A team of explorers from the Government Victoria College in Kerala have stumbled upon iron implements belonging to the Iron Age, from the catchment area of the Malampuzha dam.

K. Rajan, a former head of the History department at the college who led the exploration, said the find had immense potential to throw light on the life of people in the centuries immediately before the beginning of the Christian era.

V. Selvakumar, an archaeologist from Tamil University, Thanjavur, has corroborated the finding. An expert in Stone Age and Iron Age archaeology, Dr. Selvakumar will examine the site next week.

**The findings**
The iron implements found include a nail, a chisel, a wedge, a knife and a dagger. The broken pieces of the dagger were recovered from a cist found at the location.

Mr. Rajan said that while the knife was found beside another cist, the nail, chisel, wedge and two other tools were recovered from the top of a broken urn at South Malampuzha. He said the tools that could not be identified might be a spear-head and the top portion of a sickle. The iron implements were spotted during a survey of Iron Age sites and burials as part of a University Grants Commission-aided project that began in 2014. “The region has many varieties of Iron Age burials, including cairn circles, stone circles, cist burials, dolmens, urn burials, and menhirs,” said Mr. Rajan.

**Earlier exploration**
An exploration conducted by M.G. Sasibhooshan in 1980s had found burial sites within the catchment areas of Malampuzha. Archaeological Survey of India director M. Nandiraju has asked the Victoria team to survey the region thoroughly and to document their findings in detail.

The survey is expected to continue for a few more weeks. Mr. Rajan said that deeper studies were required to find the exact period of the implements recovered from Malampuzha.