

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance

Why in News?

Recently, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has approved a new travel system allowing citizens to complete all travel checks at one point.

- The new travel framework was announced during the 42nd meeting of GCC Interior Ministers held in Kuwait City.
- The pilot phase is scheduled to begin in December 2025 with the UAE and Bahrain.
- If successful, the model will extend to all 6 GCC nations — Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates.
- This new travel mechanism mirrors the Schengen-style coordination practiced in the European Union, signalling the GCC's commitment to building a more connected and accessible bloc.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

- It is a regional political and economic alliance in the Middle East.
- **Members** - The GCC consists of 6 countries on the Arabian Peninsula
 - Saudi Arabia
 - United Arab Emirates (UAE)
 - Kuwait
 - Qatar
 - Bahrain
 - Oman
- **Founded in** - 1981.
- **Headquarters** - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- **Aim** - To strengthening cooperation and integration among member states.
- **Focuses on**
 - Economic cooperation (trade, investment, and a proposed common market)

- Political coordination (regional diplomacy and shared security concerns)
- Defense collaboration
- Cultural and social initiatives
- **Organizational Structure of the GCC**
- **Supreme Council**
 - This is the highest authority in the GCC.
 - It is composed of the heads of state (i.e., the leaders) of all 6 member countries.
 - The presidency of the Supreme Council rotates annually among the member states (alphabetical rotation).
- **Ministerial Council**
 - Composed of Foreign Ministers (or their representatives) from each GCC country.
 - Meets every 3 months under normal circumstances.
 - Its role is to propose policies, coordinate cooperation, and implement decisions taken by the Supreme Council.
- **Secretariat General**
 - Acts as the administrative arm of the GCC.
 - Functions include monitoring implementation of GCC decisions, preparing reports and studies, organizing meetings, and preparing agendas.

Reference

[Times of India | Gulf Cooperation Council \(GCC\)](#)