

## Two new Salik gates in November

DUBAI  
BY SHARMILA DHAL  
UAE Editor

Two new toll gates that have been announced in Dubai will be operational by November, according to Salik, the Dubai toll gate operator.

The two gates will come up at Business Bay Crossing on Al Khail Road and Al Safa South on Shaikh Zayed Road. Once functional, they are expected to considerably ease traffic congestion in these areas.

Salik first announced the launch of the gates in January this year. The total number of toll gates in Dubai currently stands at eight, with revenue-generating trips reaching 115.7 million, up 1.6 per cent year on year.

Vehicles used by charities, schools, people of determination, ambulances, and other public services are exempted from Salik.

The number of free-of-charge trips made by exempted vehicles through Salik's eight toll gates remained relatively stable year on year at around two million.

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# Climate change fuelled deadly Kerala landslides, say scientists

RECENT RAINFALL WAS 'MADE 10% HEAVIER BY HUMAN-CAUSED CLIMATE CRISIS'

BENGALURU

Climate change played a key factor in torrential rains in India's southern state of Kerala that triggered catastrophic landslides killing more than 400 people last month, a group of scientists said yesterday.

Monsoon rains battered the state and triggered landslides on July 30, burying homes and residents in Wayanad district under tonnes of rock and soil.

World Weather Attribution, a network of scientists who have pioneered peer-reviewed methods for assessing the possible role of climate change in specific extreme events, said the link between the intense rainfall and a warming planet was clear.

### Man-made calamity

"The landslides... were triggered by a burst of rainfall that was made about 10 per cent heavier by human-caused climate change," the WWA analysis by 24 scientists said, noting more than 140mm of rain fell in a single day. "Before climate change, similar downpours in Kerala were incredibly rare," it said.



AFP

■ A view of the tea plantations in Wayanad after the landslides that killed more than 400 people.

The scientists say higher temperatures due to fossil fuel emissions mean the atmosphere can hold more moisture, resulting in heavier rainfall. It also said there had been a staggering 62 per cent decrease in forest cover in the Wayanad region since 1950,

"reducing slope stability" and increasing the landslide risk.

"The Wayanad landslides is another catastrophic example of climate change playing out in real time," said study member Mariam Zachariah, from Imperial College London. WWA said

the rain that caused the landslides was the third heaviest one-day event on record in the area — beaten only by storms in 2019 and in 1924 — and warned worse will come without rapid change.

—AFP

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## Self-test car for driving licence exam

RAS AL KHAIMAH  
BY AGHADDIR ALI  
Senior Reporter

Fancy sitting through a driving licence examination in a car but without a human examiner inside to assess your skill? Well, that is how it is in Ras Al Khaimah, following the launch of the self-testing traffic vehicle.

The vehicle, which has become the talk of the town, is equipped with 10 cameras — four for 360-degree panoramic vehicle detection, four for peripheral vision and two for interior view — one in the front and the other in the back.

The applicant starts the test by pressing a button and the examiner monitors the process via a tablet linked to the vehicle's cameras.

The vehicle guides the customer through test stages like reversing, lateral movement, or crossing the bridge. The examiner takes notes and has the option to terminate it if needed. After the test, the vehicle returns to its designated location, and the results are sent electronically for approval.

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