

IRON THROUGH AGES: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The present paper has been emphasizing on the importance and the way Iron was used through the ages. Usually this has been basic metal in human history. The metal has impacted and its important significance has left its veins through out the human life and span of every era. The presented paper has listed Iron Metal transformation and medium how it was used in different parts and forms in different ages. Iron also impacted on the culture of people and life style, it has been used as weapons, implements and So on.

KEY WORDS

Iron Age, burial site, swords, draggers, tridents, spear, javelins, arrows, Sundry pieces, Corpse, Rig Veda, Athravana Veda, Mayaladhumparai, Divine Vases, Ayas, Shyam, Loha, Sisa, Trapa, Krishnayas,

INTRODUCTION

Iron Age is one of the important phases prevailed throughout the world with different Customized culture. Through this paper I have displayed the Iron Age culture and its form that prevailed in India at different period. In India Iron Age culture prevailed had different culture and different life style. The study is about to clarify the cultural difference and life style of the iron age people through ages and bring out the Importance of the values given to the co persons during the era, which is describe in the paper

below. The paper brings the difference between south and north Indian Iron culture and the changes of the culture through ages. From Ancient to Vedic age.

PREHISTORIC IRON AGE

Iron usage during ancient times had a very remarkable and in large number, in southern parts of India one of the steel called 'wootz' was famous while examining the specimens weapons and implements we could that they were made of wrought iron. In Tirunelveli district gravelly mounds were excavated, during excavation many iron implements such as swords, daggers, tridents, spear, javelins, arrows, were found. Adiche Nallur one of the most extensive prehistorical burial sites is considered as the most valuable site of the iron age, during the excavation a large number of funeral urns were found, globular pots of thick red earth were elongated with one legged, averaging less than a yard in diameter by a slightly greater height. The urns found contained covered with flat conical covers, skulls or bones of skeleton along with the articles of pottery and of metals such as gold, bronze and iron.

The forehead of the corpse was fastened by gold ornaments with oval diadems, the shape of vases, stands, bowls, jars and cups exhibited with great skill of the workmanship by using bronze. When we consider the outer side of the burial urns a large number of iron implements were found, the attendant mourners were pointed toward downwards. Some of the iron implements were fairly preserved whereas most of the implements were deeply corroded. One of the swords was found which was generally two feet or two feet four inches long and about an inch broad. With iron handles the blades were all double edged attached to a wooden handle where as the latter had decayed through ages.

Iron in Krishnagiri district

Recent excavations that took place in 2021 in the region of Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri district has mesmerized with its results. The piece of iron found tested in Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) and Beta Analytic Laboratory in US, has noted that the iron age has been established and started in Tamil Nadu 4,200 years ago, as early as in 2172 BCE (before current era). This indicates that in India Tamil Nadu is one of the oldest civilizations of iron.



Excavation site and Iron Metal pieces found in Mayiladumparai

Photo courtesy:Times of India,Chennai ,May 10,2022

IRON FROM THE PIPRAHWA STUPA



PIPRAHWA STUPA

Photo Courtesy:<http://www.piprahwa.com>

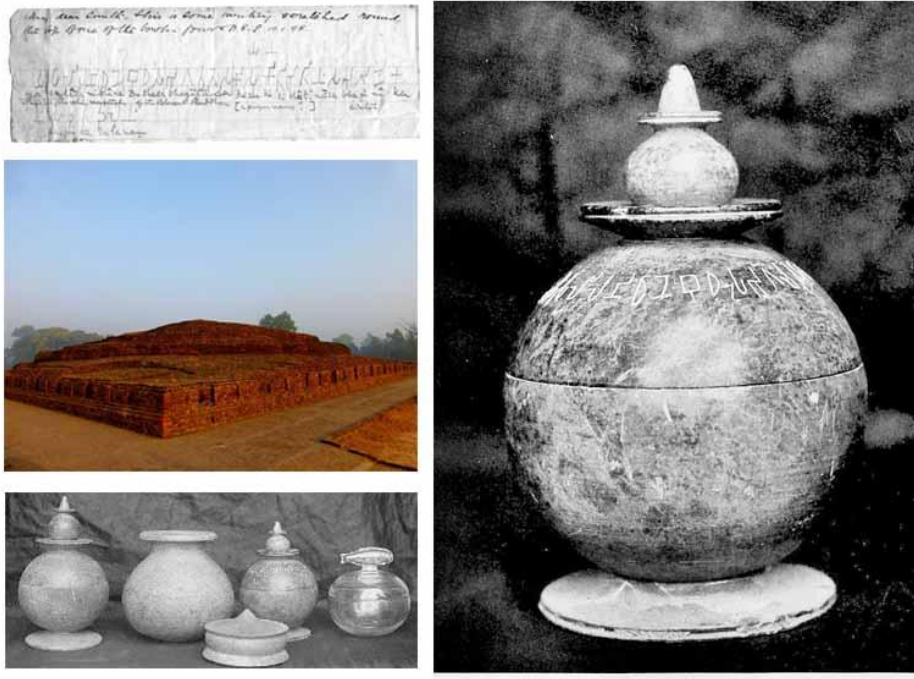


Photo Courtesy:<http://www.piprahwa.com> (Piprahwa vases found during excavation)

Piprahwa is the village situated in Nepal, one of the landholders of Birdpur in Basti district called Mr William Peppe excavated old stupa in January 1898, Piprahwa is situated on his estate fourteen miles from southeast ruins of Kapilavastu and half miles from the Nepal frontier. During the excavation, a big stone-coffer was found containing two vases inside in one of the was bones and ashes was there, which is believed that was of of divine Buddha. Along these towards east side of stupa many Iron object were discovered a small iron spearhead with blade measuring $3\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$ and handle measuring $4\frac{1}{2}$, sundry pieces of Iron, large head Nails. In Indian Museum, Calcutta the vases, four Iron pieces, spear head two nails of ordinary size and one curved Iron spike longer than the nails have been preserved.

On excavation of Ashoka builded stupa a piece of Iron slag was found and it is been preserved in Calcutta Museum along this many Iron clamps measuring five or six inches and $\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad. In temple of puri and Orissa Such clamps were used in 6th and 12th century. The Bodh Gaya temple

the Iron slag and the Ironclamps are important in the history of the manufacture of Iron in ancient India.

IRON AGE IN VEDIC AGE

To the western part of Indian primarily known as abode of ancient civilization rich in ethical and Philosophical doctrines, but the fact is that the country is very rich in material progress was also in Slow progress.

Roscoe and Schorleimaer in their book called "Treatise On Chemistry" have indicated about the metal Iron that it was probable obtained first from India, by describing it future say that the word Iron was appears to be connected with the Sanskrit 'Ayas'.

Bronze material and use of it in India for making arms was never extensive and weapons made of bronze are scarcely to be found, though Vincent smith give information that the age of copper was prior to the Iron age and limited the copper age to 1000 B.C, which falls easily to the Vedic age.

In Rig Vedas and other Vedas the word 'Ayas' frequently occurs, the great commentator Shayana has translated has "Iron".

Maxmuller has translated the passage in rig Veda as "wild boars rushing about with iron tusk" in other passage in the word has been used as an adjective of Agni for example in Rig X 87,2,translated it as "teeth of Iron".The same passage occurs in Atharva viii,3,2,in which whitney translate the word as "Tusk of Iron".The largest number of passages in Rigveda means "Iron". In Rig VI 47 to VI3,5 occurs the passage "Ayashona dharma" which explained by Shayanna as Iron swords or Javelins.

In Rig VIII 95 I occurs the passage "AyashiPuh" or 'Iron city' occurs in another passage, Rig VII 15,14.

The picture of Iron melter or Blacksmith melting Iron in his forge is given in Rig IV2,17 and Rig VI 3,4.

In Rig VI we find that the arrows were tipped with Iron.Reference of Horse with golden manes and Iron feet Has been described in Rig I,163,9 passage this clarify that use of Iron and Iron weapons was well Known in Rig Veda.

In Yajur Veda a kind of fire weapon is mentioned called as "Surmi" -Shahyana,the commentator describes

That fire weapon as burning Iron barrel and it has ability to kill Hundred people at a time The record of Fire weapon in Vedic literature shows the high quality of Civilization, prevailed amongst the ancient Aryan settlers, on the other hand in white Yajur Veda there is description of six metals called as “Hirayanya, Ayas, Shyam, Loha, Sisa and Trapa”.

In Artharva Veda ‘Iron ‘ or ‘Ayas’ occurs in most prolific way, in one of the passage in Artha Veda X 1,3the Word “Shyana Maya”is mentioned, Shayanna describe it as black metal or Iron another metal is mentioned as‘Lohita’ or red metal or Copper.

IRON IN BRAHMAN AGE 1000 B C-500 BC

Iron is described as ‘KRISHNAYAS’ or ‘KARSAYAS’ in Chandodya Upanishad.

CONCLUSION;

Through this paper I have tired to bring out the impact and conclude the oldest civilization by analyzing “IRON” the metal , and its uses through ages . The above details described will clearly estimate that Krishnagiri is the oldest Civilization has per recent data result that the Iron pieces found was dated That it is about 4500 years old , which is older then Indus valley Civilization. In Krishnagiri district there Are still many places which has to be Excavated ,due to dense forest region the work is under slow Process . If more Excavation places are revealed ,the results may surprise the world in future.

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