

"It is possible to fly without motors, but not without knowledge and skill." – WILBUR WRIGHT

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## 5 technology marvels we await with bated breath

We look at technologies that are on the cusp of having a disruptive impact in the coming years

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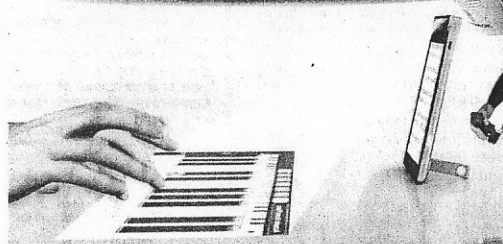
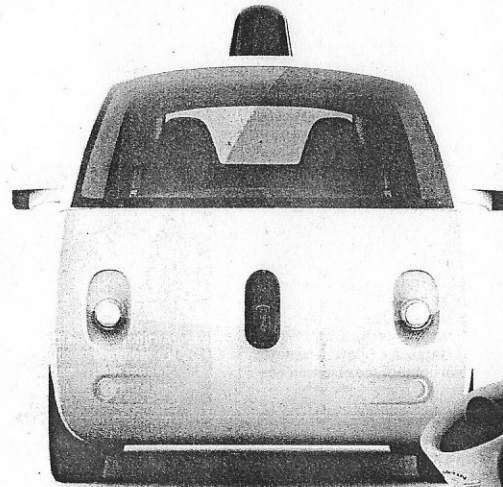
**G**adgets and tech solutions are now a part of our everyday life. At the present pace of technological development, many of the things we consider science fiction in movies are being turned into realities. These innovations start from a necessity of solving the problems that old products have and with new and improved functions. Here are five of the much-awaited technological breakthroughs we are eagerly looking forward to:

### Google's driverless cars

This car might make its way in the market by 2020, but we wish its test runs and pilots run successfully in the coming year. If the project gets delivered the way we see it, it will be a miracle for people who can't drive. Even those who can drive might love to own these cars for the ease and convenience that it will offer. Imagine, just sitting and reading your favourite book without having to manage that steering, gears, accelerator and brake.

### Lenovo Smart Cast smartphone

Smart Cast concept had been around for quite some time now, but it seems that it will finally make its way to the market in 2016. Lenovo gave us a glimpse of the 'Smart Cast' device — that will make *Minority Report*-style technology a reality. For those who are unaware, this device is capable of converting any wall or surface into a screen using its in-built projector. What's more interesting is that with Smart Cast you can also turn any flat surface such as your tabletop or shelf into an interactive touchscreen.



### SixthSense

Pranav Mistry introduced this concept way back during one of his TED Talks. He impressed everyone with his idea of developing a sixth sense for humans that can help them make the right decisions. The SixthSense prototype is a wearable, but don't confuse it with fitness bands that are available in

abundance these days. The device can turn the entire world into a computer using a pocket projector, a mirror and a camera that makes live projection, gesture movements and information crunching possible anytime, anywhere. Sadly, the project is still under development and we haven't heard anything concrete about it yet.



Pranav Mistry with his SixthSense prototype

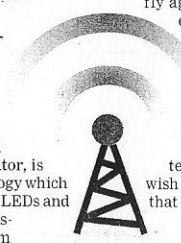
### A new kind of wireless internet

Imagine if you can transfer information without using NFC, Bluetooth or internet? Harald Hass, a tech innovator, is developing a technology which will use off-the-shelf LEDs and solar cells for transmitting data from

one device to another. No WiFi, no LAN, no infrastructure would be used. Only existing technologies will be used to provide internet access to more than four billion people living in places where infrastructure can support it.

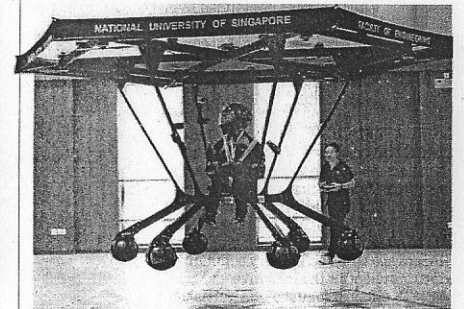
### Jetpack

If you want to fly like a free bird, then the jetpack is a must-own device. As per Wikipedia, this concept emerged from science fiction in the 1920s, but is now a reality. Mostly, astronauts use the jet pack for extra-vehicular activities to fly against gravity, but now even some commoners are seen using it. Recently, the jetpack made news when a man wearing it was seen roaming around the Eiffel Tower in Paris. It led to a hoax terrorism scare. But we wish to see it in India too — so that we can fly from home to work. Just to avoid traffic congestion.



## Personal flying machine lifts off from Singapore

Meet Snowstorm, the first prototype of flying car for the drone generation



[in.techradar.com](http://in.techradar.com)

Ever sat in your chair at work or school, wishing you could just fly away? Well, it seem engineering students from the National University of Singapore may have felt that same yearning and taken the feeling too literally, having built the country's first personal flying machine.

Named as Snowstorm, this personal aircraft is reportedly capable of flying a seated person for a duration of around five minutes and is powered entirely by electricity. Looking a bit like a giant drone, the Snowstorm has a strong hexagonal frame built from anodised aluminium poles, Kevlar ropes and carbon fibre plating.

A seat hangs down from the middle of the Snowstorm's frame from a 3D-printed mount, allowing its pilot to sit and control the aircraft's thrust, pitch, roll and yaw using a specially designed control system. The team has also implemented a group of six landing legs with inflatable balls at the ends, allowing for comfortable landings, though at present, flight tests have only occurred indoors. The Snowstorm, which took a team of eight students a year to make, is powered by rechargeable lithium batteries and features 24 motors with propellers that allow it to take off vertically. However, the team is still fine-tuning the aircraft's various programmed flight modes.