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Science, religion & spirituality converge in the quest for consciousness

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The human mind, with its vast inner world of subjective experiences, thoughts, and emotions, remains a captivating enigma. While science delves into its biological and neurological underpinnings, religion and spirituality offer introspective pathways to its depths. Now, a growing movement seeks to bridge these seemingly disparate approaches, fostering a holistic understanding of consciousness.

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Spiritual and religious traditions have millennia-old practices aimed at expanding consciousness, offering introspective tools and frameworks for understanding the self and one's connection to the universe, explained Alice Branton, an American spiritual leader.

"For science, spiritual insights can guide research avenues and interpretations of data," Branton said. She further explained, for religion and spirituality, scientific findings can provide grounding and refine practices. "Ultimately, a unified understanding of consciousness could revolutionize our approach to mental health, education, and societal well-being."

However, integrating these realms comes with challenges. "Reconciling differing methodologies, overcoming ingrained biases, and navigating potential ethical concerns require careful consideration. Additionally, ensuring inclusivity and respecting diverse perspectives are crucial," Branton said.

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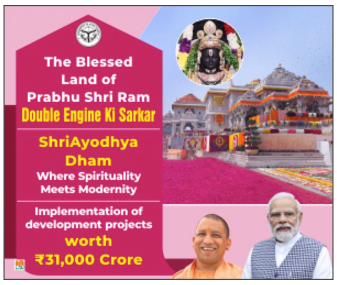
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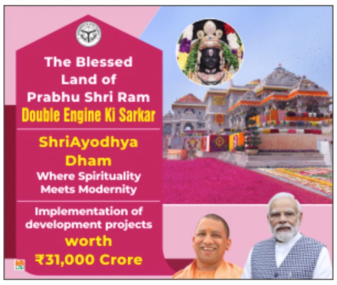
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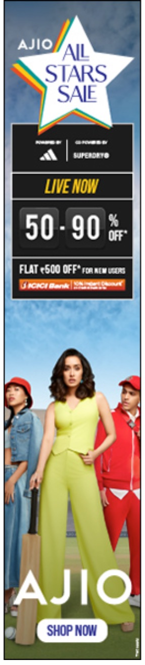
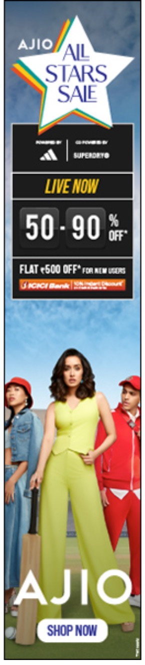
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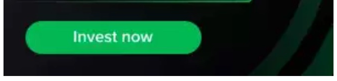

The quest to unravel the mysteries of consciousness is no longer confined to isolated disciplines. By bringing together science, religion, and spirituality in a respectful dialogue, we may unlock a deeper understanding of ourselves and our place in the universe.

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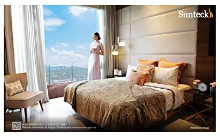

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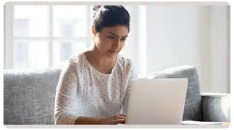

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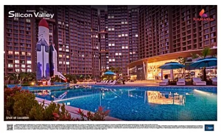

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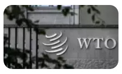

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Here's how Galaxy AI makes the Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra a jaw-dropping device

SPOTLIGHT / Updated: Feb 26, 2024, 18:38 IST

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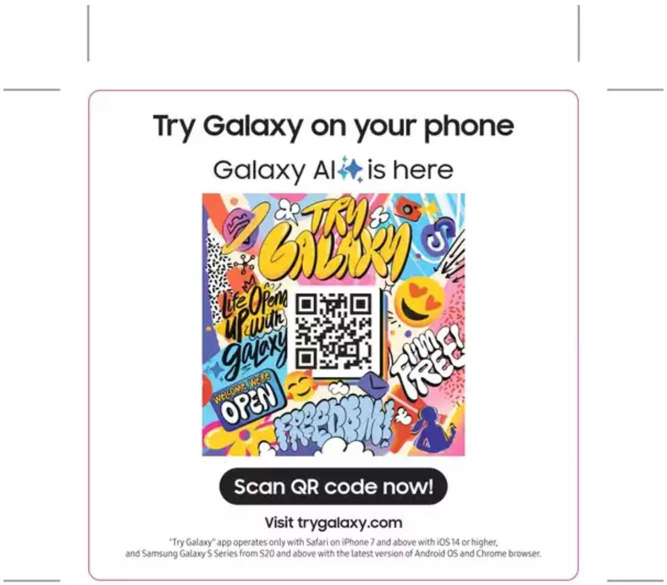
When it comes to captivating the world with technological progress, Samsung consistently stands out. With its latest flagship series, the Galaxy S24, Samsung has garnered attention for its remarkable offerings and features. From impressive AI capabilities to innovative NFC-synced cases, the tech powerhouse has undoubtedly revolutionised the smartphone landscape.If you seek a device representing the modern smartphone experience, look no further than the new Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra —a device poised to steal the spotlight. Let's look at what makes this device a technological marvel!

The ground-breaking Circle to Search

Imagine you come across something interesting while browsing a website, scrolling through Instagram, or reading a group text. It could be an unfamiliar word, a city you've never visited, or a new coffee shop your friend recommended. With Circle to Search, you can instantly gather more information about it the moment your curiosity is sparked. All you've got to do is circle, highlight, scribble or tap — without switching apps. With Circle to Search, you can easily shop, look up a word, compare options etc. This is a great way to learn and know about things then and there, saving your Googling time.

Enter the world of Galaxy AI

It's an AI world, and now we are living in it! And why shouldn't your phone be AI-powered? The Galaxy S24 Ultra comes with Galaxy AI that brings features such as real-time translations during phone calls, generative picture editing, recording assist, note assist, chat assist etc. All these features will make your life easier with prompt responses to your technological struggles. For instance, the Recording Assist in Voice Recorder converts the free-flowing recorded conversations into text scripts, Live Translate helps translate foreign languages while the speaker is speaking, and Note Assist helps summarise your notes. With so many new features, the Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra enthrals tech lovers with fascinating technology. You can now experience the *Galaxy App by scanning this QR code on your phone.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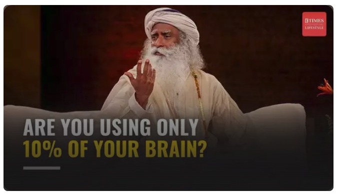
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Get wowed by its anti-glare display

The Galaxy S24 Ultra boasts an impressive anti-glare display crafted from Corning Gorilla Armor glass, heralded as Samsung's "most scratch-resistant yet". This means you won't get scratches on your phone display while playing games which require scribbling/slashing etc. The Anti-glare display is useful when taking the phone out on a sunny day. It makes the screen darker, thus stopping the reflection that mars the viewing experience.

Record videos like never before with Ultra Video Mode

Beat the distance with the high-resolution camera sensor and telephoto camera, as they give incredibly crisp photos after zooming in. Zero in on your subject with 5x zoom. The result? 50MP of closer, crisper, clearer details. In addition to these features, the ability of Galaxy S24 Ultra to record in stunning 4K resolution at 60 FPS and even upto 120 FPS on all cameras ensures that every detail is captured with unparalleled clarity. This enhancement allows for incredibly smooth and detailed footage, perfect for capturing fast-paced action or creating dynamic slow-motion sequences. For those seeking exceptional video quality, the Galaxy S24 Ultra supports recording in mesmerising 8K resolution at 30FPS. This feature enables you to capture videos with exceptional detail and clarity, even with 5x zoom, providing a professional touch to your portrait pictures and videos. Utilising the advanced 5x sensor, experience heightened 5x night zoom video capabilities to capture moments with remarkable detail. With the specialised ISP Block, bid adieu to grainy, low-light videos and welcome enhanced clarity with reduced noise levels. It also supports up to 8K video recording and can be used to playback 8K videos.

Experience the unlimited potential of S Pen

The sleek, beautiful S pen is your shortcut to efficiency. Let your ideas flow and appear effortlessly on the screen as the S pen glides with great precision. Go beyond the pen and paper with the 0.7mm fine tip. The Air Action feature transforms your S Pen into a remote control for the Galaxy device. With a flick of your pen, open apps, control your tunes and effortlessly glide through your photos.

Truly a gamer's delight

Attention gamers! Play your favourite games with stunning QHD + Resolution and that too at silky-smooth frame rates, thanks to the Snapdragon 8 Gen 3's top-tier graphics processing power. Every detail of the visuals comes to life, thus delivering an immersive gaming experience right at your fingertips. The incredible 120Hz variable refresh rate is the cherry on the cake as gamers can experience smooth scrolling and more immersive graphics.Get ready for unprecedented detail and clarity, turning your mobile gaming sessions into visual delights. Not to forget the cool Vapour Chamber! Samsung has enlarged the dimensions of the Galaxy S24 Ultra's Vapour Chamber, this improves the heat dissipation for an uninterrupted graphics experience and peak performance. Additionally, the Galaxy S24 Ultra has introduced bypass charging, directing power to phone components without initially charging the battery. This innovative feature prevents overheating during intense gaming sessions, ensuring uninterrupted gameplay.

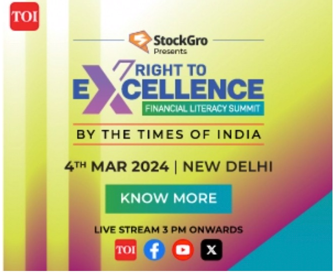
The Power of OneUI 6.1

The powerful One UI 6.1 brings a plethora of great changes to the device. From an interesting Quick Panel to new emoji designs, the One UI 6.1 lets you do your tasks effortlessly, just the way you like it. The software personalises your everyday experiences and lets you be more productive, all while keeping your data safe and secure.

For people who love different phone cases – NFC Synced Cases will leave you stunned!

Now, we won't be lying if we say this feature looks like something straight out of magic! How can the theme on your phone appear outside of it and occupy the entire phone as a phone case? Is that even possible? Yes, it is! Samsung Galaxy S24 takes the personalisation game to the next level with NFC-synced and flip cases effortlessly synchronising with Galaxy S24 Ultra, dynamically changing its wallpaper and theme to complement the case, accompanied by captivating animations. This feels as if someone just replaced the smartphone with another one altogether! The frame also seamlessly incorporates a sturdy titanium shield, ensuring unmatched durability and enhancing its stylish appeal.

The Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra opens your world to tremendous possibilities that can enhance your day-to-day routine. What's even better is that now you can own the S series 24 at Rs. 3,334 per month. The device comes in seven different colours, all with fresh titanium-themed colours that match Samsung's first-ever titanium frame on a phone. These phones come in Titanium Black, Titanium Yellow, Titanium Gray, Titanium Violet, Titanium Green, Titanium Blue and Titanium Orange.



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Explore how the Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra can overhaul your everyday life here.

'Try Galaxy' app operates only with Safari on iPhone 7 and above with iOS 14 or higher, and Samsung Galaxy S Series from S20 and above with the latest version of Android OS and Chrome browser.

Disclaimer: This article has been produced on behalf of Samsung by the Times Internet's Spotlight team.

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Bloomberg / Feb 19, 2024, 08:59 IST

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A global vaccine safety study has identified risks of myocarditis, pericarditis, Guillain-Barre syndrome, cerebral venous sinus thrombosis, and acute disseminated encephalomyelitis. A separate study aims to understand chronic post-vac ... Read More

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Vaccines that protect against severe illness, death and lingering long Covid symptoms from a coronavirus infection were linked to small increases in neurological, blood, and heart-related conditions in the largest global vaccine safety study to date.

The rare events — identified early in the pandemic — included a higher risk of heart-related inflammation from mRNA shots made by Pfizer Inc., BioNTech SE, and Moderna Inc., and an increased risk of a type of blood clot in the brain after immunization with viral-vector vaccines such as the one developed by the University of Oxford and made by AstraZeneca Plc.

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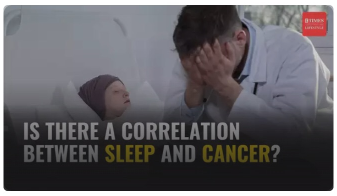
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The viral-vector jabs were also tied to an increased risk of Guillain-Barre syndrome, a neurological disorder in which the immune system mistakenly attacks the peripheral nervous system.

More than 13.5 billion doses of Covid vaccines have been administered globally over the past three years, saving over 1 million lives in Europe alone. Still, a small proportion of people immunized were injured by the shots, stoking debate about their benefits versus harms.

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The new research, by the Global Vaccine Data Network, was published in the journal Vaccine last week, with the data made available via interactive dashboards to show methodology and specific findings.

The research looked for 13 medical conditions that the group considered “adverse events of special interest” among 99 million vaccinated individuals in eight countries, aiming to identify higher-than-expected cases after a Covid shot. The use of aggregated data increased the possibility of identifying rare safety signals that might have been missed when looking only at smaller populations.

Myocarditis, or inflammation of the heart muscle, was consistently identified following a first, second and third dose of mRNA vaccines, the study found. The highest increase in the observed-to-expected ratio was seen after a second jab with the Moderna shot. A first and fourth dose of the same vaccine was also tied to an increase in pericarditis, or inflammation of the thin sac covering the heart.

Safety signals

Researchers found a statistically significant increase in cases of Guillain-Barre syndrome within 42 days of an initial Oxford-developed ChAdOx1 or “Vaxzevria” shot that wasn’t observed with mRNA vaccines. Based on the background incidence of the condition, 66 cases were expected — but 190 events were observed.

ChAdOx1 was linked to a threefold increase in cerebral venous sinus thrombosis, a type of blood clot in the brain, identified in 69 events, compared with an expected 21. The small risk led to the vaccine’s withdrawal or restriction in Denmark and multiple other countries. Myocarditis was also linked to a third dose of ChAdOx1 in some, but not all, populations studied.

Possible safety signals for transverse myelitis — spinal cord inflammation — after viral-vector vaccines was identified in the study. So was acute disseminated encephalomyelitis — inflammation and swelling in the brain and spinal cord — after both viral-vector and mRNA vaccines.

Seven cases of acute disseminated encephalomyelitis after vaccination with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine were observed, versus an expectation of two.

The adverse events of special interest were selected based on pre-established associations with immunization, what was already known about immune-related conditions and pre-clinical research. The study didn’t monitor for postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome, or POTS, that some research has linked with Covid vaccines.

Exercise intolerance, excessive fatigue, numbness and “brain fog” were among common symptoms identified in more than 240 adults experiencing chronic post-vaccination syndrome in a separate study conducted by the Yale School of

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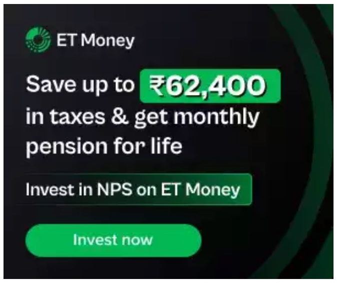

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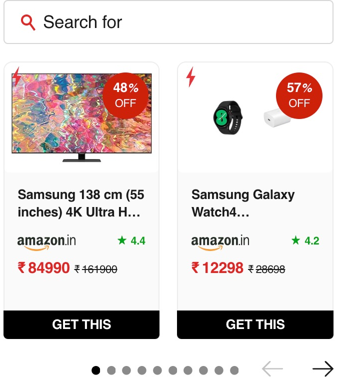

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