

THE 2019 TOP TECH PICKS

What goes well with New Year's you say? Resolutions?

Why of course, only to be forgotten by the 2nd of January. It is the new year, so starting it with something brand spanking new will give you that oft elusive feeling of accomplishment you felt when you did the first few minutes of listing your new resolutions on 31st December.

We get it, not everyone is tech savvy, despite having the ability of hitting likes on Instagram or Tinder. Most users aren't bothered with things like 4,000mAh screen, or 20MP battery or six lens design, so long as they get to share their deep existential thoughts from their office cafeteria at 3PM, or take a picture of that rock that somehow looks like Trump's hair.

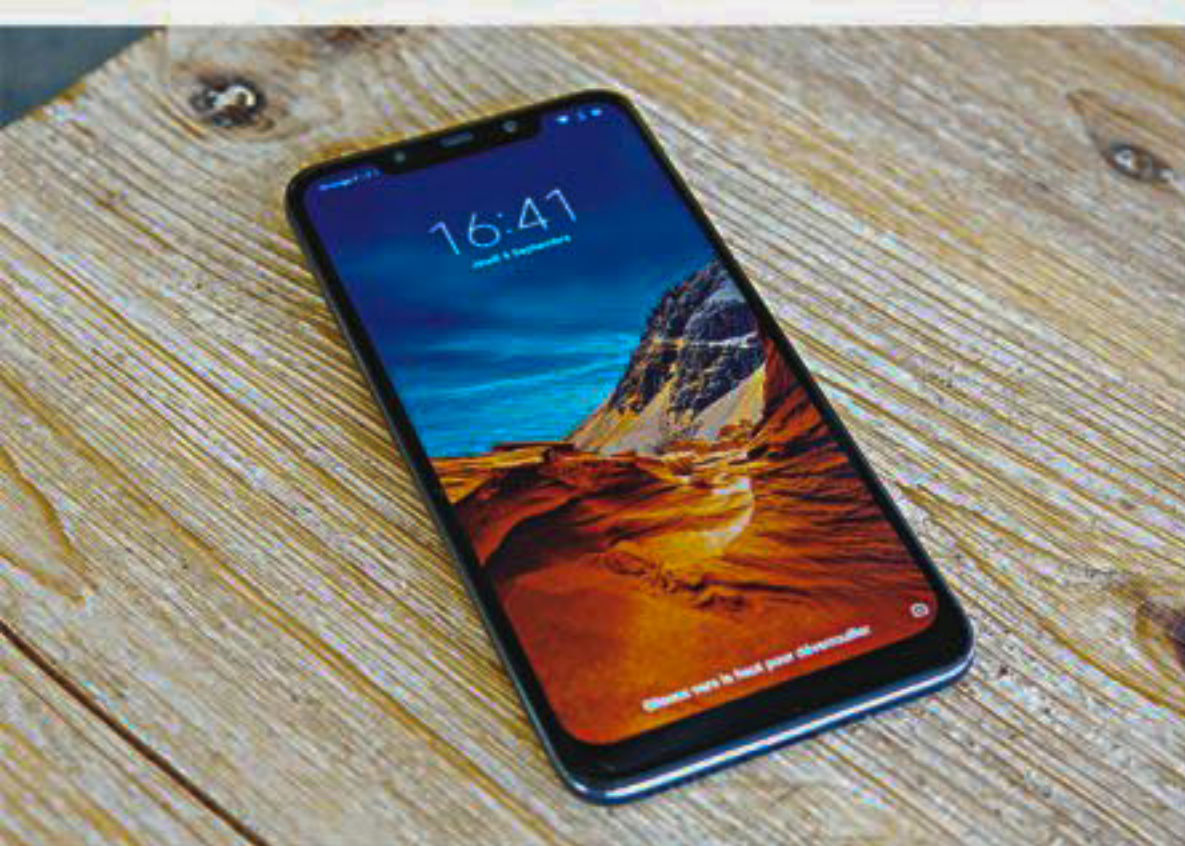
What they need are top picks and recommendations, and that's exactly what we have here, all nicely packed under easy categories.

EVERYDAY TECH

This section deals with your daily companions, ones that are with you 24/7, whether you are acing that meeting at work, capturing the moment your half sleepy friend starts snoring in a restaurant, or finishing that work you promised to present the next day. These are the everyday tech we always keep on our person, and are absolutely useless without.

PHONES

Pocophone F1 (Tk 28,000)



Wish you could afford the new Samsung Note 9, but are relegated to holding the paper its picture is in? Well no need for despair, as Xiaomi has heard your desperate sighs and answered it with their new sub brand Pocophone.

Bezel-less screen? Dual cameras? Big beefy battery? Top-of-the-line processor?

This one has everything that the big boys do, and packs on expandable storage and a 3.5mm headphone jack, without the eye-watering price tag that usually follows.

Yays

Big 6.18" bezel-less FHD+ display
Dual 12MP and 5MP rear camera setup
and 20MP selfie shooter
4,000mAh battery

Nays

Build quality is slightly sketchy, matching its budget pricing.

Camera quality dodgy at best.

Hardware like this deserves stock

Android and not MIUI.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

Oneplus 6 (Tk 45,000)

Long considered the flagship killer, based



on pricing and hardware, Oneplus has carved itself quite a nice niche. Yes, they have steadily been bumping up prices and cutting back the iconic 3.5mm headphone jack like their competitors, but the software experience is on par with that of Google's own Pixel line, and a slightly better camera and build quality make it a viable option.

Samsung Galaxy S9+ (Tk 60,000 approx)

Sure, it debuted with prices far above what most people can afford, but now that the S10 is on the horizon, prices for the S9 duo have been heavily slashed, bringing its affordability well within reach. Couple that with one of the industry's class leading cameras, screen and build quality, and you have one hell of a bargain.

LAPTOPS

HP Pavilion 15-cu0011TX (Tk 55,000)

Are you someone who has 17 Chrome tabs open for 'research,' but instead of that is reading MSN News and listening to YouTube, with MS Word or some other software open, pretending to work? Or are you a retired gamer, who sometimes downloads games from yesteryear in the hopes of reliving your glory days?

Well, here is your perfect computing partner, and don't let that long complicated name fool you, this is your tech soulmate. Packing a brand spanking new 8th generation Intel i5 with 4 cores and 8 threads, 15.6" FullHD display, and a dedicated AMD Radeon 530 GPU, it ensures a smooth performance, for both work and play.

Yays

Intel's 8th gen i5 has quad cores and eight threads for maximum workload performance.

A dedicated GPU even means limited content creation abilities.

Full size keyboard

Nays

41Wh battery means not long enough power on battery.

4GB RAM in this day and age is near about sacrilegious.

No slot for NVMe or M.2 storage, meaning slow disk performance from traditional HDDs.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

Dell Inspiron 14-3476 (Tk 39,590)

If you are all about work, and extreme portability, this is your ticket to saving a few bucks and still scoring many of the bells and whistles. Also packing an 8th generation Intel CPU, and a 14" display, this is an ideal work machine when you are on the go.

Asus TUF Gaming FX505GE (Tk 91,350)

On the other hand, if you are the person whose world revolves around getting that

chicken dinner (PUBG reference), or lead your squad through an epic adventure, then look no further than Asus's entry level gaming laptop, designed to give you competitive performance under the magic Tk 1 lac threshold. What you get is one of the more powerful 8th gen Intel chips, along with a desktop class nVidia GeForce GTX 1050ti, a combo SSD and HDD storage, and 15.6" of FullHD goodness to enjoy it all.

Keep in mind that gaming hardware

sion of listening to something much more expensive, and that experience also extends to the unboxing, with tonnes of accessories and the look and feel of the thing itself. Metal build, removable cables, and an assortment of tips to fit any ear shows that Tin Audio thinks of the experience over anything else.

Yays

Build quality on par with offerings with at least double or triple the price.



usually makes for a good multimedia workstation, so it won't be all games either, great for convincing yourself to shell out the amount.

HEADPHONES

Tin Audio T2 (Tk 3,600)

Yes, we can already read your mind! Here's a headphone that's almost four grand, from a brand you've probably never heard of, and



how it could possibly be better than a pair you can find for Tk 500.

Well, to that we say two things —it is nearly four grand, but it punches way above its class when it comes to build and quality. As for its Tk 500 'competition', if someone were presented with, say a Korolla, and a car that resembles a Pikachu on wheels, what would they go for?

Sure the Pikacar also has four wheels and four doors, but everyone will flock to the national Korolla.

This is just like those Tk 500 in terms of general comparison, the difference comes in using them. The quality out of these are simply outstanding, and create the impres-

Sound quality is top notch, letting you discover aspects of your favourite songs you never heard before.

An unboxing experience unlike anything in this price range and generous amounts of accessories.

Nays

For people who worship Beats and Beats sound, this is not a bass drill, so best to avoid it.

The cables aren't of the best quality, so deterioration is inevitable.

Lack of carrying case is disappointing.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

Fiio FH1 (Tk 6,500)

If quality matters to you above anything else, but can't shake your boring conscience about spending more than 10k on things like headphones, then this is the perfect spot to be. Boasting quality far exceeding its price tag, these gems are currently the darling of most audio connoisseurs around the world for their wallet friendly but unbelievable performance.

Rockspace Muvia H1 (Tk 1,099)

Are you someone who just needs it to work and don't really care about the bells and whistles and don't care for spending money that is better spent elsewhere? Well, this one is aimed squarely for you, and its wireless to boot! It features a sweat proof design, good quality drivers, and solid build quality; all wrapped at just over the thousand mark.

HOUSEHOLD TECH

After a long day at work, what we really want to do is come home, and relax, and