

autobuzz



GCC countries drive electric revolution

key facts

1. Zero Emissions:	EVs produce no tailpipe emissions, reducing air pollution.
2. Battery Range:	Modern EVs travel 150-300 miles per charge, with some over 400 miles.
3. Charging Time:	Level 1 chargers can take up to 24 hours; Level 2 chargers take 4-8 hours; fast chargers can recharge 80% in 30 minutes.
4. Cost Savings:	Lower operating costs compared to gasoline cars; electricity is cheaper, and EVs need less maintenance.
5. Government Incentives:	Tax credits and rebates can reduce the upfront cost of EVs.
6. Regenerative Braking:	Captures energy during braking to extend range and improve efficiency.
7. Home Charging:	Most EVs are charged overnight at home.
8. Battery Lifespan:	Typically lasts 8-15 years, with many manufacturers offering 8-year warranties.
9. Environmental Impact:	EVs are greener but battery production and disposal have environmental effects.
10. Performance:	Often have quick acceleration and a smooth, quiet drive.
11. Infrastructure Growth:	More public charging stations make long-distance travel easier.
12. Technology Integration:	Often include advanced features like autonomous driving and over-the-air updates.



TDT | agencies

In recent years, the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) countries have emerged as a surprising hub for electric vehicles (EVs), driven by a mix of ambitious sustainability goals and rapid technological advancements.

One of the most intriguing stories is that of Saudi Arabia's push to become a major player in the global electric vehicle market. In 2021, the country announced a bold plan to establish its own electric vehicle manufacturer, Lucid Motors, in a partnership with the U.S.-based company Lucid Motors. This move was part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, a comprehensive plan to diversify its economy away from oil dependency.

The Lucid Air, a luxury electric sedan, became a symbol of this shift, with Saudi investment helping to accelerate its development and production. Dubai, known for its opulence and innovation, has also made significant strides in promoting electric vehicles. The city launched the "Green Mobility Initiative" to increase the adoption of EVs, offering incentives such as free charging, reduced tolls, and parking benefits for electric car owners.

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In addition to government efforts, the private sector in the GCC is also embracing electric mobility. In 2023, a local start-up in the UAE introduced an electric taxi service, aiming to provide an eco-friendly alternative to traditional taxis. The service has not only contributed to reducing carbon emissions but also showcased the potential of electric vehicles in everyday transportation.

Another fascinating aspect is the region's focus on solar-powered charging infrastructure. With abundant sunshine, the GCC is leveraging solar energy to power EV charging stations, creating a sustainable ecosystem for electric mobility. In Abu Dhabi, a solar-powered EV charging station was installed, further aligning the region's renewable energy goals with its growing electric vehicle market.

These stories highlight the GCC's evolving landscape in electric mobility, driven by a combination of government initiatives, private sector innovation, and a commitment to sustainability. The region's embrace of electric vehicles is setting a new standard for environmentally conscious development in one of the world's most oil-rich areas.

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China launches appeal at WTO over EU electric vehicle tariffs

AFP | Beijing, China

Beijing said Friday it had filed an appeal with the World Trade Organization over the European Union's imposition of additional tariffs on imports of electric vehicles from China.

In July, the EU slapped extra provisional duties of up to 38 percent on Chinese EVs after its executive arm concluded in an investigation that they were unfairly undermining European rivals.

"On August 9, China appealed to the World Trade Organization's dispute settlement mechanism over the EU's temporary anti-subsidy measures on EVs," a spokesperson for the country's commerce ministry said in a statement.

The ministry said the appeal aimed to "safeguard the development rights and interests of the electric vehicle industry and cooperation over the global green transformation".

"The EU's preliminary ruling



lacks a factual and legal basis, seriously violates WTO rules, and undermines the overall situation of global cooperation in addressing climate change," it said.

"We urge the EU to immediately correct its wrong practices and jointly maintain the stability of China-EU economic and trade cooperation as well as EV industrial and supply chains."

Brussels said it took note of Beijing's move but was "confident" its probe and provisional measures were WTO-compatible.

India's Ola Electric shines in market debut

AFP Mumbai, India

India's biggest e-scooter maker Ola Electric Mobility dazzled on its market debut Friday after raising \$734 million, as traders bet on surging demand for battery-powered vehicles.

A booming stock market in the world's fifth-largest economy has stoked an initial public offering frenzy over the last two years, with start-ups and companies scooping up billions of dollars from domestic and foreign investors.

Ola Electric, backed by global investors such as Japan's SoftBank and Singapore's Temasek, has managed to establish a leading position in a country where electric vehicle adoption is low but growing fast.



Sales of two-wheelers dwarf cars in India, but less than 6 percent of the nearly 18 million scooters and bikes sold in India in the fiscal year ending March 2024 were electric.

Ola has sought to convince wary Indian customers that long-term fuel savings will make up for a lack of country-wide charging infrastructure.

Jaguar to unveil Electric Grand Tourer in December; No new models until 2026



Jaguar has already announced plans to end production of its entire lineup

TDT | agencies

Jaguar is developing an all-new electric vehicle, set to debut as an ultra-premium grand tourer in the \$125,000 price range. The EV is slated for a December unveiling, but it won't hit the market until 2026, meaning Jaguar won't produce or sell any new models for at least a year.

Jaguar has yet to confirm when production of this upcoming EV will begin. How-

ever, once released, the grand tourer is expected to be the most powerful vehicle in Jaguar's history. Jaguar has already announced plans to end production of its entire lineup, except for the F-Pace SUV. Models like the XE, XF, and F-Type have already been discontinued, while the E-Pace and I-Pace will be phased out by the end of the year. The F-Pace will also be discontinued, but not until sometime in 2025.

BMW launches Eco-Friendly M Visionary materials seat



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BMW has introduced its new M Visionary Materials Seat, which features innovative materials and design, making it both lightweight and comfortable. The seat has been recognized with the Enlighten Award in the Sustainable Process category at the 2024 Centre for Automotive Research Seminar.

Prioritizing sustainability, BMW has incorporated a variety of plant-based materials,

natural fibers, leather alternatives, and algae-based polymers in the seat's construction. These materials are robotically wound to form the seat's support structures. Additionally, BMW has designed the seat's interior components to be easily recyclable.

The use of these materials and the seat's unique structure reportedly reduces its carbon footprint by an impressive 90% compared to standard BMW M bucket sports seats.

N+ and Ford unveil electric bikes inspired by Mustang and Bronco models

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N+ and Ford have teamed up to create two electric bikes inspired by the Mustang and Bronco models.

The Bronco e-bike features a mono-shock rear suspension, motorcycle-style seat, Bronco decals, Pirelli Scorpion Enduro M tires, quad-piston hydraulic disc brakes, an LCD display, and LED lights. It weighs 31 kg.

The Mustang e-bike has a con-

ventional saddle, Mustang decals, triple-bar tail lights, and Pirelli Angel GT semi-slick tires.

Both e-bikes are powered by a 750W hub motor, reaching speeds of 45 km/h and offering a 96 km range on a 720 Wh battery.

Tyler Hill, Ford's Global Brand Licensing Manager, stated, "These e-bikes let more people experience the Bronco's adventure and the Mustang's thrill."

The Mustang e-bike costs \$4,000, while the Bronco is \$4,500. An extra \$390 allows for up to 10 color options.

