

# Japan joins moon race

Japan has launched a lunar mission, hoping to become the world's fifth country to land on the moon after the U.S., Russia, China and India

**Launch Vehicle H-IIA:**

**Lift off: Sep 7, 2023**  
from Tanegashima  
Space Centre

## SMART LANDER FOR INVESTIGATING MOON (SLIM)

Dubbed "moon sniper", probe aims to land within 100 metres of target point within **Shioli** crater – more precise touchdown than previous lunar landers have attempted

**SLIM  
landing  
site**

**India's  
Chandrayaan-3**  
Near lunar  
south pole

