

First Information

METEORITE FALL IN GUJARAT

A meteorite fall was witnessed on 31st July 2006 at 2128 hrs in the area of Jodiya, Jamnagar district, Sankiyari in Palaswa and Vandya villages of Kachchh district.

Two teams of two geologists each from Op. Gujarat have proceeded for the study of meteorite fall sites and collection of meteorites. Shri Janardan prasad and Sri P. Gandhi, Geologists(Sr.) have gone to Jamnagar – Rajkot area and Shri R.S. Rana, Geologist(Sr.) and Shri S.N. Bhagat, Geologist(Jr.) have gone to Kachchh areas to collect and inspect the meteorite fall sites. The officers met the Tahsildar, Jodiya, and collected the meteorite samples. The Kachchh team received information of some meteorite falls in Lunva and Vandiya villages near Bhachav, Kachchh district.

Thirteen supposedly meteorite samples were collected from the Mamalatdar, Jodiya Taluk who had kept these packed in polythene bags. The sites were inspected thoroughly. The samples were collected from the RCC roof of a house in Jodiya village. Eyewitness version says that the meteorite shower crossed the village and went northwards and the intensity of light was very bright with sound similar to that of an earthquake. The officers also visited Hadiyana from where the report of meteorite originated initially. According to the villagers meteorite was heading NNW and after few minutes a loud sound was heard. It is believed that the meteorite has fallen nearby in the Rann itself. The officers have received another sample from Latipur village from the mamalatdar of Dhrol, which appears to be weathered basalt with coal tar smears on it. The officers are on way to inspect other sites in Jamnagar.

Geologists, visiting the Vandiya village in Kachchh recorded four instances of meteorite fall/showers on the rooftop, which penetrated inside the room and in one case, fell in the courtyard. No samples were recovered from the site. The samples were received from PSI, Bhachau. Size of the sample varies from large areca nut size (4cm x 2mm) to pearl / millet size (2mm x 2mm), outer surface in smooth, dark ash grey to black in colour, irregular and angular shape (1mm thick). Fragment consists of inner leucocratic, equigranular mass with saccharoidal texture and orange-red coloured chondrules (?). Aggregates of olivine and pyroxene (?) are seen. Metallic disseminations are observed under hand lens. The party has further proceeded to Lunva village, Bhacahu Taluka to inspect the site of reported meteorite fall on a factory premise.

4th August 2006

Operation Gujarat
GSI

METEORITE SHOWER LOCATIONS, GUJARAT, 31ST JULY 2006

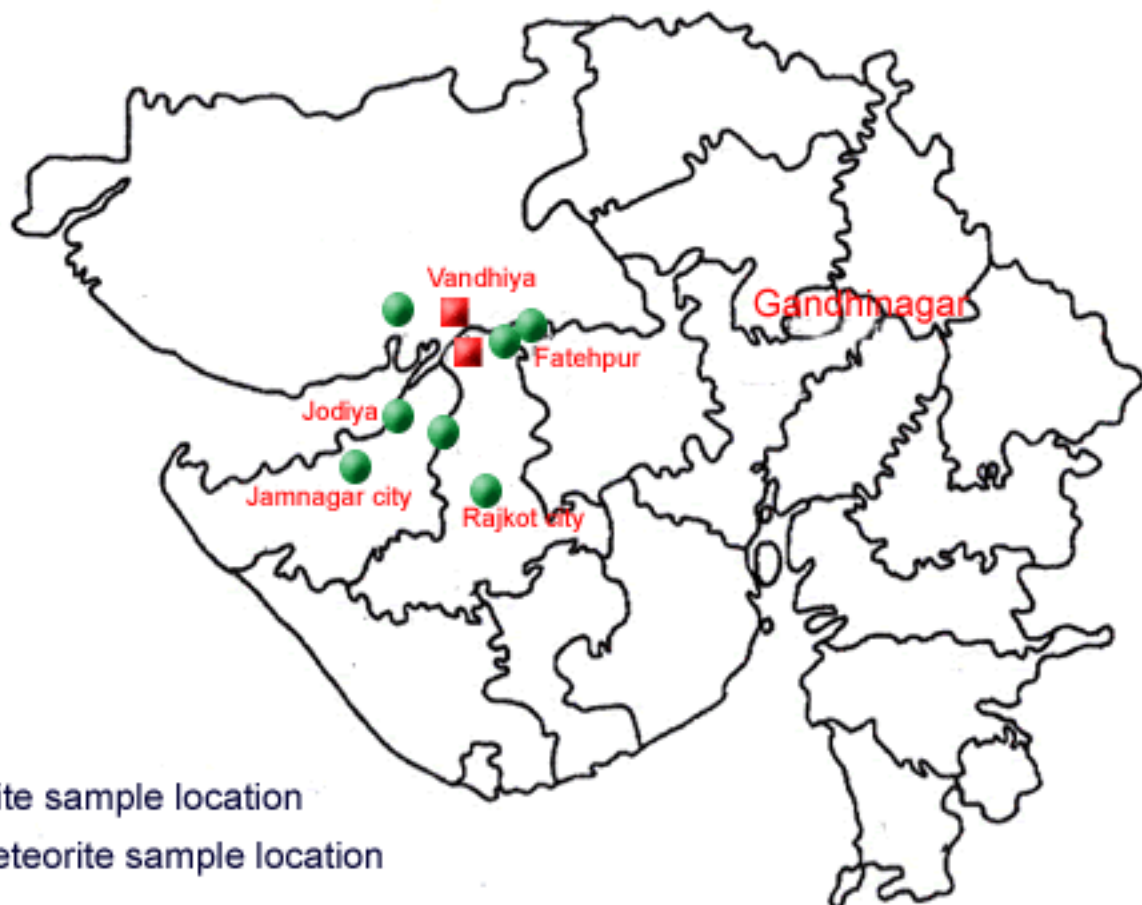




Figure 1: Meteorite sample found in Gujarat



Figure 2: Meteorite impact crater