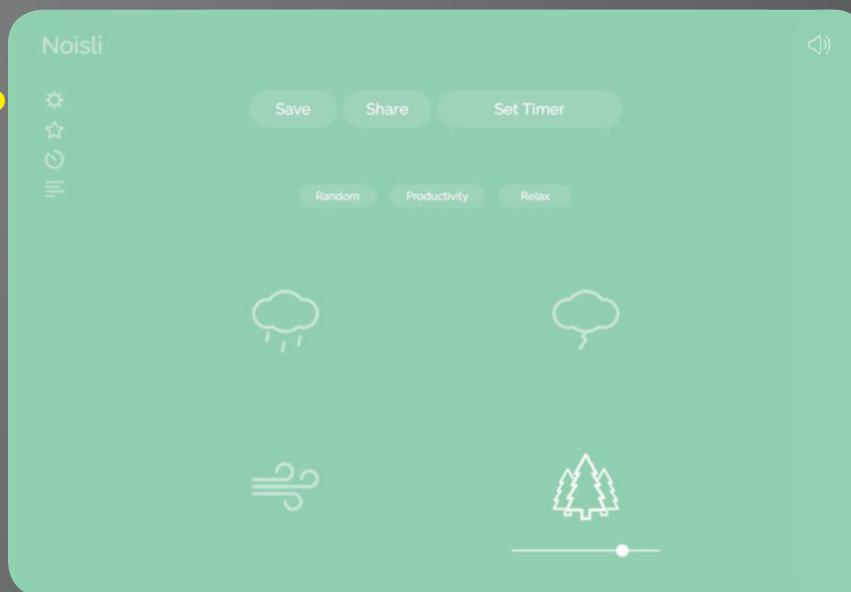
# PLAYLIST WORK MUSIC

**BEST  
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KEEPERS**

## Noisli

Neighbours got the trimmer out again? This white noise creator will get you back in the zone. As you mix top-quality loops including weather, trains and fans, its background cycles through some lovely relaxing colours. You can also set timers and use its text editor for writing seamless prose.

₹120 / [Android](#), [iOS](#)



## Zenmix.io

This free site immerses your ears in the sounds of nature – or at least 'soundscapes' inspired by nature. You get six in total, the first of which is all bells and ambient tones, like a track from a meditation CD escaped to the internet.

[zenmix.io](#)



## Tabletop Audio

Though it's designed for role-playing board games, this site has plenty of atmospheric fare for general work focus. These can be added to a playlist – although we'd avoid 'Disembodied Spirits' unless you want a major case of the heebie-jeebies.

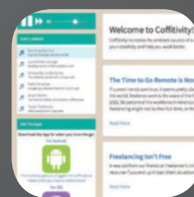
[tabletopaudio.com](#)



## myNoise

This selection of streams, loops, beats and synthetic noises doesn't have the prettiest of designs, but you get a huge variety of sounds. Any clicked link takes you to a page with a graphic equaliser, making it useful for screening out jarring frequencies.

[mynoise.net](#)



## Coffitivity

Like the sound of cafe hubbub but can't be bothered to leave your flat? This site will bring the coffee house to you. Well, not the coffee – just the sounds, from Morning Murmur's gentle hum to Paris Paradise, ensuring you feel refreshed for a working morning.

[coffitivity.com](#)



## Ambient Mixer

Ever wanted to know what it would feel like to be in the TARDIS? Ambient Mixer has a playlist of the best ambient sounds from popular movies and TV shows that feel eerily similar to the real deal. I guess you can go fulfill that spy fantasy of yours. You're welcome!

[ambient-mixer.com](#)

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HOT  
BUY

## Bluesound multiroom system GEN 2

from ₹50,000 / [lakoystore.com](http://lakoystore.com)

The GEN 2 Bluesound multi-room system makes for a perfect successor to the already fantastic first generation multi-room systems by Bluesound. It might cost a pretty penny but for audiophiles, things don't get much better than this.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Infinite music in every room without the need for custom installers? Sign us up!

2

HOT  
BUY

## Naim Mu-so

₹1,45,000 / [naimaudio.com](http://naimaudio.com)

How much for a wireless speaker?! Well, yes, but what a wireless speaker it is. Naim has ploughed all of its high-end hi-fi experience into delivering a beautifully made, great-sounding device with AirPlay, Spotify Connect and aptX Bluetooth all on board. Doesn't seem that expensive now. Does it?

Stuff says ★★★★★

A wireless speaker that can make a valid claim to be genuine hi-fi

3



### KEF Muo

★★★★★ ₹35,000 / [international.kef.com](http://international.kef.com)  
It may be the size of a beer can but it creates a brilliantly balanced sound.

5



### Google Chromecast Audio

★★★★★ ₹3,399 / [google.com/chromecast](http://google.com/chromecast)  
Stream Saavn to your old hi-fi with this smart and highly affordable dongle.

7



### Bowers & Wilkins T7

★★★★★ ₹29,900 / [bowers-wilkins.net](http://bowers-wilkins.net)  
There are a million portable Bluetooth speakers in the world, but few better than the B&W T7.

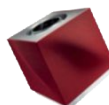
9



### Cambridge Audio Go

★★★★★ ₹12,500 / [cambridgeaudio.com](http://cambridgeaudio.com)  
A portable Bluetooth speaker of rare quality – take the party wherever you fancy

4



### Naim Mu-so Qb

★★★★★ ₹99,990 / [naimaudio.com](http://naimaudio.com)  
Complements its big brother's more refined character with a confident presentation.

6



### Bowers & Wilkins Zeppelin Wireless

★★★★★ ₹58,000 / [bowers-wilkins.net](http://bowers-wilkins.net)  
This is the ultimate wireless speaker for the streaming-savvy audiophile.

8



### Paradigm Premium Wireless Series

★★★★★ from ₹54,000 / [paradigm.com](http://paradigm.com)  
Great sound with typical premium Paradigm quality.... Mui caliente!

10



### UE Boom 2

★★★★★ ₹15,995 / [amazon.in](http://amazon.in)  
It may look like a sporty water bottle but this speaker sounds great and is mighty tough.

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NETFLIX



### Daredevil

Marvel Studios' latest foray into episodic television is far and away its best – a gritty, street-level crime drama that has more in common with *The Wire* than *Captain America*.



### Sense8

Imagine having to share your inner thoughts with eight strangers. This is what the leading characters in *Sense8* have to put up with. And you thought admitting you "don't mind" Jeremy Clarkson was the end of the world.



### V for Vendetta

While we drink pumpkin lattes and twirl sparklers on Bonfire Night, we don't think how messed up it is that we're basking in the heat of a burning Guy Fawkes. *V for Vendetta* reminds us in this dystopian political thriller.

AMAZON VIDEO



### The Grand Tour

Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May are back with *The Grand Tour*. A show about adventure, excitement and friendship... as long as you accept that the people you call friends are also the ones you find annoying.



### Mr. Robot

An office drone by day, Elliott Alderson (played brilliantly by Rami Malek) is also a morphine-dependent keyboard vigilante who hacks the lives of everyone he meets. That is until he's lured in by *Mr. Robot*.



### Goliath

Lawyers have to be one of the most despised professions, yet we can't stop watching them on TV. After one episode of *Goliath*, starring Billy Bob Thornton and William Hurt, you'll be guilty of a new addiction.

Certain TV shows will kill your braincells quicker than a barrel of gin – so get a healthy dose of quality entertainment with these binge-worthy picks

HOTSTAR



### Ballers

Superstar Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson plays a former NFL player turned financial manager in this fresh sports drama, accompanied by a superb ensemble cast and great writing. A must watch indeed.



### Last Man Standing

Comedy legend Tim Allen is back doing what he does best... playing a loud, opinionated and clumsy 'man's man'. This is the part he was born to play and boy does he play it well, with an excellent supporting cast of course.



### Stacked

If there is an award for a TV show which exceeded everyone's expectations, *Stacked* would definitely win that award. With great acting from (surprisingly) Pamela Anderson and the rest of the cast, this show checks all boxes.

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HOT  
BUY

## PlayStation 4 Pro

₹42,000 / [playstation.com/en-in](http://playstation.com/en-in)

As a gaming platform, PlayStation 4 is the best around – which makes the PS4 Pro the best of the best. Games optimised for the new console look stunning on a 4K HDR TV, and are substantially improved by the extra grunt inside this slightly bigger machine. If you've already splashed out for a 4K HDR screen and you enjoy video games at all, it's well worth the upgrade. Get it now.

Stuff says ★★★★★

The system for console gamers who have a 4K TV and want the best gaming experience possible

2

## Xbox One

from ₹34,990 / [xbox.com/en-IN](http://xbox.com/en-IN)

This is very different to the Xbox One of 2013. Most significantly, the unpopular Kinect feature is now out of the deal, allowing Microsoft to drop the price.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A fine console with some big exclusive titles

3

## PlayStation 4 Slim

₹27,990 / [playstation.com/en-in](http://playstation.com/en-in)

This is the old PS4 squeezed into a 20% smaller package, and it still delivers an awesome console gaming experience. However, if you dream of gaming in 4K, look elsewhere.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Better than the old PS4 in almost every way

4

## Sony PlayStation 3

★★★★★ ₹22,990 / [playstation.com/en-in](http://playstation.com/en-in)

Online gaming via PlayStation Network is still brilliant and still free, making it a worthwhile buy

5

## Sony PS Vita Slim

★★★★★ ₹16,990 / [palystation.com/en-in](http://palystation.com/en-in)

The PS Vita is absolutely brilliant for serious on the go gamers.

HOT  
BUY

1



## Apple iMac with Retina 5K display (2015)

from ₹1,72,990 / [apple.com/in](http://apple.com/in)

The 5K 27in iMac is the most desirable home computer in the world. It doesn't try any funny stuff or any 'revolutionary' gimmicks. However, fantastic hardware design, great software and a terrific screen make it a joy to use day to day. Whether it be used for hardcore media consumption, or for out-of-this-world editing, the iMac handles it in its usual impressive fashion which allows it to retain its crown as the king of the home computers.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Still the most desirable all-in-one PC in the world. Some upgrades are due, but it's a smash

2

## MSI VR One

from ₹1,79,900 / [in.msi.com](http://in.msi.com)

Whether you ask annoying questions like Dora or enjoy going on adventures like a little hobbit, let the VR ONE ring (see what we did there) the chords for your complete VR experience.

Stuff says ★★★★★

The VR One takes virtual reality to the next level

3

## MSI Vortex

from ₹2,10,000 / [in.msi.com](http://in.msi.com)

Potent yet small, the 65L-capacity Vortex houses dual Nvidia GeForce GTX 980 SLI graphics cards and a 360° Silent Storm Cooling design, making multiple 4K outputs a breeze.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A big performer delivered in a compact package

4

## Apple Mac Mini

★★★★★ from ₹40,990 / [apple.com/in](http://apple.com/in)

This tiny PC is still one of the most capable devices in the size group.

5

## Asus Republic of Gamers GT51

★★★★★ from ₹3,25,900 / [asus.com/in](http://asus.com/in)

With specs putting NASA to shame, this Asus is a beauty and a beast!

HOT  
BUY

1



## Uncharted 4: A Thief's End

from ₹3499 / [unchartedthegame.com](http://unchartedthegame.com)

The flagship series of the PlayStation 3 swings its way onto the PS4, and boy was it a successful landing. Full of adrenaline-fuelled action sequences and funny one-liners, Uncharted 4 keeps you hooked all the way as Nathan Drake's story finally comes to a close.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A fittingly epic send-off for one of gaming's most thrilling series

2



HOT  
BUY

## Overwatch

₹4499 / [playoverwatch.com](http://playoverwatch.com)

Forget Call of Duty and Battlefield — this is the best multiplayer shooter. Full of crazy characters with a range of powers, Overwatch is one long party that you'd be mad to miss... so grab your controller, pick up a hero and dive in — you won't regret it.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Blizzard's chaotic shooter is as good as multiplayer mayhem gets

3



## Forza Horizon 3

★★★★★ ₹3999 / [xbox.com/en-in](http://xbox.com/en-in)

Forza Horizon 3 accelerates to the top of our list of open-world racers.

5



## Battlefield 1

★★★★★ ₹4210 / [battlefieldindia.com](http://battlefieldindia.com)

A bombastic shooter that really makes the most of its bloody World War I setting.

7



## Titanfall 2

★★★★★ ₹4299 / [titanfall.com](http://titanfall.com)

Loads of giant mech carnage and a gripping, planet-hopping campaign to boot.

9



## Ratchet & Clank

★★★★★ ₹2750 / [insomniacgames.com](http://insomniacgames.com)

More revolution than remake, this updated classic is one of the best reasons to own a PS4.

4



## XCOM 2

★★★★★ ₹3349 / [xcom.com](http://xcom.com)

It's your job to save humanity from aliens in this thrilling turn-based strategy game.

6



## The Division

★★★★★ ₹3499 / [ubi.com](http://ubi.com)

*The Division* wraps up the best bits of multiple genres into one action-heavy package.

8



## The Last Guardian

★★★★★ ₹3999 / [playstation.com](http://playstation.com)

Seriously flawed in some ways, but *The Last Guardian* is a feathery masterpiece.

10



## Doom

★★★★☆ ₹3999 / [doom.com](http://doom.com)

It's bloody. It's brutal. It's brilliant. *Doom* is back, and it's packing a super shotgun.

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HOT  
BUY

## Apple TV (4th generation)

from ₹17,900 / [apple.com/in](http://apple.com/in)

A massive update, a jump in size and a giant dose of software steroids make this new Apple TV come close to the "future of TV" promise. Now is the right time to take control of your TV and bring it up to speed. It's 2017... time to make it happen! Sure, it's not exactly cheap, but if it's any consolation, it's only marginally more expensive to buy here in India.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A smart upgrade, and the App Store promises to make it even better.



## iRobot Roomba

from ₹29,900 / [irobot.in](http://irobot.in)

No more. No more do you have to sit there wistfully and wonder what it would be like to have a little robot vacuum cleaner. The Roomba range is now officially here in India and we played with the iRobot Roomba 886 extensively. The Wi-Fi enabled range of cleaning robots are as smart as they are cute.

Stuff says ★★★★★

This is one robot vac that's app-y to keep your floors clean.

2

### Tata Sky+ Transfer HD

from ₹9,300 + subscription / [tatasky.com](http://tatasky.com)

With built in WiFi the Tata Sky+ makes it easier to access on-demand content, of which there's now more than ever.

3

### Definitive Technology W Micro Studio

from ₹82,650 / [audioexcellenceindia.com](http://audioexcellenceindia.com)

This pricey sound bar comes packed with features, amazing sound and an array of streaming content.

4

### Oppo UDP 203

★★★★★ ₹74,999 / [oppodigital.in](http://oppodigital.in)

This soundbase is as practical as they come for those with modest-sized living rooms.

5

### Google Chromecast

★★★★★ ₹3,399 / [google.com/chromecast](http://google.com/chromecast)

Chromecast lets you search multiple streaming services from one app.

2



### Synology DS214se with DSM 5.0

★★★★★ ₹21,624 / [synology.com](http://synology.com)

We've been Synology fans, thanks to its affordable approach to network attached storage (NAS).

3



### Blueair Sense+

★★★★★ ₹45,000 / [blueair.in](http://blueair.in)

Wi-Fi compatible, this air purifier is ultra fast and can be controlled by its Blueair Friend app.

4



### QNAP TS-212P NAS

★★★★★ ₹15,540 / [amazon.in](http://amazon.in)

A refreshingly straightforward entry in the complex business of NAS drives, we love its ease of use.

5



### Videocon Aryabot

★★★★★ ₹3,399 / [videoconworld.com](http://videoconworld.com)

Today, it's tracking your movements to keep you cool, tomorrow, it will hunt you. Terminator style.

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1



HOT BUY

## Fujifilm X-T2

₹1,17,999 / [fujifilm.in](http://fujifilm.in)

The X-T2 is an excellent lesson in how to upgrade an already great gadget. The X-T1 was itself a brilliant camera, so Fuji gave it superb video and autofocus skills to go with the already top weatherproof build. Sure, it's pricey, but it's also worth every penny. So it's a truly superb all-rounder.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A dream of a camera that barely strays from perfection from start to finish

2



HOT BUY

## Sony A7R II

₹2,39,900 / [sony.co.in](http://sony.co.in)

Sony has made a no-compromise camera that combines impeccable build quality with a class-leading full-frame sensor, 5-axis image stabilisation, huge ISO range, fast autofocus, an excellent viewfinder and 4K video recording. And it's far more compact than a DSLR.

Stuff says ★★★★★

A no-compromise compact system camera for well-heeled enthusiasts

3



## Canon EOS 80D

★★★★★ ₹78,995 / [canon.co.in](http://canon.co.in)

Put the 80D in the hands of a child and they'd get some great shots. It's that intuitive.

5



## Canon EOS 5DS

★★★★★ ₹2,52,995 / [canon.co.in](http://canon.co.in)

A fantastic piece of kit that any pixel-peeping SLR fan will get heaps of enjoyment out of.

7



## Nikon D5

★★★★★ ₹4,45,950 / [nikon.co.in](http://nikon.co.in)

The pro-level camera to go for if you spend a lot of time on the sports field.

9



## Sony A6300

★★★★★ ₹74,990 / [sony.co.in](http://sony.co.in)

A camera that delivers on all fronts: compact size, great photos and excellent video.

4



## Fujifilm X-T10

★★★★★ ₹74,999 / [fujifilm.in](http://fujifilm.in)

The Fujifilm X-T10 would be a great camera at any price, but at this one, it's unbeatable.

6



## Olympus OM-D E-M5 Mark II

★★★★★ ₹74,990 / [olympus.co.in](http://olympus.co.in)

The second coming of the E-M5 smashes it on both design and performance fronts.

8



## Olympus PEN-F

★★★★★ ₹81,990 / [olympus.co.in](http://olympus.co.in)

An immensely desirable piece of design and an immensely capable all-round camera.

10



## Nikon D750

★★★★★ ₹1,34,450 / [nikon.co.in](http://nikon.co.in)

It's big and bulky, but this is one of the most comfortable, intuitive SLRs money can buy.

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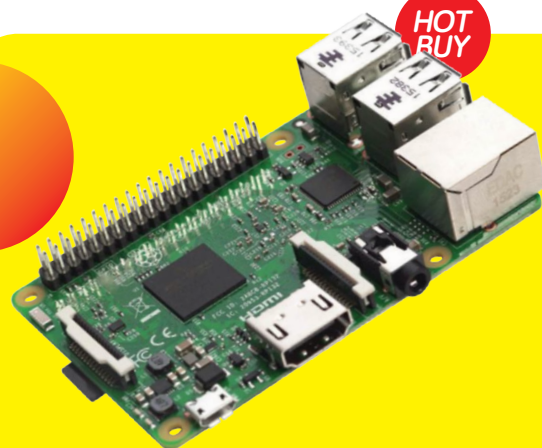
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## Raspberry Pi 3

₹4299 / amazon.in

You don't have to be big on coding to enjoy the Raspberry Pi. With some basic tweaking, you can turn this £33 tiny-puter into a very respectable desktop PC, retro gaming machine or media centre – and that's just the start. The Pi 3 is the perfect update to its predecessor.

Stuff says ★★★★★

Opens up a world of tech possibilities for what is a positively diddy asking price

2



## DJI Phantom 3 Standard

₹60,000 / avcsindia.com

This disc doesn't just transform the streaming capabilities of your speakers – its lossless hi-res audio option can also boost their sound quality. This is an infinitely superior alternative to streaming via Bluetooth, with less battery drain and no interruption from calls.

Stuff says ★★★★★

The Phantom 3 Standard strikes the best balance between affordability and performance

3



### Amazon Kindle Oasis

★★★★★ ₹23,999 / amazon.in

A jaw-droppingly expensive e-reader that oozes class.

5



### Lix 3D Pen

★★★★★ ₹10,000 / lixpen.com

This 3D pen is the World's smallest circular 3D pen and takes 3D art to another level.

7



### Korg Volca Beats

★★★★★ from ₹11,000 / korg.com/in

This tiny drum machine is the biggest thing to happen in electronic music for 30 years.

9



### Sphero BB-8 Droid

★★★★☆ ₹17,401 / sphero.com

The new R2-D2; this is a Star Wars toy that's as fun as it is futuristic.

4



### DJI Osmo

★★★★★ ₹69,999 / avcsindia.com

A game-changing camera for amateur filmmakers.

6



### DJI Phantom 2 Vision drone

★★★★★ ₹95,000 / avcsindia.com

We could 'drone on' about the Phantom 2 Vision forever... it's just that good.

8



### Sony Smart Tennis Sensor

★★★★★ ₹20,100 / sony.co.in

Warning: Using this doesn't mean you'll suddenly start playing like Roger Federer.

10



### Impossible Instant Lab Universal

★★★★☆ ₹28,290 / polaroid.com

A camera that turns your smartphone shots into actual polaroids? Hmm... intriguing.

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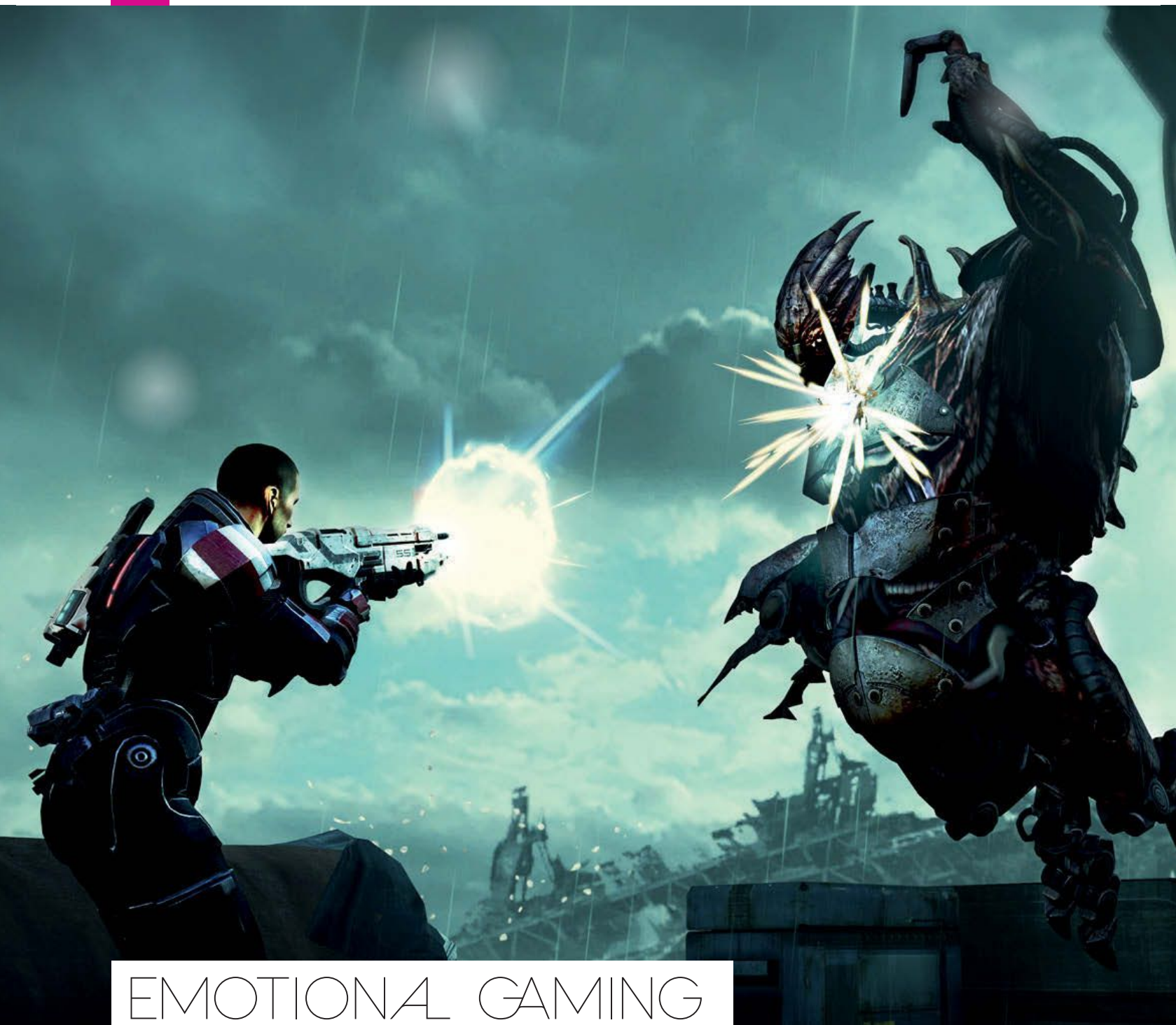
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## EMOTIONAL GAMING

O

**h no. Are you going to bring up the time I cried when my Companion Cube died in Portal?**

Er, no. Wait, you cried? That's so pathetic... actually, we did too. But we digress. The 'emotional' thing isn't about games that cause you to laugh or cry. Instead, the idea behind it is to create games that adapt and react to your emotions. Imagine a dialogue-driven game like *Mass Effect*, but instead of picking from preset on-screen responses, the game could select the narrative based on your emotional reaction to the action.

**That sounds creepy. I'm not one for probing.**

Thankfully there's no need for any *Matrix*-style needles prodding your grey matter. All you need is a wrist-worn wearable designed to measure your emotions, which are then fed back to compatible games. The Ankkoro is one such device. It's got a built-in heart-rate sensor and a galvanic skin sensor that detects your sweat levels based on the conductivity of your skin. Of course, sweating buckets and an increased heart rate are symptoms of both love and terror, so there's a clever algorithm involved to detect which emotional state a player is in.

**Clever, yes. But real? I doubt it.**

The Ankkoro isn't ready for mainstream release, so we understand your caution. But the sensors are all there, and we're told that several years of research with a cognitive neuroscience lab took place to help develop it. Obviously, clever tech is nothing without the software to support it, so we'll have to wait and see if game developers jump on board too. As for us? We're keeping our fingers crossed for a survival horror game in which the monsters can hear the sound of your frantic heart beating away, and then slowly crawl towards you...

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WEIGHT	161 Kg (153 Kg without fuel)



**KTM 200 DUKE**

ENGINE TYPE	200 CC, Single Cylinder
POWER	25 Ps @ 10,000 rpm
WEIGHT	148 Kg (141 Kg without fuel)

**KTM**

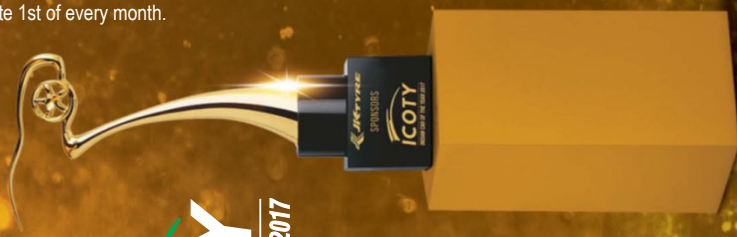


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