

# autobuzz

## Kia MEA launches Connected Car services platform, Kia Connect, **Across the GCC**

The brand’s Connected Car Services (CSS) platform, is now live in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar

- Offers over 50 advanced features, from Remote Control and Digital Key 2.0 to Geo Fence Alerts and Over-the-air Map Updates
- Phased rollout includes a complimentary 3-year trial, expanding to 16 models and more MEA markets by 2027.

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Kia Middle East & Africa has officially launched Kia Connect, its Con-



ected Car Services (CCS) platform, across five GCC markets, opening a new chapter in Kia’s mission to create smarter, more intuitive ways to move. Designed to bring drivers closer to their vehicles and life-

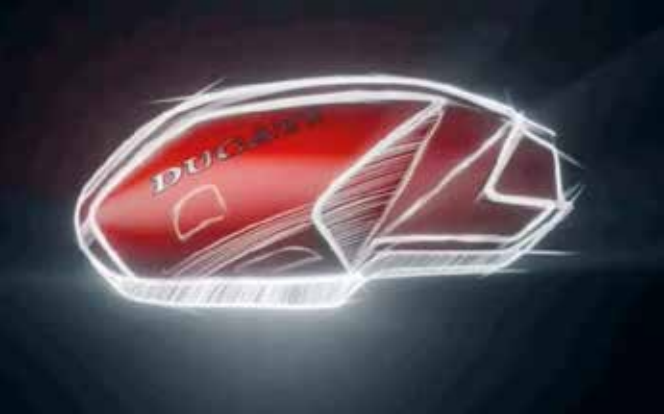
styles, Kia Connect reimagines convenience, control and peace of mind for customers in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar. Building on Kia Connect’s proposition to “stay connected

to what matters,” the platform acts as an intelligent companion that makes every journey simpler, safer, and more personalised. Through the Kia Connect App, owners can access more than 50 innovative features that elevate the driving experience, from practical remote functions to real-time insights. Users can lock and unlock doors, start or stop the engine, and pre-set the cabin temperature remotely, creating comfort even before entering the vehicle. The platform also lets drivers monitor key information such as tire pressure, fuel status, door/trunk status, and system alerts in real time. With Digital Key 2.0, a compatible smartphone can unlock, start, and drive the vehicle, and digital keys can be securely shared with family or friends. Beyond convenience, Kia

Connect enhances safety and peace of mind. Drivers receive instant alerts through Geo/Time Fence features whenever the vehicle moves outside designated zones or time windows, while Valet Mode allows them to monitor their car and ensure it remains safe when using a valet service. Additional features such as Find My Vehicle, Speed Camera Warning and Stolen Vehicle Recovery offer added reassurance, while Over-the-Air (OTA) map updates ensure the vehicle’s navigation software remains current without requiring a service visit. Currently available in five GCC countries, Kia Connect is offered with a complimentary three-year Ultimate Plan trial on Kia’s latest models, including the Tasman and the new EV series. Kia Connect will be available on up to 7 models by

2025 and 16 models by 2027, and will expand to more countries across the MEA region. SooHang Chang, President at Kia Middle East & Africa commented: “The launch of Kia Connect in the Middle East marks a strategic milestone in our ongoing commitment to deliver intelligent and seamlessly integrated mobility solutions. This digital platform has been developed to provide our customers with unmatched connectivity, convenience, and control, further strengthening Kia’s position as a leading Sustainable Mobility Solutions Provider. With Kia Connect, we are redefining the interaction between driver and vehicle, creating a smarter and more personalized customer experience that aligns with the evolving needs of our customers across the region.”

## Next-generation Ducati Monster to debut today



TDI | agencies

Ducati has teased the next-generation Monster ahead of its official debut. The latest version of the iconic naked motorcycle will be unveiled during the next episode of the Ducati World Premiere 2026 on October 23. The teaser offers a glimpse of the bike’s fuel tank, with a design sketch of the upcoming model’s tank superimposed over the current one. The new

Monster is also expected to feature an M-shaped tail section, hinting at a sportier design direction. Beyond cosmetic updates, Ducati is likely to base the new Monster on a revised chassis. Power will come from the brand’s 890cc V-twin engine, which delivers around 118 BHP. This same engine currently drives the Panigale V2, Streetfighter V2, and Multistrada V2, leading to speculation that the new model could be named the Monster V2.

## Driving licence suspension dodgers run out of road in EU

AFP | Strasbourg, France

The European Parliament on Tuesday adopted a driving licence reform to crack down on motorists who attempt to dodge having their permit revoked by moving abroad. The reform hopes to reduce the number of road deaths in the European Union, which



Obtaining a European Union (EU) driving licence can range from moderately to quite difficult, depending on the country. Each EU member state has its own testing standards, but all follow a common framework set by the EU.



Representative picture

came to nearly 20,000 in 2024. It introduces stricter conditions for obtaining and renew-

ing licences, promotes information sharing on serious traffic offenders between member

states and encourages the take-up of digital permits. At present, nearly 40 percent of drivers who have their licence revoked or suspended in a country other than the one where it was issued go unpunished, Italian lawmaker Matteo Ricci told the chamber. “With the new rules, (a driver) who loses their licence in a European country for a serious offence will no longer be able to drive in any other member state,” the socialist added. Besides the crackdown on those attempting to avoid sanctions, the reform aims to speed up the bloc’s bid to make the digital driving licence the main format, although EU citizens will still be able to request a physical document. Young drivers will also be subject to a two-year probationary period, during which they will be subject to stricter rules and penalties than established motorists.

## Nissan B-segment MPV spied ahead of February 2026 launch in India

TDI | agencies

Nissan is gearing up to launch three new models in India, one of which will be a new B-segment MPV. Scheduled for debut in February 2026, the first spy images of the vehicle have now surfaced. The upcoming Nissan B-MPV is based on the Renault Triben, a connection made clear by its shared bodyshell. However, Nissan has given the car a distinc-



tive identity with a redesigned front fascia.



The test mule reveals a hexagonal front grille flanked by

wraparound headlamps, along with what appears to be a revised front bumper featuring a rectangular air dam. Other visible elements include a clamshell bonnet and roof rails. Under the bonnet, the MPV is expected to use the familiar 1.0-litre, 3-cylinder petrol engine, paired with either a 5-speed manual or a 5-speed AMT gearbox. It remains to be seen whether Nissan will also offer the more powerful 1.0-litre turbo-petrol engine option.