



HANDS-ON REVIEW

Realme 2 Pro

Realme... indeed you read it right. What started as a spin-off brand of OPPO, Realme is now operating as an independent venture after its separation from OPPO back in July 2018. Targeting the youth, Realme has already created quite a fan-following in India and has now entered the local market. We get our hands on their flagship mid-range device 'Realme 2 Pro'. After using it for several months, this is our take on Realme 2 Pro:

Aesthetically, Realme 2 Pro is a delightful device for your day to day use. Narrow bezels, a dewdrop notch on the front, polycarbonate back panel, rounded edge- it bears all the hallmark of the classy OPPO F9. In fact, this phone is a slightly bulkier and thicker version of the OPPO F9. As a spin-off brand of OPPO it did try to keep the design DNA of OPPO intact. Even the accessories (USB Cable and Wall-socket) of the device comes with OPPO branding.

With a display to body ratio of ratio nearly 91%, the 6.3-inch TFT LCD 1080 x 2340 display renders colours quite beautifully. The colour rendition and saturation was good. The touch mechanism was responsive. We liked the dewdrop notch as it doesn't cover up a significant portion like most other notch-display phones. Strangely, there isn't any notification LED on the front, so be prepared to check your phone every few minutes if you are expecting IMs or emails.

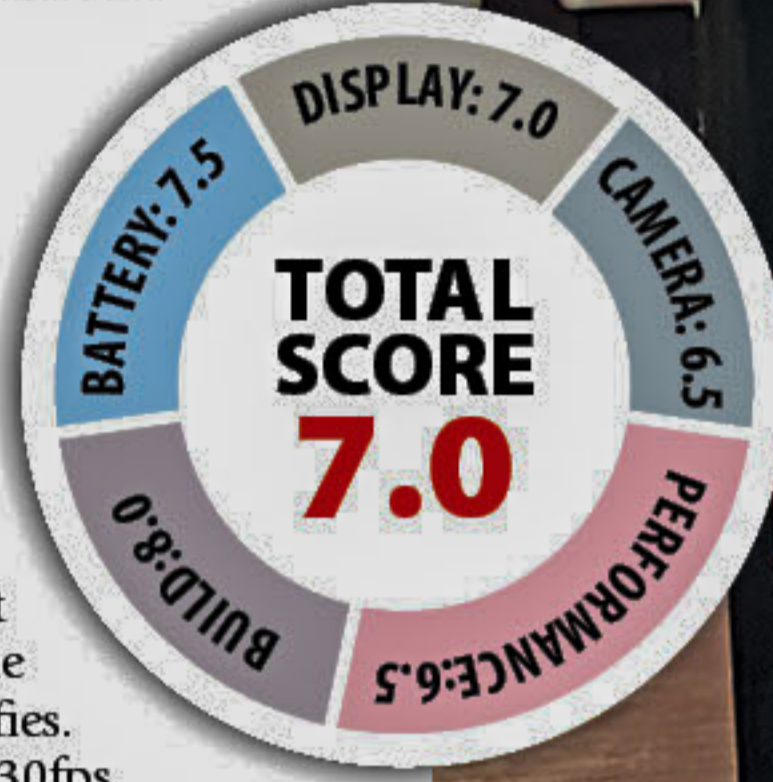
The phone packs a really good set of hardware: Qualcomm SDM660 Snapdragon 660 System-on-Chip processor coupled with 8GB RAM and Adreno 512 GPU. Most of the phones that you get at this price-range will deliver similar or higher processing power (Pocophone F1 for instance). We didn't notice

any hiccup while playing PUBG in medium resolution and thanks to the ginormous RAM, running multiple apps simultaneously wasn't an issue.

Guess what? OPPO's peculiar ColorOS is yet back again in the Realme. Based on Android Oreo 8.1, ColorOS 5.2 has toned down a lot. But some of the annoying quirks (i.e. notifications that you can't hide) aren't going to make your journey the smoothest. Not a deal breaker, but we would sure love to see some improvements in this department in the upcoming iteration of Realme devices.

The camera is probably the biggest surprise of the phone. The 16MP f/1.7 AI dual rear camera with the Sony IMX398 sensor takes impressive photos in the dark. The colour saturation and contrast level were great. However, photos in day-light and night were a bit over-exposed. The 16MP selfie camera could take decent selfies. We tried taking videos in 4K 30fps and the footage looked decent.

This phone comes with a 3500 mAh battery with some sort of AI efficiency mechanism. Once fully charged, the phone would last an entire day with regular usage. However, if you are into gaming, especially GPU-intensive games like PUBG or the Asphalt Series, then you would be needing to recharge the phone by mid-day.



VERDICT

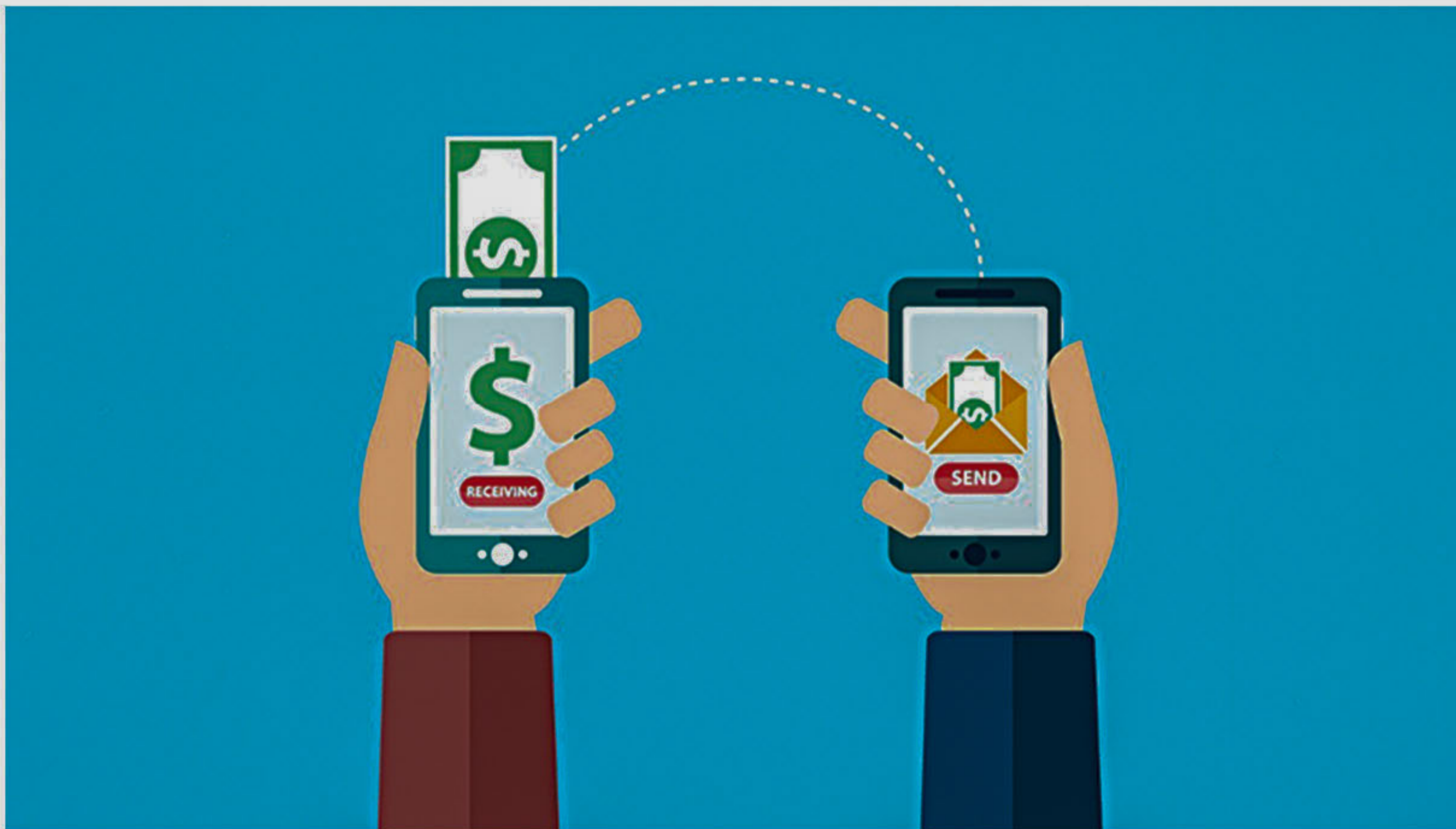
Realme is definitely a contender in the mid-range market. The price might seem a bit steep in the beginning but the phone's Snapdragon processor delivers smooth performance and the camera offers above average performance even in low light, thus justifying the price. The only true let down of the phone is probably the missing USB-C jack and fast charging.

SPECS

Display: 6.3" FHD+ 1080 x 2340 pixels
OS: Colour OS, Android 8.1 (Oreo)
CPU: Qualcomm Snapdragon 660 Octa Core 2.0GHz AIE Processor
RAM: 8 GB
ROM: 128 GB
Camera: Rear- 16 MP and 2 MP, Front- 16 MP
Battery: 3500 mAh Li-ion
Price: Tk. 32,990/-

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

The rise of subsidiary financial services



Apple Card was announced last week as a Wallet app integration for the iPhone. It follows a long list of standalone financial services provided by big tech conglomerate with Apple Card following the footsteps of Apple's very own Apple Pay which was launched back in 2014. And while, both Google Pay and Samsung Pay followed the success of PayPal in North America, all these services owe their inception to the success of two particular Chinese inventions - Alipay and WeChat.

Launched in 2003, Alipay was one of the first digital financial services which was available to the world. With a revolutionary peer to peer system, the service made it possible for users to send money to one another digitally. But Alipay paved the formalization of the concept of the digital financial service.

Ever since its inception, the service has been a key part of the Chinese economy and is a key economic driver as well. The inception of Alipay made way for the Chinese e-commerce to thrive, with the service even developing a credit scoring system for its users. And PayPal followed Alipay closely, creating

its own digital services in America during the same time. But it wasn't until WeChat's revolutionary QR code system that we'd have a proper MFS boom.

With Alipay becoming a prominent driver of the Chinese economy, Tencent decided to use WeChat in a similar fashion. This led to the use of QR codes as a mode of transaction. WeChat was also a more informal b2c platform than Alipay. You can simply go to any businesses WeChat messenger box and make purchases straight from home.

The success of WeChat meant other big tech conglomerates would soon follow. Apple Pay started their

services back in 2014, with Samsung Pay following in 2015 and Google Pay launching in 2017. These services didn't aim to revolutionize economies, but rather was a means to make its respective ecosystems stronger.

And Google Pay has already made some noise in India with the inclusion of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system, integrating the service into India's economy. UPI allows users to transfer money from their phone's financial service to different banks. Samsung Pay offers the same accessibility to users in India as well. Samsung Pay and Google Pay have a more streamlined

approach to domestic financial services of their country of operation. But as was mentioned previously, both services are reliant on a peer to peer system and the use of QR codes to allow for users to make transactions.

The main focus of Samsung, Google and Apple was to integrate a financial exchange module as part of their ecosystem but with how much data these three companies have access to, it wouldn't be surprising if either one becomes as influential as WeChat.

ASIF AYON

First look at the Huawei P30

Huawei has been an aggressive player in Asia for quite a while now. With new innovations under their sleeve, Huawei has been competitive with new iterations of phones, laptops and wearables. Leading the way for Huawei this time is the P30 Series. P30 Series consists of three devices: P30 Pro, P30 and P30 Lite.

I got my hands on the device at the launching of P30 Series. Huawei's tagline for the phone hinted at better cameras and to an extent they succeeded by putting together a Leica Quad camera system. The camera system includes an ultra-wide, a super-high resolution and a periscope zoom alongside a Time-of-Flight (ToF) camera. Technically, none of these technologies is brand new. We have seen them before. But this is probably the first time any OEM has strung together all these.

Now, I have reviewed nearly 50+ smartphones in the last few years, and this is probably the most advanced camera I have ever found attached to a smartphone. With night-mode on, the phone was able to capture extremely detailed photos in a low light environment. It goes without saying, the P30

P30's night-mode certainly blows the competition away (Google's Night Sight). Besides, the night-mode, the 50x hybrid zoom (5x Periscope Lens and 10X enhanced digital zoom). We didn't get to test the feature thoroughly but reviewers around the world were super-impressed with it. The battery of the phone is amazing too. I played PUBG for nearly 20 mins and it just lost 1% battery for that.

In my opinion, the design of the phone wasn't the most impressive one. Certainly, there's room for improvement in the screen resolution too. So far, that's what my hour-long encounter was like with Huawei P30 Pro. A detailed review of the phone is coming soon here at BYTES.

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TECH BITS

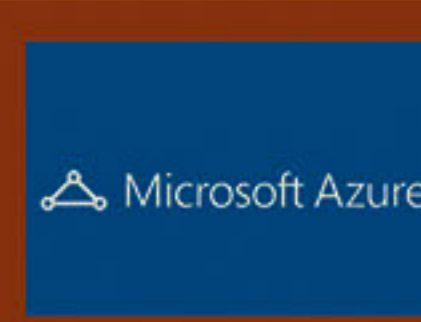
Facebook adds a transparent library for all active ads, allowing you to know target group and how much money was spent behind it



Mozilla releases the Firefox Lockbox, a free password manager for Android users of Mozilla Firefox



Microsoft gives away 500 of its patents to startups in hopes of expanding its Azure IP Advantage program



Twitter launches a battery saver dark mode feature called Lights Out



Opera brings back its VPN service for its Android browsers

