



CST-100 Starliner

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Why in News

CST-100 Starliner is a space capsule of **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** which failed its first test flight. Its objective was to **ferry astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS)**.

Key Points

- The capsule **CST-100 Starliner** was built by **Boeing**.
- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** relies on Russia to get its astronauts on the space station. This failure is likely to **push back** further **NASA's attempt at resuming human spaceflight** from the United States.
- **NASA** has **contracts** with **Boeing and SpaceX** to build spacecraft to ferry astronauts to and from the ISS.

SpaceX's **Crew Dragon** capsule is scheduled to launch in 2020. It will be a crewless flight, and if it succeeds, SpaceX could be in a position to send astronauts into space.

International Space Station

- The International Space Station (ISS) is a habitable artificial satellite - the single **largest man-made structure in low earth orbit**.
- It circles the Earth in roughly **92 minutes** and completes **15.5 orbits per day**.
- The ISS programme is a **joint project** between five participating space agencies: **NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe), and CSA (Canada)** but its ownership and use has been established by intergovernmental treaties and agreements.
- Its first component was launched into orbit in **1998** and its development and assembly still continues.

- It serves as a microgravity and space environment research laboratory in which crew members conduct experiments in biology, human biology, physics, astronomy, meteorology, and other fields.
- Continuous presence at ISS has resulted into the longest continuous human presence in the low earth orbit.
- It is expected to operate until 2030.

Source: IE