



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalsivam Kamarajar"

Theia Came From Near the Sun

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Context

A new study on lunar and Earth rocks shows that **Theia**, the body that collided with young Earth to form the Moon, likely **formed closer to the Sun** than Earth did.

Key Findings

- Scientists measured **iron isotopes** in lunar rocks, Earth rocks, and meteorites.
- They compared these with data on **zirconium (Zr)** and **molybdenum (Mo)**.
- The Earth and Moon have iron isotope compositions that match meteorites from the **inner solar system** (closer to the Sun).
- This suggests **Theia originated near the Sun**, not from Earth's neighbourhood.

Significance

- Provides new evidence supporting the **giant impact hypothesis** of Moon formation.
- Shows that early Solar System material moved around more than previously thought.

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