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# NEW IPHONES ARE HERE!

iPhone XS, iPhone XS  
Max, iPhone XR



The smarter Apple  
Watch Series 4

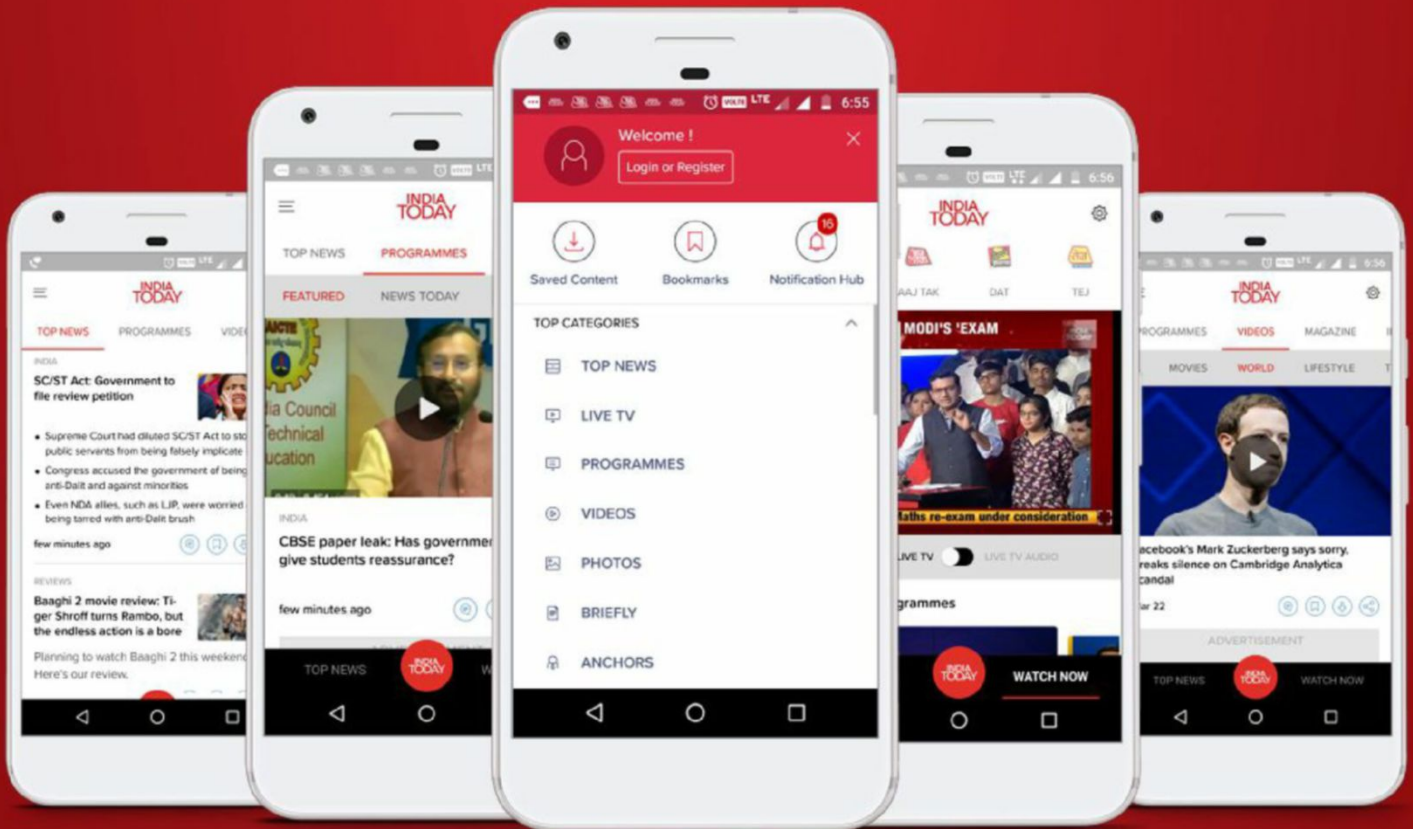
**Poco F1 reviewed**



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Ultimate Ears WonderBoom  
Freestyle





**Lenovo Y730 has over  
16 million colour  
combinations and  
effects on the keyboard**

## FIRST TAKE

### Lenovo Launches New Gaming Machines Under Legion Series

**LENOVO HAS INTRODUCED** new gaming machines under its gaming sub-brand Legion. After the popularity of its Y-series gaming machines, Lenovo introduced the Legion sub-brand last year, which competes against Dell's Alienware and HP's Omen.

"With the launch of Legion series last year, we have managed to capture the number three spot with 19.2 per cent market share in hard-core gaming segment and aim to be the market leader in this space," said Shailendra Katyal, Executive Director & India PCSD Consumer Leader, Lenovo. He added that it is important to under-

stand what today's gamer really wants: authenticity and portability. In the next few quarters, Lenovo plans to host a multi-city tournament in association with NVIDIA.

The Y530 is a 15.6-inch gaming laptop that is thermally optimised. The machine has been priced at ₹85,585 plus taxes. Y730, priced at ₹96,025 plus taxes, has gaming technology from Intel and NVIDIA, and over 16 million colour combinations and effects on keyboard. The T530 Tower desktop houses Intel gaming processors, discrete graphics, DDR4 memory, PCIe SSD storage and dual-channel cooling. It will be priced at ₹86,299 plus taxes.

Legion 730 CUBE features Intel K processing, NVIDIA graphics, and an overclocked Corsair memory. It comes for ₹1,34,599 plus taxes. At the same price is T730 Tower desktop with customisable RGB LED lighting, optional liquid cooling, and extreme processing and graphics power with overclocking options.

## German Camera Maker Leica To Expand Presence In India

**GERMAN CAMERA** maker Leica's products have been available in India for long, but it was only in November last year that the company set up a base in the country. It has a store at Connaught Place, New Delhi, for customers to walk in and experience their line-up; sells lower entry-level models through Amazon India; and has a shop-in-shop in Mumbai and Bangalore. The company plans to introduce 3-5 Leica stores over the next three years in India.

Not many are aware of this luxury camera company but unlike other camera brands, Leica prefers brand experience over advertisements. Sunil Kaul, Managing Director, Leica Asia-Pacific, talking about the India operations, says, "We did not come to India to make money. The effort, amount and time we put in here, in any other market would get 20 times the result. A lot of work needs to be done. We are here

to build a brand. We have done this before in China. Ten years ago, Leica was an unknown brand in China but today we have a sizable business generating a reasonable profit. We see that happening in India, in 3-5 years. Currently, we are not losing in double digits and are close to breaking even."

Priced upwards of ₹85,000, Leica is offering its complete range in India. Irrespective of the regulations and taxes, the pricing is similar to what is available abroad. However, Leica cameras purchased abroad are not covered under warranty in India. "Each part has a serial number and if the camera cannot be repaired in India, it has to be sent to the country where it can be repaired. When it comes back, it gets stuck in customs as the serial number doesn't match the records," explains Kaul.

Unlike other camera brands, Leica does not have products to appeal the masses and has some unique offerings in its portfolio. For instance, one of Leica's models doesn't have LCD display. Similarly, it has a Monochrome camera, which is manufactured in small quantities and is fairly popular among users.

Of the complete range, many Leica cameras are handcrafted, and all Leica cameras that involve handwork are manufactured either in Germany or at a factory in Portugal, which accounts for close to 80 per cent of the total production. Leica has also collaborated with Panasonic, which is an original manufacturer for a few of its models that do not require hand work.



**Leica cameras that involve handwork are manufactured in Germany or Portugal**

**Redmi 6, Redmi 6A  
and Redmi 6 Pro will  
all be manufactured  
in India**



## XIAOMI LAUNCHES REDMI 6 SERIES

**AFTER LAUNCHING** the Redmi Note 5 series, Redmi Y2, Android One Mi A2, and a sub-brand Poco, the Chinese internet company has now launched Redmi 6 Series in India. The new smartphones will be available on Xiaomi's website and Amazon India.

The Redmi 6A is available in 2GB RAM with 16GB ROM for ₹5,999, and in 3GB RAM with 32GB ROM for ₹6,999. The Redmi 6 is available in two variants – 3GB RAM with 32GB ROM for ₹7,999 and 3GB RAM with 64GB ROM for ₹9,499. The top-of-the-line Redmi 6 Pro will be available in 3GB RAM with 32GB storage for ₹10,999 and 4GB RAM with 64GB storage for ₹12,999. Prices will depend on rupee's deprecia-

tion against the dollar.

Redmi 6A features a 5.49-inch display with 18:9 aspect ratio. It comes with a12-nm processor, which aims to offer better power efficiency, thermal performance and SoC performance. It is powered by Helio A22 quad-core processor, clocks up to 2GHz and packs in 3000 mAh battery but offers better battery backup. For security, it packs in 'raise to wake' and 'AI face unlock', along with 'unlocking with Mi band' and 'smart unlock' features. Redmi 6 mounts a 12-megapixel and 5-megapixel rear camera with 1.25-micron pixel camera sensor. It is powered by 12 nm Helio P22 octa-core processor,

which clocks up to 2GHz with ARM Cortex -A53 CPU and intelligent task allocation. This too features a 3000 mAh battery.

After feedback from Mi fans, Xiaomi has come up with the new Redmi 6 Pro. The device features 5.84-inch 19:9 full HD+ display with a notch (with an option to hide the notch). It boasts a vertical dual camera at the rear, and a 12-megapixel primary camera with Sony IMX486 at the bottom. It is powered by Qualcomm Snapdragon 625 and a 4000 mAh battery with two-day battery backup. Both the Redmi 6 and Redmi 6 Pro, feature AI unlock fingerprint scanner. All these three devices will be made in India.



# APPLE BEGINS IPHONE 8 REPAIR

**APPLE HAS** acknowledged a manufacturing defect in last year's iPhone 8 models but not in iPhone 8 Plus or iPhone X. "Apple has determined that a very small percentage of iPhone 8 devices contain logic boards with a manufacturing defect.

Affected devices may experience unexpected restarts, a frozen screen, or won't turn on," says the official support page. For the affected iPhone 8s, Apple will be offering repairs free of charge.

A certain number of units sold in Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Macau, New Zealand and the US, between September 2017 and March 2018, have the defect.

Apple has launched a web page, where users can enter their phone's serial number to check whether their iPhone 8 is affected by the logic board with a manufacturing defect. The iPhone 8 users with the defected logic board can visit an Apple Authorized Service Provider for the repair, where the device will be examined prior to any service. The repairs might be restricted or limited to the original country or region of purchase. Apple also recommends backup of content before taking the phone for repair.

But users with damaged iPhone 8 might face some trouble. Apple says, "If there is any damage which impairs the ability to complete the repair, such as a cracked screen, that issue will need to be resolved prior to the service. In some cases, there may be a cost associated with the additional repair."

This repair programme covers affected iPhone 8 devices for 3 years, after the first retail sale of the unit but doesn't extend the standard warranty coverage of the iPhone 8.



**Some iPhone 8 units sold in Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Macau, New Zealand and the US, have defective logic boards**

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Cover Story

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# WORK SUCCESS

THE NEW FLAGSHIP IPHONES FEATURE DUAL SIM, A12  
BIONIC CHIP AND ADVANCED CAMERA.

By Nidhi Singal

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THIS  
S S O R S





**SEPTEMBER** is usually time for Apple to unveil the iPhones for the year that the Cupertino giant has been working on for years. This year, it unveiled three new iPhones – iPhone XS, iPhone XS Max and iPhone XR. Built on the same design as iPhone X, the new phones packs in a lot more power and, in a first for Apple, support dual SIM too.

#### **5.8-inch iPhone XS & 6.5-inch iPhone XS Max**

Retiring the last year's iPhone X (not in India yet), Apple has announced two new successors — 5.8-inch iPhone XS and 6.5-inch iPhone XS Max — with the latter having the biggest screen on an iPhone ever. They also support dual SIM and are IP68 certified (they can withstand up to two metres water for 30 minutes). Apple has also replaced the 'Plus' on the bigger variant with 'Max'. Unlike the previous years, when there used to be different cameras for the Plus and the regular variant, both iPhone XS and XS Max feature a 12-megapixel dual camera system with dual optical image stabilisation with 2x optical zoom, apart from a new two times faster sensor. New depth control settings allow users to dynamically adjust the depth of field in the Photos app both in real-time preview and post-capture to create portraits. Portrait mode with depth control is also available on the TrueDepth camera for selfies.

The A12 Bionic chipset onboard is a seven-nanometre chip that Apple claims will deliver industry-leading performance in a more power-efficient design. This is a six-core fusion architecture with two performance cores that are up to 15 per cent faster, four efficiency cores that are up to 50 per cent more efficient and a four-core GPU that is up to 50 per cent faster.

The new iPhones will feature iOS 12 out-of-the-box and introduce new features such as group notification where notifications from one source are stacked together. The much talked about feature of iOS 12 is Digital Health, which keeps track of activity such as the number of times the phone is unlocked, notifications responded to, the app you spent the most time on, and more. There is a 'Downtime' option for staying away by greying out the selected apps for the set time duration. Group FaceTime will support 32 participants in a group video call. Improvising Siri experience, iOS 12 introduces Siri Shortcuts. Putting augmented reality at the forefront, the new iPhones also feature Measure app that is pretty accurate in measuring objects by using the camera.

"iPhone XS is packed with next-generation technologies and is a huge step forward for the future of the smartphone. iPhone XS is not

one but two new iPhone models, and iPhone XS Max offers the biggest display and the biggest battery ever in an iPhone, delivering up to an hour-and-a-half more battery life in your day," says, Philip Schiller, Senior Vice President of Worldwide Marketing. As per the company, iPhone XS lasts 30 minutes longer than the X, and the XS Max up to 90 minutes longer. The new iPhones will be available in 64GB, 256GB and 512GB capacity models in space gray, silver and a new gold finish starting at \$999 for iPhone XS and \$1,099 for iPhone XS Max.

#### **6.1" APPLE IPHONE XR**

Entering the six-inch segment, Apple has announced an iPhone XR that will not burn as big a hole in your pocket as its predecessors did. But a price tag of \$749 comes at the cost of a compromise — an LCD display instead of the OLED on iPhone X, and a single camera module at the rear.

But don't lose heart as the 6.1-inch edge-to-edge display comes in a 1,792 x 828 pixel resolution with 326 PPI. Apple claims it is the most colour accurate in the industry with wide colour support and True Tone for a more natural viewing experience.

The 12-megapixel camera at the back is the same as the wide-angle camera and features optical image stabilisation, aperture f/1.8, a six-element lens, focus pixel with a quad LED true tone flash, and more. Improvements to ISP, neural engine and improved software algorithms enable portrait photos with beautiful bokeh effect. New depth control allows users to adjust the depth of the field both in real-time preview and post-capture to create portraits with a beautiful bokeh effect.

There is also the true depth camera module at the front, including an ambient light sensor, a proximity sensor, flood illuminator, infrared camera, front camera and Dot projector; it also supports FaceID for unlocking the phone.

"iPhone XR helps us reach even more people with the latest innova-

THIS YEAR, THE INDIA PRICING IS SLIGHTLY HIGHER COMPARED TO THE LAST FEW YEARS DUE TO RISING DOLLAR, HIGHER IMPORT DUTIES

Worldwide Marketing.

Made from a 7,000-series aerospace-grade aluminium and more durable glass, iPhone XR is IP 67 certified that makes it dust and water resistant. Phone XR will support gestures as Apple bids goodbye to its iconic home button for iPhones. Powered by the A12 Bionic chipset with next-generation neural engine, the XR features a seven-

nanometer chip that Apple claims will deliver industry-leading performance in a more power-efficient design. This is a six-core fusion architecture with two performance cores that are up to 15 per cent faster, four efficiency cores that are up to 50 per cent more efficient, a four-core GPU that is up to 50 per cent faster, powerful Apple-designed image signal processor, video encoder, and more.

iPhone XR will also come with iOS 12 out-of-the-box, which will introduce new features such as group notification, Digital Health, 'Downtime' option and Group FaceTime to support 32 participants. Improving Siri experience, the iOS 12 has introduced Siri Shortcuts. Putting augmented reality at the forefront, the new iPhones also features Measure app that is pretty accurate in measuring objects by using the camera.

iPhone XR uses LTE Advanced for fast download speeds and introduces Dual SIM through the use of a nano-SIM and a digital eSIM. Available in three storage capacities, 64GB, 128GB and 256GB, iPhone XR hopefully will be starting at \$749 onwards.

While iPhone XS and XS Max will launch in India on September 28, a week after it goes on sale in the US and some other countries, iPhone XR will be launched globally on October 26, including India. iPhone XS price in India starts at ₹99,900 for the

64GB variant and goes up to ₹1,14,900 and ₹1,34,900 for the 256GB and 512GB variants, respectively. Similarly, iPhone XS Max will cost ₹1,09,900, ₹1,24,900 and ₹1,44,900 for 64GB, 256GB and 512GB variants, respectively. The much affordable is iPhone XR starting at ₹76,900. This year, the India pricing is slightly higher compared to the last few years due to rising dollar, higher import duties, and more.



tions. iPhone XR makes it possible for more people to have the great experience of the latest iPhone X technology, in beautiful new designs, at a more affordable price," says Philip Schiller, Apple's Senior Vice President of



# HEALTH

— Focus —

# BUDDY

# A

## APPLE WATCH SERIES 4

CAN PERFORM ECGs,  
MONITOR HEART RATES,  
DETECT FALLS AND  
CONTACT EMERGENCY  
SERVICES IF REQUIRED.

By Nidhi Singal

### APPLE'S ANNUAL LAUNCH DAY

came and went on September 12 and the Cupertino company ritually unveiled bigger and speedier phones – iPhone XS, XS Max and a slightly toned down and less expensive iPhone XR. But it was the juiced-up Apple Watch Series 4 that stole the show. Even those who complained about the incremental improvement of iPhones could not help applauding the vastly improved Series 4 as it has crossed the domain of fitness wearables and leapfrogged into the holistic realm of health monitoring.

The fourth generation Apple Watch is sleeker than its predecessor, has a larger display (40 mm and 44 mm cases), and packs a whole bunch of heart health features, including its ability to perform an electrocardiogram (ECG) and detect atrial fibrillation or Afib, a heart rhythm disorder





that can be fatal. However, both features will be available on the device later this year (not at launch). Add to that an accelerometer and gyroscope, which can detect hard falls and prompt notification, ease of use and double the speed due to its new S4 chip, and you get to experience the kind of innovation for which Apple has been lauded all these years.

**INSTANT ECG:** Since their debut in 2015, Apple watches had optical heart rate sensors that calculated the calories burnt during workouts but later on started monitoring resting and high heart rates. It worked well and we often heard how these smart-watches alerted users about dangerously high heart rates and helped save their lives. But with the new Series 4, Apple is taking things to the next level.

The new wearable will be capable

of getting an ECG done, similar to a medical-grade single-lead electrocardiogram. All you have to do is turn on the ECG app and hold your finger on the Digital Crown, and in 30 seconds, the recording will be completed. Our heartbeats send out electrical impulses and the titanium electrode in the Digital Crown can read them in the fingertip while the back crystal has an ultra-thin chromium-silicon-carbon-nitride layer that reads the electrical impulses in the wrist. With the help of the ECG app, these two will read and record the data, and notify users about their heart rhythms. Moreover, all ECG recordings, their classifications and any note regarding the symptoms will be stored in the app as PDF files, which can be easily shared. Apple says the US Food and Drug Administration has cleared the ECG feature and the ir-

regular heartbeat notification function, and the former has got a “de novo” classification. Incidentally, the Apple Watch is in Class II, a typically lower-risk product for which FDA only gives “clearance” and not “approval”.

**Lower heart rate notification:** Much like higher heart rates, lower heart rates could also be dangerous. The optical sensor will be able to detect it if the heart rate falls below a specified threshold for 10 minutes when the user appears to be inactive, and trigger a ‘low heart rate’ notification. According to Apple, it can be a symptom of bradycardia, or abnormally slow heart function, which can be serious if the heart is not pumping enough oxygen-rich blood.

**FALL DETECTION:** A fall detection system that identifies the mishap and notifies emergency contacts is not a new concept per se. But its integration with the Series 4 makes these smart-watches health-focussed wearables. Apple has added a new accelerometer and gyroscope that can differentiate between a trip, slip and fall. When an incident occurs, the new watches can detect a hard fall and send an alert to initiate an emergency call. If one continues to be unresponsive after 60 seconds, an emergency call will be placed automatically and the location will be shared with the emergency contacts.

**FOCUS ON WELL-BEING:** Series 4 watches also help users stay fit, as per the original doctrine of the wearables. So, one will find an automatic workout detection that sends an alert to start a workout and gives retroactive credit. Besides tracking various indoor and outdoor forms of workout, the Apple Watch can also monitor the actual calories burned and the exercise minutes earned during yoga and hiking. And finally, there is also the Breathe app that will guide you through a series of deep breaths.

@nidhisingal

# TESTBENCH

# NOTE WORTHY

BY NIDHI SINGAL

# T

**his year's Galaxy Note** is not about innovation but perfection. Besides the best-in-class display, fine build quality and great performance, what makes the Galaxy Note9 special is its S Pen stylus that Samsung has enhanced over the years. But its new features make me wonder why it took Samsung so long to incorporate them.

Tucked neatly towards the right on the bottom panel, the S Pen in bright yellow and gold looks quite stunning. A simple press unlocks the stylus, and I was able to take down memos on the locked screen, similar to that of Note8. I continued to use it as a stylus to take down

notes, draw and navigate through the device as the addition of Bluetooth connectivity to the S Pen enables remote functionality. For instance, instead of touching the screen and capturing an image, you can do it by pressing the physical button (Pen button) on the S Pen. I mounted the Note9 on a tripod and clicked away using the stylus. The Pen button switches functionality depending on the apps. When used with the music player, it can skip tracks, or you can use it with DeX to pull up presentations/slideshows. Unlocking the Note9 with the Pen button was what I liked the most although this feature was turned off by default. It only works when the S Pen is connected to the phone and is already in use. When I forgot the stylus behind, an alarm popped up on the locked screen

The Note9 does not look too different from last year's Note8 although it does not fit in the Note8's





**8 MP FRONT  
CAMERA**  
can capture  
bokeh selfie

**6.4 INCH  
SUPER AMOLED**  
display with  
2,960x1,440  
resolution

**SAMSUNG  
GALAXY NOTE9**  
**PRICE**  
**₹67,900**

**CONNECTING  
OVER  
BLUETOOTH,**  
the Pen button  
can unlock the  
phone, capture  
photos,  
and do more

**THE TIP  
WITH 4,096  
PRESSURE  
LEVELS**  
replicates the  
pen-and-  
paper feel

back cover. With the dual SIM tray on the top, the power button on the right panel, volume control and the dedicated Bixby button on the left, and the Type C charging port, speaker grill, 3.5 mm jack and the S Pen at the bottom, the Note9 has a neat and simple design. The front features a 6.4 inch Quad HD+ Super AMOLED display with 2,960x1,440 resolution (but by default, the 2,220x1,080 resolution is turned on). There are very thin bezels on the sides, but thick ones on the top and the bottom – Samsung has not opted for 'notch' display.

The device comes with Samsung's custom UI and is free of bloatware. Still, some might complain about the dual browser app and the e-mail client on board. Swiping towards the right from home page loads its Smart Assistant Bixby. Swiping up loads the app tray. Running Android Oreo, the Galaxy Note9 is powered by the octa-core Exynos 9810 system-on-chip processor. Of the two variants available, my review unit was the entry-level one with 6 GB RAM and 128 GB internal storage. However, it could easily handle non-stop video streaming and multiplayer gaming for hours. Video editing also went smoothly.

The camera is a dual 12 MP system at the back, including a wide-angle lens with switchable apertures and a telephoto lens.

Samsung has relocated the fingerprint scanner below the horizontal camera module, which makes it easy to access and quick to unlock.

To live up to the new features, the Note9 packs in a 4,000 mAh battery, which managed to last me a day with heavy usage including video streaming, continuous push mail notifications, S Pen use, browsing and camera usage. I still had close to 20 per cent charge left at the end of the day, but it took a little over two hours to get a full charge.

**DUAL-CAMERA**  
unit captures  
bokeh images,  
allows users to  
shift focus and  
blur while editing

**5.8-INCH**  
notch display  
in a compact  
design

**NOKIA 6.1  
PLUS**  
PRICE  
₹15,999

**ANDROID ONE**  
device means  
it is free of  
bloatware



# F

**lagship smartphones** are getting bigger and taller, but here is a compact, mid-range device from HMD Global (the official licensee of Nokia smartphones) that looks and feels premium. The 5.8-inch full HD+ display, with a notch in the front and a glass rear, gives it a handfeel similar to that of

as most brands do, HMD Global has gone for the Android One Program. So, the new Nokia devices will not only be bloatware free but will also receive timely updates as and when these are released.

The user interface is neat and simple. With a dedicated app tray in place, shortcuts can be saved to the home screen. Within the app tray, you will find the search bar on the top and next to it, a row of frequently used apps, thus keeping everything right at your fingertips. The phone managed to fetch e-mail messages, stream videos, handle multiplayer gaming, imaging and more with ease. Running Android 8.1.0, it is powered by Qualcomm Snapdragon

# BANG ON

BY NIDHI SINGAL

iPhone X. But the side panels are not as smooth as the Apple product. In fact, the 6.1 Plus is a tad taller and thicker (147.2x70.98x7.99 mm) than the iPhone X, but 23g lighter (weighs 151g). It is the company's first 'notch' phone to arrive in India. The rear houses a vertical dual-camera unit and a circular fingerprint scanner. The power key and the volume button are mounted on the right panel, the 3.5 mm jack is at the top, the SIM tray is on the left and the Type C charging port, as well as the speaker, are at the bottom. The screen is protected by Corning Gorilla Glass 3 and offers great colour reproduction at full brightness.

Complementing the looks is the stock Android OS. Instead of running on a customised user interface

636 processor and comes with 4 GB of RAM and 64 GB of onboard storage.

The next highlight is the dual-camera set-up at the rear – 16 MP and 5 MP units – capturing good bokeh images. The Live Bokeh option allowed me to adjust the background blur while taking a snapshot. I was also able to change the focal point and adjust background blur using the Bokeh editor in the Photos app. Bokeh selfies taken by the 16 MP front camera also came out well. Low-light photography was just average as the images had visible noise. Finally, the phone is powered by a 3,060 mAh battery, which lasted me a day with above-average usage. Overall, it is a great device but is likely to face competition from Mi A2 and Xiaomi Redmi Note 5 Pro in the same price range.



**WATER AND  
DUST-RESISTANT**  
design makes it ideal for  
outdoor use

# SOUND SPEAKER

BY NIDHI SINGAL

## If

**you are looking** for a portable Bluetooth speaker, you will find aplenty. But not all of them live up to the promise of an immersive experience. The recently launched Ultimate Ears Wonderboom Freestyle is a great outdoor speaker – compact, rounded (102 mm tall and 93.2 mm wide), weighing 425g and with a loop on the top that makes it easy to hang almost anywhere without worrying about

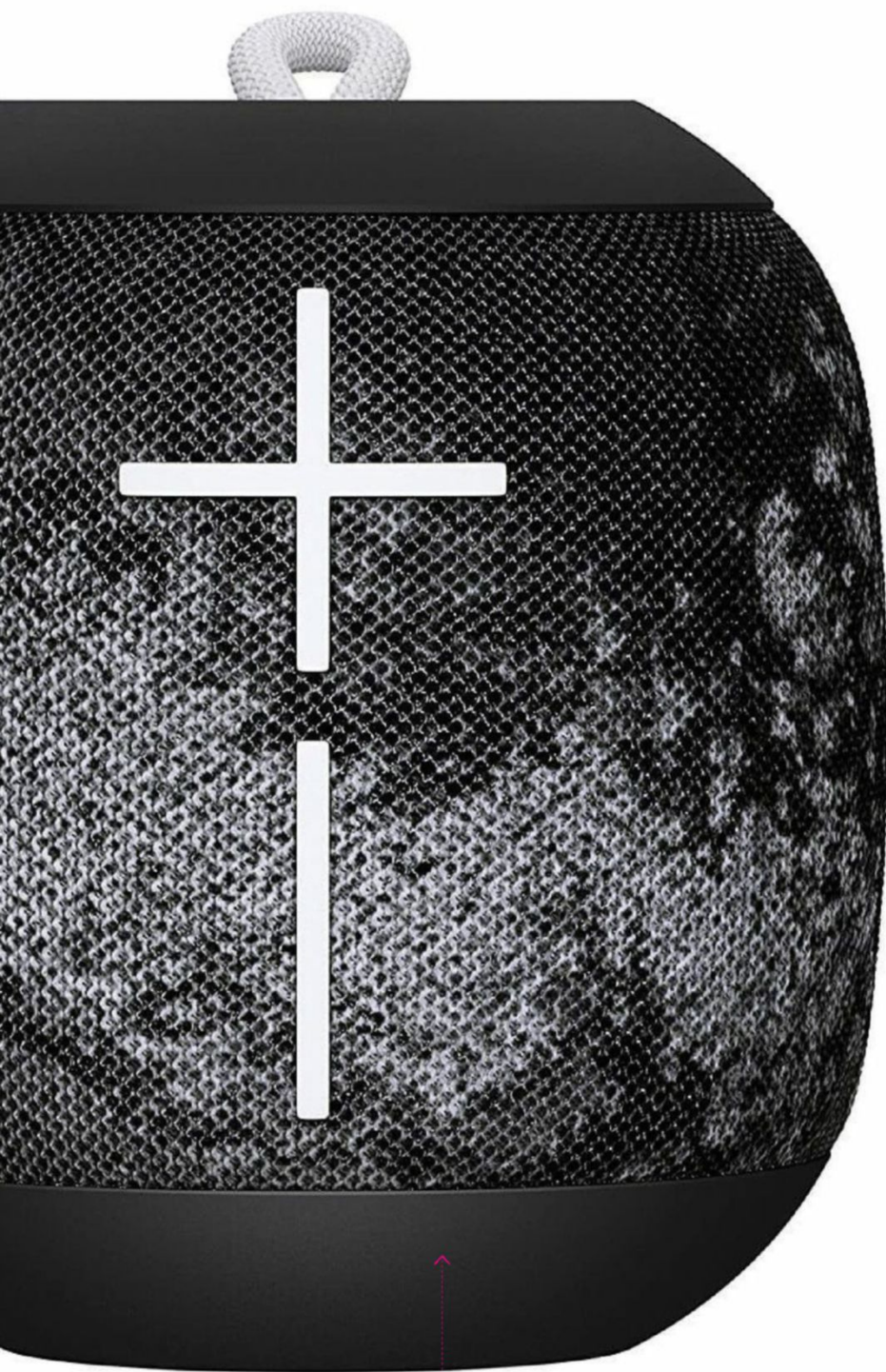
the speaker getting damaged. The IP67 rating makes it waterproof and dustproof, which means it can withstand up to 1m deep water for up to 30 minutes. I tested it during my recent vacation where it was pouring and kept it next to me on the beach. When it got a little dirty, I gave it a quick wash under the tap and it became squeaky clean. But while doing so, I made sure that the charging port was not exposed to water and the flap was tightly locked.

Another thing I liked about the Wonderboom speaker is its design that incorporates various controls. Even when my smartphone was not around, I was able to pause the music, skip tracks and control volume right from the speaker. The top houses the power button and the Bluetooth button for pairing

**ULTIMATE EARS  
WONDERBOOM  
FREESTYLE**

**PRICE**  
**₹6,995**





**UE MEGABOOM**  
cannot answer calls,  
unlike most  
Bluetooth speakers

while the UE branding in the middle can be used for playing/pausing the music. The '+' and the '-' key in white on the raspberry-hued speaker helped control the volume. The innards pack two 40 mm active drivers and two 46.1 mm x 65.2 mm passive radiators for 360-degree immersive sound.

The speaker performed well across different genres. When I played instrumental music, it produced clear and balanced lows and mids. Even at higher volumes, there was no distortion and the vocals were well pronounced. However, there was a slight hissing sound at higher frequencies. The sound output is great for the compact size and is good enough for a small indoor or outdoor gathering. But unlike the MegaBoom speaker, there is no compatible app with preset equalisers for the recently launched Wonderoom Freestyle.

The biggest shortcoming of this speaker is the lack of speakerphone capability. When paired with a smartphone, neither does it notify an incoming call, nor can it be used to answer one.

Another must for outdoor speakers is a good battery backup and the Wonderboom did not fail in that department. Although UE did not mention the battery size that goes into the speaker, it took close to three hours to get a full charge, which lasted me a little over 10 hours of music playback at medium volume.

# BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

BY NIDHI SINGAL

**6.18-INCH**  
full HD+  
display  
protected  
by Corning  
Gorilla Glass



## What

**OnePlus** did to the likes of Samsung and HTC, Xiaomi's sub-brand Poco is doing to OnePlus. A few years ago, OnePlus disrupted the premium smartphone market by launching phones with similar specifications at half the price. The first offering under Poco by Xiaomi focuses on speed, is powered by Qualcomm Snapdragon 845 processor, and is priced starting ₹20,999.

The Poco F1 isn't the slimmest or the best-looking smartphone on the block, yet looks neat and elegant with the plastic polycarbonate body. Of the four variants available, my review unit was the top-of-the-line Armoured edition. The design was reminiscent of the old BlackBerry and Motorola devices. The curved corners along with the Kevlar back look nice. The Poco F1 weighs 187grams and has a 6.18-inch full HD+ display with 18:7:9 aspect ratio. The display felt bright with crisp text and great colour reproduction, and wide

viewing angles. The soft navigation buttons – recent, home and back – sit at the bottom part of the display. I was able to get rid of them by opting for 'full screen gestures' where swiping up from the bottom took me to the home screen, swipe up and hold launched app-switcher and swiping left or right from the side edge took me to the previous screen/page. The company seems to have worked on face unlock – it



**PERFORMANCE**  
powered by Qualcomm  
845 processor

**MI POCO F1**  
**PRICE**  
**₹20,990**

**AI SETTING**  
helps camera  
with scene  
detection

**4,000MAH**  
battery with  
Quick Charge  
3.0 easily lasts  
a day

instantly recognises the face and unlocks the phone. When I tried using a photograph, it didn't unlock.

Although the Poco F1 runs MIUI9.5, the user interface is slightly different from Xiaomi smartphones. App shortcuts have been added to the home screen and a swipe up from bottom loads the app tray. There are app categories on the top (all, communication, entertainment, social and more) and a search

bar at the bottom of the app tray, which makes it easy to search for an app. On the homescreen, swiping right loads a customisable dashboard page. Poco F1, all the four variants are powered by the same. My review unit had 8GB of RAM and 256GB of internal storage, of which only 11.60GB was consumed by the system files. The phone handled heavy graphics apps and games with ease and there was no sign of

lag while switching between multiple apps running in the background. The dual camera setup includes a 12-megapixel primary sensor with f/1.9 aperture and the 5-megapixel depth sensor with f/2.0 aperture. It captured great bokeh images and worked well on objects, animals, flowers and humans. Within the photo mode is the AI setting that helps the camera with scene detection and it turned on HDR when pointed towards the light. While the camera is impressive, it could not match the colour reproduction of the images captured by OnePlus 6.

The 4000mAh battery with Quick Charge 3.0 took a little over two hours for a full charge, which easily lasted a day of extensive use.

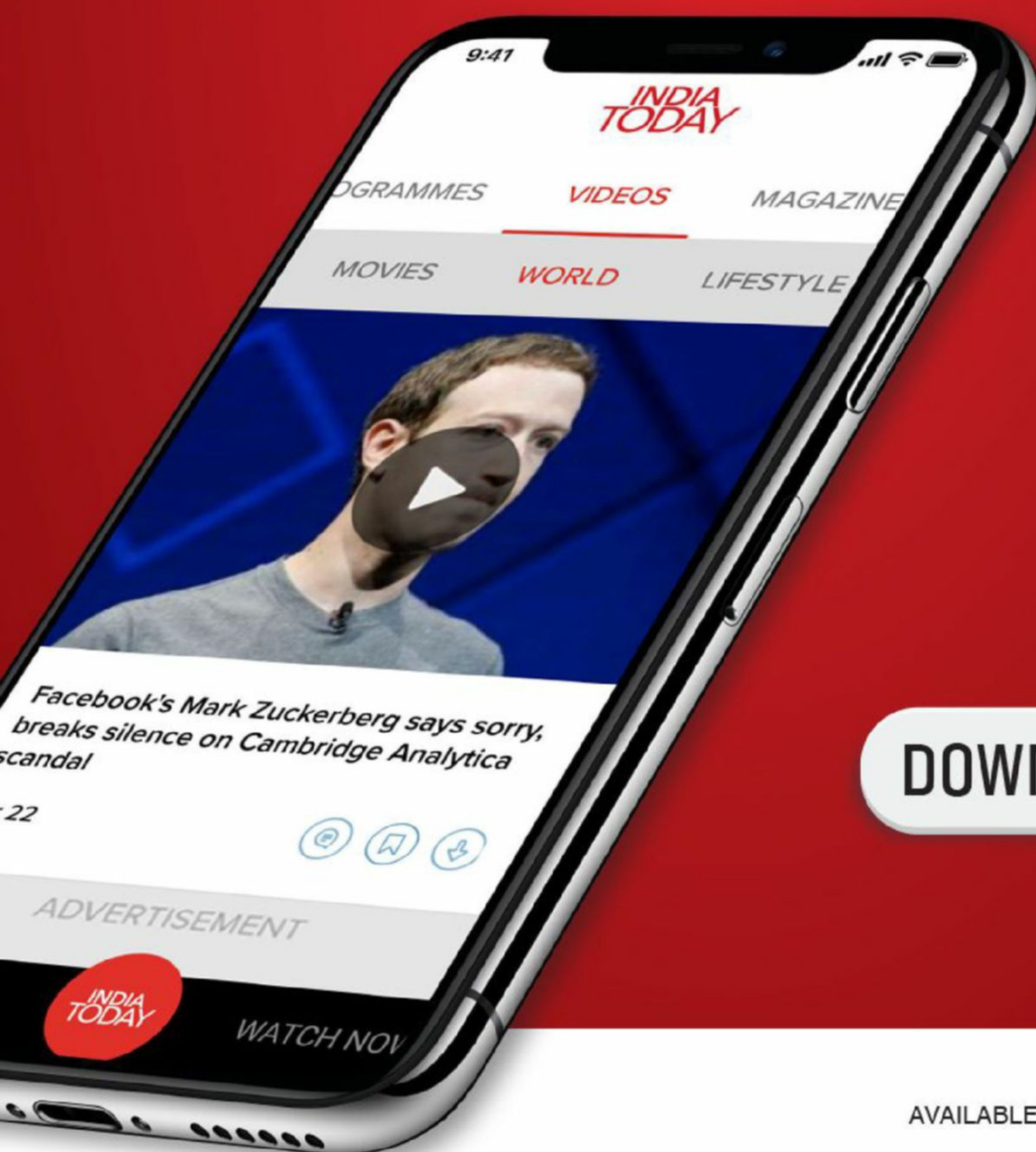
While my review unit was the top-of-the-line variant, even the entry-level model with the same processor, 6GB RAM and 64GB storage for ₹20,990 makes Poco F1 the best smartphone in its price category.

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