

## Sound Blaster Roar 2

The Sound Blaster Roar is a fantastic Bluetooth speaker. But now, Creative has made some tidy improvements to create the Roar 2, which is 20% smaller and 10% lighter, but retains the same 5-speaker driver design and battery life as the original. With the Roar 2, you can choose between placing the speaker horizontally for room-filling, balanced audio, or vertically for louder and more directed sound. What you also get is a microSD slot that allows you to play WMA and MP3 files from a memory card; a built-in mic to take conference calls when connected to a smartphone; a voice recorder; NFC for ease of wireless pairing; Bedtime Mode where the Roar 2 gradually reduces its volume before powering down; USB connectivity that allows you to link it to your desktops or laptops, and a 6000mAh battery that can also be used to juice up smartphones, beyond providing up to eight hours of playback.

creative.com/roar2, (available mid-May on amazon.in) ₹16,999

## HalfTicket TV Streaming Box

The HalfTicket TV Streaming Box connects to your television via HDMI, and to your home's internet connection via its built-in Wi-Fi or wired Ethernet port. You can then use it to stream and watch online multimedia content, including YouTube videos on your TV. The Streaming Box runs on Google's Android OS, comes with a microSD slot and a full-sized USB port through which you can play popular media formats such as MP3, WAV, WMA, JPG, GIF, AVI, MP4 and MKV. You also get 8GB internal storage and a motion-sensing remote control for easy on-screen navigation. It's a simple solution to make your TV smart.

store.halfticket.tv, www.amazon.in ₹4,999

## Wacom Bamboo Spark

The apparatus - comprising a folio, a Bamboo Smart ballpoint pen and a regular A5 notepad - converts the notes you jot down on paper to a digital format on your smartphone. First, install the Bamboo Spark Android or iOS app on your device, and then pair it via Bluetooth to the Bamboo Spark. After that, you can jot down notes and doodle on the pad. When you're done, simply press a button on the folio to wirelessly transfer your work to the app. You can continue editing your notes on the device, sync them with your free 5GB Wacom Cloud account and share them with apps like Evernote and Dropbox.

www.amazon.in ₹10,975 (with sleeve, pocket), ₹10,899 (for iPad Air 2)

## MUM'S THE WOR(L)D!

Tomorrow is Mother's Day, and to celebrate this wonderful woman in our lives, Ashutosh Desai and Savio D'Souza tell you about apps for mummies, and also a few others that you can use to show her how much you appreciate all that she's done for you...

## FOR MOM

## Food Planner

Coming up with meal menus on a daily basis can be quite a chore. But with Food Planner, this can be made less of a hassle. The service lets you create a detailed plan of what you are going to prepare every day - from breakfast to dinner - weeks in advance. You can include recipes for every dish you add to your food plan and also add the ingredients to "Groceries" without leaving the app.

And if you are attempting something new, simply head to "Recipes" to import from sources such as AllRecipes, Tarla Dalal, Epicurious, Delish, and more.

Food Planner also lets you include keyword tags, and even club recipes into "books", making it easier for you to search through your ever-growing list.

www.foodplanner.com | Android, iOS, Kindle Fire (Free)



Mothers are inherently excellent organizers, but even these superwomen could do with a helping hand every now and then. With this calendar and task planner app, mothers

will be able to keep the entire family on the same page.

Everyone in the group will need to install Cozi app on their smartphones and use the same login to view a unified calendar, to-dos, grocery list and journal entries. When you run out of ice cream, for example, just add the item to the list of things to buy and everybody gets to see the update. Entries are colour coded so you know who has added an item to the list.

"God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers"

- Jewish Proverb

You can even import your phone's calendar so everyone in the group will be informed in advance of family occasions, outings and school functions. You can even e-mail the week's agenda to your entire family. Now, nobody will be able to make excuses about not seeing your notes or forget to attend the school PTA.

www.cozi.com | Android, iOS (Free)

## ChoreMonster

ChoreMonster is for young mums who want to inculcate a sense of responsibility in her little ones without being an overbearing parent. This fun app encourages children (ages 4-12) to follow their daily routine and

run errands in return for reward points.

First, you need to register as a parent and create a profile for your child as well. Next, add simple chores - like brushing teeth, making the bed, folding clothes, cleaning room - along with a schedule, time and reward points.

When a task is completed, your kid needs to log in via a PC browser or the app to mark it off the list. After you approve the task as complete, points will be awarded to your child. When a certain number of points are accumulated, your child can redeem them for a tangible prize. For instance, 10 points could earn your munchkin a story book, while 25 points could mean an ice cream.

You get to decide the points-to-reward system. The end result will be happy, motivated children and a proud, more-rested mother.

Android, iOS, Kindle Fire (Free)

## Path

Path is a private social network where you can set up accounts for everyone in your family to share personal moments and occasions.

The app boasts of a simple user interface, where you only have to tap the plus sign to post a status update and choose from options that allow you to add links to the music you are listening to, upload photos, and more.

Mommies, for instance, will be able to make posts private or viewable only to a select few and receive notifications when her posts are read. This feature works fantastically especially if you're trying to plan a surprise party for someone at home.

And it includes a messenger too, so you can chat with one another even when you're away from home. The app also gives you the option to share your "moments" to other apps like Facebook, Twitter and Swarm.

Android, iOS, Kindle Fire (Free)

## FROM YOU TO MOM

## Bring!

Bring! is a fantastic app to show your mom you'd like to pitch in with grocery shopping and lend a helping hand. Install the app on your phone as well as hers, and create logins for the both of you. She can then invite you to help her with the monthly shopping via the app every time she creates a new grocery list.

Bring! uses a simple graphical user interface that will let her add items quickly, and she can also include instructions like quantity and description by long pressing on any item. When she's done, the entire list will automatically be synced on your phone. After you buy an item, you can simply "tap" it off your list, and the updates will show up on her phone. Bring! also lets you send each other notifications like "I'm going shopping, last chance to make changes", "List updated,

have a look" and "Shopping done, you can relax". It even allows you to share a shopping list between multiple people, so convince your dad and siblings to help as well.

Android, iOS (Free)

## Easy Indian Cooking

Your mom cooks thousands of breakfasts, lunches and dinners for you. This Mother's Day, pamper her with home-cooked meals that you've prepared yourself. Now, you might say that you don't know how to cook. Well, help is at hand: try Easy Indian Cooking.

This "friendly food blog" is packed with a wonderful range of tried-and-tested recipes, complete with a step-by-step guide and images. Here, you will find breakfast dishes to surprise mother as soon as she wakes up, a complete lunch menu, and even snacks for a leisurely Sunday tea party.

Head to it immediately, so you can fix your surprise menu

for tomorrow. Heck, you might even need to do some shopping for ingredients and overnight prep if you want to surprise your mom tomorrow.

www.easy-indian-cooking.com

## Gifts For Mother

If you're looking for personalized gifting ideas this Mother's Day head to iTasveer, Picsquare and Vistaprint. All three websites allow you to create custom calendars, coffee mugs, fridge magnets, photo frames, mouse pads, canvas wall hangings, t-shirts, keychains, phone cases and lots more.

All you have to do is choose the product(s) you want to gift, upload a message and/or photo you want printed onto it and make your payment. The gifts are usually shipped within 2-3 days. In fact, iTasveer also has a special Mother's Day discount valid till May 10, so you're not late yet. Check it out!

www.itasveer.com | www.picsquare.com | vistaprint.in

## As China woes mount, Apple CEO to meet govt officials

Apple chief executive Tim Cook plans to visit Beijing later this month to meet high-level government officials, at a time when it is facing some setbacks in its most important overseas market, a source familiar with the matter said.

Cook has frequently travelled to China since taking the helm of Apple five years ago, but his latest visit comes during a critical period.

From weakening smartphone sales to the loss of an iPhone trademark dispute and the suspension of some of its online entertainment services, the US technology giant has been facing a flurry of problems in recent weeks in its second-largest market after the United States.

That has raised concerns over Apple's growth momentum, as the company reported last week its first quarterly revenue drop in 13 years.

Last week, billionaire activist investor Carl Icahn said in an interview with cable television network CNBC that he had sold his entire stake in Apple, citing China's economic slowdown and worries about whether the government could make it very difficult for Apple to conduct business.

During his China visit, Cook plans to meet senior government and Communist Party leaders, including officials in charge of propaganda, said the source, who declined to be named.

Apple did not respond to Reuters' requests for comments. Cook plans to visit Beijing later this month to meet high-level government officials, at a time when it is facing some setbacks in its most important overseas market, a source familiar with the matter said.

From weakening smartphone sales to the loss of an iPhone trademark dispute and the suspension of some of its online entertainment services, the US technology giant has been facing a flurry of problems in recent weeks in its second-largest market after the United States. REUTERS

## Banking IT spends have slowed down: Cognizant

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Cognizant president Gordon Coburn talks to TOI about the concerns in banking & finance and healthcare that pushed the company to lower the upper of its full-year revenue guidance.

## You have lowered the upper end of your full-year guidance. What are the new concerns?

It was driven by the first quarter, where we were within our guided range, but at the lower end of it. We are quite pleased with the expected second quarter growth. But given our performance in Q1, when we looked at what it would take sequentially to get to the high end of the range, we decided to tighten it.

## The lower guidance indicates

tes that Infosys could get the better of you in terms of annual growth for the first time in over 13 years...

It's tough for us to comment on competitors. Some of our comparables are much more difficult than that of some of our competitors. When I look at the sequential growth that's expected, we would be one of the leaders this year. When I look at dollar growth in Q2, I'm pleased with what we will accomplish relative to the industry.

What are the headwinds you see in banking & financial services and healthcare?

The softness in Q1 is largely driven by financial services, particularly by larger banks, as well as healthcare, particularly the four companies that are going through potential mergers. We

expect to return to sequential growth both in financial services and healthcare. We have a fairly big exposure to European banks and they are having challenges now. US banks anticipated that the interest rates might move back up a bit this year, and that would have been good for the banks. But that hasn't happened. Also, financial market volatility in the first quarter caused people to defer spending. In Europe, there's concern about the economy and what may happen on the UK and EU (the UK referendum on remaining with EU).

You mentioned merger related concerns in healthcare. Can you elaborate?

In healthcare, there are two large mergers that have been announced and these have been going through the approval processes. We do a lot of work

for the buyers and sellers in those mergers, and during the approval process time, there's a slowdown in spending because it's not clear which system will survive. We will get a lot of integration work once the mergers are approved.

You're reaching a \$3 billion run rate in infrastructure, BPS and consulting. What's driving this?

We invested heavily in these areas to get to critical mass. And particularly in BPS and infra, once you have scale, it's easier to win larger deals and we are now at an inflection point where we have massive scale and incredibly deep process and industry knowledge. The investment strategy is playing out exactly like we anticipated - invest heavily and get critical mass and that will drive healthy growth.

## SC deletes own warning to Roy against sneaking out of India

► From P 1

The SC had directed Sahara to refund Rs 24,000 crore illegally collected from nearly 3 crore investors through one-time fully convertible debentures (OFCD).

Since March 4, 2014, Roy made numerous pleas for release on bail on various grounds—from negotiating with prospective buyers to fetch good price for his properties to enable repayment of the defaulted amount to attending to his ailing mother to personal ill-health. Nothing convinced the court to give him relief.

The relief for Roy and his brother-in-law Choudhary came on a solemn occasion—death of Roy's 95-year-old mother Chabi Roy. The occasion was such that there was not even a murmur of protest from the otherwise combative senior advocate Arvind Datar, who has been appearing for market regulator Sebi.

Paying tribute to his mother, Roy said, She made me imbibe the value of giving to others. She taught me that the act of giving is in my hand while fulfilment of expectations depends on others."



A file photo of Sahara chief Subrata Roy with his mother late Chabi Roy

There was no whisper of Roy's past conduct from the bench of Chief Justice T S Thakur and Justices A R Dave and A K Sikri. Moments after senior advocate Kapil Sibal mentioned the application on behalf of Roy and Choudhary, the bench ordered their release on custodial parole for four weeks. This will enable Roy and Choudhary to see the outside world for the first time since March 4, 2014.

However, the bench ordered the Delhi police commissioner to constitute a

team headed by a sub-inspector to escort Roy and Choudhary wherever they wanted to go to perform the last rites. Sibal protested and said the presence of police personnel at the solemn occasion would be discomfiting.

The bench said, "It is for your security. You never know to what extent people who lost money because of you could go." However, the bench accepted Sibal's request that the police team would be in plainclothes.

The court also wanted to record in its order a warning to Roy and Choudhary not to attempt sneaking out of the country. However, it agreed to delete the warning and instead recorded Sibal's undertaking to the same effect.

After sending Roy and the two directors to jail, the court had granted them bail on the condition that they deposit Rs 5,000 crore in cash and submit a bank guarantee for another Rs 5,000 crore. Sahara has been trying to meet the condition but has failed to arrange a bank guarantee.

The court ordered that the Delhi Police team would escort Roy and Choudhary back to jail after expiry of the four-week parole period.

## 'Hyundai to introduce 2-3 new models every year'

Nandini Sengupta  
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Chennai: Hyundai Motor India (HMI) celebrated its second decade in India with a four-point vision statement for the future and some aggressive right-now targets. The second largest car company in India is targeting 500,000 units in domestic sales this year along

with another 160,000 exports and will introduce two to three new models every year, said new CEO Young Key Koo. In an interview with TOI, he discussed his vision strategy and more. Excerpts:

You announced 4 future vision focus areas - market leadership, becoming a most loved & trusted brand, becoming a modern premium brand and being a great place to work. Are you moving from mass market volume focus to a value focus?

To become a modern premium brand, we have to upgrade our product portfolio. Already our average price has gone up from Rs 4 lakh to Rs 7 lakh thanks to the Creta and i20. Of course, we cannot disregard the entry level segment. We will work with

a full line-up of products and if we can succeed in the mid and premium segment, by 2020 we can bring in our global premium model Genesis also.

HMI contributes 13% of parent Hyundai Motor Company's total volumes. Where does India rank in Hyundai's global pecking order?

We are the third largest auto-mobile market for Hyundai after China and the US. At 4.76 lakh units domestic sales last year, our volumes in India are larger than what Hyundai sells in all the EU markets put together. HMI grew 16% last year while Indian passenger vehicles industry grew 8%. Including exports, we clocked 6.43 lakh units and this year we will do 6.6 lakh units including 500,000 domestic sales. Already in the first four months, we have done 1.62 lakh domestic sales at 8% growth while market is growing at 4%. India is a very important market for Hyundai.

You talked about 2-3 new products every year. What's on offer first up?

We will introduce a soft hybrid - which is less expensive than full hybrids - in 2017. In 2018,

we will bring our AMT engine which will gradually be introduced in our entire model range. In 2019, we will bring the sub-4 metre, 1000cc compact SUV. And this year, we are introducing two special edition variants - Accent and i10 Grand - to celebrate our 20th anniversary. Production has started and these models will offer customer 30-40% extra feature benefits at no extra cost.

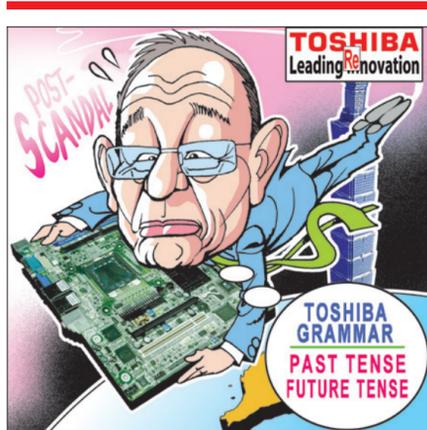
What are your export plans? We are planning 160,000 units because sales have slowed down in two of our main markets - Middle East and Africa. That's why we have been moving export numbers to the domestic market. We expect an uptick in export volumes in the second half. We currently export to South America, Africa, Asia and Middle East markets.

Any plans to make fresh investments in new capacity? We have so far invested \$3.1 billion while vendors have invested \$1.5 billion in India. We can stretch our ent capacity up to 7.1 lakh units so we are okay for 3-4 years. There are no plans for fresh capacity investment now.

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For more tech stories, visit [toitech.com](http://toitech.com)

## EXECUTIVE DIGEST



CHANGE OF GUARD: Toshiba has nominated Satoshi Tsunakawa, a former head of its medical equipment division, to be its next CEO. The Japanese company hopes the move will draw a line under a damaging \$1.3-billion accounting scandal

## Duty on mobile accessories rolled back

New Delhi: The government has rolled back customs duty imposed on battery, charger and headsets for mobile phones in the Budget after local manufacturers sought for a relaxation due to lack of domestic suppliers.

The basic customs duty on the products, which was fixed at 10% in the budget, has been brought down to nil through an amendment. Also, the special additional duty of 4% was brought down to pre-budget level of zero duty. However, the government maintained the countervailing duty (CVD) imposed in the Budget at 12.5%. In another measure, a 2% duty imposed on import of printed circuit boards (PCBs) - critical in the manufacturing of mobile phones - has also been withdrawn. TNN