



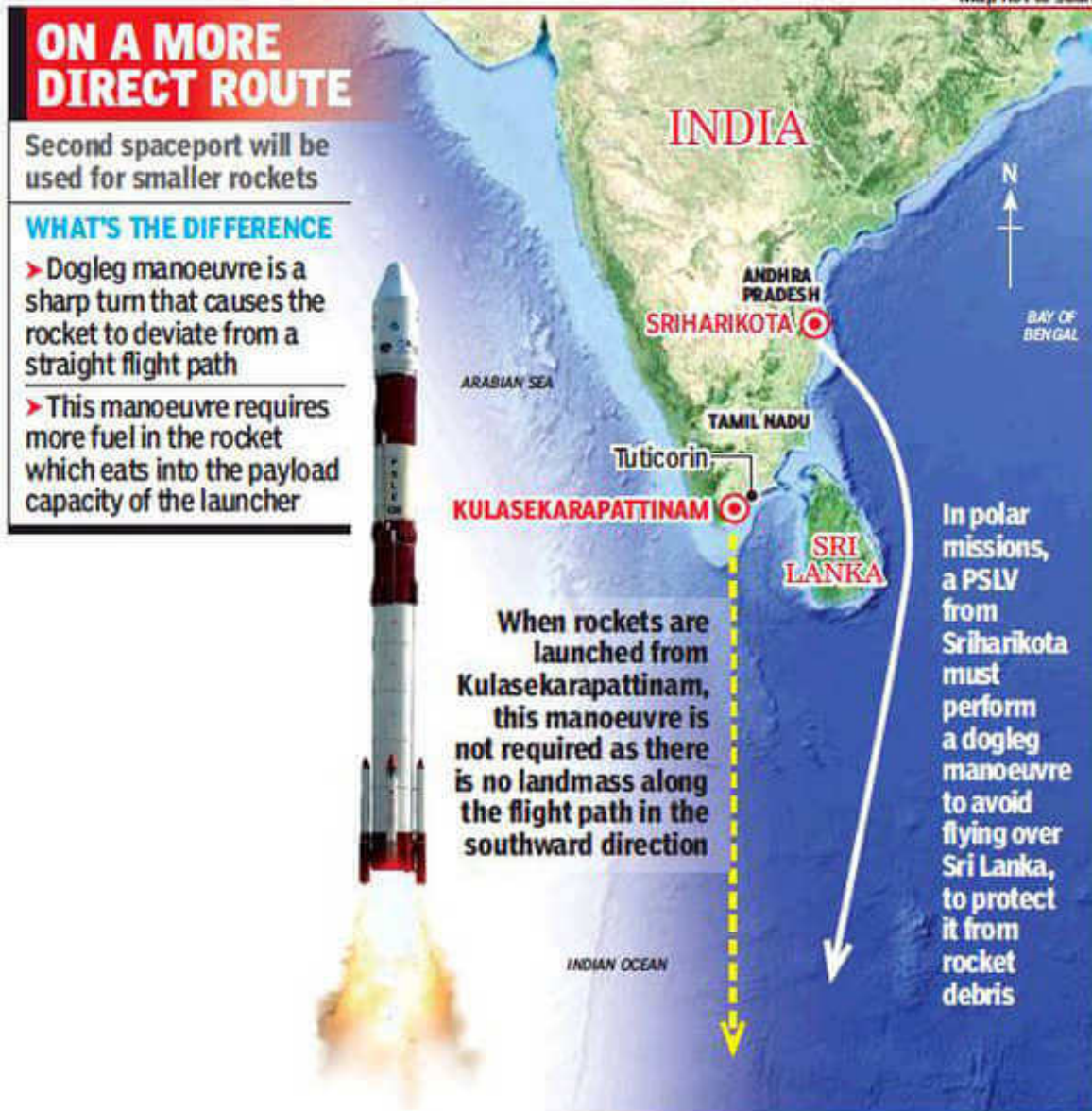
ISRO's Third Launch Pad

[Source: PIB](#)

The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the **Third Launch Pad (TLP)** at the [Satish Dhawan Space Centre \(SDSC\)](#), India's 1st launchport (2nd launchport - [Kulasekarapattinam](#)), in [Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh](#).

- The third launch pad will have the capacity to handle spacecraft weighing up to **30,000 tonnes** in [low Earth orbit](#).
 - Designed to support [NGLV](#), [LVM3 vehicles with semi cryogenic stages](#), and **scaled-up NGLV** configurations.
- Currently, ISRO uses two launch pads i.e., the **First Launch Pad (FLP)** and the **Second Launch Pad (SLP)**.
 - FLP was implemented for the [PSLV](#) and continues to support launches for both **PSLV and SSLV**.
 - SLP was primarily set up for [GSLV](#) and [LVM3](#), while also serving as a **backup for PSLV**.
 - It successfully launched the [Chandrayaan-3 mission](#) and is preparing for the upcoming [Gaganyaan missions](#).
- **Future Vision:** India's vision includes a [Crewed Lunar Landing by 2040](#) and the [Bharatiya Antariksh Station \(BAS\) by 2035](#), necessitating heavier launch vehicles that cannot be accommodated by existing pads.
- In 2024, foundation stone for [ISRO's 2nd rocket launchport](#) was laid in [Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu](#) for **commercial, on-demand, and small satellite (SSLVs) launches** and to avoid [dogleg manoeuvre](#) over [Srilanka](#).

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Read More: [New Rocket Launchport in Tamilnadu](#)

Marburg Virus Disease Outbreak

Source: DTE

A suspected outbreak of [Marburg virus disease \(MVD\)](#) in **Tanzania's Kagera region** has raised alarm after **claiming 8 lives**.

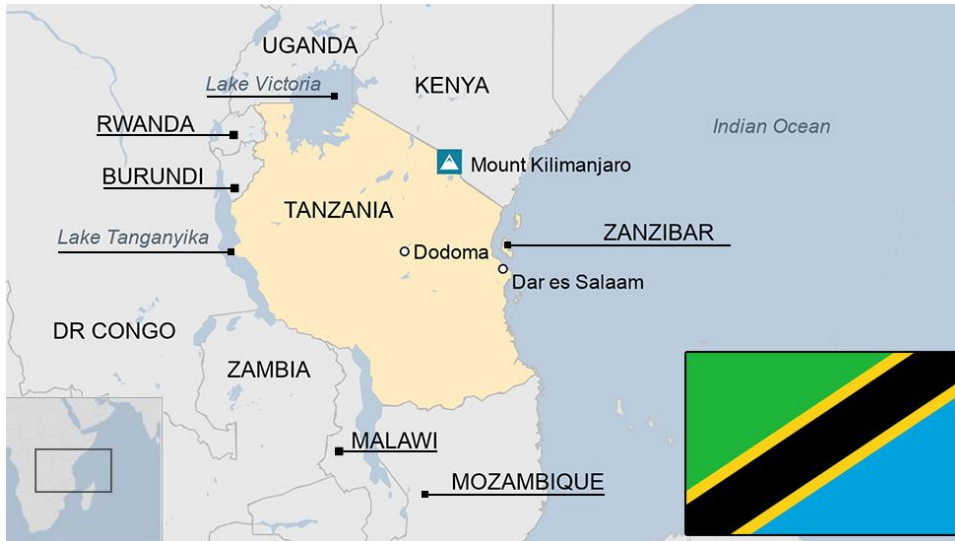
- **About MVD:** MVD is a **deadly hemorrhagic fever** caused by the Marburg virus, characterized by **high fatality rates of 89%** and the absence of approved treatments.
 - **Symptoms:** The virus causes severe symptoms, including **fever, headache, vomiting blood, and bleeding**, resembling the [Ebola virus](#).
 - **Transmission:** It is transmitted to humans from [fruit bats \(Rousettus aegyptiacus\)](#) and spreads through direct contact with the **bodily fluids** of infected

individuals.

- **Diagnosis:** It is confirmed using tests such as [RT-PCR \(Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction\)](#).

▪ **About Tanzania:** Tanzania (formerly **Tanganyika**) is the **largest country in East Africa** and includes the islands of **Zanzibar, Pemba, and Mafia**.

- It is bordered by the **Indian Ocean and eight countries**.
- It is bordered by 3 of the largest lakes in Africa i.e., [Lake Victoria](#) (world's 2nd largest freshwater lake), [Lake Tanganyika](#), and [Lake Nyasa](#).



Read More: [India Tanzania Relations](#)

Demand For Frontier Nagaland Territory

Source: TH

The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has agreed to the demand by the **Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO)** for autonomy in the proposed **Frontier Nagaland Territory (FNT)**.

Frontier Nagaland Territory (FNT)

▪ **About:**



- FNT is a **proposed administrative region** demanded by the **ENPO** to address the **developmental imbalances** in **6 eastern districts of Nagaland**- Kiphire, Longleng, Mon, Noklak, Shamator, and Tuensang.
- **Objective:**
 - It aims to grant **executive, legislative, and financial autonomy** to these districts, **enabling better governance** and **focused resource allocation** to **bridge the "development deficit."**
- **Significance:**
 - These districts, which are **home to 7 Naga tribes (Konyak, Khiamniungan, Chang, Sangtam, Tikhir, Phom and Yimkhiong)**, account for over **30% of Nagaland's population** and **20 of the 60 legislative assembly seats.**
- **Background:**
 - The demand for a separate state for Eastern Nagaland **began in 2010**, led by the ENPO citing a significant "development deficit" in the region.

Nagaland:

- After Independence in 1947, the **Naga territory remained part of Assam.** It was recognized as a state on **1st December 1963** under the **State of Nagaland Act, 1962.**

Read More: [Nagaland Statehood Day](#)

Fonio Millet

[Source: DTE](#)

Fonio, an ancient **West African millet** (e.g., Ghana), is known for its resilience to **climate shocks, ease of cultivation**, and ability to grow in **poor soils** with **minimal water requirements.**

- It is often referred to as a **miracle grain** due to its **adaptability and nutritional value.**
- **Fonio** is traditionally cultivated by **Fulani tribes**, the **largest nomadic tribe** in Africa.
 - It is highly **versatile** and can be used in **salads, porridges, pasta, bread**, or served as a side dish.
 - It can be cultivated in **arid and semi-arid** regions and require **low water intake.**
- It is similar to Indian millets like **sikiya and raishan.** Sikiya, a favored millet of the **Baiga tribe**, is cultivated in parts of **Madhya Pradesh.**
- The year **2023** was declared by the **United Nations** as the **International Year of Millets.**
 - **Profit motive** among farmers is leading to **neglect of millet** production e.g., in **Odisha's Niyamgiri hills, pineapple** cultivation for **profit** has sidelined millets.

Millets

About

- Small-grained cereals also known as **coarse grains**
- Often referred to as **'Superfood'**
- Among the **first crops to be domesticated** - evidence of millet consumption dates back to the **Indus Valley Civilisation (3,000 BC)**

Climatic Conditions

- **Mainly a Kharif crop in India**
- **Temperature:** 27°C - 32°C
- **Rainfall:** Around 50-100 cm
- **Soil Type:** Inferior alluvial or loamy soil

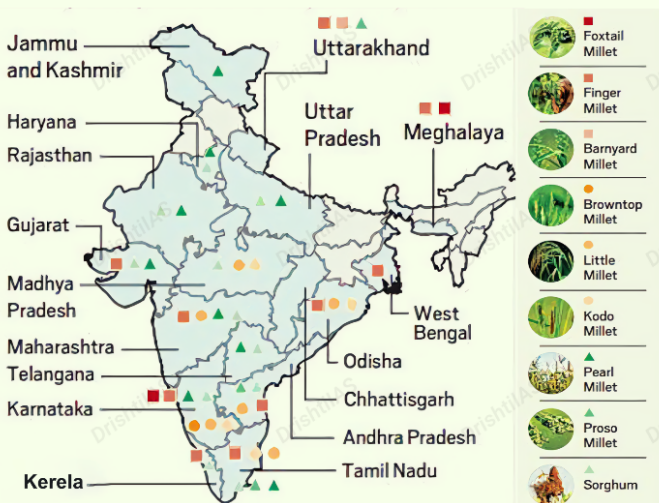
India and Millets



- **Global Largest Millet Producer:**
 - 20% of global production, 80% of Asia's production
- **Common Millets:**
 - **Ragi** (Finger millet), **Jowar** (Sorghum), **Sama** (Little millet), **Bajra** (Pearl millet), and **Variga** (Proso millet)
 - **Indigenous varieties** (small millets) - **Kodo, Kutki, Chenna and Sanwa**
- **Top Millets Producing States:**
 - Rajasthan (largest), Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh
- **Govt. Initiatives:**
 - Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millet Promotion (INSIMP)
 - **'India's Wealth, Millets for Health'**
 - Millet Startup Innovation Challenge
 - **Hiked MSP** for Millets
 - Agriculture Ministry declared millets as **"Nutri Cereals"** in 2018

Significance

- Less expensive, **nutritionally superior**
- High protein, fibre, minerals, iron, calcium and a **low glycemic index**
- Help **tackle lifestyle problems and health** (obesity, diabetes etc.)
- Photo-insensitive, **resilient to climate change & water efficient**



International Year of Millets - Year 2023

Proposed by India, declared by UNGA



Read More: [India's Millet Revolution](#)

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