

## BOEING'S STARLINER



### Issue

The launch of uncrewed Starliner Orbital Flight Test-2 (OFT-2) of Boeing has been postponed once again.

### Background

The spacecraft was supposed to be launched from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.

### Details

- Crew Space Transportation-100 (CST-100) is the given name for the spacecraft. It will be a test flight to the International Space Station (ISS) and part of Commercial Crew Program of NASA.
- The spacecraft will take about 24 hrs to reach the ISS. It will carry about 400 pounds of NASA cargo and also crew supplies.
- A maximum of seven passengers can be accommodated on the spacecraft. There can also be a combination of cargo and passengers.
- The starliner module is reusable for upto 10 times. It will require a turnaround time of six months to be mission ready.
- The spacecraft contains modern features such as internet and also wireless tablets for the passengers.

### Significance

The test flight will help in understanding if the spacecraft can be used for future NASA missions including human space flights.

### Commercial Crew Program

- NASA has launched the Commercial Crew Program to make access to space easier and less costly for transporting crew and cargo to ISS.
- NASA will encourage private companies to design spacecrafts and rent them for their missions. It will allow NASA to focus on its core study of deep space.
- Apart from Boeing, companies like SpaceX, Blue Origin, and Virgin Galactic are vying hard for space business with official agencies.

NOTES

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