

At 18kg, meteorite found in Antarctica is biggest in 25 yrs

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

London: An 18-kg heavy meteorite has been discovered embedded in the East Antarctic ice sheet by an international team of scientists — the largest such meteorite found in the region since 1988. The team, working at Princess Elisabeth Antarctica research station discovered a total of 425 meteorites, with a total

weight of 75 kg during a 40 day expedition. The weight of these meteorites found scattered across the Nansen Ice field ranged from as low as 1 kg to 18 kg. About half of the total number of meteorites recovered on Earth so far comes from Antarctica. Antarctic meteorites are special because they are buried frozen, preventing them from being contaminated by their ter-

restrial environment. Vinciane Debaille, a geologist from Université Libre de Bruxelles, who led the Belgian team during the expedition said “This is the biggest meteorite found in East Antarctica for 25 years. Every year, around 1,000 meteorites weighing less than 100g are found, and about 100 less than 1kg. So 1 kg is already special, never mind 18 kg.”

World