

# This beauty mirror analyses your skin's health

Just like smartphones, smartwatches and smart TVs, this smart mirror will bring out the best in you

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In the Disney classic, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, the evil queen utters the famous line "Mirror mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?" The mirror always gave a pleasing reply. Sadly, however hard we tried to depict the fairy tale in real life, our mirrors never seemed to work. Well, we're in 2016 and we finally have a mirror which will answer our beauty-related questions.

After the era of smartphones, smartwatches and smart TVs, we now have a new smart mirror, called HiMirror. The company believes that its mirror is almost like having a beauty and health consultant in your home every day.

The main USP of this unique beauty mirror is that it analyses a person's skin and recommends what kind of beauty products they should buy based on skin condition, local weather and other factors. By taking a makeup-free photo, HiMirror detects dark spots, red spots, dark eye circles, wrinkles, pores, fine lines and other complexion elements. From this information, it creates a personalised Skin Index Synthesis report—an evaluation of skin firmness, brightness, texture, clarity and overall healthiness respectively.

In other features, HiMirror is



Wi-Fi-connected and bluetooth-enabled, and can also display the local weather, sync with Google Calendar, and play music streaming services such as Spotify. It includes facial and voice recognition, which proves to be beneficial in assisting multiple family members, tracking their individual skin needs and recommendations too.

The product is priced at \$189 (approximately Rs 13,000) for the standard device and \$259 (approximately Rs 17,800) for the device with multi-ambiance makeup light on HiMirror.com. Consumers can also opt for the Smart Body Scale, priced at \$79 (approximately Rs 5,400), which provides similar body and weight analysis and corresponding exercise solutions.



## VIRTUAL CONSULTANT

"We are excited to bring to market the first-ever smart beauty mirror, truly revolutionising the modern beauty routine," said Simon Shen, CEO of Taipei-based New Kinpo Group. "HiMirror is a technology-driven tool that will become indispensable for consumers—an essential part of their daily beauty routine, helping them evaluate their skin and what works for their individual skincare needs." Following its launch in the US, HiMirror will be rolled out to other markets in the coming months.

# Japan wants to build world's fastest-known supercomputer

Japan plans to build the world's fastest-known supercomputer in a bid to arm the country's manufacturers with a platform for research that could help them develop and improve driverless cars, robotics and medical diagnostics.

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry will spend 19.5 billion yen (approximately ₹1,151 crore) on the previously unreported project, a budget breakdown show, as part of a government policy to get back Japan's mojo in the world of technology. The country has lost its edge in many electronic fields amid intensifying competition from South Korea and China, home to the world's current best-performing machine. In a move that is expected to vault Japan to the top of the supercomputing heap, its engineers will be tasked with building a machine that can make 130 quadrillion calculations per second—or 130 petaflops in scientific parlance—as early as next year, sources involved in the project told Reuters.

At that speed, Japan's computer would be ahead of China's Sunway Taihulight that is capable of 93 petaflops. The push to return to the vanguard comes at a time of growing nostalgia for the heyday of Japan's technological prowess, which has dwindled since China overtook it as the world's second-biggest economy.

## DEEP LEARNING

In the area of supercomputing, Japan's aim is to use ultra-fast calculations to accelerate advances in artificial intelligence (AI), such as 'deep learning' technology that works off algorithms which mimic the human brain's neural pathways, to help computers perform new tasks and analyze scores of data. Applications include helping companies improve driverless vehicles by allowing them to analyze huge troves of visual traffic data,



or it could help factories improve automation. China uses the Sunway Taihulight for weather forecasting, pharmaceutical research, industrial design, among other things.

The supercomputer will be made available for a fee to Japan's corporations, who now outsource data crunching to foreign firms such as Google and Microsoft, Sekiguchi and others involved in the project said. The new computer has been dubbed ABCI, an acronym for AI Bridging Cloud Infrastructure. Bidding for the project has begun and will close on December 8. Fujitsu Ltd, the builder of the fastest Japanese supercomputer to date—the Oakforest-PACS, capable of 13.6 petaflops, declined to say if it would bid for the project. —Reuters

# How virtual restaurants will change the way we eat in 2017

After the "Uberization" of food delivery, experts at the New York-based consultancy group Baum + Whiteman predict that "restaurants without seats and seats without restaurants" will become increasingly popular and add another dimension to the sharing economy in 2017.

Consultants cite existing examples like Chef David Chang's meal delivery services Maple and Ando, which bring gourmet meals to diners' doorsteps. The concept? Chef-prepared gourmet dishes delivered to busy, tired diners who have discerning food tastes but want to eat dinner in their pyjamas.

The model has birthed

similar meal delivery outfits including Munchery, which serves San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, New York, and Green Summit in New York. The sharing economy is also evolving in the food scene, with startups allowing home cooks to share their cookery and make an extra buck. After pre-

paring a home-cooked meal that may include their signature lasagna or beef stew, hosts can sell their food to hungry locals willing to try a stranger's cooking.

In a trend that's been described as the Airbnb of food, underground "boarding house" dinners have also given rise to a host of startups that allow home cooks to connect with adventurous tourists and locals alike. Then there's the birth of the dining option that falls somewhere in between meal delivery and dinner parties: meal kit delivery service. And given the amount of experimentation with drone delivery service in the last few years (Domino's drone pizza delivery in New Zealand, 7-Eleven in Reno, Nevada and Google's Alphabet in Virginia) expect to see the momentum pick up in 2017. —AFP



## quick picks

## 5 devices for streaming video

**1 GOOGLE CHROMECAST 2**  
One of the most popular streaming devices out there, the Chromecast (now in its second iteration) is a painless device to set up and use. The popular device streams videos from your computer or smartphone onto the screen, while also mirroring content, making it a nifty gadget for presentations. Its guest mode also lets visitors stream media content to your television.  
Price: Rs 3,399  
Availability: Flipkart



**2 APPLE TV**  
The Apple TV, now into its 4th generation, is a standard of sorts when it comes to streaming media boxes. With its tight integration into Apple's services, it is one of the most premium HD streaming video experiences out there, in no small part thanks to the new Bluetooth touch-screen remote control with gesture support for gaming. It also brings Siri integration, letting you find video by asking questions like "Find me a Kevin Kline movie" and the like.  
Price: Rs 13,400 (32GB) / Rs 17,999 (64GB)  
Availability: Flipkart / Retail

**3 CLOUDWALKER HALFTICKET TV**  
This diminutive USB stick plugs into your TV's HDMI port to deliver a smart Android video experience. Based on a quad-core processor and 1GB of RAM, it can stream Full HD (1080p) video, including popular streaming services like Netflix, Hotstar, ShowBox, Movies HD, Cartoon HD and more. Being Android based, it is possible to load popular apps on it, including games. The device includes a 1-year subscription to many popular TV channels, and can also mirror content from your phone's screen.  
Price: Rs 3,999  
Availability: Amazon

**4 MXQ PRO AMLIG S905**  
This streaming box packs a fair bit of video rendering power with its 2GHz quad-core ARM Cortex A53 processors, 1GB RAM and 8GB internal storage. Apart from being able to install Android apps, you can also use it as a rudimentary computer by connecting a keyboard and mouse. It supports 4K UHD video streams as well as the new H.265 codec that many new videos are based on.  
Price: Rs 2,927  
Availability: Amazon



**5 IREVO SMART TV**  
Resembling a wireless router, this streaming box has its own iRevo cloud based streaming service apart from which it also plays content from services like Hotstar, Netflix, Ditto TV, Jio TV, Voot and more. The package includes an air mouse that can interpret gestures to control its interface as well as games. The box can also wireless connect to smartphones using standards like Air Play, WiFi Direct etc. Besides streaming, it can also play video from connected USB drives.  
Price: Rs 5,750  
Availability: Amazon  
—DNA Correspondent



# Human cells with built-in circuit may stop cancer growth

Scientists have engineered cells with a 'built-in genetic circuit' which produces a molecule that inhibits the ability of tumours to survive and grow in their low oxygen environment.

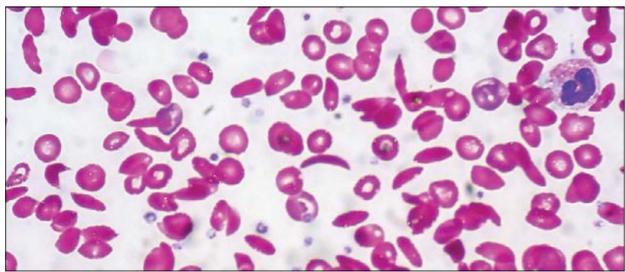
The genetic circuit produces the machinery necessary for the production of a compound that inhibits a protein which has a significant and critical role in the growth and survival of cancer cells.

This results in the cancer cells being unable to survive in the low oxygen, low nutrient tumour micro-environment. As tumours develop and grow, they rapidly outstrip the supply of oxygen deliv-

ered by existing blood vessels. This results in cancer cells needing to adapt to low oxygen environment.

It is thought that tumours primarily hijack the function of this protein (HIF-1) for survival and growth. The genetic circuit is incorporated onto the chromosome of a human cell line, which encodes the protein machinery needed for the production of their cyclic peptide HIF-1 inhibitor.

The research team demonstrated that even when produced directly in cells, this molecule still prevents the HIF-1 signaling and the associated adaptation to hypoxia in these cells. —PTI



## accidental discovery



## Velcro

Velcro—it is one of those products that is hard to imagine living life without. The genius in this invention lies in its elegance, where two pieces of pretty much any pliable fabric can be securely fastened by pressing them together, then simply pulled apart. The brain behind this particular invention was a Swiss engineer named George de Mestral. In 1942—the midst of World War 2—he happened to be walking his dog down a country path in the Alps. He noticed that the dried out seeds of the trees in the countryside kept sticking to his clothes and his dog's fur during their strolls. He decided to examine them under a microscope, noticing that their physiology consisted of tiny hooks. Taking this observation further, he decided to craft a fastening system based on this idea of microscopic hooks.

After much trial and error, he settled on the method of sewing nylon under infrared light, which resulted in the fabric's surface being composed of tiny but tough hooks. He found that these easily attached to the soft-ware nylon fabric that was composed of fibrous microscopic loops. They turned out to be one of the most effective fastening systems and became widely deployed owing to their simple manufacture, convenience in use and simplicity. He named his invention by combining two words—the French word for velvet (velour) and crochet (hook).

—DNA Correspondent