

2nd meteor shower in Maharashtra

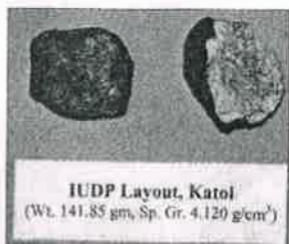
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A BIG bang was heard over a large area in west Vidarbha on May 22 between 2 and 2.30 pm. After three days of speculation and suspense, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has said it was only the second reported meteor shower in Maharashtra's history after Lonar in Buldana district, where meteor strike has created world's only salt water lake in basaltic rock.

After examining four pieces of meteors collected from different places in Katol area of Nagpur district, Deputy Director, GSI, Nagpur, Binod Kumar has confirmed that the bang was indeed created by a meteor shower. He said that it was only the 14th meteor shower recorded in India since 1856 when the meteor shower recording was systemised.

Rumour mills worked overtime on Tuesday after reports of big sound came from



as far as Wardha, Nagpur, Amravati and Akola district. Some thought it was an earthquake while others said it was plane crash. Some even suspected explosives blast from factories in Nagpur. Nothing was confirmed by officials.

On Thursday, four people from Katol reported that unusual stones had fallen in their backyards. The GSI team tested the stones and said they were meteor pieces. "These are clearly burnt pieces of meteors. We will have them physically and chemically analysed first in Nagpur and then extensively in our Kolkata lab," Kumar said. "Many other pieces may have fallen on a large area. We are checking for them."