



# Iron Industry and Metallurgy: A Study of Ancient Technology

*B Sasisekaran*

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## **Iron Industry and Metallurgy: A Study of Ancient Technology** B Sasisekaran

Based on strenuous field studies in inaccessible places, meticulous documentation and analysis of data, the author presents in this monograph: the distribution of iron ore, the iron age in Tamil Nadu area, literary references to iron, the iron and steel production centres, the types of furnaces that were in use and the techniques employed to produce iron and wootz steel employing crucible process by ancient and post - medieval communities of South India, particularly in Tamil Nadu. The most important part of Sasisekaran's thesis pertains to metallurgical study of iron objects found in the sites excavated in Tamil Nadu. His study also reveals "the maturity of ancient Indian metallurgist to obtain various categories of steel for different purposes" and expounds "on the basis of level of mineral transformation of iron artefacts, a hypothesis to relatively date the excavations". This project was funded by the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi and the research was co-ordinated by the Department of Metallurgical Engineering, IIT – Madras. The University of Madras has awarded the post-doctoral degree (D.Sc) for this work of Sasisekaran.

The Author, Dr. B. Sasisekaran was a Scientist in the National Institute of Ocean Technology. He participated in two marine archaeological expeditions undertaken by this institute and exposed ancient settlements spread over 100 sq.km in the Gulf of Cambay. This monograph illustrated with a map, ten line drawings which includes two graphs, twelve tables and 102 multi colour photographs in 40 pages is bound to be useful to archaeologists, metallurgists, historians and the general public interested in the development of ancient metallurgical science in India.

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