Adichanallur – Iron Age Urn Burials, Thamirabarani Valley, Excavations 1876–2022, Gold Diadems, Dating & Site Museum | TNPSC Notes

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Adichanallur is an **Iron Age urn-burial site** in **Srivaikuntam taluk, Thoothukudi district**, on the **right (southern) bank of the Thamirabarani (Porunai) river**. Spread over about **114 acres**, it was first dug by the German ethnologist **Dr. F. Jagor in 1876** and then by **Alexander Rea** of the Archaeological Survey of India from **1899**, who found iron weapons, bronze objects and **gold diadems**. The **ASI excavation of 2004–05 under T. Satyamurthy** exposed about **169 urns**; carbon dates place the burials in the **early first millennium BCE**. Named one of **five iconic sites** in the **Union Budget 2020–21**, it was excavated again by the ASI from **October 2021** and now has an **in-situ site museum** where urns can be seen under glass.

தமிழில் படிக்க

These notes are written for TNPSC Group 1, 2/2A and 4 aspirants and are meant to be complete on their own. Adichanallur is a topic in **History, Culture, Heritage and Socio-Political Movements of Tamil Nadu** (archaeology of Tamil Nadu, Iron Age and the Thamirabarani valley) and in **History, Culture of India and Indian National Movement** (prehistory, the Iron Age and megalithic cultures of South India). The excavation of 2021–22, the gold diadem find of 2022 and the site museum of 2023 are asked under **Current Events**. Read each section, then revise with the tables, the quick revision table and the key points at the end.

Adichanallur at a Glance

Item	Details
Type of site	Iron Age urn-burial site (cemetery) with a habitation area nearby
Location	Adichanallur village, Srivaikuntam taluk, Thoothukudi district (then part of Tirunelveli district)
River	Right (southern) bank of the Thamirabarani (Porunai), in its lower valley
Area	About 114 acres (as surveyed by Alexander Rea)
Local name of the mound	**Parambu** – a dry, raised mound
First excavation	1876 – Dr. F. Jagor (German ethnologist; finds taken to Berlin)
Colonial excavation	Alexander Rea, ASI – several seasons from 1899 into the early 1900s
ASI excavation	2004–05 – T. Satyamurthy, Superintending Archaeologist, ASI Chennai Circle; about 169 urns
State excavation	2020 – Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology
Recent ASI excavation	From October 2021 – T. Arun Raj, ASI Tiruchi Circle; gold diadem found in August 2022
Dating	Early first millennium BCE (carbon dates reported as about 1000–600 BCE and 905–540 BCE)
Museum	In-situ site museum (urns under toughened glass); foundation stone for a larger museum laid on 5 August 2023

Location and Setting

- **District and taluk:** Adichanallur is in **Srivaikuntam taluk** of **Thoothukudi district**. When the first excavations took place in the nineteenth century, the area was part of **Tirunelveli district**.
- **River:** the site lies on the **right (southern) bank** of the **Thamirabarani**, which Sangam literature calls the **Porunai**. It is in the lower Thamirabarani valley, a region with several other ancient sites such as **Sivakalai** and the old Pandya port of **Korkai**.
- **Landscape:** the burials are on a raised, dry mound known locally as **Parambu**.
- **Size:** Alexander Rea surveyed the burial ground and reported an area of about **114 acres**. Only a small part of it has been excavated so far.

Background: Urn Burials and the Iron Age

In South India the **Iron Age** is known mainly from its **burials**. People of this period used iron for weapons and tools, made **black-and-red ware** pottery, grew rice and millets, and buried their dead with care. One common way was the **urn burial**: the body, or the bones collected after the body had decayed, was placed in a large earthenware jar (urn), which was set in a pit along with smaller pots, weapons, ornaments and food grains, and then covered. In Tamil such urns are called **muthumakkal thazhi** (burial urns of the elders).

Adichanallur is important because it is a very large urn field, because its grave goods include **iron, bronze and gold**, and because it has been excavated many times over nearly 150 years, from 1876 to

2022.

Excavation Phases in Order

Year(s)	Excavator	Agency	Highlights
1876	Dr. F. Jagor	German ethnologist (Berlin), with the Collector of Tirunelveli	First digging; pottery, iron weapons, bones and skulls taken to the ethnological museum in Berlin
1899 – early 1900s	Alexander Rea	Archaeological Survey of India (Superintendent, southern circle)	Large-scale digging; gold diadems, bronze objects, iron weapons, thousands of objects; area of about 114 acres; finds in the Government Museum, Chennai; catalogue published in 1915
Early 1900s	Louis Lapicque	French scientist (Paris)	Brief visit to study human skulls
2004–05	T. Satyamurthy	ASI, Chennai Circle	About 169 urns with skeletal remains; habitation area located; carbon dating of samples
2019	–	ASI report before the Madras High Court (Madurai Bench)	Beta Analytic (Florida, USA) carbon dates placed before the court
2020	–	Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology	Ground-penetrating radar survey from January 2020; excavation in burial and habitation areas
2021–22	T. Arun Raj	ASI, Tiruchi Circle (iconic site project)	Excavation from October 2021; about 90 urns in the first phase; gold diadem (August 2022), bronze objects, iron weapons
2023	–	ASI / Union Government	In-situ site museum shown to visitors; foundation stone for a larger museum (5 August 2023)

1. Dr. F. Jagor (1876)

- The site was first brought to notice in **1876** by **Dr. F. Jagor**, a **German ethnologist** connected with the museum in **Berlin**. He visited the mound along with the Collector of Tirunelveli district and dug one side of it.
- He found well-made **earthen pots**, **iron weapons and implements** such as knives, short swords and hatchets, and many **bones and skulls**.
- He took these finds to the ethnological museum (Museum für Völkerkunde) in **Berlin**. They remain in Berlin, outside India.

2. Alexander Rea (from 1899)

- **Alexander Rea**, a British archaeologist who was Superintendent of the Archaeological Survey of India in the southern circle, carried out excavations at Adichanallur in several seasons beginning in **1899**. Sources give different end years for his work (1903, 1904 or 1905), so remember it as **1899 to the early 1900s**.
- He surveyed the burial ground as about **114 acres** and described it as one of the most extensive prehistoric sites then known in South India. His results appeared in the **ASI Annual Report for 1902–03**.
- **Finds:** several thousand objects, including **gold diadems** (thin gold forehead bands), **bronze objects** such as vessels and lids topped with animal figures (finials), **iron weapons and tools** and thousands of potsherds. A status report of the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology notes that his gold diadems have parallels from Mycenae in Greece.
- **Rice and millet husks** were found inside many of the pots placed in the urns.
- In **1915** he published the **Catalogue of the Prehistoric Antiquities from Adichanallur and Perumbair**. His finds are kept in the **Government Museum, Chennai** (Egmore).

3. Louis Lapicque (early 1900s)

Louis Lapicque, a **French** scientist from Paris, made a brief visit to Adichanallur in the early 1900s to study human skulls from the site. His interest, like that of several scholars of that time, was in the physical features of the people buried there.

4. ASI Excavation of 2004–05 (T. Satyamurthy)

- About a century after Rea, the **ASI resumed excavation in 2004** under **T. Satyamurthy**, Superintending Archaeologist of the **ASI Chennai Circle**. The work continued in the 2004–05 season (some reports give 2004–06).
- **Urns:** about **169 clay burial urns**, many containing **human skeletal remains**, were exposed. The urns were placed one above another in **tiers** (a three-tier arrangement) in pits.
- **Pottery:** red ware, black ware and **black-and-red ware**; hundreds of potsherds with designs and graffiti.
- **Applique potsherd:** one potsherd carries raised figures of a **woman**, a sheaf of **standing paddy**, a **crane** and a **deer**.
- **Metal objects:** iron spearheads, swords and daggers; copper bangles.
- **Habitation area (2005):** in 2005 the ASI announced that it had located the **habitation site** of the Iron Age people near the burial ground – the place where the people buried at Adichanallur actually lived. **Potters' kilns** were found there.

5. The Court Case and the 2019 Dating Report

- For many years the full excavation report of 2004–05 was not published and the samples were not dated. A petition was filed in the **Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court** seeking publication of the report, carbon dating and fresh excavation.
- In **April 2019**, a Division Bench of **Justices N. Kirubakaran and S. S. Sundar** was told that samples had been dated by **Beta Analytic**, a laboratory in **Florida, USA**. The court criticised the delay of about

fifteen years in sending the samples for dating and directed the ASI to protect the site with fencing and a police outpost.

6. Iconic Site Announcement (Union Budget 2020–21)

In the **Union Budget 2020–21**, presented on **1 February 2020**, Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** announced that **five archaeological sites** would be developed as **iconic sites with on-site museums**: **Rakhigarhi** (Haryana), **Hastinapur** (Uttar Pradesh), **Sivasagar** (Assam), **Dholavira** (Gujarat) and **Adichanallur** (Tamil Nadu).

7. Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (2020)

- After permission from the Union Government, the **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology** began preliminary work at Adichanallur at the end of **January 2020**, using **ground-penetrating radar** and related surveys to locate buried remains before digging.
- Excavation followed in 2020 in two areas – the **burial ground** and the **habitation area**. Finds reported from this work include urn burials with skeletal remains, black-and-red ware pottery, iron grave goods and roofing tiles.
- In the same season the department also excavated at nearby **Sivakalai**. (Sivakalai and the wider Porunai civilisation are covered in a separate note.)

8. ASI Excavation of 2021–22 (T. Arun Raj)

- As part of the iconic site project, the ASI began a fresh excavation in **October 2021**, led by **T. Arun Raj**, Superintending Archaeologist of the **ASI Tiruchi (Tiruchirappalli) Circle**.
- The excavated area at Parambu is divided into **Localities (Sites) A, B and C**. About **90 urns** of different sizes were exposed in the first phase.
- **Gold diadem (August 2022):** a small **gold diadem** – called **nettri pattayam** (forehead band) in Tamil – about **3.5 cm** long, folded and crumpled, was found at the bottom of a large urn at Locality C.
- **Other grave goods** in and around that burial: about 20 **iron objects** – spears, spearheads and **11 arrowheads** – and **bronze** objects such as a strainer (sieve) and bowls, along with pottery. The rich grave goods suggest the burial of an important person of the community.

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Key People Associated with Adichanallur

Person	Role	Year(s)
Dr. F. Jagor	German ethnologist; first dug the site; finds to Berlin	1876
Alexander Rea	ASI Superintendent (southern circle); major colonial excavation; 1915 catalogue	1899 – early 1900s
Louis Lapicque	French scientist; studied skulls	Early 1900s
T. Satyamurthy	Superintending Archaeologist, ASI Chennai Circle; 2004–05 excavation; habitation site	2004–05
Justices N. Kirubakaran and S. S. Sundar	Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court; heard the case on the dating report	2019
T. Arun Raj	Superintending Archaeologist, ASI Tiruchi Circle; led the 2021–22 excavation	2021–22
Nirmala Sitharaman	Union Finance Minister; announced iconic sites (Budget 2020–21); laid museum foundation stone	2020; 5 Aug 2023

Key Finds at Adichanallur

Category	Finds	Phase
Burial urns	Large red and black-and-red earthenware urns with lids, many with skeletal remains; about 169 urns (2004–05); about 90 urns (2021–22 first phase)	All phases
Iron objects	Swords, daggers, spears, spearheads, arrowheads, knives, hatchets	Jagor, Rea, 2004–05, 2021–22
Bronze objects	Vessels, lids with animal-figure finials, bowls, strainer, ornaments	Rea; 2021–22
Copper	Bangles	2004–05
Gold	Gold diadems (forehead bands)	Rea (several); 2021–22 (one, August 2022)
Pottery	Red ware, black ware, black-and-red ware; potsherds with designs and graffiti	All phases
Applique potsherd	Raised figures of a woman, standing paddy, a crane and a deer	2004–05
Food grains	Husks of rice and millet in pots	Rea
Habitation remains	Potters' kilns; roofing tiles	2004–05; 2020
Human remains	Skulls and skeletons	Jagor, Rea, 2004–05

Dating Results (as officially reported)

Sample / report	Result	Reported by
Samples from the 2004 excavation (carbon dating)	About 1000 BCE to 600 BCE	ASI; widely reported
Urn No. 105 (Beta Analytic, Florida, USA)	905–806 BCE (calibrated)	Report placed before the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, 2019
Urn No. 58 (Beta Analytic)	791–701 BCE and 696–540 BCE (calibrated)	Same report, 2019

- The 2019 results are usually summarised in the press as **905–696 BCE**. Taken together, the scientific dates place the Adichanallur burials in the **early first millennium BCE**, that is, the **Iron Age**, roughly **2,500–3,000 years** ago.
- Claims of much older dates for Adichanallur have appeared in the media, but they are not part of the dates listed above; in the exam, use the officially reported figures.

Site Museum and Iconic Site Development

- **In-situ display:** the ASI covered the excavated trenches with **toughened glass**, so that visitors can look down at the urns and grave goods **in the place where they were found**.
- **Foundation stone (5 August 2023):** Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** visited Adichanallur, saw the in-situ display and laid the foundation stone for a larger **world-class museum** about **1 km** from the excavation site.
- **Planned facilities:** display galleries for the excavated objects, to present the finds of Adichanallur and the heritage of the **Thamirabarani valley** to visitors.

Significance of Adichanallur

- **Early Iron Age culture of Tamil Nadu:** scientific dates in the early first millennium BCE show that iron-using communities lived in the Thamirabarani valley long before the Sangam age.
- **Metal technology:** the iron weapons, the bronze vessels and lids with animal figures, and the gold diadems show skill in working several metals.
- **Agriculture:** husks of rice and millet and the paddy motif on pottery show that farming was part of life.
- **Social differences:** some burials have rich grave goods – gold, bronze and many weapons – while others are simple, which suggests differences in status within the community.
- **Burial customs and beliefs:** offering pots, food grains and personal objects placed with the dead show belief in care for the dead and possibly in an afterlife.
- **History of archaeology:** excavated from 1876 to 2022, it is one of the oldest-known and most often excavated archaeological sites in India, and its story includes colonial-era collections abroad, a long delay in publishing the 2004–05 report and a High Court case.
- **Heritage and tourism:** as one of the five iconic sites, it is being developed with an on-site museum.

Adichanallur and Other Sites Compared

Site	District / river	Nature of the site
Adichanallur	Thoothukudi / Thamirabarani	Iron Age urn-burial site with habitation area; iconic site with site museum
Sivakalai	Thoothukudi / Thamirabarani valley	Urn-burial and habitation mounds excavated by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (see the Porunai note)
Korkai	Thoothukudi / near the mouth of the Thamirabarani	Ancient port of the Pandyas, mentioned in Sangam literature
Keezhadi	Sivaganga / Vaigai	Sangam-age urban settlement excavated by the ASI and the State Department of Archaeology

Writing Mains Answers on Adichanallur (Group 1 / Group 2)

Descriptive papers may ask about Adichanallur as an archaeological site, as evidence for the Iron Age in Tamil Nadu, or in a question on the Thamirabarani (Porunai) civilisation. Build the answer with these frameworks and support each point with a fact from the notes.

Adichanallur – an Iron Age urn-burial site (about 150–250 words)

- **Introduction:** Srivaikuntam taluk, Thoothukudi district; right bank of the Thamirabarani; about 114 acres; Iron Age urn burials.
- **Excavation history:** Jagor (1876), Alexander Rea (from 1899; 1915 catalogue), T. Satyamurthy, ASI (2004–05), Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (2020), T. Arun Raj, ASI (from October 2021).
- **Finds:** urns in tiers with skeletons; iron weapons; bronze vessels and lids; gold diadems; black-and-red ware; rice and millet husks; potters' kilns in the habitation area.
- **Dating:** about 1000–600 BCE (2004 samples); 905–540 BCE (Beta Analytic report, 2019).
- **Conclusion:** an early iron-using, farming community with metal craft and social ranking; now an iconic site with an in-situ museum.

What do the finds of Adichanallur tell us about society? (about 150 words)

- **Economy:** paddy and millet; pottery making (kilns); metal working in iron, bronze and gold.
- **Society:** rich burials with gold diadems and many weapons beside simple burials – signs of status differences; weapons suggest warriors.
- **Beliefs:** offering pots, food and ornaments with the dead; the applique potsherd with a woman, paddy and animals.
- **Art:** bronze lids with animal figures; decorated pottery.

Adichanallur as an iconic site – heritage conservation (about 100–150 words)

- Union Budget 2020–21: one of five iconic sites (with Rakhigarhi, Hastinapur, Sivasagar, Dholavira).

- In-situ display of urns under toughened glass; foundation stone for a larger museum on 5 August 2023.
- Lessons: timely publication of reports, scientific dating, protection of the site (High Court directions of 2019) and public display near the site.

Practice: Match the Following

Item	Match
Dr. F. Jagor	First excavation, 1876; finds to Berlin
Alexander Rea	Excavations from 1899; catalogue of 1915
Louis Lapicque	French scientist who studied skulls
T. Satyamurthy	ASI Chennai Circle, 2004–05 excavation
T. Arun Raj	ASI Tiruchi Circle, excavation from October 2021
Beta Analytic	Carbon-dating laboratory in Florida, USA
Nettri pattayam	Gold forehead band (diadem)
Parambu	Local name of the burial mound
1 February 2020	Budget announcement of five iconic sites
5 August 2023	Foundation stone for the larger museum

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- **District:** Adichanallur is in **Thoothukudi** district (Srivaikuntam taluk), not Tirunelveli district – although in the nineteenth century the area was part of Tirunelveli district.
- **River:** Thamirabarani (Porunai), not Vaigai. Keezhadi is on the Vaigai, in Sivaganga district.
- **Nationalities:** Jagor was **German**, Rea **British** and Lapicque **French**.
- **Two ASI circles:** the 2004–05 excavation was by the **Chennai Circle** (T. Satyamurthy); the 2021–22 excavation was by the **Tiruchi Circle** (T. Arun Raj).
- **State versus ASI:** the 2020 excavation was by the **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology**; 2004–05 and 2021–22 were by the **ASI**.
- **Budget versus museum dates:** the iconic site announcement was in the Budget of **2020**; the foundation stone of the larger museum was laid in **2023**.
- **Five iconic sites:** Rakhigarhi, Hastinapur, Sivasagar, Dholavira and Adichanallur – **Keezhadi is not** one of them.
- **Dating:** the Beta Analytic dates are in the **first millennium BCE** (905–540 BCE); do not write them as CE.
- **Diadem:** a diadem is a **forehead band**, not a crown or a coin.

Quick Revision Table

Year / date	Event
1876	Dr. F. Jagor (German) digs at Adichanallur; finds taken to Berlin
1899	Alexander Rea (ASI) begins excavations
1902–03	Rea's results in the ASI Annual Report
Early 1900s	Louis Lapicque (French) studies skulls
1915	Rea's Catalogue of the Prehistoric Antiquities from Adichanallur and Perumbair
2004	ASI resumes excavation under T. Satyamurthy (Chennai Circle)
2004–05	About 169 urns exposed; samples dated to about 1000–600 BCE
2005	Habitation site of the Iron Age people located
2019 (April)	Beta Analytic dates (905–540 BCE) placed before the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court
2020 (1 Feb)	Union Budget 2020–21: Adichanallur one of five iconic sites
2020	Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology: radar survey and excavation
2021 (Oct)	ASI excavation under T. Arun Raj (Tiruchi Circle) begins
2022 (Aug)	Gold diadem (nettri pattayam) found at Locality C
2023 (5 Aug)	In-situ site museum shown; foundation stone for the larger museum laid by Nirmala Sitharaman

TNPSC Key Points (PYQ-style facts)

- Adichanallur: Iron Age urn-burial site, Srivaikuntam taluk, Thoothukudi district.
- River: Thamirabarani (Porunai) – right (southern) bank.
- Area: about 114 acres; local name of the mound: Parambu.
- First excavated in 1876 by Dr. F. Jagor (German); finds in Berlin.
- Alexander Rea (ASI) excavated from 1899; found gold diadems, bronze objects, iron weapons; catalogue 1915; finds in the Government Museum, Chennai.
- Louis Lapicque (French) studied skulls from the site.
- ASI excavation 2004–05: T. Satyamurthy (Chennai Circle); about 169 urns; urns in tiers; habitation site found in 2005.
- Finds: black-and-red ware, iron weapons, copper bangles, rice and millet husks (Rea), potters' kilns.
- Applique potsherd: woman, standing paddy, crane and deer.
- Carbon dating: about 1000–600 BCE (2004 samples); Beta Analytic, Florida, USA: 905–540 BCE (reported 2019, commonly cited as 905–696 BCE).
- Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court (2019): Justices N. Kirubakaran and S. S. Sundar.
- Union Budget 2020–21: one of five iconic sites with on-site museums.
- Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology excavated in 2020.

- ASI excavation from October 2021: T. Arun Raj (Tiruchi Circle); about 90 urns; gold diadem (about 3.5 cm) in August 2022.
- In-situ site museum: excavated trenches with urns under toughened glass; foundation stone for a larger museum on 5 August 2023, about 1 km away.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where is Adichanallur and why is it famous?

Adichanallur is a village in Srivaikuntam taluk of Thoothukudi district, on the right (southern) bank of the Thamirabarani river. It is famous as one of the largest Iron Age urn-burial sites of South India, spread over about 114 acres, where the dead were buried in large earthenware urns along with iron weapons, bronze objects, pottery, grain and, in some burials, gold diadems.

Who first excavated Adichanallur?

The German ethnologist Dr. F. Jagor dug at the site in 1876 and took the finds to the ethnological museum in Berlin. Later, Alexander Rea of the Archaeological Survey of India excavated it in several seasons from 1899 into the early 1900s; his finds are in the Government Museum, Chennai, and his catalogue of the antiquities was published in 1915.

What did the ASI excavation of 2004–05 find at Adichanallur?

The ASI excavation led by T. Satyamurthy, Superintending Archaeologist of the ASI Chennai Circle, exposed about 169 burial urns, many with human skeletal remains, arranged in tiers. It also located the habitation area of the Iron Age people for the first time, with potters' kilns, and found black-and-red ware, iron tools and weapons, and copper bangles.

How old is Adichanallur according to scientific dating?

Carbon dating of samples from the 2004 excavation was reported as about 1000–600 BCE. In 2019 the ASI placed before the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court a report from Beta Analytic, a laboratory in Florida, USA, which dated samples from two urns to between about 905 BCE and 540 BCE; it is usually reported as 905–696 BCE. Adichanallur is therefore dated to the early first millennium BCE, the Iron Age.

What is the site museum at Adichanallur?

Adichanallur was named in the Union Budget 2020–21 as one of five iconic archaeological sites to get on-site museums. After the ASI excavation that began in October 2021, excavated trenches with urns were covered with toughened glass so that visitors can see the burials where they were found. On 5 August 2023 Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited the site and laid the foundation stone for a larger museum about 1 km away.

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Practice questions

1. In which district is Adichanallur located?

A. Tirunelveli
B. Thoothukudi
C. Sivaganga
D. Ramanathapuram

2. Adichanallur lies on the bank of which river?

A. Vaigai
B. Cauvery
C. Thenpennai
D. Thamirabarani

3. In which taluk is Adichanallur?

A. Srivaikuntam
B. Kovilpatti
C. Tiruchendur
D. Sathankulam

4. Who first dug at Adichanallur in 1876?

A. Alexander Rea
B. Louis Lapicque
C. Dr. F. Jagor
D. Robert Bruce Foote

5. To which city were Jagor's Adichanallur finds taken?

A. London
B. Paris
C. Berlin
D. Vienna

6. Which ASI officer carried out large-scale excavations at Adichanallur from 1899?

A. Alexander Rea
B. Mortimer Wheeler
C. John Marshall
D. T. Satyamurthy

7. Where are Alexander Rea's Adichanallur finds kept today?

A. National Museum, New Delhi
B. Government Museum, Chennai
C. British Museum, London
D. Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahal, Madurai

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8. What area of the Adichanallur burial ground did Alexander Rea report?

A. 14 acres

B. 54 acres

C. 414 acres

D. 114 acres

9. In which year was the 'Catalogue of the Prehistoric Antiquities from Adichanallur and Perumbair' published?

A. 1876

B. 1903

C. 1947

D. 1915

10. Match: (a) Jagor (b) Alexander Rea (c) Louis Lapicque – (1) French (2) German (3) British

A. a-2, b-3, c-1

B. a-3, b-2, c-1

C. a-1, b-3, c-2

D. a-2, b-1, c-3

11. Who led the 2004–05 ASI excavation at Adichanallur?

A. T. Arun Raj

B. T. Satyamurthy

C. K. Amarnath Ramakrishna

D. R. Nagaswamy

12. About how many burial urns were exposed in the 2004–05 excavation?

A. 39

B. 69

C. 1,069

D. 169

13. Which figure is NOT on the applique potsherd from the 2004–05 excavation?

A. Woman

B. Deer

C. Crane

D. Elephant

14. In which year was the habitation site of the Iron Age people at Adichanallur announced?

A. 1903

B. 1976

C. 2022

D. 2005

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15. Where is Beta Analytic, the laboratory whose carbon-dating report on Adichanallur samples was placed before the court in 2019?

A. Lucknow, India
B. Florida, USA
C. Oxford, UK
D. Berlin, Germany

16. In the 2019 Beta Analytic report, what date was given for Urn No. 105?

A. 905–806 BCE
B. 1500–1400 BCE
C. 300–200 BCE
D. 100–200 CE

17. Which court heard the case on the Adichanallur dating report in 2019?

A. Supreme Court
B. Madras High Court (Principal Seat)
C. Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court
D. National Green Tribunal

18. Which of these was NOT among the five iconic archaeological sites announced in the Union Budget 2020–21?

A. Rakhigarhi
B. Hastinapur
C. Keezhadi
D. Dholavira

19. Which body excavated at Adichanallur in 2020?

A. ASI Chennai Circle
B. Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology
C. Manonmaniam Sundaranar University
D. Geological Survey of India

20. Which ASI circle carried out the Adichanallur excavation that began in October 2021?

A. Chennai Circle
B. Tiruchi Circle
C. Bengaluru Circle
D. Thrissur Circle

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21. What is the gold 'nettri pattayam' found at Adichanallur in August 2022?

A. A gold coin

B. A gold forehead band (diadem)

C. A gold ring

D. A gold bangle

22. What is the local name of the burial mound at Adichanallur?

A. Parambu

B. Thidal

C. Kundru

D. Kalam

23. On which date did Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman lay the foundation stone for the larger museum at Adichanallur?

A. 1 February 2020

B. 15 August 2022

C. 5 August 2023

D. 26 January 2024

24. Which of the statements about Adichanallur is/are correct?

1. Excavated trenches are covered with toughened glass to show the urns in situ.

2. Husks of rice and millet have been found in the pots.

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

25. Choose the correct chronological order: (1) Iconic site announcement (2) Jagor's digging (3) Satyamurthy's excavation (4) Gold diadem find

A. 2, 3, 1, 4

B. 2, 1, 3, 4

C. 3, 2, 1, 4

D. 2, 3, 4, 1

Answers with explanations

1. **B) Thoothukudi** – Adichanallur is in Srivaikuntam taluk of Thoothukudi district.
2. **D) Thamirabarani** – The site is on the right (southern) bank of the Thamirabarani (Porunai).
3. **A) Srivaikuntam** – Adichanallur is in Srivaikuntam taluk.
4. **C) Dr. F. Jagor** – The German ethnologist Dr. F. Jagor dug at the site in 1876.
5. **C) Berlin** – Jagor's finds went to the ethnological museum in Berlin.
6. **A) Alexander Rea** – Alexander Rea excavated the site in several seasons from 1899.
7. **B) Government Museum, Chennai** – Rea's finds are in the Government Museum, Chennai (Egmore).

8. **D) 114 acres** – Rea surveyed the burial ground as about 114 acres.

9. **D) 1915** – Alexander Rea's catalogue was published in 1915.

10. **A) a-2, b-3, c-1** – Jagor was German, Rea British and Lapicque French.

11. **B) T. Satyamurthy** – T. Satyamurthy, Superintending Archaeologist, ASI Chennai Circle, led it.

12. **D) 169** – About 169 urns were exposed, many with skeletal remains.

13. **D) Elephant** – The applique shows a woman, standing paddy, a crane and a deer – not an elephant.

14. **D) 2005** – The ASI located the habitation site in 2005; potters' kilns were found there.

15. **B) Florida, USA** – Beta Analytic is in Florida, USA.

16. **A) 905–806 BCE** – Urn 105 gave 905–806 BCE; Urn 58 gave 791–701 and 696–540 BCE.

17. **C) Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court** – A Madurai Bench Division Bench of Justices N. Kirubakaran and S. S. Sundar heard it.

18. **C) Keezhadi** – The five were Rakhigarhi, Hastinapur, Sivasagar, Dholavira and Adichanallur.

19. **B) Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology** – In 2020 the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology surveyed and excavated the site.

20. **B) Tiruchi Circle** – The Tiruchi Circle under T. Arun Raj carried it out.

21. **B) A gold forehead band (diadem)** – Nettri pattayam is a gold forehead band (diadem); the 2022 piece was about 3.5 cm long.

22. **A) Parambu** – It is called Parambu, meaning a dry raised mound.

23. **C) 5 August 2023** – The foundation stone was laid on 5 August 2023, about 1 km from the site.

24. **C) Both 1 and 2** – Both are correct – trenches with urns are shown under toughened glass, and Alexander Rea reported husks of rice and millet in many pots inside the urns.

25. **A) 2, 3, 1, 4** – Jagor 1876 → Satyamurthy 2004–05 → iconic site 2020 → diadem 2022.

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