

## SUPERSONIC FLYING



### Issue

United Airlines has ordered 15 supersonic passenger planes from a company named Boom for commercial operations.

### Background

Supersonic flights were last seen two decades back when Concorde airline flew them. Since then they lost importance.

### Details

- Supersonic flights can travel at a speed of 1.7 Mach, which is faster than the speed of sound. If the deal progresses, then it will become the world's fastest commercial airliner.
- The supersonic airplanes can reduce travel time by half in comparison to the existing fleet of aircrafts. United Airlines will buy the planes only if they meet certain criteria.

### Concerns with supersonic aircrafts

- Supersonic aircrafts consume high amount of fuel along with high emissions during its operations. This would be detrimental on environmental safety.
- The Boom company has claimed that their aircrafts have net-zero emissions and run 100 percent on Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).
- The planes produce sonic boom that can create problems for people living below. It can lead to damage of property.

### Supersonic plane

- The supersonic planes are a category of aircrafts that can travel with a speed more than that of sound. The technology is old but has been recently revived.
- The use of this technology for commercial purposes has taken place recently as earlier it was mostly used for military purposes.
- The Concorde was the first company to use this technology but had to wind up due to high costs of operations. The planes can travel at a speed of around 900 kmph.

### Challenges in supersonic planes

- Cost of making sustainable supersonic planes is very high. It uses excessive amount of fuel and cannot carry heavy load.
- It will be difficult to control the sonic boom that is produced by these aircrafts. It is most likely to cause inconvenience.
- The systems and components used are prone to failure. It takes high maintenance cost and is risky for long travel.

#### NOTES

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