

WeWalk

Smart Cane that Uses Google Maps to Identify Surroundings

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NAVIGATING places is a challenge for blind people. According to the Global Data on Visual Impairment by the World Health Organization, there are an estimated 285 million people who are visually impaired around the world and out of which 39 million are blind. Many of the visually impaired people use a cane to walk but due to lack of any innovation in the white cane, visually impaired folks face trouble in facing above chest obstacles.

Thus, realising the problem, a blind Turkish designer Kursat Ceylan came up with a solution that transformed the cane into WeWalk device using modern technology as a tool to help the visually impaired. Ceylan is the CEO and co-founder of Young Guru Academy (YGA), the Turkish non-profit behind the invention.

WeWalk through smartphone integration identifies and detects obstacles above chest level by means of an ultrasonic sensor and warns the individuals with a vibration. When paired with a smartphone, actions such as navigation can be performed easily without taking the phone in hand. Each integration developed for the WeWalk brings innovative features with software updates. It can easily be integrated with Voice Assistant and Google Maps.

The WeWalk smart cane runs on android and ios-based smartphones. It carries a USB input that can be used to charge the battery with one full charge durable up to five hours of usage time.

The device is available for purchase on the WeWalk website also.

Contributed by Preeti Lata, Science Reporter, CSIR-NISCAIR, New Delhi



Image credit: <https://wewalk.io/>

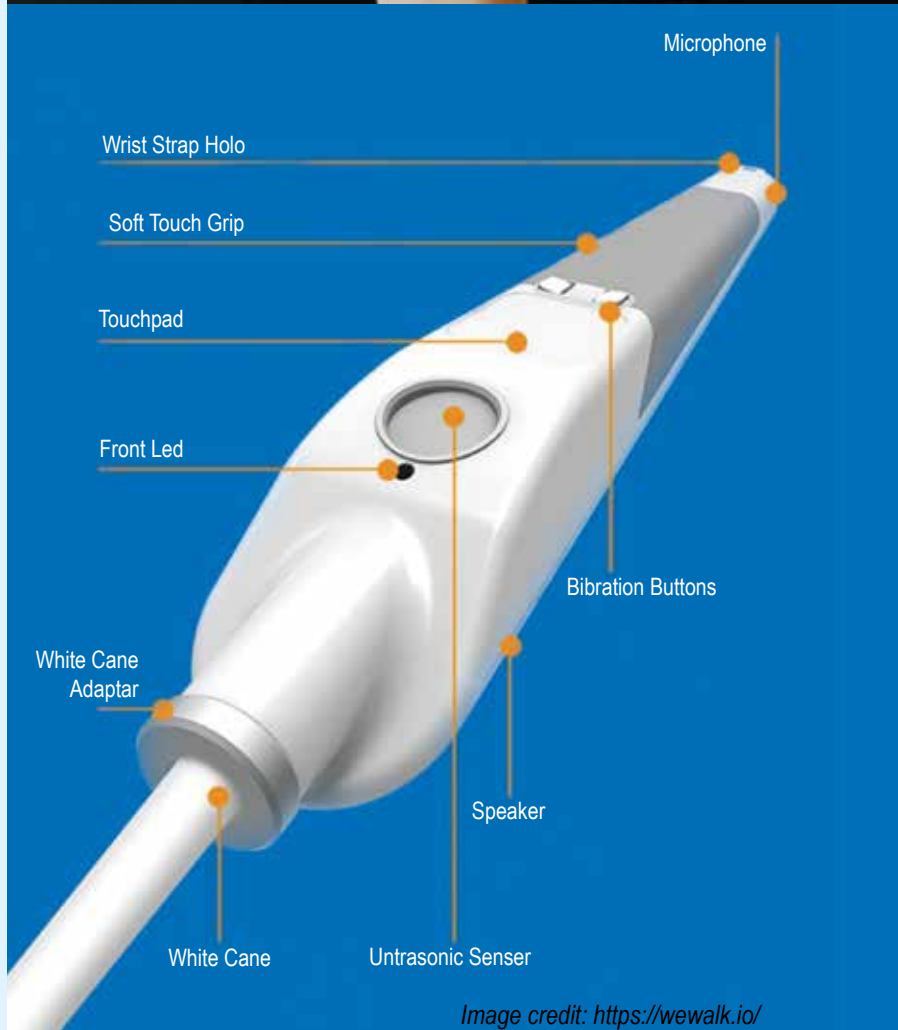


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