

THE HOMES MAGAZINE FOR MODERN LIVING

Livingetc

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SMART HOMES

Technology in personal space

Design Project

KITCHEN DESIGNS that can cook up a storm

Buyer's guide to

HOME AUTOMATION



In the digital age, it's not just your gadgets that are smart, but homes are too. Now, AI and IoT are taking homes from smart to intelligent.

Words/Malati Kallapur Vijay

All with a touch of button

CONTROL OF LIGHTING: Switch on and off lights, bring on ambient / mood lighting.
CONTROL OF ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM: Set yourself up for a blissful time with automated entertainment / home theatre systems.

CONTROL OF APPLIANCES: Operate your geyser, coffee maker, oven, etc from wherever you are using a pre-scheduled plan.

CONTROL OF WINDOW TREATMENTS: Open and close curtains/blinds with ease and adjust light and heat coming into the room depending on your requirement.

ALERTS REGARDING DAY'S ROUTINE: Time to drop off kids to school, special meeting, visit to the dentist, etc., get reminders on your screen.

ALERTS REGARDING UNTOWARD INCIDENTS: Get alerts about water leakage, smoke emissions, etc. that can lead to disasters.

SECURITY: You can keep an eye on your home even when you're away or travelling with smart security and anti-theft systems, smart locks, biometrics such as fingerprint scanners and face recognition devices, spy cameras and motion sensors. A smart security system is like an invisible guard that will keep a constant vigil and keep you updated on what's happening through text alerts, video feed, or email.



An automated bathroom from Anusha Technovision Experience Centre. A connected bathroom will let you know if it is occupied, it can play music as you enter. Agath Mirror Television [LEFT], introduced by Anusha, allows you to watch TV while in the washroom or at your dresser.



range like miniature circuit breakers, distribution boards, RCCBs, SPDs. They also offer several automation systems. Their Wisier Home Control is a scalable solution which is flexible and easy to upgrade.

Anusha Technovision (ATPL) provides customised lighting control and automation systems for various commercial and residential needs. 'People tend to think automation is only for techies or young people. But the elderly can be most benefited by it. Imagine the convenience of switching on the geyser from your bedside switch or from a screen!' says Alok Hada, Founder-Director, ATPL.

While it is important to have special wiring in place for automation purposes, retrofit is also possible, though complicated, he says. 'In the case of existing traditional switchboards, we create a hybrid system by adding a smart switch board to it,' he adds.

According to Alok, lighting and shades control is more popular in India. 'However, people are now asking for voice commands,' he says. He, however, cautions against having automation control totally dependant on Internet or Wi-Fi, since failure in connectivity can put you into a spot.

Schneider's Wisier Home Control interlinks the electrical, multi-media and telecommunication worlds offering you control of your home from anywhere on a screen.



IoT platforms

IoT is providing us with unprecedented connectedness and control over all the appliances and aspects of our lives. Smartron has developed a first of its kind IoT platform called tronX™, an intelligent ecosystem of connected devices offering customised experiences. Says founder and chairman, Mahesh Lingareddy, 'It is India's first series of smart home systems that goes beyond just connecting a few devices. From basic day-to-day services, home appliances, bill payments to locking mechanisms and user security, tronX™ Home controls everything backed by an intelligent Voice Activated Assistant.'

Like all technology, a fully automated system has its drawbacks, since it can be hacked into and passwords can be misused, so it is important to make wise decisions. At the same time, technology is bound to come up with a smart solution for that as well.

What is a hub?

When you're using multiple smart devices and appliances, each requiring you to use an app of its own for control, it makes sense for you to integrate all controls on a hub. For example, Samsung Smart Things Hub or the Wink Hub 2, can communicate with different devices and offer seamless control. Amazon Echo and Google Home too function like hubs.



Powered by the Google Assistant, Google Home Mini can help you control your smart home. Get your answers by saying, 'Ok Google'. It can also distinguish your voice from others.