



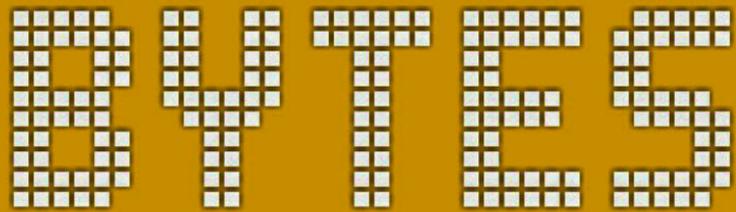
The power to do more

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INFORMATION | GADGETS | TECHNOLOGY



# CES 2017- WHAT'S NEW!

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CES is the biggest showcasing of the craziest tech on Earth. This year on its 50th anniversary, it hosted more than 200K spectators to give them a glimpse of the tech of tomorrow. The Bytes team scoured the internet to bring you the best tech from this year's CES. Here, we compiled a list of tech that we thought would wow you folks!

## GAMING GOES 4K with NVIDIA

Nvidia isn't restricting itself to the gaming industry anymore- that's old news. But does that mean they don't plan to be the reigning king? WRONG! Now you can stream through 4K in 'Shield'. But what impressed us most was: artificial intelligence and driverless cars. Nvidia has vowed to bring 4th Gen driverless to the mainstream with their DRIVE PX2 AI hardware.



## ULTRA THIN AND QUANTUM DOT TVS

If you thought the TV hype was over because of all the ultrahigh-def phone screens, then think again. With the promise of 'Per-

fect Colour', Samsung has brought a new lineup of ultra-thin TVs that use Quantum Dot material to create up to 2,000

nits. LG has also impressed the world with one of the slimmest TVs we have ever seen. Paper thin TVs aren't far away it seems.

## MORE COMPETITION FOR APPLE

Samsung in cooperation of Google has brought out another new device that can easily substitute the low market performing iPads. These chromebooks come with a touch display, a stylus and great build. Microsoft, too, has announced cloud connected cars that Apple has been working on. Not a good CES for Apple it seems!



## CHINESE UPRISING

This time at CES we saw Chinese brands parading cutting edge technologies that are almost as good as the ones in the west. More than 1300 chinese brands registered this year for CES. The ones that caught our eyes were: LeEco, a popular internet venture, tying up with Faraday Future in its electric vehicle segment, DJI being the top reseller of drones in USA, Hisense bringing ULED technology in the market for TVs etc.

Other prominent Chinese smartphone manufacturers like ZTE, Huawei, Xiaomi also had a strong presence at CES.



## LAPTOPS THAT WON'T FIT ON YOUR LAP

One of the devices that shook us to our very core was Razer's 'Project Valerie'. So what is 'Project Valerie'? Project Valerie is a laptop(!) with a built-in

mechanical keyboard and three(!), 17.3-inch 4K monitors. The laptop comes wrapped in a unibody aluminum chassis and weighs

less than 12 pounds. This massive monster is powered by an NVIDIA GTX 1080 GPU. Immersive gaming experience guaranteed.

## SMARTHOMES ARE HERE

Smart-homes are just a few blocks away- that's what we felt with all the cool gadgets for home that we saw at CES. Amazon has Alexa, a smart assistant, which comes pre-loaded with the cylindrical tube. Though it arrived on stores prior to CES, it still stole away most of the thunder from Siri and Google Now. Samsung also brought an updated version of their Family Hub 2.0 fridge. We were also surprised to know GE signed up with Nest of Google.



## MORE ELECTRIC CARS

Faraday Future with their new electric car, the FF91, were left sort of embarrassed when the car's self-parking feature malfunctioned during the launch presentation at CES. They showcased their car being able to go from 0 to 60 mph in 2.39 seconds, while Tesla's P100D takes a measly 2.5 seconds. There isn't any shred of doubt that electric autonomous vehicles are the future, and they're getting more exciting every year.

## HANDS-ON REVIEW

# SAMSUNG J7 PRIME

The J7 could surprise you in many ways. For starters, it appears more premium than its price bracket would suggest. The front is a slightly curved-edge glass with a mostly metal back. Looks like a mix between an S7 and an iPhone and that too with a 3.5mm jack. That is like getting Katy Perry, Zoe Deschanel and Lizzy Caplan in one person which some people think they are.

### First impressions

The back is a light shade of dark blue it appears. Despite the 5.5 inch display the phone is easy to hold and feels smaller than it is. That in itself is a packaging feat.

Unusually situated on the top right edge of the device is the speaker grill. Unusual but unobtrusive also. Good for moments when you need to turn on the loudspeaker in very crowded places. Like at a bus stand or telling your mom you're fine and sober while attending a concert at Ramna Park.

The rear of the device is mostly metal with color coded plastic bits top and bottom. Hopefully these won't scratch through considering the back is flat and will take all the abuse. Our test unit has survived surprisingly well considering how often it's been thrown around.

You'll appreciate the home button that serves as a fast detecting fingerprint scanner. It also takes 1.5 seconds to load the camera app when you double-tap. I find it more logical to have the scanner up front where you hold the phone with your thumb.

**Display**  
The 5.5-inch Full HD display has a pixel density of 401pp. The IPS LCD provides vibrant colours and super fine legibility of fine text while going easy on the power consumption.

**Hardware**  
An octa-core Samsung Exynos 7870 processor



clocked at 1.6GHz is paired with 3GB of RAM. 16GB built-in storage is supplemented by microSD capacity upto 256GB.

Nothing fazes it, not even the most demanding games available right on Playstore.

**Software**  
It runs on 6.0 Marshmallow and Samsungs proprietary TouchWiz UI latter of which has been cleaned up over the years and now

### SPECS

**Display:** 5.5 inches PLS TFT 1080 x 1920 pixels (~401 ppi)  
**CPU:** Octa-core 1.6 GHz Cortex-A53  
**GPU:** Mali-T830MP2  
**OS:** Android OS, v6.0.1 (Marshmallow)  
**ROM:** 16 GB  
**RAM:** 3 GB  
**Camera:** 13 MP, f/1.9 + 8 MP (Front)  
**Battery:** 3300 mAh  
**Sensors:** G-Sensor, Gyroscope sensor, Ambient Light Sensor etc.  
**Price:** Tk. 23,900/-

sports minimal bloatware. This is a device for power users on the go highlighting Microsoft apps and Skype. Samsung plugged in their S Health, S Planner and the India special that bikers can benefit from: S Bike mode. It filters calls during riding, prevents earphone usage and will allow you to receive calls only when you stop moving. They have taken biker activities that should be common sense and created an app.

### Special features

For security, the Secure Folder option allows

### VERDICT:

The phone is brilliant to look at and hold. It passes the pocket test with ease. The hardware is excellent for a mid-ranger and the responses are super quick. This is a fast device that will serve all your work needs. So it's a phone for people that need style and functionality within an affordable price range. What it doesn't do well is make you popular on Instagram. If you are a social butterfly, taking selfies will be difficult. But if that isn't a prime requirement, this device could easily be the best mid-range phone for power users.

access to certain folders and apps only via fingerprint unlocking. So you're safe when you hand your phone to your friend to show a picture. You rest assured strange selfies won't show up to your office colleagues via messenger. Friends are like that.

### Camera

There's a 13-megapixel rear autofocus camera with f/1.9 aperture and an LED flash. Pictures come out well in daylight. It's quick too, focusing locks on within a second of pressing the button. Colours are vibrant with

bright reds represented, well, quite brightly. But there is much image smoothing going on giving objects at the rear a bit of a 'painting' effect. Shooting with light behind the subject brings out some chromatic aberrations where edges are not very clear due to colour overlap. That said, snap in well lit areas and your pictures will come out with decent resolved detail.

The front camera is disappointing though. The 8MP unit also supposedly has f/1.9 aperture but low light performance is poor. Anything other than the brightest light and your selfies will be a blur. You also cannot tap to focus. Don't laugh, move or breathe if you do not want to blur yourself. Best to have someone take your picture.

### Connectivity

You get the whole package of connectivity features of GPRS/ EDGE, 3G, Wi-Fi 802.11b/g/n/ac, GPS/A-GPS, Bluetooth, and Glonass. It supports two Nano-SIMs with 4G connectivity on both, but only one can hook-up with a 4G network at a time. Something that is still not here for us to worry about.

### Battery

Battery support comes from non-removable 3300mAh battery which has on average given me almost a full days' worth of heavy usage. With average usage and full time Wi-Fi support, you can stretch it to beyond a day. Excellent.

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### TECH BITS

Samsung forecasts 50% profit jump despite Galaxy Note 7 saga



Microsoft launches a new cloud platform for connected cars



Google buys Sweden's Limes Audio to boost Hangouts voice quality



Nvidia hits prime time at CES this year



The U.S. Department of Labor is suing Google for compensation data

