


# SMART HOMES, SMART LIVING

Home Automation is all set for a reboot as it leverages the power of technology to make homes smart and efficient.

By Bindu Gopal Rao



The integration of home automation technologies significantly streamlines daily routines and enhances overall living experiences by offering unprecedented control and customisation options.

The home automation industry is becoming increasingly exciting as people are realizing that it is not just for the lazy or a luxury toy.

**DO THE NEW**

One of the important aspects of new-age home automation solutions is Apple Homekit integration. Voice integration has never been so intuitive and user-centric. A simple side button press on the latest iPhone executes automation scenes. Geofencing is seeing practical use cases. Wi-Fi detects which users are present and who are absent and artificially controls the lights, shades, fans, ACs, and music accordingly. All of this is possible without compromising the security and privacy of the end user.

Maulik Unadkat, Founder of Beyond Alliance, says, "These days, a wide array of aesthetically beautiful keypads are available that can match the palette of the wall they cling to. Ultra short throw projectors are changing the way home cinemas are experienced. Audiophile solutions, such as turntables and vinyl discs, are making a comeback for their high-fidelity sound. Face recognition-based access control solutions are quick and intuitive, and they have helped overcome the hassles of fingerprints not being read after a certain age and other such challenges. Robust wired mesh networks are making Godspeeds possible in Wi-Fi, which seamlessly spreads across

the whole home without drops."

Homeowners today are becoming increasingly tech-savvy and are seeking abodes equipped with advanced automation solutions for convenience, safety, and energy management. "In response to these evolving trends in the Indian home market, Schneider Electric has introduced holistic

solutions for smart, intelligent, and sustainable homes. The company has launched the upgraded Wiser 2.0 smart home automation solution, which offers enhanced comfort and convenience along with advanced energy management capabilities. It has also launched the new Miluz Lara, a wiring device range comprising switches, sockets, and



Beyond Alliance offers smart home solutions that are aesthetic and fuse with the decor as much as the lifestyle.



Automated lighting, and HVAC systems, contribute to energy conservation by minimising unnecessary usage and add to the aesthetics.



Maulik Unadkat, Founder of Beyond Alliance,



Sumati Sahgal, VP, Retail, Schneider Electric India



Homeowners today are becoming increasingly tech-savvy and are seeking abodes equipped with advanced automation solutions for convenience, safety, and energy management.

base products. The range has several advanced and innovative features, such as AQI and Voltage surge protectors," says Sumati Sahgal, VP, Retail, Schneider Electric India.

**USE CASE**

The key to any automation system is user-friendliness. Elders, children, and even housekeeping staff should be able to easily

manage the system and alter ambiances and scenes. The user should be able to change the scenes without the need for a programmer to change codes. Scheduling daily events like sleep schedules and wake-up routines adds intelligence to the system, and it emulates the lifestyle of the user.

Abhinav Jajodia, Co-Founder of Ingenia Tech, Kolkata, says, "Home automation has evolved from a luxury to a necessity, enhancing daily life with convenience, energy efficiency, and enhanced security. Automated systems allow for effortless control of lighting, temperature, and security remotely, optimising energy usage and reducing utility costs. They provide peace of mind through features like surveillance cameras and automated alerts for potential hazards. Additionally, automation improves accessibility for elderly or disabled individuals and boosts property value with modern amenities. As technology becomes more accessible, home automation is increasingly seen as an essential component of a comfortable and secure home environment."

Integration with smart appliances and devices further expands the capabilities of home automation systems, enabling seamless connectivity and control across various household functions. From kitchen appliances that can be operated remotely to entertainment systems that synchronise with lighting and sound, these integrations create cohesive living environments that adapt to user preferences and activities.

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

The integration of home automation technologies significantly streamlines daily routines and enhances overall living experiences by offering unprecedented control and customisation options. Automated lighting, and HVAC systems, contribute to energy conservation by minimising unnecessary usage and add to the aesthetics. The markets today are flooded with exciting products and technologies designed to enhance convenience, comfort, and security in residential settings. One notable launch includes advanced smart lighting and sound systems that can be integrated with voice assistants and mobile apps.

"These systems allow users to customise lighting or music based on their preferences and daily routines. One app can take care of everything, from adjusting brightness levels to setting mood lighting for different occasions. Along with luxury, enhanced energy efficiency is achieved through features like motion sensors that activate lights only when needed, contributing to both convenience and sustainability," says Muskan Salgia, Vice President, CasaDigi.

Another significant advancement is in automated thermostats equipped with sophisticated sensors. These thermostats continuously monitor indoor and outdoor temperatures, automatically adjusting heating and cooling settings to maintain optimal daytime comfort. Automated lighting shifts from energising brightness in the morning to calming tones in the evening, supporting natural wakefulness and restorative sleep.

**ADVANTAGES GALORE**

Automation is as essential to a home as ERP solutions are to organisations. They bring efficiency and intelligence to the day-to-day tasks.



Automated systems allow for effortless control of lighting, temperature, and security remotely, optimising energy usage and reducing utility costs.

They help manage life better. “A home that thinks for us is a far more comfortable space than having brainless switches across the space. Comfort comes from tuning lights and temperature to suit us. Comfort comes from understanding what we need, even without being commanded. Comfort comes through these automated sweet nothings fed into the system per each user’s tailor-made needs,” says Maulik.

New launches in smart surveillance systems offer enhanced features such as facial recognition technology and real-time alerts. These systems provide comprehensive monitoring capabilities, allowing homeowners to remotely access live video feeds and receive notifications of suspicious activities. “Likewise, Task Management Services have become very popular for high-end homeowners. For instance, the Butler Module simplifies life by transforming every request into a conversation with staff members. These services aim to streamline daily routines, from scheduling tasks to managing preferences, contributing to a stress-free lifestyle. As a result, one does not have to worry about mundane tasks like grocery shopping or scheduling maintenance appointments. With automated systems such as the above, one can enjoy the luxury of time, which reduces stress and lets you focus on what truly matters, enhancing your overall quality of life,” says Muskan.

#### TECH FUTURE

Artificial Intelligence and machine learning technologies are transforming how smart



Abhinav Jajodia, Co-Founder of Ingenia Tech, Kolkata

systems operate by learning and adapting to user preferences over time, offering personalised automation experiences. In the realm of home automation, a cutting-edge trend is the integration of systems with the circadian rhythm to optimise comfort and well-being.

“By integrating health data from wearables, these systems personalise settings based on individual sleep patterns and activity levels, contributing to improved overall wellness. Integrating circadian rhythm with home automation offers a transformative approach to living, harmonising smart technologies with our natural



Muskan Salgia, Vice President, CasaDigi.

biological cycles. By dynamically adjusting lighting, temperature, and sound throughout the day, these systems optimise comfort and efficiency,” says Abhinav.

Overall, home automation represents a transformative shift towards smarter, more connected living spaces. By leveraging innovative technologies and embracing emerging trends, homeowners can create efficient, secure but also personalised, and sustainable environments, enhancing the quality of life in profound ways. So, are you ready to give your home a smart makeover? **A&I**