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5300 years ago: How did we know about the Iron Age?

- Evidence was obtained from Iron Age pits at Mangadu (Salem), Kilnamandi (Thiruvannamalai), Mayiladumbarai (Krishnagiri), and Adichanallur Sivakalai (Thoothukudi) in Tamil Nadu.
- These were subjected to radiocarbon dating and induced dating. Their results have led to a reconsideration of the idea of the antiquity of iron in Tamil Nadu.
- South India is known for its Iron Age archaeological sites. More than three thousand iron fists have been found in Tamil Nadu so far. Among them, 362 jar burial, 996 cist, 225 stone circles and 634 burial ground with nearby liveable habitat have been identified.
- A model of an iron sword has been discovered from a decayed stone bed at Mangadu in Mettur taluk of Salem.
- Iron sample discovered from the first iron pit with iron coffin in Kilnamandi, Tiruvannamalai district. This was subjected to chronology. This discovery moved the dating of the iron found at Mangadu forward by a century.
- Iron objects found in excavation pits in Mayiladumbarai, Krishnagiri district. These confirmed the use of iron in Tamil Nadu in 2172 BC.
- Iron swords, spears, arrowheads, three-pronged spears, etc. have been found at the Adichanallur burial site in Thoothukudi district.
- The study of these objects has pushed the date of iron use in Tamil Nadu to the middle of 3000 BC.
- Sivagalai, another archaeological site in Thoothukudi district, is an Iron Age settlement and a burial site.
- More than 85 iron objects, including knives, arrowheads, rings, bells, axes, and spears, were collected from inside and outside the ancient pottery found there.
- This has been studied and it has been reported that the use of iron may have been in existence at least before 3300 BC.