

Business



New Nissan KICKS: Style meets technology

Nissan Intelligent Mobility, moving us to a world that's safer, more sustainable and exciting

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The pastel light gray color is the first thing that attracted me to the brand new Nissan KICKS, which I was given the opportunity to drive and test its performance and options. The color perfectly matched its adorable design, which suits both families and young drivers.

Driving KICKS was a great experience, with easy handling of the wheel, stability of the vehicle on the road and minimum consumption of fuel. I could control the entire driving experience without taking my hands off the wheel. Getting into the car, the leather-wrapped seats and steering wheel grabbed my attention, with double-stitching and quality finishes making a premium interior.



With new levels of soundproofing and ample interior space, the new KICKS provides a superior comfort experience for every passenger. Apart from having all the modern features that are typically available in most vehicles, a new feature was added to KICKS. The Bose Personal Plus Audio System allows you to feel the playlist like never before through the Bose UltraNearfield speakers built right into the driver's headrest.

Style meets technology in KICKS. You can connect in an instant with compatible smartphone integration. The semi-autonomous driver assistance systems gives you maximum confidence so that you have total control of the vehicle without effort.

Safety

Safety is one of Nissan's priorities. The new KICKS comes equipped with the highest safety standards. The Safety Shield 360° is a set of technologies that maximize your capabilities through semi-autonomous driver assistance systems. Then with the intelligent forward collision warning, KICKS is watching two vehicles ahead, even when you can't see what's going on up front. And when it detects sudden deceleration in front of you, it gives you a warning to slow down.

The intelligent emergency braking can help save you from a potential frontal collision. It monitors your speed and distance between you and the car ahead and can let you know if you need to slow down. It can also automatically engage the brakes to help avoid a collision or lessen the severity of an impact. The intelligent around view monitor has four cameras that give you a 360° birds-eye view of your vehicle, so you can squeeze through city streets or nab a tough parking spot.

Also, the blind spot warning keeps an eye on the blind spot area and gives you a heads-up if it detects a vehicle hiding there. Furthermore, when you're backing out of a space, the rear cross traffic alert watches around the rear of your KICKS, warning you about cars it detects creeping up on you from either side. In addition, the lane departure warning helps make sure you change lanes only when you mean to. If the system detects that you're drifting over, it'll warn you.

KICKS was designed from the Nissan emotional geometry concept. The unmistakable personality of the new KICKS generates an immediate attraction for its lines. Daring, sporty and sophisticated. The double v-motion front grille highlights the personality of the new KICKS. Its imposing chrome front grille, provocative and captivating, with sharp forms, breaks through as you drive.

Expressive design

The new KICKS also leaves its unmistakable signature. Its new rear assembly design is expressive,



dynamic and memorable. Furthermore, it has new LED headlights, new LED taillights, and new fog light design. The new KICKS expresses itself with style at every turn with the 17" aluminum-alloy wheels. And when you turn off the new KICKS, the exterior mirrors fold automatically for added safety.

The new KICKS is compatible with both Apple and Android. Equipped with Siri voice control, Apple CarPlay brings your contacts, favorite messaging apps, Apple Music playlists, Apple Maps, and more on board to your KICKS. Simply plug in your compatible iPhone and go.

With Android Auto, you can keep your eyes on the road and hands on the wheel while using your voice to help you with your day. Ask Google to play your favorite song, navigate home, or respond to a text hands-free. Just say "Hey Google" or long-press the voice control button on your steering wheel.

Customize every detail of your drive with the innovative new digital information display. From caller ID to available safety alerts, you'll always have the information you want at a glance on the crisp, full-color

screen. Also, your smart devices are essential. Keep them charged and connected with the standard USB port, easily accessible by the driver and front-seat passenger.

Spacious

To provide even more space to the spacious new KICKS, it was equipped with the KICKS' 60/40 2nd-row split-folding seats and maximum length of 57", which offers flexible seating configurations to fit your lifestyle. With 432 liters of cargo volume behind the rear seats, KICKS has more than enough room to pack it all in. You can even fit a bike in there with the seats down, thanks to a lower trunk floor. Also, the tight steering angle achieved by the new Kicks allows you to maneuver comfortably in tight spaces and congested streets.

Nissan Intelligent Mobility moves you one step ahead in car that feels like an extension of you, helping you see more and sense more. Nissan Intelligent Mobility is about a better future, moving us to a world that's safer, more sustainable and exciting.



Climate justice: Rich nations dodge finance pledge

PARIS: A hundred billion dollars every year—that's the aid promised more than a decade ago to help developing nations curb their carbon pollution and adapt to devastating climate impacts. But rich countries have not delivered on that pledge, a failure that could undermine a critical COP26 climate summit in Glasgow next month already riven with tensions, experts say.

The context

The vow to gradually ramp up aid for the Global South to \$100 billion (86.5 billion euros) per year by 2020 was first made at the 2009 UN climate summit in Copenhagen. A decade later, wealthy nations were still far from the mark, with the total below \$80 billion in 2019, according to the OECD, which took on the role of tracking climate finance.

If only outright grants and not loans are considered, the amount drops by almost half, say NGOs that monitor money flows. With a Democrat back in the White House, the US has doubled its aid and promises \$11.4 billion per year by 2024, but it's still not enough to close the gap. Canada and Germany are expected to announce enhanced commitments before the Glasgow summit opens on October 31.

China may be the world's top carbon polluter today, accounting for more than a quarter of global emissions, but the United States and other rich countries are historically the main emitters of greenhouse gases. COP26 host Boris Johnson recently reminded leaders at the UN that Britain had pioneered the industrial revolution and was the first country "to send enough acrid smoke into the atmosphere to disrupt the natural order." "We understand that when developing countries look to us for help, we have to shoulder our responsibilities," the British Prime Minister continued.

Stakes high at COP26

One of the biggest challenges facing climate negotiations is a deficit of trust among parties, and climate

finance may be the most fraught issue on the table. "The shortfall in funds is costing lives and livelihoods," Sonam Wangi, chair of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) negotiating bloc, said in a statement. "Developed countries delivering on their decade-old commitment to support vulnerable countries ... will be critical for building trust and accelerating the global response to climate change."

UN climate chief Patricia Espinosa agrees that living up to those promises could be a key for unlocking other logjams. "The complexity of the outcome of COP26 is that it is not one or two or three decisions, it has to be a package," she told journalists.

"If we can get a good perspective regarding the \$100 billion, that would ... give us the means to make progress on some other issues."

\$100bn a floor, not a ceiling

In 2009, \$100 billion sounded like a lot of money, but the recent crescendo of heatwaves, flooding caused by extreme rainfall, drought and evermore powerful storms has made it clear that it's not nearly enough, experts agree. The sum seems especially paltry compared to the multi-trillion dollar Covid recovery packages that have been cobbled together to prop up rich economies.

"A combined global fiscal response to the crisis of close to \$12 trillion begs a question," climate finance experts commissioned by the UN wrote in a recent report.

"If a pandemic can provoke such a rapid and far-reaching response, at scale, surely the world can muster the necessary will to act with similar decisiveness and urgency in response to the climate crisis?" "The \$100 billion target therefore needs to be seen as a floor and not as a ceiling," the added.

Former Maldives president Mohamed Nasheed, representing the Climate Vulnerable Forum of 48 countries home to a billion people, said financing should be broadened to include sovereign debt relief. "We are so threatened that we might not have an island or a country much longer, so it's hardly possible for us to pay the debt if we are not around," he said.

"Is it not then reasonable for climate vulnerable countries to call upon debt holders to restructure their debt?" he added, saying he would be taking this proposal to the Glasgow talks.—AFP

Spreading customer awareness on finance regulations vital: KFH

KUWAIT: Acting Group Deputy General Manager - Products at Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Nehal Al-Mosalem emphasized the significance of educating customers and the public about various banking services and products provided to them as she believes in the importance of enhancing financial education for different society categories and achieving the best benefits from banking products and services.

To enhance public awareness on all types of personal finance operations, Al-Mosalem added that finance transactions comprise two types: consumer finance which covers personal needs e.g., purchase of cars, furniture or acquiring beneficiary services such as educational and health services as well as other consumer purposes. The second type covers residential needs e.g., purchase, build or renovate private residence.

She stated in a press release, as part of supporting the banking awareness campaign "Diraya", that consumer finance is a 5-year mid-term personal finance not exceeding KD 25,000. Housing finance is a long-term personal finance for a maximum 15-year period and a cost not exceeding KD 70,000.

Al-Mosalem added that to regulate the provision of personal credit facilities in a way that enables the customer to benefit from such facilities without being exposed to default risk, and to avoid burdening the customer with financial obligations, the Central Bank of Kuwait has enacted a set of controls that banks must adhere to when providing finance, whether for employees or retirees, considering the financial conditions of each of these two categories.

Yellen says 'confident' US will implement global minimum tax

WASHINGTON: US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Sunday she was "confident" Congress would pass legislation to implement a global tax agreement in the United States enacting a minimum international tax on big corporations. The OECD-brokered deal, which sets a global tax of 15 percent, is aimed at stopping international corporations from slashing tax bills by registering in nations with low rates. "I am confident that what we need to do to come into compliance with the minimum tax will be included in a reconciliation package," Yellen told ABC's "This Week," referring to the federal budget bill currently being debated in Congress.

The multi-trillion dollar spending package is the

cornerstone of President Joe Biden's economic agenda. Budget reconciliation is a political move that would allow Democrats, who control the House of Representatives and Senate by a slim majority, to act without Republican votes. "I hope that... it will be passed and we will be able to reassure the world that the United States will do its part," Yellen said, praising the "historic" agreement. The 136 nations now on board with the global tax agreement represent 90 percent of global gross domestic product.



Nehal Al-Mosalem

Under the deal, they will be able to generate around \$175 billion in additional revenue. The OECD said countries are aiming to sign a multilateral convention in 2022, with an eye on implementing the reform in 2023. Each country in the deal must now incorporate the agreement into its own legislation. However, some questions remain, such as the Biden administration's ability to get the reform through Congress. Democrats want to include the measure in the \$3.5 trillion infrastructure spending package, but their majority in the Senate is so small that the party cannot afford any defections among their ranks.—AFP

She indicated that total monthly financial obligations shall not exceed 40 percent of the customer's net monthly salary for employees or 30 percent for retirees.

She highlighted the bank's role in providing financial advice regarding customer's needs and obligations and the risks of the increased financial obligations, providing all the information about the finance contract, clarifying the details of the finance process, e.g. rate of return/discount rate to the finance amount, number of

installments, details of each installment and other information before signing the contract with the customer. In addition, the bank should give the customer a period of two days to review the contract and read the terms and conditions carefully, so that the customer would be aware of his rights and obligations under the contract before signing it.

KFH continues its endeavor to support "Diraya" campaign which was launched based on the Central Bank of Kuwait initiative in cooperation with the Kuwait Banking Union.

The campaign "Diraya" aims to spread awareness concerning customer's rights in personal finance operations, the mechanism to file complaints concerning banking services and diversified banking cards, the methods to avoid being exposed to fraud operations and spread awareness on the risks of encashments and high-risk investments. Also, it aims to highlight the banking sector role in general, and the banking products provided by the private sector, by introducing a set of instructions and information on regular basis through social media and various e-channels of the bank.