

# **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 42<sup>nd</sup> 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 <u>Schengen-style coordination</u> 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
  - Oatar
  - 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)

