GadgetGyaan

FREE CHECKLIST · NOVEMBER 2026

Before You Buy a Phone: 25-Point Checklist

For buyers in India. Tick each box before you pay, online or in a shop.

How to use it: go through sections 1–6 while you compare phones, then use section 7 on the day you buy and section 8 when the box arrives.

1. BUDGET AND TIMING

- [ ] **Set a top budget, including extras**
  Add a case, screen guard and charger if one isn't in the box.
- [ ] **Check if a newer model is coming**
  If a successor launches within 4–6 weeks, wait or ask for a lower price.
- [ ] **Compare the price on 2–3 sites**
  Amazon, Flipkart and the brand store. A big "MRP" cut means little on its own.

2. PERFORMANCE

- [ ] **Look up the chip, not just the RAM**
  Search "chip name + review" to see real-world speed and heating.
- [ ] **Get at least 8GB RAM (6GB under ₹15,000)**
  More RAM keeps apps open longer as the phone ages.
- [ ] **Choose 128GB storage or more**
  64GB fills up quickly with WhatsApp media and updates.

3. DISPLAY

- [ ] **Prefer AMOLED/OLED if the budget allows**
  Deeper blacks and better outdoor visibility than most LCDs.
- [ ] **90Hz or 120Hz refresh rate**
  Makes scrolling smoother. Check that it's not locked in some apps.
- [ ] **Check the size in your hand**
  6.7"+ phones are hard to use one-handed. Try one in a store if you can.

4. BATTERY AND CHARGING

- [ ] **5,000mAh or more for a full day**
  Real battery life also depends on the chip and screen, so read reviews.
- [ ] **Is the charger in the box?**
  If not, budget for a compatible one from a trusted brand.
- [ ] **Check the brand's battery-care settings**
  An 80–85% charge limit option helps the battery last longer.

5. CAMERA

- [ ] **Ignore the megapixel number**
  Look for OIS on the main camera instead. It matters more for night and video.
- [ ] **Check real photo samples**
  Look at night and indoor shots in reviews, not the brand's ads.
- [ ] **Need zoom? Look for a telephoto lens**
  A 2MP "macro" or "depth" lens adds almost nothing.

6. SOFTWARE AND SUPPORT

- [ ] **How many years of updates?**
  Aim for at least 3 Android upgrades and 4 years of security patches.
- [ ] **Check for bloatware and ads**
  Some phones show ads in system apps. Reviews usually mention it.
- [ ] **Is there a service centre near you?**
  Check the brand's service locator for your city before buying.

7. ON THE DAY YOU BUY

- [ ] **Buy from the brand store or an official seller**
  On marketplaces, check the seller name and its rating.
- [ ] **Read the bank offer terms**
  Many discounts apply only to EMI, a minimum spend or one card.
- [ ] **Check the exact variant before paying**
  RAM, storage and colour. The same name can hide 3–4 versions.
- [ ] **Never pay through a link sent on WhatsApp/SMS**
  Pay only on the official app or website.

8. WHEN THE BOX ARRIVES

- [ ] **Record an unboxing video**
  It helps with any return or "wrong item" claim.
- [ ] **Match the IMEI**
  Dial *#06# and check it against the box and invoice.
- [ ] **Test everything within the return window**
  Screen, cameras, speakers, SIM, charging port and fingerprint sensor.

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