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News | By **Sangeeta**

"Micro-Windmills" Could Power Cell Phone Batteries

Researchers have developed tiny 'micro-windmills' and claimed they can potentially revive the dead batteries of your phone in just a few minutes. The 1.8mm-wide windmills look fragile, but UTA (University of Texas Arlington) researchers said that their flexible nickel alloy components can stand up to strong winds without undergoing any fracture.



These inventions are essential to build micro-robots that can be used as surgical tools, sensing machines to explore disaster zones or manufacturing tools to assemble micro-machines," UTA says.

One of the Indian researchers named Smitha Rao along with other foreign researchers said "Flat panels with thousands of windmills could be made and mounted on the walls of houses or building to harvest energy for lighting, security or environmental sensing and

wireless communication."

Smitha Rao and J.-C. Chiao designed and built the device that is about 1.8 mm at its widest point. A single grain of rice could hold about 10 of these tiny windmills. Hundreds of the windmills could be embedded in a sleeve for a cell phone. Wind, created by waving the cell phone in air or holding it up to an open window on a windy day, would generate the electricity that could be collected by the cell phone's battery.

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