HOTST

Some more

You'll find a Lightning Stiletto-shaped SIM tray ejector, a violet charging adapter with Electro Element and Lightning Stiletto logos, and a violet USB Type-C charging cable with a violet LED light.



HOT FOUR #1

CATCHING KEQING

OnePlus 12R Genshin Impact Edition

OnePlus has teamed up with HoYoverse to launch a smartphone like no other at MWC: the OnePlus 12R Genshin Impact Edition. This special edition device is a dream come true for fans of the hit game, offering exclusive design elements inspired by the beloved character Keqing. The OnePlus 12R Genshin Impact Edition sports an Electro Violet colour inspired by the character Keqing. The back panel features a violet hue with silvery white feather motifs, paying homage to Keqing's appearance in the game. The phone's AG matte glass cover is adorned with an Electro Element and Keqing's lightning stiletto design. The frame of the phone incorporates a unique etching process called Electro Etching, which allows the text "KEQING" to be carved onto the top edge. When illuminated, this engraving can project the characters onto nearby surfaces. The smartphone is also optimised to accelerate game loading speeds, reducing wait times, and it can keep the Genshin Impact game app and up to 5 other apps running in the background for 72 hours.

As hot as... Diluc's weapon

₹49,999 / oneplus.in

U F F

ALL THE BIGGEST STORIES FROM PLANET TECH



Genshin and out

When you plug in for a charge, you'll be greeted by an electrifying Electro Element charging animation. It also has live Keqing wallpapers and start up and unlock animations.



Hail the new flexi board

The transparent keyboard area lets you switch between the keyboard and drawing board with a supported pen, lending you a hand in collaborating creating content.



HOT FOUR #2

SEE-THROUGH

Lenovo ThinkBook Transparent Display

Remember when we tipped you off about Lenovo's transparent laptop at MWC 2024? Well, the brand has unveiled the Lenovo ThinkBook Transparent Display, claiming the title of the world's first transparent laptop! But don't let your imagination run wild because this beauty is just a proof-of-concept as of now and won't be hitting the shelves anytime soon. This ThinkBook laptop has a 17.3-inch bezel-less see-through display with 55 percent transparency. The laptop also sports a transparent keyboard area, showcasing a floating footpad design. It uses laser projection to display keys when needed, and it can even transform into a sketch pad with stylus support, adding a creative twist to your work. Lenovo has confirmed that the display panel utilises microLED tech, providing higher colour saturation and up to 1000 nits of peak brightness. The brand has also harnessed the power of Artificial Intelligence in the device. A camera located on the chassis uses AI for image recognition, displaying the digital version of what it sees right on the laptop.

As hot as... Dakota Johnson's see-through dress

₹tba / lenovo.com



HOT FOUR #3

GAME OF SHADES

Tecno Pocket Go

Move over Mario, there's a new sheriff in town (or, shall we say, pocket?). MWC 2024 saw Tecno unveil its first handheld console, the Pocket Go, calling it 'the world's first AR gaming set'. The Pocket Go is an AR gaming set, pairing a wireless controller with the 'AR Pocket Vision' glasses. The Windows-based system has a wireless controller that borrows some design cues from Xbox. Tecno claims it's 50% smaller and 30% lighter than other Windows handhelds, so we wonder if big things can truly come in small packages. Under the hood, the Pocket Go features an AMD Ryzen 7 8840 HS processor clocked at 5.1GHz, backed by 16GB of RAM and 1TB of storage. And to prevent overheating during intense battles, Tecno has equipped it with a cooling fan and a trio of copper heat pipes. The AR Pocket Vision glasses feature a 0.71-inch screen morphing into a 215-inch virtual world six metres away. The Pocket Go's true potential lies in its promise of a fully immersive 6D gaming experience with a vision track, adaptive posture, ultra-precise vibrations and sensory sync, claims Tecno.

As hot as... Cyclops' optic blast

₹tba / tecno-mobile.in



HOT FOUR #4

BEND IT TILL YOU CAN!

Motorola bendable concept phone

Motorola's latest showcase at MWC 2024 isn't just flexing its specs — it's a smartphone that can (literally) bend and morph into a wrist-worn accessory. Think of it as a phone that does double duty as a smartwatch, ready to bend (and contort to fit your wrist).

While it's still a concept, it's also a glimpse into a future where our phones might become even more adaptable and multi-talented. The 6.9-inch smartphone can also be transformed into a tent for gaming sessions or prop itself up with a simple bend — no origami skills required. Plus, the Smart UI keeps up with its acrobatics, ensuring you're in control of your apps and functions.

But is this shape shifting phone all flash and no function? Well, the jury's still out on that, as well as on how comfy it is to wear a phone on your wrist for extended periods. The orange fabric backing and magnetic clasp aim to keep it from becoming a wrist-tossing disaster, but questions linger about its practicality as a long-term fashion statement. Still, it's a bold leap into the future of mobile, and who knows, maybe someday donning a phone on your wrist will be as normal as, well, checking your phone.

As hot as... a graphics card overclocked to the max!

₹tba / motorola.in

A good time

While the first iteration of the OnePlus Watch was no smarter than a fifth grader, the OnePlus Watch 2 brings WearOS chops to rival the best of Samsung and Apple and even trumps Google's Pixel Watch.

₹24,999 / oneplus.in

You don't have to be shy with the OnePlus Watch 2. This stainless steel and sapphire crystal glass mini-burger can take on the messiest workouts and the toughest terrains. Well, it's not ironclad like the Garmin Fenix or Epix but the Watch 2 is built to the MIL-STD-810H US military standard.

At 47mm, it's also quite thick and big, so you may want to walk into a OnePlus store and put this on your wrist. That is, if you're unsure how chonky you want your wrist computer to be — because OnePlus only sells a single-size variant.

It's the most comfortable watch we've tested. The fluor rubber strap bundled with the watch feels like a hug and there's no reason to upgrade from it unless you're bored of the colours you get at launch.

You won't find your nose stuck to the strap to read a text or see the navigation pointer on the map. It's sharp and bright for the price you pay.



Track longer
We got around three days of battery life with heavy fitness tracking, calls, messages, app usage and sleep tracking. You can drain the battery faster if you keep fiddling with more apps and use Google Maps constantly or you can make it last up to four days with basic tracking.

Double trouble
The phenomenal battery life is due to a dual chipset integration. The Snapdragon W5 performance chipset runs WearOS 4 and handles all the clever duties of apps and tracking workouts. Meanwhile, BES2700 manages background activities like notifications and calls.

Strap on
The quick-release buckle for the straps is of 22mm standard format so you can buy third-party straps and find another reason to keep wearing the watch. Although the bundled strap is extremely comfortable for everyday exercise and leisure. It looks sporty though.

GOOD
MEH
EVIL

- Sharp and bright display.
- Google apps work here? Finally!
- In-depth sleep tracking.
- The best battery life on a smartwatch
- No LTE variant and only one size.
- The crown doesn't work for scrolling.

App health
The OHealth app is supported on Android 8 and above devices. The sleep and workout data is comprehensive and detailed. It's very similar looking to Apple's Watch app but much, much better than Garmin's app. You can also customize the watch face and download more.

One hundred push ups
OnePlus says the Watch 2 can run for 100 hours on Power Saver mode and it retains many of the core functions of the watch. Things like sleep and heart rate tracking, calls and some fitness tracking modes like swimming, cycling, and badminton are still available. And it works smoothly.

Tech specs

Display 1.43inch AMOLED display, 1000nit, 466x466 resolution **Watch Case** Stainless-steel chassis **Processor** Snapdragon W5 & BES2700 **Battery** 500maAh **Storage & RAM** 32GB, 2GB RAM **Weight** without the strap 49g, with the strap 80g

Pay up
Oh, if you see the Google Pay app on the OnePlus Watch 2, it doesn't work because it's region-locked by Google.

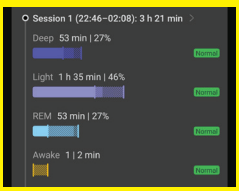


Tracking king

Google's WearOS might be sitting here but the tracking is all hardware and it's very impresssive.



Button up
Two buttons on the side of the watch can be reprogrammed to whatever you fancy. Moreover, both buttons can be multifunctional with long press, single press and double tap to customise as you wish.



Sleep well
It's also a very good sleep tracker and closely accurate to our Garmin Epix Pro 2. The OnePlus Watch 2 can also track your breathing problems and snoring issues at night. And IP68-rated for water and dust resistance.



Gotta hand it to yah
Ton of nuanced metric calculations for runners with vertical amplitude, ground contact time and balance, maximal oxygen consumption, and stride length. Special attention for tracking Badminton, Tennis and Skiing too.



Urban geo hero
It has an L5 and L1 GPS frequency with two separate antennas which help accurately chart out your activities but it's not as thoroughbred as Garmin Watches that let you track back your routes during offgrid.



The OnePlus Watch 2 embodies the OnePlus brand perfectly by disrupting the smartwatch segment with great battery life, a proper suite of apps and undercutting juggernauts like Samsung and Apple in terms of pricing. Both in terms of battery life and smart chops, the OnePlus Watch 2 delivers and if you're an Android fan, this is the watch to buy. *@khumailthakur*

STUFF SAYS ★★★★★
Big battery, big dial and big performance, the OnePlus Watch 2 has it all! Don't worry, it won't nab your wallet with a big price tag like the others.

You don't have to go full send

The OnePlus 12R and iQOO Neo 9 Pro are a lot more affordable than your standard current-generation flagship smartphone, but still promise plenty of performance.

iQOO Neo 9 Pro

What's the story?
Vivo's subsidiary brand iQOO does what its parent brand usually cannot, by being adventurous in ways that might often come across as a bit much. That said, the iQOO Neo 9 Pro largely pulls it off with its out-of-the-box styling, bright red colour, easy-to-grip hand feel, and lightweight form factor.

There's the Qualcomm Snapdragon 8 Gen 2 processor under the hood, along with up to 12GB of RAM and 256GB of storage. You also get FunTouch OS 14 (based on Android 14, along with various software-based features and optimisations that make this a good smartphone for gaming performance.

Is it any good?
The iQOO Neo 9 Pro delivers in spades when it comes to performance, both gaming and otherwise, despite the fact that it's running a 2023 chipset. It does help that the SD8 Gen 2 is still a very good smartphone SoC that can perform to 2024 levels with ease.

The dual-camera setup at the back is decent as well, while the software is largely good save for a few minor annoyances that come with FunTouch OS. It looks new-age and sharp to go with young gamers' aesthetic preferences as well.

Price from ₹36,999 / iqoo.com
Key specs Qualcomm Snapdragon 8 Gen 2 ● FunTouch OS 14 (based on Android 14) ● up to 12GB RAM ● up to 256GB storage

Stuff says ★★★★☆
Great for gamers who don't want to spend flagship money

OnePlus 12R

What's the story?
The OnePlus 'R' series of smartphones don't need introduction – it's a step below the number-series flagships in positioning, usually combining current-generation software and a handful of new components with previous-generation core hardware.

In the case of the OnePlus 12R, you get the Qualcomm Snapdragon 8 Gen 2 (from the OnePlus 11), along with up to 16GB of RAM and 256GB of storage. However, the software experience is fresh thanks to OxygenOS 14 (based on Android 14) and the brand's new Trinity Engine system which gives multi-tasking and everyday performance a happy little boost.

Is it any good?
Although not quite as well optimised for gaming as the iQOO Neo 9 Pro, the OnePlus 12R promises and delivers much more when it comes to multi-tasking and ease of use with everyday smartphone stuff. The display quality and overall styling also help, as will OnePlus' reputation.

Battery life is good, and charging is quick, while camera performance is ordinary, but not too bad – you'll still get decent shots in daylight and acceptable performance even in low light, assuming you aren't trying anything too fancy.

Price from ₹39,999 / oneplus.in
Key specs Qualcomm Snapdragon 8 Gen 2 ● OxygenOS 14 (based on Android 14 ● up to 16GB RAM ● up to 256GB storage

Stuff says ★★★★★
Ticks most of the boxes for a premium smartphone at a very reasonable price

ANDROID 14, BUT WITH WHAT ADDITIONS?

● The iQOO Neo 9 Pro comes with FunTouchOS 14. It comes with lots of pre-installed stuff – some of which you can't get rid of, and some of which will keep popping up in unexpected ways. However, visually, FunTouchOS is a treat for the eyes, and software optimisations and features help set up the hardware and battery for better performance with gaming.

● OnePlus' OxygenOS user interface has long been touted as among the closest to stock Android, but recent iterations have taken away that tendency. It's still a fairly clean user interface, and additions on OOS14 such as Trinity Engine help keep things running smoothly on the whole.

[**Words** Ali Pardiwala]

1 Leather-like
The back of the iQOO Neo 9 Pro looks like leather, but it's plastic. Even the 'stitches' are just textured in to look like stitched leather.

2 Light and easy
The shape and weight of the iQOO Neo 9 Pro makes it easy to grip – particularly useful for those long and intense gaming sessions.



3 Three cams
The OnePlus 12R gets a three-cam setup at the back, featuring a 50-megapixel primary shooter, along with ultra-wide and macro lenses.

4 Classic Glass
The glass back panel is similar to that of the OnePlus 12, so the 12R doesn't look like a budget or cut-price option by any measure.



PS5, PC, Xbox S, X / en.bandainamcoent.eu

Tekken 8

Like all things Tekken, everything leads to a tournament and the eventual plans of world domination by a megalomaniac. This time it's Kazuya, and even though Jin and Kazuya both have three eyes each, the father-son duo don't see eye to eye....

Tekken 8 adds more depth to Jin and Kazuya's battle. It's more than just exchanging fists for power. Jin's internal struggles with himself are at the centre of this three-to-four-hour campaign. It's not long but thorough and surprising enough to want us to make it to the end before jumping into multiplayer.

Arcade mode serves as the perfect training ground, offering a seamless introduction to Tekken 8's mechanics and diverse roster of characters. Special Style, a beginner-friendly feature, lets players execute flashy combos with ease, though mastering the game's intricacies remains the ultimate challenge.

Online multiplayer thrives on Asian servers, delivering smooth gameplay experiences with minimal lag. Super Ghost Mode adds an exciting twist by allowing players to face AI versions of their friends' playstyles, injecting a dose of unpredictability into offline matches.

During the actual fistfight, Tekken 8 fixed the impact aura that was a problem with Tekken 7. It no longer covers a chunk of the character's limbs and you can easily fight without any visual distractions. Punches and kicks land with a satisfying sound and the movement is crisper than before. Admittedly, Tekken 8 fighting is just plain good but sidestepping is a bit wonky. Even if you time it properly, somehow almost all punches and kicks land regardless of side stepping. We think it's deliberate to keep spammers from breaking the system.

It has a robust training mode and stable online netcode. While the absence of an offline tournament mode for local multiplayer is a notable omission, the game's captivating story, diverse character roster, long list of moves for every character and an innovative heat system ensure an electrifying experience from start to finish.

Khumail Thakur

STUFF SAYS A delicate balance of new and old, Tekken 8 is the best the series has been! ★★★★★



Is that a gun? Well, it would be a problem in another game but not in Tekken.

Bear in mind, we thoroughly enjoy Kuma and his fishing antics...







You're Tekken away my breath

In Tekken 8, the Rage Art and Rage State mechanics kick in when your health is low, offering powerful finishers or increased attack power. The new Heat System introduces Heat Engagers that trigger Heat Bursts and Heat Smashes, functioning like smaller Rage Arts with substantial damage. You can manually activate Heat Smashes to evade trouble, with the added benefit of absorbing hits during the wind-up animation. This encourages aggressive gameplay and rewards calculated movement.

Blocked major attacks or aerial combos initiate a Recoverable Gauge, allowing players to regain health by landing hits. The Heat System promotes aggressive playstyles, though newcomers may struggle against technical opponents.

Graphically, Tekken 8 excels with Unreal Engine 5, rendering lifelike character models and stunning visuals during Rage Art and Heat Smash animations. The inclusion of soundtracks from previous Tekken titles adds nostalgic charm, despite initial skepticism towards the announcer's voice.