



# Meteorites in Maharashtra

## Why in News?

Scientists examined and identified **two stones that crashed from the sky** in **Beed Village of Maharashtra** as [meteorites](#).

## Key Points

- **Scientists Invited for Examination:**
  - The Beed district administration called upon experts from **the MGM APJ Abdul Kalam Astro and Space Science Centre**, based in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, to analyze the fallen stones.
- **Meteorite Origin:**
  - Scientists assessed the **objects based on [gravity](#), magnetic properties, and other parameters.**
  - Preliminary analysis suggests the **stones are small fragments of an [asteroid](#) that entered Earth's atmosphere.**
    - Further studies are underway to confirm their composition and origin.
- **Probability of Meteorites Reaching Earth:**
  - It was emphasized that **meteorites rarely reach Earth's surface.**
    - **Meteors**, commonly seen in the sky, **originate from comets or asteroids** and typically burn up upon entering the atmosphere.
  - **Only a meteoroid that survives atmospheric entry and lands on Earth's surface** qualifies as a meteorite.
- **First Recorded Meteorite Incident in Marathwada in Years:**
  - Experts noted that this is the **first known meteorite fall in Marathwada** in many years, making it a rare astronomical event.

## Meteorite

- **About:**
  - A meteorite is a **solid piece of debris from space** that survives its passage through the **Earth's atmosphere** and **lands on the Earth's surface.**
- **Difference between Meteor, Meteorite and Meteoroid:**
  - The **difference between a meteor, meteorite and meteoroid** depends on where the object is.
  - Meteoroids are objects in space that range in size from dust grains to small **asteroids.**
  - But when meteoroids enter the Earth's atmosphere, they are called **meteors.**
  - But if a meteoroid enters the Earth's atmosphere and hits the ground, it is called a **meteorite.**

# What is a....?

## Comet

A comet is a mass of ice, rock, and dust, and often has a tail that is made up of dust and other materials.



## Asteroid

An asteroid is made up of metallic or non-metallic rocks, and orbits the sun. They can range in size from a few centimeters wide to almost a thousand kilometers across!



## Meteoroid

Meteoroids are usually fragments of asteroids or comets, often smaller than 1 meter wide, that fly through space.



## Meteor

A meteor is a meteoroid that enters Earth's atmosphere. It burns up as it travels through the atmosphere, producing a streak of light behind it.



## Meteorite

If a meteor doesn't completely burn up in the Earth's atmosphere, the fragment found on Earth is called a meteorite.

