

Now, an AI robot to process wet waste at home

Its developers say it can convert peels, greens and meat into a soil-like mix

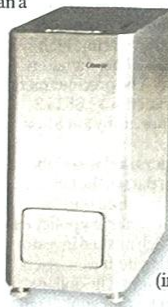
TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

An AI-powered robot that turns wet waste into an odour-free, soil-like mix at home in less than four days has gone viral. It also flags dry or unwanted components in the wet waste mix. Called Chewie, it is developed by Bengaluru-based Mankomb Technologies.

The innovation came to light after Biocon chairperson Kiran

Mazumdar-Shaw shared a video about it on social media recently. Bookings for its home model, Chewie Max, opened in May, and all 1,000 units were reserved in less than a week. It is priced at Rs 34,999.

The team began R&D in 2022. Mrudul Mudtholy, who founded the startup along with Dinesh Babu Sukumar and Jawahar Arumugam, said they were moved by the challenges of waste segregation in Bengaluru.



Chewie Max

"There is sometimes a risk of missing the garbage collection," he said, citing an example.

Regenerated soil

The robot is built on the VECA system—vision, environment orchestration, cloud and over-the-air (OTA) updates, in addition to automatic dosing and self-care. "It uses on-device vision to identify inputs—greens, peels, and proteins like meat or bones—and even flags plastics or cutlery. It balances the carbon-to-nitrogen ratio (in the organic matter) and triggers the right enzymes. This is key since



From left: Anusha G, Jawahar Arumugam, Mrudul Mudtholy, Dinesh Babu Sukumar, Kishan G, and Rushali Mariam Cherian from Mankomb Technologies.

improper balance is why public composting units stink from kilometres away," Mudtholy explained.

The robot regulates temperature, oxygen, and moisture to keep decomposition odour-free. Cloud and OTA provide insights into users' food habits and help track their carbon impact. The

automatic dosing feature anticipates heavy loads, adjusts cycles, clears jams, and self-cleans, requiring no user maintenance.

The output is a soil-like mix and the process can take anywhere from as little as eight hours to just over three days. The mix can be used for gardening. "We call it 'regen soil', short

for regenerated soil. Its nutrient profile depends on the type of waste input," he said. It can process up to 120 kg of waste per month. It can fit under a sink or counter, requires a 6-amp power supply, and uses minimal water.

For apartments, restaurants

The next batch of the home model will open for pre-booking in January 2026. Future versions will include Chewie Z and Chewie Pro. The former is designed for high-rise apartments and is set for a 2027 launch, while the latter is a higher-capacity model for restaurants and cafeterias, expected to roll out in 2028.

For details, visit mankomb.com/chewie

Source: DH, 10th Sept 2025

BUSINESS UPDATE

August 2025

Dear Friends,

Zero Ads. Zero Excuses. Sold Out.

We flipped the pre-booking switch and the market flipped with us. In five days, we booked a thousand Chewies - no ads, no discounts, no gimmicks. The phone lines, inboxes and CRM lit up; WhatsApp groups in housing communities, alumni communities did the rest. When Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw appreciated the product on X, it catalysed a wave of goodwill that pushed our site past 3 million hits and similar volume of enquiries. It emptied our first batch in record time. Distributors, investors and B2B2C partners have since piled in asking for new allocations.

FY25 Focus & Execution Plan

- Our target for this financial year remains simple – Ship 1,000 units, stand up the ops backbone, book the revenue. That's the year's North Star: build, deliver, and recognise.
- Future feature development opens after deliveries begin at scale.
- Execution mode now: manufacturing first. All hands are on capacity, line balancing, quality, service readiness, and spares logistics to keep the ramp smooth.

- **Production cadence:** we're sticking to **50** → **500** → **500**-unit batches this year, with clear gates on quality, reliability, and service readiness before moving to the next batch.

Market momentum - earned, not bought

- Pre-bookings: 1000 units in 5 days; zero ad spend.
- Virality: Media coverage across TV/print/digital ([Hindustan Times](#), [NDTV](#), [Times Now](#), [Money Control](#), [News 18](#), [The Indian Express](#), [Deccan Herald](#)); wide community chatter; **60K+** site hits daily.
- KOL endorsement: Appreciation by **Kiran Mazumdar Shaw** amplified trust and reach.
- Pipeline strength: Distributors (regional and International), B2B2C communities, and investors lining up for allocations as soon as we reopen.

Financing - raising for manufacturing & ops backbone

We were not actively fundraising so far. However, the market made the case for us. We're now opening a focused round to:

1. Scale manufacturing - tooling, jigs/fixtures, long-lead components, manufacturing line.
2. Strengthen operations - field service stack, spares logistics, CRM automations, QA labs and endurance rigs.
3. Working capital - to match the visible order book and reduce cycle times.

Why now? FY25 revenue realisation is mature and high-confidence given the booked demand and distributor/B2B2C interest. Capital here accelerates fulfilment.

FSID backs Mankomb



FSID (Foundation for Scientific and Industrial Research) has signed a cheque. Beyond capital, this opens access to a pool of IISc tech and scientists - and adds institutional credibility as we enter certification and scale-up. We're grateful to our early believers; now it's on us to execute and deliver the pipeline.

Frugality as an operating system

We've stayed lean and cash-honest. Thanks to cross-domain depth of the founding team, we have achieved what many large corporates take years to attempt at ~1/100th the budget. We would continue to operate this way.

What's next (30 - 60 days)

- Close certification pre-audits; submit samples.
- Finalise manufacturer MoUs
- Expand endurance rigs to 3x shifts; data capture for AI v1.3.
- Progress the manufacturing & ops round with clear use-of-proceeds and delivery milestones.

Onwards & Upwards towards building world's smartest, sustainable and friendliest home- bot and appliance company!

Mrudul Mudotholy

Co-Founder & CEO,
Mankomb Technologies Pvt Ltd

PICTURES OR IT DIDN'T HAPPEN!

The first Chewie production unit is built



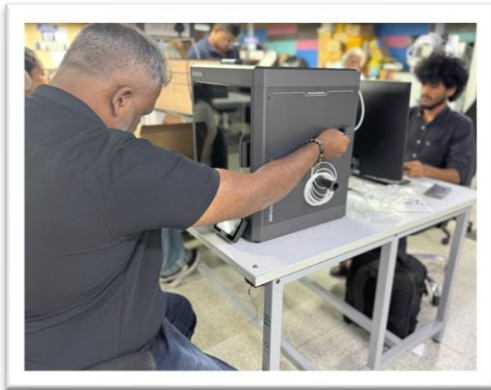
Chewie meets its kitchen



Chewie visits places



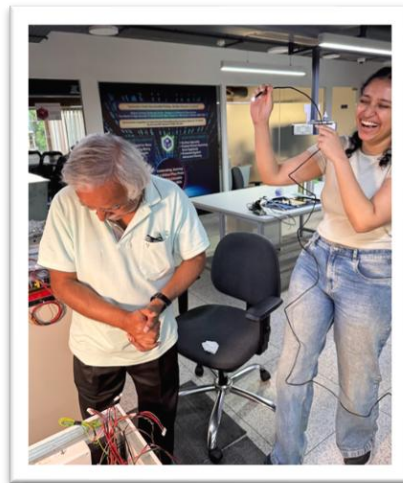
Long lead time components begin to arrive



We upped our rapid iterations



Enjoying our 15 hour work days



Multipurpose lab equipment: fun, frugal & slog