

Table 1 Indigenous Processing of Iron Ores in Pre-modern India (Reproduced from Biswas<sup>49</sup>)

Location	Type of Ore	Comments	References
Assam (Upper)	Clay ironstone	3000 smelters in 16th/17th centuries	Hannay in JASB, 25, 330
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	Titaniferous magnetic oxide	Beneficiation by raking	Yule. <sup>24, 26</sup>
Birbhum in West Bengal	Partly earthy, partly magnetic	Early production of <i>molten</i> iron-early 18th century	Hamilton <sup>20</sup>
Balasore, Orissa	Lateritic ore	Some collaboration with the Dutch in 17th century	Hamilton <sup>20</sup>
Palamu, Bihar	Three types of ore, Agarias preferring the magnetic type	Details on smelting by the Agarias.	Mem. GSI, Vol. XV, part 1, p. 112. Ref. No. 19, pp. 376-381
Sambalpur	Magnetite in metamorphic rock	Use of <i>Śāl</i> wood charcoal	Res. GSI, Vol. X, p. 182
Tendukhera Madhya Pradesh	High grade, slightly calcareous	Production of <i>kāchā</i> iron and <i>pakkā</i> steel	Franklin <sup>25</sup> . Ref. 19, p. 386 Ref. 27, pp. 269-294
Gwalior	Rich deposits, now deserted	Very ancient tradition	Hackett, Records GSI, Vol. III, p. 42 Ref. 19, p. 394.
Nimar and Malwa in Indore Territory	Barwai deposit is chiefly brown hematite	Mentioned in 'Ain-i-Akbari'	Ref. 19, p. 397
Kathiawar and Cutch	Laterite of Subnummulitic group	Reverberatory furnace Production of wootz (1838-40)	Ref. 19, pp. 400-402
Hyderabad	Two kinds of ore – lateritic and magnetic sand	Steel mines of Nirmal mentioned in <i>Ain-i-Akbari</i>	Voysey <sup>23</sup>
Cuddapah and Kurnool	Siliceous hematite and also lateritic	Series of iron-smelting villages	1795 report of Heyne <sup>21</sup>
Mysore	Black sand iron ore in Venkatagiri	Manufacture of Steel	Buchanan <sup>22</sup>
Chitaldrug in Salem	Non-magnetic ochrous limonite	Manufacture of wootz	Heyne <sup>21</sup>
Malabar or Kerala	Black magnetic sand	Rock 'laterite' – term first coined.	Buchanan <sup>22</sup>