

GadgetBUZZ

gadgetbuzz

Google Pixel 11 bets on AI as hardware changes take a back seat

TDT | agencies

Google has launched its Pixel 11 series, but the latest flagship smartphones are less about a dramatic redesign and more about making the phone smarter. The lineup comprises the Pixel 11, Pixel 11 Pro, Pixel 11 Pro XL and the foldable Pixel 11 Pro Fold. All four models are powered by Google's new Tensor G6 processor, with deeper integration of its Gemini artificial intelligence system. The standard Pixel 11 starts at \$899, while the Pro and Pro XL start at \$1,099 and \$1,299. The Pixel 11 Pro Fold starts at \$1,899. All models now begin with 256GB of storage. The biggest changes are in the camera and software. Google has introduced Magic Capture, which combines photo and video capture, along with Camera Looks, allowing users to customise the way images are



processed. The Pro models add improved low-light photography, up to 120x zoom and 8K Pro Stable Video. Google is also targeting the growing army of smartphone content creators. Its new Creator Suite brings tools such as

a teleprompter, vocal enhancement, external microphone controls and social-media framing guides directly into the camera app. Another unusual addition on the Pro models is HiLight, an LED notification system de-

signed to alert users to calls and messages from selected contacts without constantly lighting up the display. The Pixel 11 Pro Fold gets a slimmer design, thinner bezels and an 8-inch internal display. Early hands-on impressions

praise its refined build and nearly invisible crease, although reviewers note that competitors still have an edge in design appeal. The Pixel 11 series will begin shipping on August 20. The early verdict from hands-on coverage is clear: this is more evolution than revolution. The Verge describes the new phones as pairing relatively modest

hardware changes with a much larger software push. For Google, the message is simple: the next smartphone battle may not be about how different a phone looks — but how intelligently it can work for you. (Sources: Google, The Verge, TechCrunch, Android Central and 91mobiles.)

Google Pixel 11 Series			
Compare the all-new Pixel 11 lineup			
	PIXEL 11 PRO / XL	PIXEL 11 PRO FOLD	PIXEL 11
Display	6.3" or 6.8" Super Retina XDR (120Hz) OLED display	6.5" or 8" Super Retina XDR (120Hz) OLED display	6.3" Super Retina XDR (120Hz) OLED display
Battery	5000mAh	5000mAh	5000mAh
Charging	30W wired, 25W wireless	24W wired, 25W wireless	30W wired, 25W wireless
Storage	Up to 16 GB	Up to 1 TB	Up to 512 GB
Camera	50 MP main, 48 MP ultrawide, 48 MP telephoto	48 MP main, 48 MP ultrawide, 48 MP telephoto	48 MP main, 48 MP ultrawide, 48 MP telephoto
Processor	Tensor G6	Tensor G6	Tensor G6
OS	Android 15	Android 15	Android 15
Water Resistant	IP68	IP68	IP68
Colors	Obsidian, Porcelain, Coral, Sage	Obsidian, Porcelain, Coral, Sage	Obsidian, Porcelain, Coral, Sage
Price	\$1,099	\$1,899	\$899

AI is eating your storage: SSD shortage sends prices soaring



TDT | agencies

The world's growing appetite for artificial intelligence is creating an unexpected problem for ordinary computer users: storage is getting harder and more expensive to buy. Demand from AI data centres is putting enormous pressure on the NAND flash market, the technology used in SSDs, memory cards and other storage devices. TrendForce says servers now account for more than 40 per cent of global NAND flash bit demand, while the market is expected to remain in deficit through 2026. The squeeze is already being felt in the consumer market. SSD prices have risen sharply, with technology retailers reporting that reasonably priced drives can sell out quickly. The pressure has been linked to the rapid expansion of AI infrastructure, which requires vast quantities of high-capacity en-

terprise SSDs. Enterprise SSD contract prices reportedly rose about 80 per cent in the first quarter of 2026, as AI infrastructure absorbed available NAND production. The problem isn't simply that people are buying more SSDs. Manufacturers are also redirecting production towards higher-value products for data centres and AI systems, while existing factory capacity remains constrained. TrendForce expects the situation to improve only gradually. It forecasts that NAND supply could begin to outpace demand in the second half of 2027, suggesting that consumers may have to live with elevated prices for some time. For consumers planning to upgrade laptops, PCs, NAS systems or external storage, the message is becoming increasingly clear: The days of cheap, ever-growing storage may be on hold — at least for now.

Brazil orders suspension of Discord livestreams

AFP | Sao Paulo, Brazil



Brazil's data protection agency on Wednesday ordered Discord to suspend livestreams, accusing the messaging platform of failing to protect children and adolescents after a teen girl was allegedly incited to commit suicide. The platform was given three days to comply with a suspension that was ordered "due to robust evidence that the company failed to adopt reasonable measures" to protect children

and teenagers from content encouraging violence, self-harm and suicide, the ANPD agency said in a statement. Investigators say a 13-year-

old girl was encouraged to self-harm and take her own life during a recent Discord. Five teenagers have been arrested in connection to the death. "Live streams have been repeatedly used to facilitate violence, harassment, and the incitement of self-harm and suicide," said the ANPD. In a statement sent to AFP on Tuesday prior to the decision, Discord said it was "cooperating with authorities in the investigation into this serious case." Following the recent death,

Rosangela da Silva, wife of left-wing President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, called for Discord to be shut down and urged "the judiciary to remove this horrible network from the Internet." Discord claims more than 90 million active daily users worldwide. In 2024, the platform X was blocked for 40 days in Brazil, until the social media network owned by the world's richest man Elon Musk complied with the Supreme Court's orders to remove accounts spreading disinformation.

Samsung unveils AI smart glasses, bringing Gemini to your eyewear

TDT | agencies

Samsung has unveiled its first "Intelligent Eyewear", bringing artificial intelligence, cameras and voice assistance into a pair of glasses designed to look more like everyday eyewear than a high-tech headset. The glasses were officially introduced at Samsung's Galaxy Unpacked event in London, following an earlier preview at Google I/O. Samsung developed the eyewear with Google and fashion eyewear brands Gentle Monster and Warby Parker. Built around Google's Android XR platform, the glasses use Gemini as an AI assistant and are designed to work alongside a smartphone rather than replace it. Users can interact with the assistant through voice commands while keeping their phones in their pockets.

The glasses are equipped with a camera, microphones and speakers, allowing users to take photographs, ask questions about what they are seeing, translate signs and conversations, receive navigation assistance and interact with smartphone applications. Samsung has also focused on privacy, an increasingly important issue for camera-equipped smart glasses. A small LED indicator is designed to show when the camera is recording, while wear detection is intended to prevent the device from operating when it is not being worn. Battery life is another selling point, with Samsung promising up to nine hours of use under mixed-use conditions. The glasses are powered by Qualcomm's Snapdragon AR1 platform and are designed to maintain a relatively conventional eyewear form factor.

But consumers will have to wait. Samsung has said the Intelligent Eyewear will arrive this autumn in select markets, with pricing and a detailed list of launch markets yet to be announced. That means the glasses are not yet a Middle East retail launch, despite Samsung having a major regional presence. The company has not confirmed Gulf availability at this stage. Still, the product marks an important shift in the smartphone race: instead of asking users to look down at a screen, Samsung and Google want AI to become something you can wear, hear and interact with while looking at the world around you. (Sources: Samsung Newsroom, Google, Android Central and TechRadar.)

