HOTST

Glasses for the black

GoPro has debuted the innovative HB-Series lenses exclusively for Hero 13 Black. The camera automatically detects each lens and provide optimal settings.



HOT FIVE #1

CAPTURE RAPTURE

GoPro Hero 13 Black

It builds on the legacy of last year's Hero 12 Black. The camera takes it up a notch with more than just 5.3K video at 60 fps, HyperSmooth stabilisation and all the core GoPro goodness, it introduces a 13x Burst Slo-Mo, capturing up to 400 fps in crisp HD 720p. And, you can shoot in 5.3K at 120 fps or push the limits with 900p at 360 fps. HDR made its debut with the Hero12 Black, but GoPro has upped the ante with the Hero13 Black by adding hybrid-log gamma (HLG) to its arsenal. This new flagship model now meets broadcasting industry HDR standards, offering 10-bit colour and the Rec. 2100 colour space, along with a wider colour gamut. The Hero13 Black also introduces the Snap and Go Magnetic Latch Mounting, adding a new option alongside the built-in mounting fingers and 1/4-20 mounting threads, giving you three versatile ways to mount your camera. Plus, with the magnetic link-enabled side door, you can keep your Hero13 Black continuously powered from an external USB-C source, so you never miss a moment. And that's not all—GPS + Performance Stickers let you track speed, path, terrain, altitude, and g-force, perfect for geotagging in third-party media apps.

As hot as... a the zenith of heat!

₹44,990 / gopro.com

Soundscaping at its best

The camera now offers more customisable audio. Choose between a balanced, true-to-life sound or one that enhances vocal clarity while preserving ambient sounds.



U F F

ALL THE BIGGEST STORIES FROM PLANET TECH



When lasting longer is key

The new 1900mAh Enduro Battery offers a 10% capacity boost over the Hero12 Black's battery. GoPro says you'll notice the most runtime improvements in 10-bit recording.

What's a photo?

Gemini AI was front and centre at this year's Google Pixel launch but there's a sizable chunk of upgrades in the hardware department as well...

from ₹1,24,999 / flipkart.com

Diving straight into the feature that gave Google's device its name and fame — the camera. The rear camera bump shaped like a pill sits a 50MP wide, a 48MP ultrawide with macro focus and a 48MP 5x telephoto lens. These updated new cameras get a new HDR pipeline thanks to the Tensor G4 processor, new and improved sensors with better autofocus. You can immediately tell that the Pixel 9 Pro XL camera has a noticeably improved sharpness and colour tones.

The tone accuracy on the Pixel devices feels like it's almost untouched by the AI (in a good way). What you see is what you get on your screen and that's also a testament to Pixel's superbly calibrated display which we'll get to in a bit.

However the Portrait mode only works with the primary wide camera and weirdly uses digital crop in 1.5x and 2x modes. The Pixel 9 Pro XL doesn't use portrait mode from the 5x telephoto lens which feels like a missed opportunity.

Extra for AI

You get access to Gemini Advanced free of charge for a year after which you have to pay the extra dough to keep it.

Xiaomi the best one...

The photos are consistent, natural and very good. Unlike the Xiaomi 14 Ultra which has a very vibrant colour and smoother textures, the Pixel 9 Pro XL excels at maintaining the overall composition by expertly tuning colour, tone, highlights and details.

Apple any day

iPhone 15 Pro Max absolutely mocks the Google Pixel 9 Pro XL with its use of 5x portrait. The Apple focuses on using all its lenses to their fullest potential while keeping a warm tone while the Pixel likes to be as colour accurate as possible while keeping a cooler tone.



GOOD
MEH
EVIL

- New design feels premium
- Stunning display and very smooth
- Point and shoot camera still great
- Google Gemini Advanced free for a year
- Fantastic battery life.
- Terrible benchmark scores

[Words Khumail Thakur]



Tech specs

Display 6.8-inch Super Actua display (LTPO), Corning Gorilla Glass Victus **Weight** 221g **Battery** 5,060 mAh, 45W **RAM** 16GB **Storage** 256GB / 512GB **Processor** Google Tensor G4, Titan M2 security co-processor **Camera** 50 MP wide, 48 MP Ultrawide with Macro Focus, 48 MP 5x telephoto lens, 42MP selfie camera

Tensor tension
All of the AI stuff if possible thanks to the Google Tensor G4 processor, and sometimes the cloud. Albeit, as a smartphone, the Tensor G4 is still an underpowered processor. Running Diablo Immortal on 60FPS is not possible here and by default all the settings are on low.

Suspiciously smooth
Everyday usage on the Pixel 9 Pro XL was buttery smooth. Apps open fast, like really fast, and scrolling through Instagram, checking emails and replying to WhatsApps was easy peasy. Lightroom was also handled smoothly too. Performance never felt like an issue here for daily tasks except gaming.

Looking good
The Hiding in Colour episode from *Life in Colour with David Attenborough* documentary on Netflix really pops on the display even with neutral colours thanks to impressive HDR, sharpness control and motion clarity. The image processing on the Pixel is very capable.

Get high on AI

The Pixel 9 Pro XL is the most decked out AI smartphone, until we see what Apple does...



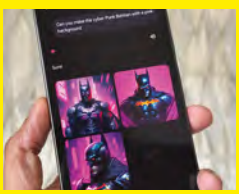
Addtional benefits

Add Me allows one friend to take a photo while the others pose and then switch with the photographer to add them. Google will run the two photos through its AI to superimpose the two into a single shot.



Audi-ting it out

We were available to edit the entire background from this Audi photo parked in our studio. All it took was a few tries to get the desired result. The AI understands the shadows of objects and retains it in the changing process.



More AI images

I asked the AI in Pixel Studio app to create a profile photo of Batman in cyberpunk style with a pink background for my Steam account and it was quick and easy. Why does it exist? We don't know but there's an app for it.



AI butler

Your gmail will now be supercharged with the AI. Emails and Google Workspaces apps will get a small summary and you can ask the AI for appropriate responses. I like this implementation of Gemini AI as a tool.



The best smartphone Google has to offer now feels and runs like a premium smartphone. Once the flagbearer of smartphone cameras, the Pixel now becomes one of the many great camera smartphones. It's great with colour and tones but Portrait mode and questionable AI features don't add value. Performance remains good but not great. *@khumailthakur*

STUFF SAYS ★★★★☆
Premium and expensive, the Pixel experience is shaped by Google Gemini and its many uses but needs a better chip

Enter the dragon

Is this your ticket to the future of personal computing, or just another overhyped product riding the AI wave?

₹1,24,990 / asus.com/in

Everything is made from lightweight aluminium alloy, this 15.6-inch laptop measures just 14.7 mm at its thinnest point and weighs a mere 1.42 kg. It's the kind of device you can easily slip into your bag and forget it's there. It's got two fans and two exhaust vents which keeps the already cool-running laptop cooler when the tasks demand a bit more grunt.

The star of the show here is undoubtedly the 15.6-inch OLED display. The specs are undeniably impressive and it can dish out excellent picture quality even at lower brightness levels. Games and Netflix look superb with crisp image quality and high brightness. Everything stays vibrant and punchy.

We can say for certain that the Snapdragon X Elite is a battery marathoner. Asus claims around 18 hours and we got around 12 to 14 hours in our use. Albeit, we were not able to fully use all our apps on this Windows machine like we do on the Apple MacBooks.

Writing, browsing and using Microsoft Office apps was perfect. There were no hiccups in everyday office use and the Asus Vivobook S 15 would wake up and go to sleep like a smartphone. Charging it regularly is not required unless you edit photos and videos a lot.

res-specced
The Asus also seriously undercuts the ₹1,54,990 Apple MacBook Air 15 inch in terms of price and storage options. You get up to 16GB of LPDDR5X RAM and a 1TB PCIe 4.0 NVMe SSD.



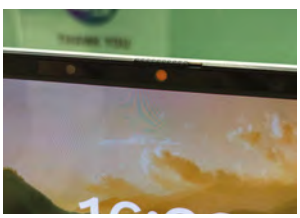
Tech specs

Processor Snapdragon X Elite Processor - X1E78100 **Graphics** Qualcomm Adreno GPU **Display** 15.6-inch, 3K (2880 x 1620) OLED, 120Hz refresh rate **RAM** 16 GB **Storage** Up to 1TB



Functional ace

You get two USB4 ports supporting up to 40 Gbps data transfer, DisplayPort, and Power Delivery. There's also a full-sized HDMI 2.1 port, two USB 3.2 Gen 1 Type-A ports, a microSD card reader, and an audio combo jack.



Private meetings

There's a physical camera shutter on the webcam which is a fantastic addition and a great indicator of this laptop's target audience. We only wish the speakers and mic quality was a bit better too.

STUFF SAYS A proper office laptop that's a battery champ ★★★★☆

Tell me about Co-Pilot!
khumailthakur



The heavily marketed Co-Pilot is rather dull. It doesn't work across the Windows UI to navigate and bring things from the deep trenches of the Download folder, emails and calendar. It doesn't work without the internet either, and at its core, it's still a chatbot which has a conversation limit. So the Co-Pilot chatbot never ends up being personal or tailored.

Designed to appeal

Is Realme bringing something valuable in this congested budget smartphone market or should you skip it?



Super battery
Battery life has improved with the Realme 13 Pro+ and you get an 80W SuperVOOC charger in the box so battery anxiety is not a thing.

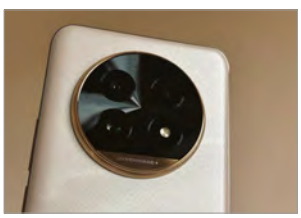
₹32,999 / realme.com

■ The 50MP Sony LYT-600 periscope camera, the 50MP Sony LYT-701 and the 8MP ultra-wide camera are capable snappers but Realme wants to inform you that it's the AI that does the heavy lifting.

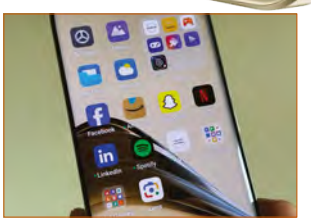
■ In terms of quality, the shots have a slightly exaggerated colour tone with boosted greens and slightly overexposed highlights. Where the AI does come in handy is in portraits. It's not class-leading like the Vivo cameras but it's good at separating the subject from the background.

■ The display is great and uniform bezels all around and doesn't look shabby like some of the smartphones in this range. Besides that, the curved edges will add a wee bit of green tint to whatever you're looking at on the display and the side metal frame doesn't blend seamlessly with this curved display.

■ Here's where the Realme 13 Pro+ starts to feel lazy. It's got the same Snapdragon 7s Gen 2 processor as its predecessor Realme 12 Pro+. In comparison, the OnePlus Nord 4 and the Poco F6 both have newer processors which perform better. Realme is decent but not for gaming.



■ It's back at it
The rear has a soft satin finish which Realme calls a Miracle Shining Glass that faithfully reproduces the flowing effects of light and shadow found in Claude Monet's works. Almost like the famed OnePlus rear finishes.



■ Feeling bloated
There's a lot of bloatware. It's not an issue if you know how to delete apps but the UI needs a bit more polish, especially when Nothing Tech, Motorola and OnePlus have been dishing out clean UI smartphones at this price.

Tech specs

Processor Snapdragon 7s Gen 2
RAM 8GB/12GB **ROM** 128G/256GB/512GB
Cameras 50MP + 50MP + 8 MP
Battery 5,200mAh **Weight** 190g

STUFF SAYS Not the future-proof budget device you're looking for ★★★☆☆

Get real with me, is this good?
khumailthakur



The Realme 13 Pro+ is a mixed bag. It's got a decent design, a solid display, and a capable camera system. But its performance and software feel like a step back compared to the competition. The camera AI can be hit or miss, and the bloatware-laden software is a real bummer. While it's a solid mid-ranger, it doesn't offer anything truly groundbreaking. I would prioritize performance and a clean software experience these days.

A tiny titan for gaming

Can a tablet really deliver a true gaming experience? When it costs the same as a Nintendo Switch and a Steam Deck?



One size fits all
The 16:10 aspect ratio also fits almost all latest movies and TV shows with minimum black borders. Even games fill the screen really well.

₹39,999 / lenovo.com/in

■ First impressions? This thing is sleek. The all-metal body feels premium, and the bezels are slim enough to make the screen feel expansive without being unwieldy. It's not the thinnest tablet out there, but it's still comfortable to hold for long gaming sessions.

■ The 8.8-inch 144Hz 2.5K display is an absolute stunner. Colours are vibrant, details are crisp, and the high refresh rate makes everything feel buttery smooth. Whether you're exploring a vast open world of Genshin Impact or cutting through the fast-paced action of Katana Zero, this screen delivers.

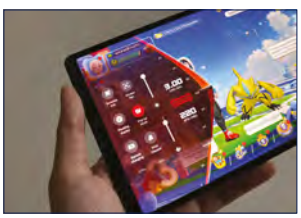
■ It even supports Dolby Atmos so your favourite movies and shows will sound incredible too. The stereo speakers are also positioned on the top half so your palms don't block the grilles while gripping this thing. There's plenty of throw and mid-range punch from these speakers but they don't sound as textured as some of the bigger tablets in this price range.

■ This is a powerful and impressive gaming tablet that excels in performance, display quality, and sound but the high price and an old processor may deter some potential buyers. The Legion Tab Gen 2 remains that rare breed of small tablets.



■ Keep playing

There are two USB Type-C ports here so you can continue gaming effortlessly. You can even bypass charging on the Lenovo Legion Tab so it doesn't heat up. The second USB port at the bottom when in landscape mode, smart!



■ Software boosts

Lenovo kept the software experience clean and simple, with a near-stock version of Android 13. There are a few gaming-centric features thrown in, like a performance mode that boosts CPU and GPU speeds.

Tech specs

Processor Snapdragon 8+ Gen 1
RAM 12GB **ROM** 1256GB UFS 3.1, Up to 1TB microSD card
Cameras 13MP+ 2MP (marco), Front 8MP **Battery** 6,550mAh
Weight 350g

STUFF SAYS If you're serious about mobile gaming, this is the tablet for you ★★★★☆

Processor still good for gaming?
khumailthakur



It can effectively handle anything you throw at it. We're talking Genshin Impact at high settings, Call of Duty Mobile with all the bells and whistles – this tablet doesn't flinch. Diablo Immortal runs at the max settings and is very smooth but after a few hours gaming, you will feel the Snapdragon 8+ Gen 1's age catching up. Thermals, although great for an hour and more, tend to trouble the smooth performance in absolutely demanding games.