

Apple Watch band to change colours soon



Apple has recently received a patent for an app-controlled, colour-changing Apple Watch band. According to the patent, the band 'includes electrochromic features that provide adjustable colour control based on an applied voltage to offer a variety of colours and colour combinations to be displayed by a single band.'

The colour of the Apple Watch band can soon be adjusted depending on the style of clothing that the user is wearing. The band, composed of electrochromic filament fabric, will change colours when a switch is pressed.



Mercedes joins Google to offer cars with 'supercomputer-like performance'

German Carmaker Mercedes-Benz recently unveiled that it has teamed up with Google on navigation and will offer 'supercomputer-like performance' in every car with automated driving sensors as it seeks to compete with Elon Musk's Tesla. Automakers new and old are racing to match software-powered features pioneered by Tesla, which allow for vehicle performance, battery range and self-driving capabilities to be updated from a distance.

The German carmaker agreed to share revenue with semiconductor maker Nvidia, its partner on automated driving software since 2020, to bring down the upfront cost of buying expensive high-powered semiconductors, according to Mercedes' Chief Executive Ola Kaellenius. Mercedes said the

collaboration with Google would allow it to offer traffic information and automatic rerouting in its cars.

Drivers will also be able to watch YouTube on the cars' entertainment system when the car is parked or in Level 3 autonomous driving mode, which allows a driver to take their eyes off the wheel on certain roads as long as they can resume control if needed.

Other carmakers like General Motors, Renault, Nissan and Ford have embedded an entire package of Google services into their vehicles, offering features like Google Maps, Google Assistant and other applications. All vehicles on Mercedes' upcoming modular architecture platform will also have so-called hyperscreens extending across the cockpit of the car, the company said.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Your friendly neighbourhood chatbot

In less than 3 months since its launch, ChatGPT has taken the world by storm - redefining what we know as chatbots and AI. But, what if we told you there is a Bangla chatbot that talks and acts just like ChatGPT? Turn to this week's Cover Story to learn about AlapChari, the chatbot that receives questions and answers them in our glorious mother tongue.

As for other pages, check out some handy tips on monetising your YouTube channel in Next Step, and our list of recommended smartphones under Tk. 50k in Tech Tips. We also have a photo feature of some international Porsche cars in Shift. As always, variety for everyone.

With that, another weekend rolls out. Stay safe everyone. Until then.

Shams Rashid Tonmoy
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Meta could generate \$1.7 billion in revenue in 2024: Bank of America



Meta's verified subscription service can lead to up to \$1.7 billion in high-margin revenue for Meta in 2024, states recent research by Bank of America. According to the multinational financing company, Meta's approach to the new verification system will become very popular with social media celebrities and influencers, as well as become a must-have advertising platform for businesses.

Bank of America further stated

in their research that Facebook and Instagram's verified subscription methods could land Meta nearly 12 million subscribers by 2024. At the time of writing, the subscription for these Meta platforms will cost US\$11.99 on the web and US\$14.99 on the iOS and Android mobile platforms. The service will be launched in Australia and New Zealand before globally releasing in other countries.

As per the analysts from Bank

of America, Meta's subscription service will largely cater to influencers and content creators instead of regular consumers, with the reason being that influencers can "increase visibility and reach" using the badge of verification offered by the new subscription service. The Bank of America analysis also adds that the verified badge will allow "potentially higher positioning in search and content results".



mKiddo introducing Bangla alphabets to children digitally

Bangladesh's first preschool learning app, mKiddo, is working to drive children's interest towards learning the Bangla language through its app.

Children of ages 2 to 6 can use the mKiddo educational app to read and write Bangla by moving their fingers on the smartphone screens and listening to Bengali folk tales and stories.

Realme introduces two new Dizo lifestyle products

Dizo, a product of realme's tech-lifestyle ecosystem, has introduced a new smartwatch called the Dizo Watch R Talk Go and a new neckband headphone called the Dizo Wireless Active model neckband in the Bangladesh market.

The Dizo Watch R talk Go smartwatch features a 1.39 inches display and has a dual health sensor. It is equipped with 110 indoor and outdoor sports modes and has a battery life

support of up to 10 hours. It is available in Black and Blue colours.

The Dizo Wireless Active model neckband has an 11.2 mm Bass Boosted driver. It also features a magnetic instant connection, noise cancellation at calling, and swat & spill protection. It can provide 3 hours of backup with 10 minutes of charging, and a full charge can give up to 23 hours of backup. The neckband is available in Black, Grey and Blue colours.



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